DRAFT

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Water Reclamation Plant No. 7 (WRP 7) Phase 1 Non-Potable Water Improvements Project

City of Indio, California

Lead Agency:

Coachella Valley Water District
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, California 92211

Prepared with the assistance of:

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
215 N. Fifth Street
Redlands, California 92374

August 2023

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Lead Agency: Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Project Proponent: Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Project Location: The Project Area includes the northwest portion of CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) 7, located south of Avenue 38 along Madison Street in the City of Indio in Riverside County, California. The Mile Post (MP) 113.2 pump station is located on the southwest corner of the Madison Street and Avenue 40 intersection. The proposed pipeline would be located in the existing roadway of Jefferson Street and on private property north of Young Way. The Project Area includes seven parcels: APNs 691-100-029 and 691-100-030, which are located south of Avenue 38, north of Lindy Lane, west of Madison Street, and east of Burr Street; APN 691-180-006, which is south of Avenue 40 and west of Madison Street, adjacent to the canal; APN 691-050-021, which is at the western end of Young's Way; and APNs 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012, the Young's Farmland property (Figures 1 and 2).

Project Description: CVWD proposes improvements to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station at WRP 7. The Project would reduce the usage of non-potable irrigation water (NPW) from the Coachella Canal by generating additional recycled water (RW), which would benefit existing NPW/RW users in the WRP 7 service area. The WRP 7 Tertiary Treatment Improvements and MP 113.2 Pump Station Rehabilitation Project includes the following upgrades:

- Retrofit the existing dual media filter basins with cloth disk filters to improve tertiary treatment to and match the rated capacity of the plant within the same footprint.
- Construct a low-pressure ultraviolet (UV) system with 12 lamps and 2 channels (100 ml/cm^2) to match the rated capacity of the plant in accordance with Title 22 regulations, in an enclosed 44-foot by 61-foot building and with an electrical building to substitute use of chlorine gas.
- Abandon the existing chlorine gas system, and maintain the existing chlorine contact basin for potential future use by operations for effluent/backwash holding.

- Upgrade of the existing systems associated with the tertiary process includes the in-kind replacement of the following:
    - Secondary effluent flocculation system
    - Tertiary process chemical feed systems, including sodium hypochlorite storage in fiber-reinforced plastic-coated steel tanks. Includes replacement of existing feed pumps for additional capacity due to increased tertiary flows and feed piping.
    - In-plant secondary effluent, and NPW delivery pumping systems capacity increase for a 5.5 MGD system (2.5 MGD existing).
    - Tertiary Process electrical motor control centers (MCCs). A new electrical control building would house existing and new components.

CVWD is also replacing the aged infrastructure at canal water delivery pump station MP 113.2 as part of this Proposed Project. To maintain the current capacity of the pump station, the two existing pumps and MCC's are being replaced with more efficient pumps and drives requiring less horsepower. The motors would be approximately 10 percent more efficient, and horsepower (HP) would be reduced from 150-HP to 100-HP per pump. A third pump is being added to allow operations to perform routine maintenance while maintaining facility capacity in a typical two-duty and one-standby configuration. All improvements to the pump station are within the existing MP 113.2 site located on the southwest corner of the Madison Street and Avenue 40 intersection.

The Proposed Project would also install approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline to connect Young's Farmland to the existing NPW pipeline on Avenue 38. Young's Farmland currently uses groundwater for irrigation. The Proposed Project would convert the primary irrigation source from groundwater to recycled water. The Young's Farmland NPW pipeline would be installed within the right-of-way of Jefferson Street and on Young's Farmland property (APN 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012).

Public Review Period: August 21, 2023 to September 19, 2023

Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Project to Avoid Significant Effects:

Project Specific Mitigation Measures

Biological Resources

BIO-PS-1: **Burrowing Owl Presence/Absence.** If, during the pre-construction Burrowing Owl Surveys, burrows onsite are determined to be unoccupied, construction may proceed. If the surveys determine the presence of burrowing owl, mitigation in accordance with the CDFW shall be implemented as follows:

If burrowing owls are identified as being resident onsite outside the breeding season (September 1 to February 14), they may be relocated to other sites by an approved permitted biologist (permitted approved by CDFW) or passive relocation in coordination with CDFW, as allowed in the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012).

If an active burrow is found during the breeding season, the burrow shall be treated as a nest site, and temporary fencing or staking with flagging shall be installed at a distance from the active burrow, to be determined by the biologist, to prevent disturbance during grading or construction. Installation and removal of the fencing shall be done with a biological monitor present.

Active relocation and eviction/passive relocation require the preservation and maintenance of suitable burrowing owl habitat determined through coordination with the Wildlife Agencies.

BIO-PS-2: **Pre-construction Bat Surveys.** Prior to the initiation of Project activities within 300 feet of identified potentially suitable bat roosting habitat within the Study Area, pre-construction bat surveys will be conducted by a qualified bat biologist. The pre-construction surveys will examine existing structures and trees within the Study Area that have features suitable for day roosting and/or night roosting. Suitable bat roosting features for trees (e.g., large tree cavities, basal hollows, loose or peeling bark, palm trees with intact thatch, etc.) and existing man-made structures (e.g., crevices and cracks commonly 0.5 to 4.0 inches wide, with an orientation shielded from wind and rain from above and allows entry from below or to the side; crevices with filler materials that create additional roosting surfaces, temperature regimes, and shelter) will be documented and the area around these features will be searched for bats and bat sign (guano, staining, culled insect parts) prior to project initiation.

Pre-construction surveys should occur no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of Project activities, regardless of the time of year. During the preconstruction surveys, the qualified bat biologist will inspect all structures proposed for disturbance for evidence of bat occupation. If evidence of bat occupation is observed during the preconstruction survey and/or the structure is unable to be sufficiently inspected to determine occupation, the preconstruction survey will also include a nighttime emergence survey component. Nighttime emergence surveys should be conducted by a qualified bat biologist under appropriate weather

conditions and moon phase. These surveys will inform the current size and composition of the roosting colony at a given structure at the time of Project activities and may dictate any modifications to the avoidance measures provided.

a) If no evidence of bat occupation of the structure is identified during the surveys and the qualified bat biologist determines that roosting bats are unlikely to be affected by the Project activities slated to occur beneath, on, or adjacent to the structure, then Project activities may proceed as planned without a biological monitor.

b) If evidence of bat occupation is identified during surveys and/or the emergence survey determines that bats are occupying the structure, the qualified bat biologist will identify the bats to the species level and evaluate the colony to determine its size and significance. The qualified bat biologist will then provide additional measures to avoid impacts to roosting bats.

c) If bats are determined to be day roosting in the structure during the preconstruction surveys, and construction is scheduled during the bat maternity season (April 1 through August 31), construction activities at the structure shall be postponed until after August 31 and the measures outlined below will apply:

    i. Monitoring of Project activities shall be conducted by a qualified bat biologist.

    ii. Night lighting shall be used only on the portion of the structure actively being worked on and focused on the direct area of work.

    iii. Airspace access to and from the roost features of the structure shall not be obstructed except in direct work areas.

    iv. To the extent practicable, internal combustion equipment such as generators and vehicles are not to be parked or operated beneath or adjacent to the structures unless they are required for Project-related work on that structure.

    v. Construction personnel shall not be present in non-active areas beneath the structure.

    vi. In the case of daytime Project activities, if the biological monitor determines that construction activities are causing day-roosting bats to leave the roost during daytime hours, the monitor shall stop that construction activity immediately and for the remainder of the day. This will allow any bats that may be roosting in that structure to leave that section of the roost that evening, and work may resume the following morning with a monitor present.

    vii. In the case of nighttime Project activities on or adjacent to structures identified as night roosts, if the biological monitor determines that

construction activities are causing bats to not return for night roosting or altering foraging behavior, the monitor shall stop that construction activity immediately and for the remainder of the night. This will allow any bats to return for night roosting the same night and work may resume the following night with a monitor present.

viii. If deemed necessary by the qualified bat biologist, additional avoidance measures (such as a sound blanket) may be implemented before activities within the vicinity resume.

BIO-PS-3: Nighttime Work Avoidance. Avoid night work at all structures where night roosting has been identified. If avoiding night work is impossible, further minimization measures such as those listed below will be necessary.

a) Night lighting shall be used only on areas actively being worked on and focused on the direct area of work.

b) Airspace access to and from the roost features of the structure shall not be obstructed except in direct work areas.

c) To the extent practicable, internal combustion equipment such as generators and vehicles are not to be parked or operated beneath or adjacent to the potential roosting structures unless they are required for Project-related work on that structure.

d) Construction personnel shall not be present in non-active areas beneath the structures or vegetation designated as bat roosting habitat.

BIO-PS-4: Cliff Swallow Nest Avoidance. Some bat species may roost in cliff swallow nests at any time of year. The removal of cliff swallow nests shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. If cliff swallow nests must be removed, they should be removed by, or under the direct supervision of a CDFW-approved bat biologist with a Scientific Collecting Permit from CDFW to handle bats, and in such a way that the nest is kept intact and not dropped to the ground until it can be inspected by the biologist. Swallow nest removal shall follow the guidance provided by the California Bat Working Group (CBWG) Bats in Swallow Nests resource (CBWG 2022).

BIO-PS-5: Tree Avoidance and Removal Process. If trees are scheduled to be removed (e.g., relocating)/modified (i.e., trimming) and determined to be suitable for bat roosting or if work is expected to occur within 100 feet of suitable trees, these activities should be scheduled between September 15 and February 28 to avoid the maternity season and when evening temperatures are not below 45 degrees Fahrenheit and rain is not over 0.5 inch in 24 hours.

If tree removal/modification or work within 100 feet of suitable trees must occur during the maternity season, a qualified bat biologist shall conduct a focused emergence survey(s) of the tree(s) within 48 hours of scheduled work. If a maternity roost is located, whether solitary or colonial, that roost will remain undisturbed until after the maternity season (April 1

through August 31) or until a qualified biological monitor has determined the roost is no longer active.

If work is expected to occur outside of the bat maternity season (during conditions that meet the parameters described above), work adjacent to trees suitable as bat habitat can continue without additional surveying efforts. If trees with suitable bat roosting habitat are scheduled for removal or relocation during this time frame, removal using the two-step method should be conducted:

1. As much as feasible, vegetation and trees within the area that are not suitable for roosting bats will be removed first to provide a disturbance that might reduce the likelihood of bats using the habitat.

2. Two-step tree removal will occur over two consecutive days under the supervision of a qualified bat biologist. On Day 1, small branches and small limbs containing no cavity, crevice, or exfoliating bark habitat on habitat trees (or outer fronds in the case of palm trees), as identified by a qualified bat biologist are removed first, using chainsaws only (i.e., no dozers, backhoes). The following day (Day 2), the remainder of the tree is to be felled/removed. (The intention of this method is to disturb the tree with noise and vibration and branch removal on Day 1. This should cause any potentially present day-roosting bats to abandon the roost tree after they emerge for nighttime foraging. Removing the tree quickly the next consecutive day should avoid reoccupation of the tree by bats.)

Cultural Resources

CUL-PS-1: **Archaeological and Tribal Monitoring.** Prior to the start of construction, the Project proponent shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist or tribal monitor representing a culturally affiliated tribe to monitor all ground-disturbing activities associated with undisturbed areas of the Project during construction. Monitoring is not required for placement of equipment, filling in excavations that were monitored, work conducted in previously excavated and graded soils such as WRP 7, above-ground construction activities, or redistribution of soils that were previously monitored (such as the return of stockpiles to use in backfilling). At the discretion of the lead agency, both a professional archaeologist and tribal monitor may be required to monitor ground-disturbing activities associated with known sensitive areas of the Project during construction.

The archaeologist shall meet, or work under the direct supervision of someone who meets, the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology. The archaeologist and tribal monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt ground-disturbing or construction-related work within 100 feet of any discovery of potential historical or archaeological resources in order to implement any Project-specific mitigation measures developed to address unanticipated discoveries.

CUL-PS-2: **Post-Review Discoveries.** If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment and taking into account the opinion of the tribal monitor. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, the archaeologist shall immediately notify the lead agencies. The agencies shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines or a historic property under Section 106 NHPA, if applicable. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA or a Historic Property under Section 106; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find represents a Native American or potentially Native American resource that does not include human remains, then he or she shall further notify the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians. The agencies shall consult with the tribes on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Preservation in place is the preferred treatment, if feasible. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, they shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner (per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the

Project (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (Section 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

Geology and Soils

GEO-PS-1: **Unanticipated Discovery – Paleontological Resource.** If paleontological resources (i.e., fossil remains) are discovered during excavation activities, the contractor will notify CVWD and cease excavation within 50 feet of the find until a qualified paleontological professional can provide an evaluation of the find. The qualified paleontological professional will evaluate the significance of the find and recommend appropriate measures for the disposition of the resource (e.g., fossil recovery, curation, data recovery, and/or monitoring). Construction activities may continue on other parts of the construction site outside of the 50-foot buffer while evaluation and treatment of the paleontological resource takes place.

Tribal Cultural Resources

See CUL-PS-1 and CUL-PS-2.

Mitigation Measures Incorporated from the 2020 SMP PEIR

Biological Resources

BIO-2: **CVMSHCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines.** Prior to final design approval for projects adjacent to a Conservation Area, compliance with Section 4.5 (Land Use Adjacency Guidelines) of the CVMSHCP shall be demonstrated. Such compliance shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, demonstrating the design of the project would not result in the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes within or adjacent to a Conservation Area.

BIO-3: **Pre-construction Burrowing Owl Surveys.** For covered activities in Conservation Areas, or other areas as designated in Section 4.4 of the CVMSHCP, pre-construction burrowing owl surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days and again 24 hours prior to the implementation of ground disturbing activities. The project area and area within 500 feet of the project area (or to the edge of the property if less than 500 feet) will be surveyed for burrows that could be used by burrowing owls. If burrows are located, the biologist will determine if owls are present in the burrow. If the burrow is determined to be occupied, the burrow will be flagged and a 160-foot non-breeding season buffer or 250-foot breeding season buffer will be established around the burrow. No activities will be permitted within the buffer until the young are no longer dependent on the burrow.

If burrowing owls are identified on site, then burrow excavation and collapse activities will be necessary. Burrow excavation and collapse activities shall only be conducted during the non-breeding season for burrowing owls (September 1 through January 31). Coordination with CDFW on burrow excavation and collapse activities will need to occur, and methods will follow the specific protocols and guidance outlined in the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012).

BIO-5: **Pre-construction Survey for Nesting Birds.** Construction activities of projects shall be conducted during the non-breeding season for birds (September 16 through December 31). This will avoid violations of the MBTA and CFGC Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513. If activities with the potential to disrupt nesting birds are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (January 1 through July 31 for raptors and March 1 through September 15 for songbirds), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the project area and adjacent areas where project activities have the potential to cause nest failure. If no nesting birds are observed during the survey, implementation of project activities may begin. If nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are found to be present, then avoidance or minimization measures shall be undertaken in consultation with CDFW. Measures shall include establishment of an avoidance buffer until nesting has been completed. The width of the buffer will be determined by the biologist in consultation with CDFW. Typically, this is a minimum of 300 feet from the nest site in all directions (500 feet is

typically recommended by CDFW for raptors), until the juveniles have fledged and there has been no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.

Cultural Resources

CUL-1: For projects located within Known High-Sensitivity areas and Assumed High-Sensitivity areas, a qualified archaeologist shall conduct a project-specific CEQA-compliant Phase I Cultural Resources Study for inclusion in the project-specific CEQA document. The study shall include a records search at the applicable archaeological Information Center, a search of the Sacred Lands File by NAHC, and a field survey using standard archaeological methods. These studies shall occur during the project-specific CEQA process.

For projects located within Low-Sensitivity areas a project-specific CEQA-Compliant Phase I Cultural Resources Study shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. However, because these areas have been subject to previous assessment, the CVWD may be able to utilize data from previous studies to reduce the effort necessary for a proposed project. Whether or not data from previous studies can be used to reduce study efforts will be dependent on the scope, methods, and age of the previous studies. These studies shall occur during the project-specific CEQA process.

CUL-2: If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for pre-contact and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify the Lead Agency, and applicable landowner. The agencies shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from

disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the appropriate County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, and Assembly Bill (AB) 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the project (§ 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

Hydrology and Water Quality

HYD-1: **Stormwater Management Facilities.** To mitigate for the alteration of existing drainage patterns that could result in erosion, siltation, flooding, polluted runoff, and/or impede or redirect flood flows, CVWD will consider surface water runoff increases from new impervious surfaces and drainage patterns during planning and design phases of each project. Each site would include design of improved stormwater management facilities onsite to avoid offsite discharge that would exceed the capacity of the stormwater system or cause flooding. A grading and drainage plan will be included in each improvement plan set for construction. The plan will identify and implement temporary and permanent BMPs and other construction controls to ensure that increases in stormwater flows off-site are minimized.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
ACBCI	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACS	American Community Survey
AFY	acre feet per year
AHPA	Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act
ALUCP	Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
AMI	area median income
APE	Area of Potential Effects
APN	Assessor's Parcel Numbers
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan

Term	Definition
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CalEPA	California Environmental Protection Agency
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalGreen	California Green Building Standards Code
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CBRA	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resources System
CBWG	California Bat Working Group
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CH_4	methane
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNPSEI	California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
CRHR	California Register of Historic Resources
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CV Link	Coachella Valley Link
CVMSHCP	Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWSRF	Clean Water State Revolving Fund
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Program

Term	Definition
DACs	disadvantaged communities
DHS	California Department of Health Services
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DPM	diesel particulate matter
DSUSD	Desert Sands Unified School District
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EIC	Eastern Information Center
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ESA	Endangered Species Act
EO	Executive Order
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	greenhouse gas
gpm	gallons per minute
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCD	California Department of Housing and Community Development
HP	horsepower
HPIR	Historic Property Identification Report
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
IWA	Indio Water Authority
L_{dn}	Day-Night Average
L_{eq}	Equivalent Noise Level
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LSA	Lake Streambed Alteration Agreement
LST	Localized Significance Threshold
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCCs	motor control centers
MG	million gallons
MGD	million gallons per day
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
MMC	Map My County
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MP	Mile Post

Term	Definition
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
ND	Negative Declaration
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NPS	National Park Service
NPW	non-potable water
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NO_x	nitrogen oxides
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic Rivers System
O_3	ozone
OEHHA	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OPR	California Office of Planning and Research
PM	particulate matter
$PM_{2.5}$	fine particulate matter (diameter of 2.5 microns or less)
PM_{10}	coarse particulate matter (diameter of 10 microns or less)
PMP	Project Master Plan
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
RCPG	Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide
RHA	Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
RTP/SCS	Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy
RUWMP	Regional Urban Water Management Plan
RW	recycled water
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SLF	Sacred Lands File

Term	Definition
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SP	Specific Plan
SR	State Route
SRA	Source Receptor Area
SSAB	Salton Sea Air Basin
SSC	Species of Special Concern
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TCR	tribal cultural resources
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	U.S. Code
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UV	ultraviolet
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VSD	Valley Sanitation District
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirement
WRP	Water Reclamation Plant
WSC	Water Systems Consulting, Inc.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Summary

Project Title:	Water Reclamation Plant No. 7 (WRP 7) Phase 1 Non-Potable Water Improvements Project
Lead Agency Name and Address:	Coachella Valley Water District 75-515 Hovley Lane East Palm Desert, California 92211
Contact Person and Phone Number:	William Patterson Coachella Valley Water District, Environmental Supervisor (760) 398-2661 wpatterson@cvwd.org
Project Location:	The Project Area includes the northwest portion of CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) 7, located south of Avenue 38 along Madison Street in the City of Indio in Riverside County, California. The Mile Post (MP) 113.2 pump station is located on the southwest corner of the Madison Street and Avenue 40 intersection. The proposed pipeline would in the existing roadway of Jefferson Street and on private property north of Young Way. The Project Area includes seven parcels: APNs 691-100-029 and 691-100-030, which are located south of Avenue 38, north of Lindy Lane, west of Madison Street, and east of Burr Street; APN 691-180-006, which is south of Avenue 40 and west of Madison Street, adjacent to the canal; APN 691-050-021, which is at the western end of Young's Way; and APNs 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012, the Young's Farmland property (Figures 1 and 2).
General Plan Designation:	Public and Institutional, ROW, Parks and Open Space, Desert Estates Transition, Golf Course
Zoning:	PI – Public and Institutional, ROW, OS – Parks and Open Space, DET-3 – Desert Estates Transition-3, Golf Course

1.2 Introduction

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is the Lead Agency for this California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study. This Initial Study has been prepared to identify and assess the anticipated environmental impacts of the Water Reclamation Plant No. 7 (WRP 7) Phase 1 Non-Potable Water Improvements Project (Project) to satisfy CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC], Section 21000 et seq.) and state CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15000 et seq.). This document tiers from the Coachella Valley Water District Sanitation Master Plan (SMP) Update 2020 Final Program EIR (PEIR) (2020 SMP PEIR) per CEQA Guidelines PRC Sections 15152 and 21083.3 (CVWD 2022). CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences before approving those projects. CVWD will use the 2020 SMP PEIR and this CEQA Initial Study to determine

which CEQA document is appropriate for the Project: Negative Declaration (ND), Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), or Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The analysis in this Initial Study determined that an MND would be the appropriate CEQA document.

In accordance with CEQA, this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) will be circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period. Written comments on the Draft IS/MND should be submitted to:

William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor
Coachella Valley Water District
75-515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, California 92211
wpatterson@cvwd.org

1.3 Surrounding Land Uses/Environmental Setting

The Project Area is located in the City of Indio in Riverside County (Figure 1). The City of Indio is bordered by the City of La Quinta to the west, unincorporated Riverside County to the south and north, and the City of Coachella to the east. Table 1.3-1 lists the land use designation and zoning designation for the Project Area and surrounding area, as well as the existing land use. Areas in unincorporated Riverside County to the north and east of the Project Area are consistent with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) and are part of the Resource Management and Open Space Overlay.

Table 1.3-1. Surrounding Land Uses

	Land Use Designation	Zoning Designation	Existing Land Use
Project Area	City of Indio Public and Institutional Right-of-way Parks and Open Space Desert Estates Transition Sun City Shadow Hills Project Master Plan (PMP) Golf Course	City of Indio PI – Public and Institutional Right-of-way OS – Parks and Open Space DET-3 – Desert Estates Transition-3 Sun City Shadow Hills PMP Golf Course	Water Treatment Facility, Roadway, Farm
North	City of Indio Suburban Neighborhood High Resource Management and Open Space Overlay Desert Estates Transition Talavera Specific Plan (SP) Low Density Residential Sun City Shadow Hills Expansion SP Open Space	City of Indio SN - 8 – Suburban Neighborhood - 8 R-OS – Resource Management and Open Space Overlay DET-3 – Desert Estates Transition-3 Talavera SP RL – Low Density Residential Sun City Shadow Hills Expansion SP Open Space	Single Family Residences, Undeveloped Land, Open Space, Canal

Table 1.3-1. Surrounding Land Uses

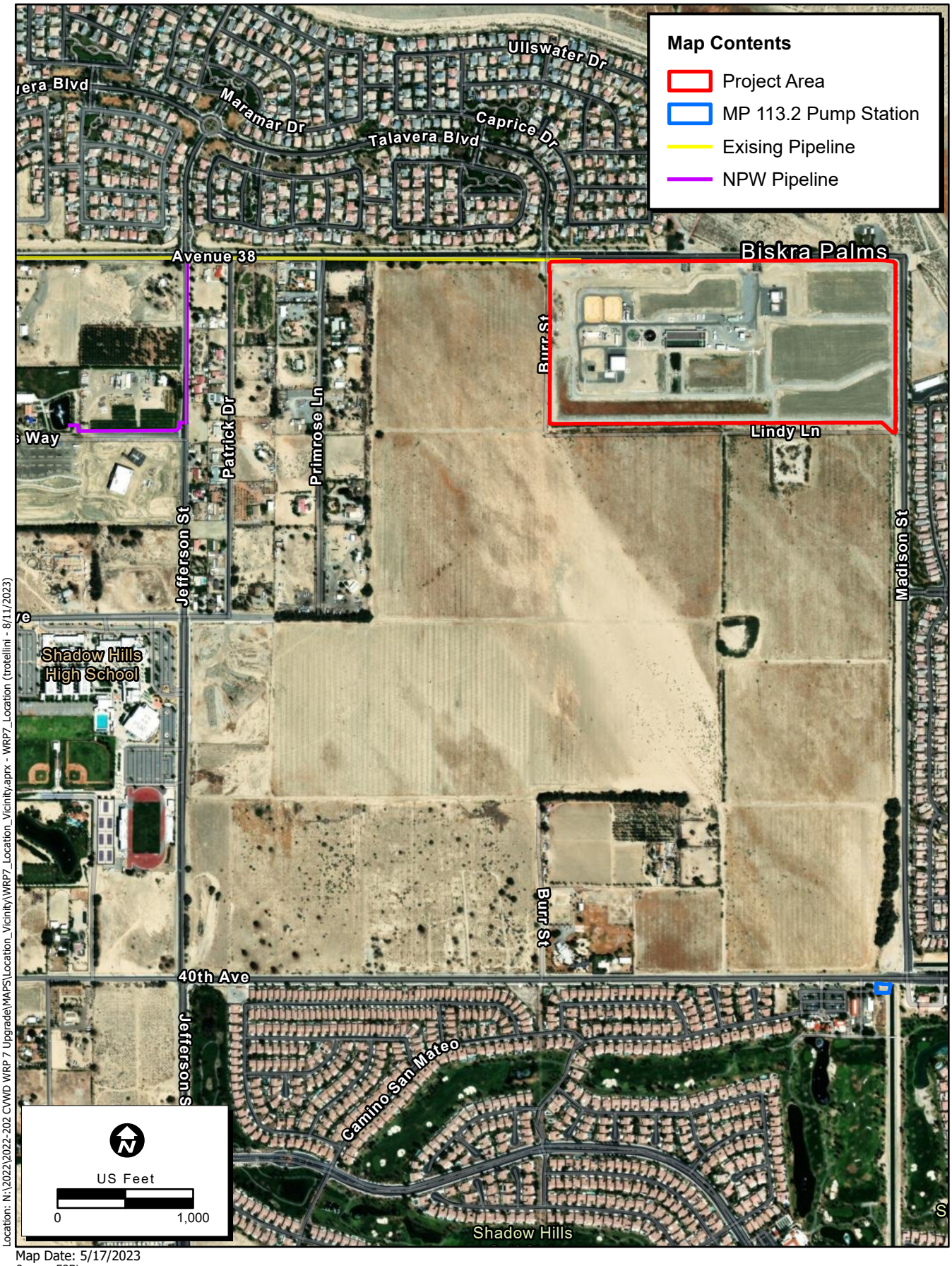
	Land Use Designation	Zoning Designation	Existing Land Use
East	City of Indio Public and Institutional Suburban Neighborhood High Resource Management and Open Space Overlay Suburban Neighborhood Low Parks and Open Space Sun City Shadow Hills Expansion SP Public Utility Residential Use Open Space Sun City Shadow Hills PMP Golf Course Residential	City of Indio PI – Public and Institutional SN - 8 – Suburban Neighborhood - 8 R-OS – Resource Management and Open Space Overlay SN - 4 – Suburban Neighborhood – 4 OS – Parks and Open Space Sun City Shadow Hills Expansion SP Public Utility RL – Residential Use Open Space Sun City Shadow Hills PMP Golf Course RL – Residential	Water Treatment Facility, Single Family Residences, Golf Course, Undeveloped Land, Open Space, Utilities, Canal
South	City of Indio Suburban Neighborhood High Desert Estates Transition Suburban Neighborhood Low Parks and Open Space Sun City Shadow Hills Expansion SP Residential Use Golf Course Sun City Shadow Hills PMP Residential Golf Course	City of Indio SN - 8 – Suburban Neighborhood – 8 DET-3 – Desert Estates Transition-3 SN - 4 – Suburban Neighborhood – 4 OS – Parks and Open Space Sun City Shadow Hills Expansion SP RL – Residential Use Golf Course Sun City Shadow Hills PMP RL – Residential Golf Course	Farms, Single Family Residences, Vacant Land, Church, Golf Course, Canal
West	City of Indio Suburban Neighborhood High Suburban Neighborhood Low Desert Estates Transition Talavera SP Low Density Residential Sun City Shadow Hills PMP Residential Golf Club House Golf Course	City of Indio SN - 8 – Suburban Neighborhood - 8 SN - 4 – Suburban Neighborhood - 4 DET-3 – Desert Estates Transition-3 Talavera SP RL – Low Density Residential Sun City Shadow Hills PMP Residential Golf Club House Golf Course	Farms, Single Family Residences, Vacant Land, Golf Course

Source: City of Indio 2019a; City of Indio 2022a; Ludwig Engineering et al. 2004; Ludwig Engineering 2007; Mainiero, Smith and Associates, Inc. 2004

Figure 1. Project Vicinity

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Upgrade



Map Date: 5/17/2023
Sources: ESRI

Figure 2. Project Location

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2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Background

Based on Coachella Valley Water District's Sanitation Master Plan, CVWD desires to expand tertiary treatment at WRP 7 to provide Title 22 water to additional irrigation and golf course customers. Growth in the WRP 7 service area is expected to increase plant influent flows to 6.2 million gallons per day (MGD) by 2040. In response to this growth, CVWD has planned several projects as part of two phases to expand WRP 7 treatment capacity to meet demands and recycle 100 percent of the WRP 7 influent.

The WRP 7 facility is currently rated to treat flows of 5 MGD. The secondary processes at the plant have a 5 MGD capacity, and the tertiary processes including filtration and disinfection have a capacity of 2.5 MGD. Canal water is supplied to the non-potable water (NPW) distribution system from pump station MP 113.2, and intermittently blended with recycled water (RW) to meet variations in customer demand.

2.2 Project Objectives

CVWD is improving existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station to expand RW and NPW deliveries, and ultimately reduce the usage of NPW imported from the Colorado River via the Coachella Canal and reduce groundwater pumping in the area for protection of the aquifer. The generation of more RW will benefit existing NPW/RW users in the WRP 7 service area.

2.3 Project Characteristics

The WRP 7 Tertiary Treatment Improvements and MP 113.2 Pump Station Rehabilitation Project includes the following upgrades:

- Retrofit the existing dual media filter basins with cloth disk filters to improve tertiary treatment to match the rated capacity of the plant within the same footprint.
- Construct a low-pressure UV system with 12 lamps and 2 channels (100 ml/cm^2) to match the rated capacity of the plant in accordance with Title 22 regulations, in an enclosed 44-foot by 61-foot building and with an electrical building to substitute use of chlorine gas.
- Abandon the existing chlorine gas system, and maintain the existing chlorine contact basin for potential future use by operations for effluent/backwash holding.
- Upgrade of the existing systems associated with the tertiary process includes the in-kind replacement of the following:
    - Secondary effluent flocculation system
    - Tertiary process chemical feed systems, including sodium hypochlorite storage in fiber-reinforced plastic-coated steel tanks. Includes replacement of existing feed pumps for additional capacity due to increased tertiary flows and feed piping.

- In-plant secondary effluent, and NPW delivery pumping systems capacity increase for a 5.5 MGD system (2.5 MGD existing).
- Tertiary Process electrical motor control centers (MCCs). A new electrical control building would house existing and new components.

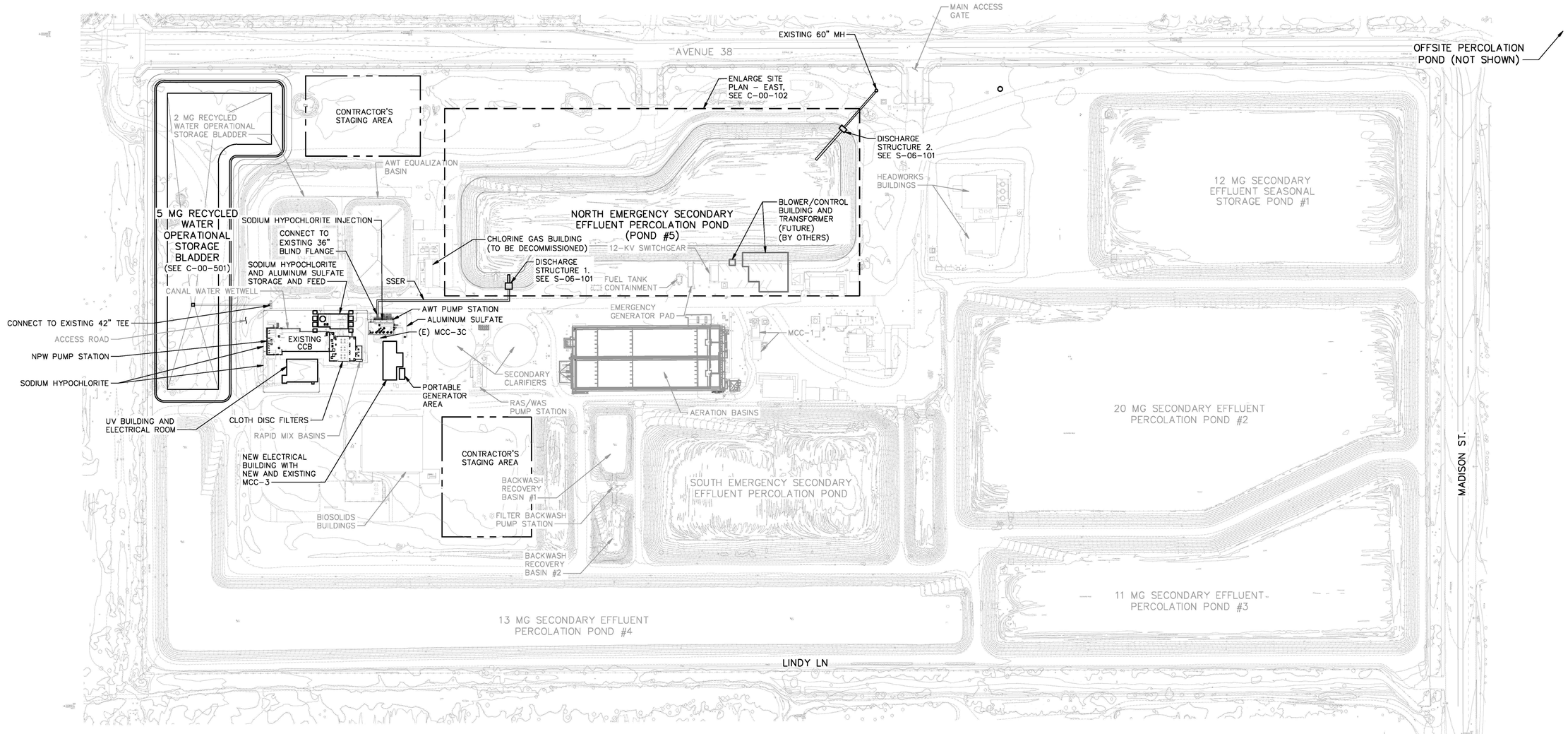
CVWD is also replacing the aged infrastructure at canal water delivery pump station MP 113.2 as part of this Proposed Project. To maintain the current capacity of the pump station, the two existing pumps and MCC's are being replaced with more efficient pumps and drives requiring less horsepower. The motors would be approximately 10 percent more efficient, and horsepower (HP) would be reduced from 150-HP to 100-HP per pump. A third pump is being added to allow operations to perform routine maintenance while maintaining facility capacity in a typical two-duty and one-standby configuration. All improvements to the pump station are within the existing MP 113.2 site located on the southwest corner of the Madison Street and Avenue 40 intersection.

All proposed WRP 7 and MP 113.2 pump station improvements are within existing CVWD facility sites. The Project proposes to retrofit and improve the WRP 7 tertiary treatment system to 5.5 MGD capacity; with overall treated water effluent capacity from the facility remaining the same.

The Proposed Project would also install approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline to connect Young's Farmland to the existing NPW pipeline on Avenue 38. Young's Farmland currently uses groundwater for irrigation. The Proposed Project would convert the primary irrigation source from groundwater to recycled water. The Young's Farmland NPW pipeline would be installed within the right-of-way of Jefferson Street and on Young's Farmland property (APN 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012) (Figure 3).

2.4 Project Timing

It is anticipated that construction would begin in June 2024, last approximately 18 months, reach substantial completion in 2025, and that the new systems would be online in late 2025.



NOTES:

1. CONTRACTOR SHALL LAYOUT THE SITE TO PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY PARKING, STAGING, WASHDOWN, AND STOCKPILE AREAS, ETC. CONSTRUCTION SITE LAYOUT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.
2. CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN ACCESS TO EXISTING FACILITIES AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION. WHERE NECESSARY TO ENCROACH ONTO EXISTING ACCESS ROAD CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY THE ENGINEER IMMEDIATELY. CONTRACTOR SHALL INSTALL TEMPORARY SAFETY FENCING AROUND ALL WORK AREAS FOR PROTECTION OF CITY STAFF.
3. CONTRACTOR SHALL MANAGE THE CONTRACTOR LAYDOWN AREA SUCH THAT NO SITE CONTAMINATION FROM OILS, FUELS, CHEMICAL OR OTHER POLLUTING CONSTITUENTS SHALL LEAVE THE AREA THROUGH RUNOFF OR INFILTRATION.

100' 50' 0 100' 200'
1"=100'

C.V.W.D. DRAWING APPROVAL

Checked: _____ PROJECT ENGINEER — DATE –

Recommended: _____ DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING — DWG. No. –

REVISIONS:	DATE	APPR.

DIGALERT
Contact DigAlert.org before you dig.
DIAL TOLL FREE 811
AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG
UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SYM	REVISIONS	DATE	BY

BLACK & VEATCH

APPROVED BY _____
REGISTERED ENGINEER No. – DATE –

SCALE	NONE
FIELD BOOK	–
DESIGN	JMR
DRAWN	TVL
CHECKED	–

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
IN THE CITY OF INDIO, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER RECLAMATION PLANT No.7
PHASE 1 NPW WATER IMPROVEMENTS

SITE PLAN

LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST.

DRAWING
C-00-101
XX OF XX SHEETS
DRAWING No.
–

PRELIMINARY – NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION 90% DESIGN

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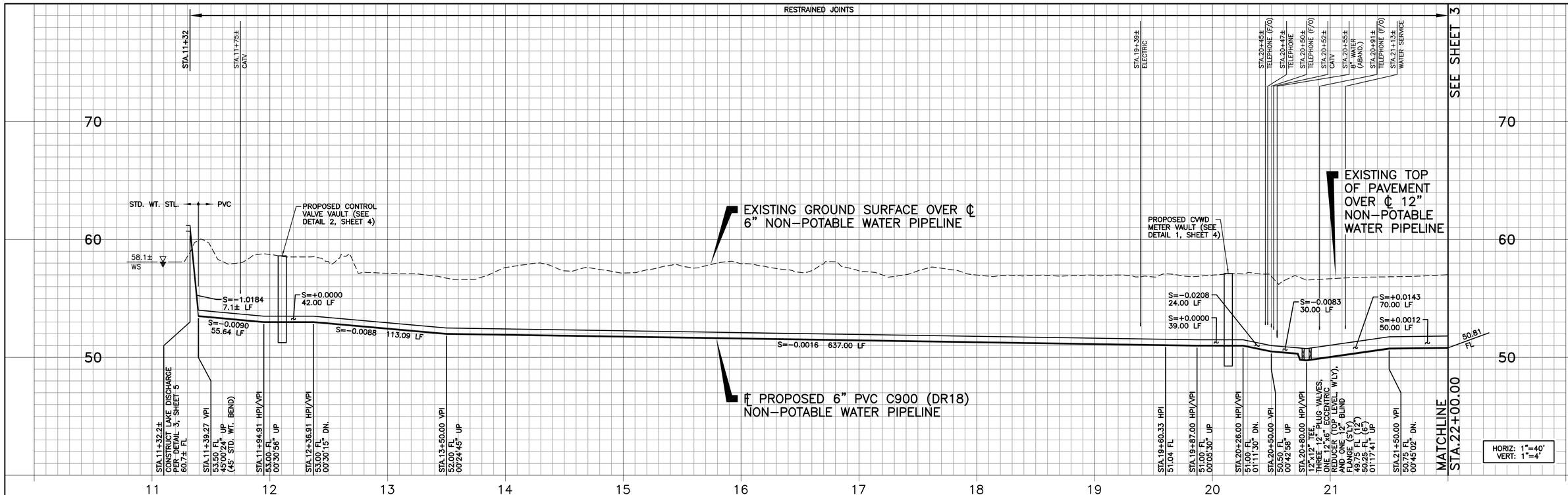


PIPELINE DATA

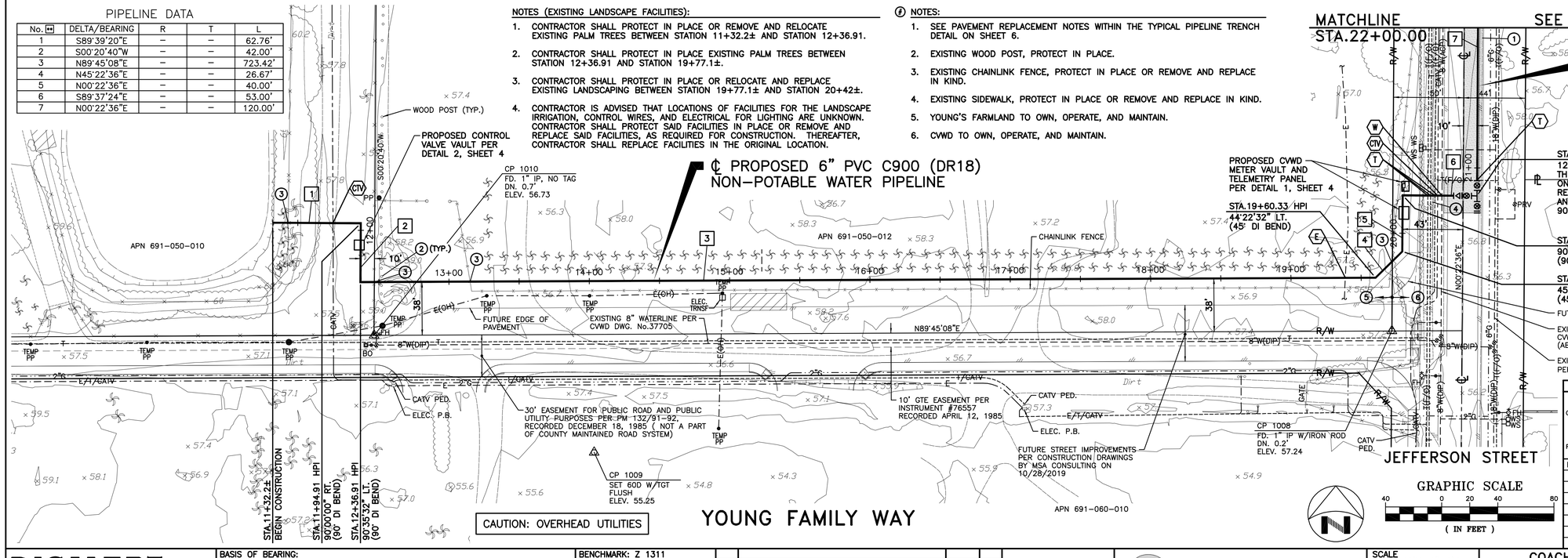
No.	DELTA/BEARING	R	T	L
1	S89°39'20"E	–	–	62.76'
2	S00°20'40"W	–	–	42.00'
3	N89°45'08"E	–	–	723.42'
4	N45°22'36"E	–	–	26.67'
5	N00°22'36"E	–	–	40.00'
6	S89°37'24"E	–	–	53.00'
7	N00°22'36"E	–	–	120.00'

NOTES (EXISTING LANDSCAPE FACILITIES):

1. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROTECT IN PLACE OR REMOVE AND RELOCATE EXISTING PALM TREES BETWEEN STATION 11+32.2± AND STATION 12+36.91.
2. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROTECT IN PLACE EXISTING PALM TREES BETWEEN STATION 12+36.91 AND STATION 19+77.1±.
3. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROTECT IN PLACE OR RELOCATE AND REPLACE EXISTING LANDSCAPING BETWEEN STATION 19+77.1± AND STATION 20+42±.
4. CONTRACTOR IS ADVISED THAT LOCATIONS OF FACILITIES FOR THE LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION, CONTROL WIRES, AND ELECTRICAL FOR LIGHTING ARE UNKNOWN. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROTECT SAID FACILITIES IN PLACE OR REMOVE AND REPLACE SAID FACILITIES, AS REQUIRED FOR CONSTRUCTION. THEREAFTER, CONTRACTOR SHALL REPLACE FACILITIES IN THE ORIGINAL LOCATION.

Ⓕ NOTES:

1. SEE PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT NOTES WITHIN THE TYPICAL PIPELINE TRENCH DETAIL ON SHEET 6.
2. EXISTING WOOD POST, PROTECT IN PLACE.
3. EXISTING CHAINLINK FENCE, PROTECT IN PLACE OR REMOVE AND REPLACE IN KIND.
4. EXISTING SIDEWALK, PROTECT IN PLACE OR REMOVE AND REPLACE IN KIND.
5. YOUNG'S FARMLAND TO OWN, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN.
6. CVWD TO OWN, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN.



C.V.W.D. DRAWING APPROVAL

Checked: PROJECT ENGINEER — DATE

Recommended: DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING — DWG. No. 46296

REVISIONS:	DATE	APPR.

DIGALERT — DIAL TOLL FREE 811 AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG
UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BASIS OF BEARING:
THE BEARINGS SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON THE CENTERLINE OF 38TH AVENUE BEING N89°38'51"E AS SHOWN ON CORNER RECORD CR170434 RIVERSIDE COUNTY RECORDS.

THE ELEVATION DATUM FOR THIS SURVEY IS BASED ON NGS BENCH MARK Z 1311, PID DX3452 WITH A STATED ADJUSTED NAVD88 ELEVATION OF 34.72 SFT. THE NAVD88 ELEVATION WAS CONVERTED TO NGVD29 USING THE NGS VERTCON CONVERSION PROGRAM. THE NETWORK WAS MEASURED BY GPS RTK OBSERVATIONS.

BENCHMARK: Z 1311
ELEVATION= 32.52 SFT. (NGVD29)
FD. 3" DIA. BRASS DISK IN TOP OF HEADWALL, 55±FT SOUTHWEST OF THE CENTERLINE OF SOUTHEAST BOUND LANE OF HWY 10 BUSINESS LOOP (INDIO AVE.) AND 525± NORTHWEST OF MADIO STREET.

SYM	REVISIONS	DATE	BY

KRIEGER & STEWART Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 · 684 · 6900

APPROVED BY _____
REGISTERED ENGINEER No. _____ DATE _____

SCALE	1"=40'H, 1"=4'V
FIELD BOOK	N/A
DESIGN	SS/JBM
DRAWN	TMW
CHECKED	SMB

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
IN THE CITY OF INDIO, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
YOUNG'S FARMLAND NON-POTABLE WATER CONNECTION PROJECT
PLAN AND PROFILE
STA.11+32.2± TO STA.22+00.00
LOCATED WITHIN SECTIONS 4 AND 5, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, SBM

SHEET 2 OF 6 SHEETS
324-34.29 PROJECT No.

100% SUBMITTAL PRELIMINARY 12/20/22 DRAWING No.46296

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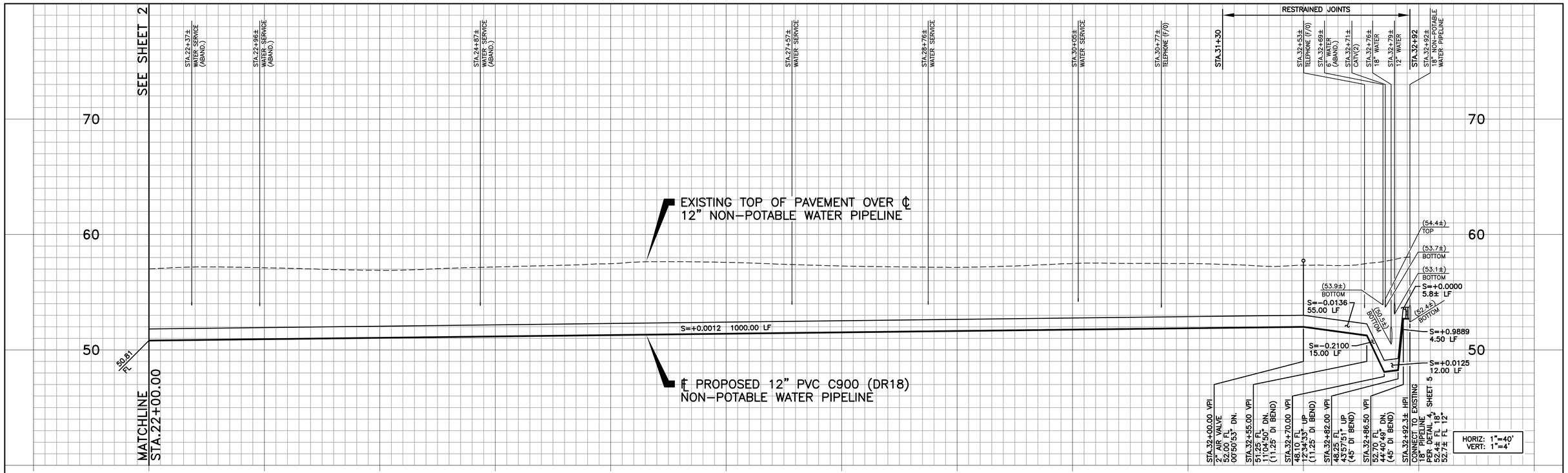

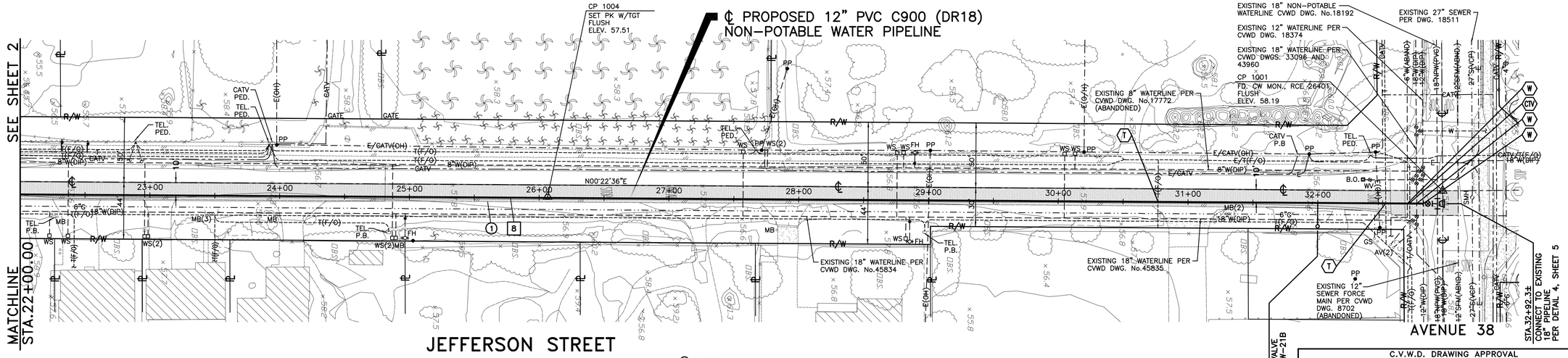

NOTES:

1. SEE PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT NOTES WITHIN THE TYPICAL PIPELINE TRENCH DETAIL ON SHEET 6.

PIPELINE DATA

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CAUTION: OVERHEAD UTILITIES

GRAPHIC SCALE
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(IN FEET)

C.V.W.D. DRAWING APPROVAL

Checked: _____ PROJECT ENGINEER
Recommended: _____ DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
DATE _____
DWG. No. 46297

REVISIONS:	DATE	APPR.

DIGALERT
DIAL TOLL FREE 811 AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG
UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BASIS OF BEARING:
THE BEARINGS SHOWN HEREON ARE BASED ON THE CENTERLINE OF 38TH AVENUE BEING N89°38'51"E AS SHOWN ON CORNER RECORD CR170434 RIVERSIDE COUNTY RECORDS.

THE ELEVATION DATUM FOR THIS SURVEY IS BASED ON NGS BENCH MARK Z 1311, PID DX3452 WITH A STATED ADJUSTED NAVD88 ELEVATION OF 34.72 SFT. THE NAVD88 ELEVATION WAS CONVERTED TO NGVD29 USING THE NGS VERTCON CONVERSION PROGRAM. THE NETWORK WAS MEASURED BY GPS RTK OBSERVATIONS.

BENCHMARK: Z 1311
ELEVATION= 32.52 SFT. (NGVD29)

FD. 3" DIA. BRASS DISK IN TOP OF HEADWALL, 55±FT SOUTHWEST OF THE CENTERLINE OF SOUTHEAST BOUND LANE OF HWY 10 BUSINESS LOOP (INDIO AVE.) AND 525± NORTHWEST OF MADIO STREET.

SYM	REVISIONS	DATE	BY

KRIEGER & STEWART Engineering Consultants
3602 University Avenue • Riverside, CA 92501
www.kriegerandstewart.com • 951 · 684 · 6900

APPROVED BY _____
REGISTERED ENGINEER No. _____ DATE _____

SCALE	1"=40'H, 1"=4'V
FIELD BOOK	N/A
DESIGN	SS/JBM
DRAWN	TMW
CHECKED	SMB

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
IN THE CITY OF INDIO, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
YOUNG'S FARMLAND NON-POTABLE WATER CONNECTION PROJECT
PLAN AND PROFILE
STA.22+00.00 TO STA.32+92.3±
LOCATED WITHIN SECTIONS 4 AND 5, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST, SBM

SHEET 3 OF 6 SHEETS
324-34.29 PROJECT No.

100% SUBMITTAL PRELIMINARY 12/20/22 DRAWING No.46297

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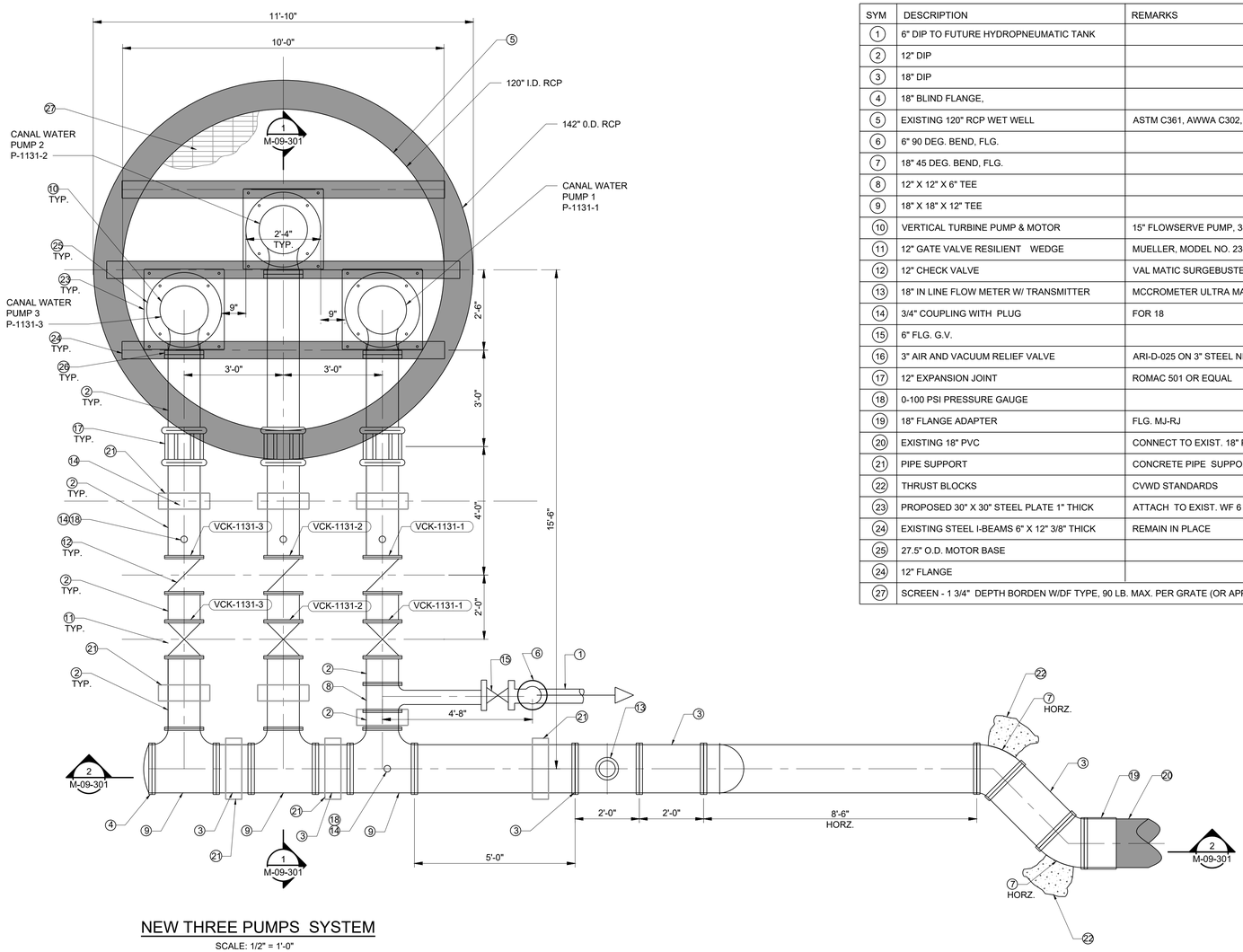


NEW THREE PUMPS SYSTEM

SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

WRP-7
MP 113.2 PUMP STATION
MATERIALS TABLE

SYM	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS	QUANTITIES
1	6" DIP TO FUTURE HYDROPNEUMATIC TANK		
2	12" DIP		
3	18" DIP		
4	18" BLIND FLANGE,		
5	EXISTING 120" RCP WET WELL	ASTM C361, AWWA C302, REMAIN IN PLACE	
6	6" 90 DEG. BEND, FLG.		
7	18" 45 DEG. BEND, FLG.		
8	12" X 12" X 6" TEE		
9	18" X 18" X 12" TEE		
10	VERTICAL TURBINE PUMP & MOTOR	15" FLOWSERVE PUMP, 3800 GPM, TDH = 63', 75 HP, 1775 RPM 12" DISCHARGE, ANTI VORTEX STRAINER	3
11	12" GATE VALVE RESILIENT WEDGE	MUELLER, MODEL NO. 2362, FLANGED, OR APPROVED EQUAL	3
12	12" CHECK VALVE	VAL MATIC SURGEBUSTER, SILENT NON-SLAM FLANGED, OR APPROVED EQUAL	3
13	18" IN LINE FLOW METER W/ TRANSMITTER	MCCROMETER ULTRA MAG MODEL UM-06, FLANGE	1
14	3/4" COUPLING WITH PLUG	FOR 18	1
15	6" FLG. G.V.		1
16	3" AIR AND VACUUM RELIEF VALVE	ARI-D-025 ON 3" STEEL NIPPLE	1
17	12" EXPANSION JOINT	ROMAC 501 OR EQUAL	3
18	0-100 PSI PRESSURE GAUGE		
19	18" FLANGE ADAPTER	FLG. MJ-RJ	1
20	EXISTING 18" PVC	CONNECT TO EXIST. 18" PVC, REMAIN IN PLACE	
21	PIPE SUPPORT	CONCRETE PIPE SUPPORT DETAIL, PIPE SIZE AS SHOWN	3
22	THRUST BLOCKS	CVWD STANDARDS	2
23	PROPOSED 30" X 30" STEEL PLATE 1" THICK	ATTACH TO EXIST. WF 6 X12 I-BEAN	3
24	EXISTING STEEL I-BEAMS 6" X 12" 3/8" THICK	REMAIN IN PLACE	3
25	27.5" O.D. MOTOR BASE		
24	12" FLANGE		
27	SCREEN - 1 3/4" DEPTH BORDEN W/DF TYPE, 90 LB. MAX. PER GRATE (OR APPROVED EQUAL)		

CONSTRUCTION NOTE:

CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE EXISTING PUMPS (3), VALVES, FITTINGS, FLOWMETER, AND STEEL MANIFOLD FROM WET WELL TO EXISTING 18" PVC TIE-IN

C.V.W.D. DRAWING APPROVAL

Checked: _____ PROJECT ENGINEER — DATE –

Recommended: _____ DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING — DWG. No. –

REVISIONS:	DATE	APPR.

DIGALERT — Contact DigAlert.org before you dig — DIAL TOLL FREE 811 AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG — UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SYM	REVISIONS	DATE	BY

BLACK & VEATCH

APPROVED BY _____ –

REGISTERED ENGINEER No. 24951 DATE 01-09-2023

SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"
FIELD BOOK –
DESIGN BRO
DRAWN GG
CHECKED BRO

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
IN THE CITY OF INDIO, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER RECLAMATION PLANT No.7
PHASE 1 NPW WATER IMPROVEMENTS

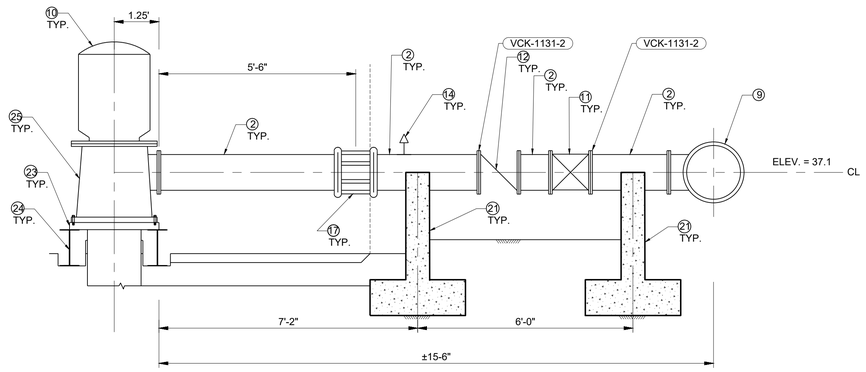
MP 113.2 PUMP STATION PLAN

LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 7 EAST.

DRAWING M-09-101 XX OF XX SHEETS DRAWING No. –

DWG. NO.: 406638-M-09-101 FILE NO.: – UPDATE BY: TVL PROJ. ENG.: – PLOT DATE: – PLOT TIME: 12:48PM PLOT SCALE: NONE

PRELIMINARY – NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION 90% DESIGN



1 SECTION
M-09-101 1/2" = 1'-0"

WRP-7
MP 113.2 PUMP STATION
MATERIALS TABLE

SYM	DESCRIPTION	REMARKS	QUANTITIES
1	6" DIP TO FUTURE HYDROPNEUMATIC TANK		
2	12" DIP		
3	18" DIP		
4	18" BLIND FLANGE,		
5	EXISTING 120" RCP WET WELL	ASTM C361, AWWA C302, REMAIN IN PLACE	
6	6" 90 DEG. BEND, FLG.		
7	18" 45 DEG. BEND, FLG.		
8	12" X 12" X 6" TEE		
9	18" X 18" X 12" TEE		
10	VERTICAL TURBINE PUMP & MOTOR	15" FLOWSERVE PUMP, 3800 GPM, TDH = 63', 75 HP, 1775 RPM 12" DISCHARGE, ANTI VORTEX STRAINER	3
11	12" GATE VALVE RESILIENT WEDGE	MUELLER, MODEL NO. 2362, FLANGED, OR APPROVED EQUAL	3
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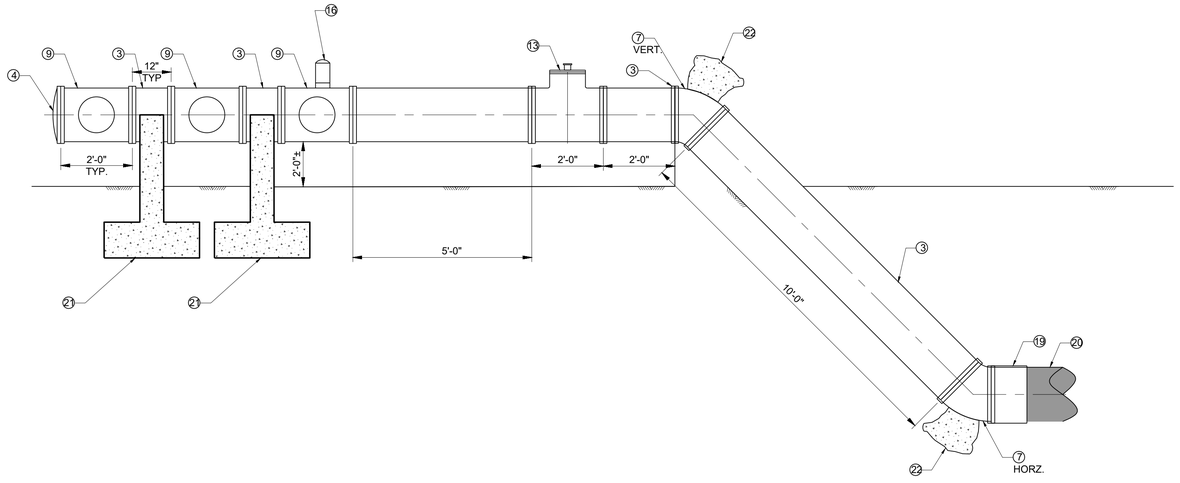
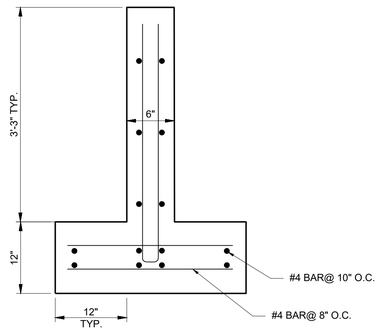
13	18" IN LINE FLOW METER W/ TRANSMITTER	MCCROMETER ULTRA MAG MODEL UM-06, FLANGE	1
14	3/4" COUPLING WITH PLUG	FOR 18	1
15	6" FLG. G.V.		1
16	3" AIR AND VACUUM RELIEF VALVE	ARI-D-025 ON 3" STEEL NIPPLE	1
17	12" EXPANSION JOINT	ROMAC 501 OR EQUAL	3
18	0-100 PSI PRESSURE GAUGE		
19	18" FLANGE ADAPTER	FLG. MJ-RJ	1
20	EXISTING 18" PVC	CONNECT TO EXIST. 18" PVC, REMAIN IN PLACE	
21	PIPE SUPPORT	CONCRETE PIPE SUPPORT DETAIL, PIPE SIZE AS SHOWN	3
22	THRUST BLOCKS	CVWD STANDARDS	2
23	PROPOSED 30" X 30" STEEL PLATE 1" THICK	ATTACH TO EXIST. WF 6 X12 I-BEAN	3
24	EXISTING STEEL I-BEAMS 6" X 12" 3/8" THICK	REMAIN IN PLACE	3
25	27.5" O.D. MOTOR BASE		
26	12" FLANGE		
27	SCREEN - 1 3/4" DEPTH BORDEN W/DF TYPE, 90 LB. MAX. PER GRATE (OR APPROVED EQUAL)		



2 SECTION
M-09-101 1/2" = 1'-0"



21 CONCRETE PIPE SUPPORT
SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"

CONSTRUCTION NOTE:

CONTRACTOR TO REMOVE EXISTING PUMPS (3), VALVES, FITTINGS, FLOWMETER, AND STEEL MANIFOLD FROM WET WELL TO EXISTING 18" PVC TIE-IN

C.V.W.D. DRAWING APPROVAL

Checked: _____ PROJECT ENGINEER — DATE –

Recommended: _____ DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING — DWG. No. –

REVISIONS:	DATE	APPR.

DIGALERT — DIAL TOLL FREE 811 — AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG — UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SYM	REVISIONS	DATE	BY

..\Related Files\20_BV_logo_RGB.jpg

APPROVED BY _____ –

REGISTERED ENGINEER No. _____ – DATE _____ –

SCALE: NONE
FIELD BOOK: –
DESIGN: –
DRAWN: TVL
CHECKED: –

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
IN THE CITY OF PALM DESERT, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
WATER RECLAMATION PLANT No.4
NPW IMPROVEMENTS

MP 113.2 PUMP STATION
SECTION AND DETAIL
LOCATED WITHIN SECTION 15, TOWNSHIP 5 SOUTH, RANGE 6 EAST, SBM

DRAWING
M-09-301
XX OF XX SHEETS
DRAWING No. –

DWG. NO.: 406638-M-09-301 FILE NO.: – UPDATE BY: TVL PROJ. ENG.: – PLOT DATE: – PLOT TIME: 12:48PM PLOT SCALE: NONE

2.5 Regulatory Requirements, Permits, and Approvals

The Proposed Project would require the following approvals and regulatory permits:

- Cross-cutting Federal Authorities (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA] and State Water Resources Control Board's [SWRCB])

USEPA is identified because CVWD is seeking funding for the Proposed Project under the SWRCB's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program, which is partially funded through the EPA. Because of the federal nexus with the EPA, projects seeking funding through the CWSRF Program are subject to federal laws and regulations. The Project's compliance with federal regulations is discussed in Section 5.0 of this document.

2.6 Consultation With California Native American Tribe(s)

CVWD has notified the following California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the Proposed Project:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Pacific Region
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Southern California Agency
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Palm Springs Agency
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Ramona Band of Cahuilla
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

The Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians responded to the notification letter stating that they are unaware of specific cultural resources that may be affected by the Proposed Project, but would like to be notified should any cultural resources be discovered during Project development.

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) responded to the notification letter stating the Project Area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI reservation but is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. The ACBCI Tribal Historic Preservation Office requests formal government-to-government

consultation under AB 52 in addition to copies of any cultural resource documentation, cultural resources inventory, record search results, and the presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor during ground disturbing activities.

Section 4.18 of this IS/MND provides a summary of the consultation process. AB 52 consultation is ongoing as of the release of this Draft IS/MND (August 2023). The results of the AB 52 consultation process will be included as part of the Final IS/MND.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED AND DETERMINATION

3.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by the Project, involving at least one impact that is a *Potentially Significant Impact,* as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. With adherence to the mitigation program identified within this IS/MND, the potentially significant impacts would be reduced or minimized to less than significant.

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

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	☐
I find that although the 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 Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	☐
I find that the 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 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 Project, nothing further is required.	☐

Prepared by: _____

Freddie Olmos Date
Task Lead/Senior Environmental Planner
ECORP Consulting, Inc.

Reviewed by: _____

Charlie McKinley Date
Project Engineer
Black & Veatch

Reviewed by: _____

Carlos Huerta Date
Environmental Specialist
Coachella Valley Water District

Reviewed by: _____

William Patterson Date
Environmental Supervisor
Coachella Valley Water District

Submitted by: _____

Joanne Le Date
Director of Environmental Services
Coachella Valley Water District

Approved By: _____

Sylvia Bermudez Date
Clerk of the Board
Coachella Valley Water District

3.2 Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

CVWD has defined the column headings in the IS checklist as follows:

A) "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that the Project's effect may be significant even with the incorporation of mitigation measures identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impacts" a Project EIR will be prepared.

B) "Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR" applies where the potential impacts of the Proposed Project were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR and the mitigation measures identified in the PEIR will mitigate any impacts of the Proposed Project to the extent feasible. All applicable mitigation measures identified in the PEIR are incorporated into the Project as proposed. The impact analysis in this document summarizes and cross references the relevant analysis in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

C) "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of project-specific mitigation measures will reduce an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." All project-level mitigation measures must be described, including a brief explanation of how the measures reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

D) "Less than Significant Impact" applies where the Proposed Project would not result in any significant effects. The effects may or may not have been discussed in the 2020 SMP PEIR. The Project impact is less than significant without the incorporation of the PEIR or project-level mitigation.

E) "No Impact" applies where the Proposed Project would not result in any impact in the category or the category does not apply. "No Impact" answers need to be adequately supported by the information source cited, which show that the impact does not apply to the projects like the one involved. A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards.

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4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Aesthetics

The analysis of aesthetics is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR found impacts to aesthetics for all Master Plan projects not to be significant because proposed improvements to existing sanitation facilities would not significantly affect scenic resources, as they are already a part of the existing landscape. The proposed pipelines would be located underground and predominantly within the right-of-way (ROW) of existing roadways and would not be visible. Lift stations would be sited adjacent to pipelines and do not include tall structures that could obstruct scenic resources. Aesthetic impacts were found not to be significant and not discussed further in the PEIR (CVWD 2022).

Analysis in this section is supplemented by information specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.1.1 Environmental Setting

The City of Indio (City) is located in the Coachella Valley which is bounded on the west by the San Jacinto Mountains and the Santa Rosa Mountains and on the north and east by the Little San Bernardino Mountains. At the southern end of the Coachella Valley is the Salton Sea. The City has an urban pattern that includes established residential areas and commercial corridors in the historic part of the City and suburban housing and commercial uses along the edge of the City (City of Indio 2019a).

4.1.1.1 Regional Setting

State Scenic Highways

The California Scenic Highway Program protects and enhances the scenic beauty of California's highways and adjacent corridors. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) can designate a highway as scenic based on how much natural beauty can be seen by users of the highway, the quality of the scenic landscape, and if development impacts the enjoyment of the view.

A portion of Highway 74, which travels from the western boundary of San Bernardino National Forest to Highway 111 in the City of Palm Desert is an officially designated state scenic highway. The officially designated portion of Highway 74 is located approximately 8.26 miles southwest of the Project Area. A portion of Highway 111, which travels from Highway 74 in the City of Palm Desert to Interstate 19 (I-10) near Whitewater is an eligible state scenic highway (Caltrans 2023). This portion is located approximately 8.26 miles southwest of the Project Area.

General Plan

The City's General Plan notes open spaces in the surrounding area include Indio Hills and Whitewater River. The northern portion of the planning area includes desert and hillside landscapes (City of Indio 2019a).

4.1.1.2 Visual Character of the Project Area

The Project Area includes existing CVWD facilities as well as sections of existing roadways (Jefferson Street and Young Way) and private property. Existing buildings and vegetation in the surrounding area partially block views of the mountains. Distant mountain views to the south include the Santa Rosa Mountains and views to the north and east include the Little San Bernardino Mountains.

4.1.2 Aesthetics Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

As discussed in Section 2.4 of the 2020 SMP PEIR, proposed improvements to existing sanitation facilities would not significantly affect scenic resources as they are already a part of the existing landscape. Additionally, the Project's proposed NPW pipeline would be within the ROW of Jefferson Street and on Young's Farmland private property. The pipeline would be located underground and not visible. Therefore, impacts of the Proposed Project on scenic vistas would be less than significant, consistent with the findings of the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Proposed WRP 7 and MP 113.2 pump station improvements are located within existing CVWD facilities and would not cause damage to any scenic resources including trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings, including those within a state scenic highway. Implementation of the Young's Farmland NPW pipeline may require the removal and relocation of existing palm trees on Young's Farmland, which is private property. However, there are no officially designated state scenic highways in the vicinity of the Project Area (Caltrans 2023, City of Indio 2019a). A portion of Highway 74 is a designated state scenic highway and a portion of Highway 111 is an eligible state scenic highway; however, both are located approximately 8.26 miles southwest of the Project Area. No impact would occur.

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) In non-urbanized 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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Area is in an urbanized area surrounded by single-family homes, golf courses, farm plots, and undeveloped land. The Project Area is developed and includes water facilities, farmland, and a roadway. The Project proposes upgrades to existing CVWD facilities and construction of an approximately 2,500 linear foot pipeline connection, which are compatible with the existing zoning designations. No impact would occur.

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the Project create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The proposed NPW pipeline would be located underground and therefore would not visible. The proposed improvements to CVWD facilities include construction of a tertiary filters canopy, UV disinfection building, chemical storage canopy, MP 113.2 canopy, and an electrical building. The tertiary filters canopy would be located within an existing building and would not create a new source substantial light or glare. The proposed UV disinfection building, chemical storage canopy, MP 113.2 canopy, and electrical building would be constructed from prefinished metal panels, which would not be shiny or highly reflective. These proposed structures would be consistent with existing structures onsite and would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

4.1.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

The analysis of agriculture and forestry resources is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.7, Land Use, Planning, and Agriculture, of that document. The PEIR determined the WRP 7 site is located on land designated as Urban and Built-up Land and bordered to the north and east by Urban and Built-up Land and Other Land, to the south by Prime Farmland, and to the west by Urban and Built-up Land and Prime Farmland. Potentially affected farmland within the impact footprint of the Master Plan projects does not represent a permanent conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. Agricultural operations on adjacent fields would continue. The PEIR determined that the environmental effects on forestry resources are not significant and were not further analyzed (CVWD 2022).

Analysis in this section is supplemented by information specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.2.1 Environmental Setting

"Forest land" as defined by PRC Section 12220(g) is "…land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits."

"Timberland" as defined by PRC Section 4526 means "…land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. Commercial species shall be determined by the board on a district basis."

"Timberland zoned Timberland Production" is defined by PRC Section 51104(g) as "…an area which has been zoned pursuant to Section 51112 or 51113 and is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber, or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses, as defined in subdivision h."

The City was built on agriculture, distribution of goods and services, light manufacturing, and tourism. However, commercial activity in the Coachella Valley has shifted from agriculture and military activity to tourism and recreation. As of 2019, 8 percent of the planning area and 17 percent of the developed areas is used for agriculture. The City utilizes urban agriculture which integrates small-scale agricultural activities into the City's neighborhoods to provide locally-grown food while reducing the environmental impact of transporting food long distances to reach the consumer. Agriculture is an allowed land use in Desert Estates and Desert Estates Transition neighborhoods (City of Indio 2019a).

The California Department of Conservation's (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), compiles important farmland maps pursuant to the provisions of Section 65570 of the California Government Code. According to the FMMP, the Project Area is located on land designated as Urban and Built-Up land (occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel) (DOC 2023).

4.2.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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 non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Area is located on land designated as Urban and Built-Up Land and Other Land. The Project Area is bordered to the north, south, and east by Urban and Built-Up Land, Farmland of Local Importance, Prime Farmland, and Other Land and to the east by Other Land and Urban and Built-Up Land (DOC 2023). The Project Area does not contain land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, no conversion of such farmlands to non-agricultural use would occur. No impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

The analysis of Impact AG-2 in Section 4.7, Land Use, Planning, and Agriculture, of the 2020 SMP PEIR concluded that the Master Plan would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use within the cities of Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, and Indio because proposed facilities and improvements to existing facilities are generally located within the ROW of existing streets or within lands zoned for urban, industrial, commercial, public, open space, or residential uses. The Project Area is located in the City and would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. The 2020 SMP PEIR notes the location of parcels under Williamson Act contracts within the CVWD service area and determined that no project facilities in the City are within active Williamson Act contract lands. Figure 4.7-2 shows parcels under Williamson Act contracts north of the WRP 7 facility, however the Project Area is not within active Williamson Act contract lands (CVWD 2022). Implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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))?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Zoning in the Project Area is designated as PI – Public and Institutional, ROW, OS – Parks and Open Space, DET-3 – Desert Estates Transition-3, and Golf Course (City of Indio 2019a; Ludwig Engineering et al. 2004). The Project Area is not zoned for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production (DOC 2023). No impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Area is not zoned for forest land, timberland, or timberland production (DOC 2023) and the Project Area does not contain any forest land. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Area includes existing CVWD facilities, public ROW, and private property and is not currently used for agriculture or forest land. Development of the Proposed Project would not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

4.2.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.3 Air Quality

The analysis of air quality is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.1, Air Quality, of that document. This assessment was prepared using methods and assumptions recommended in the rules and regulations of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the City. Regional and local existing conditions are presented, along with pertinent pollutant emissions standards and regulations. The purpose of this assessment is to estimate criteria air pollutants attributable to the Proposed Project and determine the level of impact it would have on the environment.

4.3.1 Environmental Setting

The Proposed Project is located within the City of Indio, in the eastern portion of Riverside County. The California Air Resource Board (CARB) has divided California into regional air basins according to topographic features. The Project Area is located in the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB). The SSAB includes the Imperial Valley and the central part of Riverside County, including the Coachella Valley. The province is characterized by the large-scale sinking and warming of air within the semi-permanent subtropical high-pressure center over the Pacific Ocean.

Both the USEPA and CARB have established ambient air quality standards for common pollutants. These ambient air quality standards are levels of contaminants representing safe levels that avoid specific adverse health effects associated with each pollutant. The ambient air quality standards cover what are called "criteria" pollutants because the health and other effects of each pollutant are described in criteria documents. The six criteria pollutants are ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and lead. Areas that meet ambient air quality standards are classified as attainment areas, while areas that do not meet these standards are classified as nonattainment areas. The portion of Riverside County encompassing the City of Indio and the Project Area is designated as a nonattainment area for the federal O_3 and coarse particulate matter (PM_{10}) standards and is also a nonattainment area for the state standards for O_3 and PM_{10} (CARB 2022).

The local air quality regulating authority in Riverside County is the SCAQMD. The SCAQMD's primary responsibility is ensuring that the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are attained and maintained in the Riverside County portion of the SSAB. The SCAQMD is also responsible for adopting and enforcing rules and regulations concerning air pollutant sources, issuing permits for stationary sources of air pollutants, inspecting stationary sources of air pollutants, responding to citizen complaints, monitoring ambient air quality and meteorological conditions, awarding grants to reduce motor vehicle emissions, and conducting public education

campaigns, as well as many other activities. All projects are subject to SCAQMD rules and regulations in effect at the time of construction.

The following is a list of noteworthy SCAQMD rules that are required of construction activities associated with the Proposed Project:

- **Rule 402 (Nuisance)** – This rule prohibits the discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property. This rule does not apply to odors emanating from agricultural operations necessary for the growing of crops or the raising of fowl or animals.
- **Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust)** – This rule requires fugitive dust sources to implement best available control measures for all sources, and all forms of visible PM are prohibited from crossing any property line. This rule is intended to reduce PM_{10} emissions from any transportation, handling, construction, or storage activity that has the potential to generate fugitive dust. PM_{10} suppression techniques are summarized below.

  a) Portions of a construction site to remain inactive longer than a period of three months will be seeded and watered until grass cover is grown or otherwise stabilized.

  b) All onsite roads will be paved as soon as feasible or watered periodically or chemically stabilized.

  c) All material transported offsite will be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.

  d) The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation operations will be minimized at all times.

  e) Where vehicles leave a construction site and enter adjacent public streets, the streets will be swept daily or washed down at the end of the workday to remove soil tracked onto the paved surface.

- **Rule 1113 (Architectural Coatings)** – This rule requires manufacturers, distributors, and end-users of architectural and industrial maintenance coatings to reduce Reactive Organic Gas (ROG) emissions from the use of these coatings, primarily by placing limits on the ROG content of various coating categories.
- **Rule 1401 (New Source Review of Toxic Air Contaminants)** – This rule requires new source review of any new, relocated, or modified permit units that emit toxic air contaminants (TACs). The rule establishes allowable risks for permit units requiring permits pursuant to Rules 201 and 203 discussed above.

4.3.2 Air Quality Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

As part of its enforcement responsibilities, the USEPA requires each state with nonattainment areas to prepare and submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) that demonstrates the means to attain the federal standards. The SIP must integrate federal, state, and local plan components and regulations to identify specific measures to reduce pollution in nonattainment areas, using a combination of performance standards and market-based programs. Similarly, under state law, the California Clean Air Act (CAA) requires an air quality attainment plan to be prepared for areas designated as nonattainment with regard to the NAAQS and CAAQS. Air quality attainment plans outline emissions limits and control measures to achieve and maintain these standards by the earliest practical date.

As previously mentioned, the Project Area is located within the SSAB, which is under the jurisdiction of the SCAQMD. The SCAQMD is required, pursuant to the federal CAA, to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants for which the SSAB is in nonattainment. In order to reduce such emissions, the SCAQMD drafted the 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) (it is noted that the SCAQMD has recently adopted the 2022 AQMP, which is awaiting final approval by the USEPA). The 2016 AQMP establishes a program of rules and regulations directed at reducing air pollutant emissions and achieving state (California) and national air quality standards. The 2016 AQMP is a regional and multi-agency effort including the SCAQMD, CARB, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the USEPA. The plan's pollutant control strategies are based on the latest scientific and technical information and planning assumptions, including SCAG's latest Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), updated emission inventory methodologies for various source categories, and SCAG's latest growth forecasts (SCAG's latest growth forecasts were defined in consultation with local governments and with reference to local general plans). The Proposed Project is subject to the SCAQMD's AQMP.

According to the SCAQMD, in order to determine consistency with SCAQMD's air quality planning two main criteria must be addressed.

Criterion 1:

With respect to the first criterion, SCAQMD methodologies require that an air quality analysis for a project include forecasts of project emissions in relation to contributing to air quality violations and delay of attainment.

a) Would the project result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations or cause or contribute to new air quality violations?

As shown in Table 4.3-1, 4.3-3, and 4.3-4 below, the Proposed Project would result in emissions that would be below the SCAQMD regional and localized thresholds during both construction and operation. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations and would not have the potential to cause or affect a violation of the ambient air quality standards.

b) Would the project delay timely attainment of air quality standards or the interim emissions reductions specified in the AQMP?

As shown in Table 4.3-1 and 4.3-4 below, the Proposed Project would be below the SCAQMD regional thresholds for construction and operations. Because the Proposed Project would result in less than significant regional emission impacts, it would not delay the timely attainment of air quality standards or AQMP emissions reductions.

Criterion 2:

With respect to the second criterion for determining consistency with SCAQMD and SCAG air quality policies, it is important to recognize that air quality planning within the SSAB focuses on attainment of ambient air quality standards at the earliest feasible date. Projections for achieving air quality goals are based on assumptions regarding population, housing, and growth trends. Thus, the SCAQMD's second criterion for determining Project consistency focuses on whether or not the Proposed Project exceeds the assumptions utilized in preparing the forecasts presented its air quality planning documents. Determining whether or not a project exceeds the assumptions reflected in the 2016 AQMP involves the evaluation of the three criteria outlined below. The following discussion provides an analysis of each of these criteria.

a) Would the project be consistent with the population, housing, and employment growth projections utilized in the preparation of the 2016 AQMP?

A project is consistent with regional air quality planning efforts in part if it is consistent with the population, housing, and employment assumptions that were used in the development of the SCAQMD air quality plans. Generally, three sources of data form the basis for the projections of air pollutant emissions in the County of Riverside. Specifically, SCAG's Growth Management Chapter of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG) provides regional population forecasts for the region and SCAG's RTP/SCS provides socioeconomic forecast projections of regional population growth. The City's General Plan is referenced by SCAG in order to assist forecasting future growth in the city.

The Proposed Project is consistent with the land use designation and development density presented in the City's 2040 General Plan. The Project Area currently has a General Plan land use designation of Public and Institutional. This designation allows for areas for public, educational, and institutional uses (City of Indio 2019a). The Project is proposing several improvements to existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station, with overall treated water effluent capacity from the facility remaining the same. All proposed WRP 7 and MP 113.2 pump station improvements are within existing CVWD facility sites and would not expand the number of necessary employees. The Proposed Project does not involve the development of new housing or employment centers. As such, the Proposed Project would not contribute to an increase in population, housing, or employment growth. Therefore, the Proposed

Project would be considered consistent with the population, housing, and employment growth projections utilized in the preparation of SCAQMD's air quality plans. As a result, the Proposed Project would not conflict with the land use assumptions or exceed the population or job growth projections used by SCAQMD to develop the 2016 AQMP.

b) Would the project implement all feasible air quality mitigation measures?

To further reduce emissions, the Proposed Project would be required to comply with emission reduction measures promulgated by the SCAQMD, such as SCAQMD Rules 201, 402, 403, and 1113. SCAQMD Rule 402 prohibits the discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property. SCAQMD Rule 403 requires fugitive dust sources to implement Best Available Control Measures for all sources, and all forms of visible particulate matter are prohibited from crossing any property line. SCAQMD Rule 403 is intended to reduce PM_{10} emissions from any transportation, handling, construction, or storage activity that has the potential to generate fugitive dust. SCAQMD 1113 requires manufacturers, distributors, and end-users of architectural and industrial maintenance coatings to reduce ROG emissions from the use of these coatings, primarily by placing limits on the ROG content of various coating categories. As such, the Proposed Project meets this consistency criterion.

c) Would the project be consistent with the land use planning strategies set forth by SCAQMD air quality planning efforts?

The AQMP contains air pollutant reduction strategies based on SCAG's latest growth forecasts, and SCAG's growth forecasts were defined in consultation with local governments and with reference to local general plans. The Proposed Project would retrofit and improve the existing WRP 7 tertiary treatment system. This would not increase the Project Area's development density beyond current levels and would not conflict with the development density standards set out by the City's General Plan. The Proposed Project would not exceed the population or job growth projections used by the SCAQMD to develop the AQMP.

In conclusion, the determination of AQMP consistency is primarily concerned with the long-term influence of a Project on air quality. The Proposed Project would not result in a long-term impact on the region's ability to meet state and federal air quality standards. The Proposed Project's long-term influence would also be consistent with the goals and policies of the SCAQMD's 2016 AQMP.

Because of these reasons, there would be no impacts as a result of the Proposed Project.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

By its very nature, air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. No single project is sufficient in size, by itself, to result in nonattainment of ambient air quality standards. Instead, a project's individual emissions contribute to existing cumulatively significant adverse air quality impacts. If a project's individual emissions exceed its identified significance thresholds, the project would be cumulatively considerable. Projects that do not exceed significance thresholds would not be considered cumulative considerable.

Air quality impacts were assessed in accordance with methodologies recommended by the SCAQMD. Where criteria air pollutant quantification was required, emissions were modeled using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), version 2022.1. CalEEMod is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to quantify potential criteria pollutant emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. Project construction-generated air pollutant emissions are calculated using CalEEMod model defaults for Riverside County. Operational air pollutant emissions are based on the Project dimensions identified in the Project site plans.

Construction Impacts

Regional Construction Significance Analysis

Construction-generated emissions are temporary and short-term but have the potential to represent a significant air quality impact. The basic sources of short-term emissions that will be generated through construction of the Proposed Project would be from grading activities and the from the operation of the construction vehicles (i.e., trenchers, dump trucks). Construction activities such as excavation and grading operations, construction vehicle traffic, and wind blowing over exposed soils would generate exhaust emissions and fugitive PM emissions that affect local air quality at various times during construction. Effects would be variable depending on the weather, soil conditions, the amount of activity taking place, and the nature of dust control efforts. The dry climate of the area during the summer months creates a high potential for dust generation. Construction activities would be subject to SCAQMD Rule 403, which requires taking reasonable precautions to prevent the emissions of fugitive dust, such as using water or chemicals, where possible, for control of dust during the clearing of land and other construction activities.

Construction-generated emissions associated with the Proposed Project were calculated using the CARB-approved CalEEMod computer program, which is designed to model emissions for land use development

projects, based on typical construction requirements. See Appendix A for more information regarding the construction assumptions, including construction equipment and duration, used in this analysis.

Predicted maximum daily construction-generated emissions for the Proposed Project are summarized in Table 4.3-1. Construction-generated emissions are short-term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur, but would be considered a significant air quality impact if the volume of pollutants generated exceeds the SCAQMD's thresholds of significance.

Table 4.3-1. Construction-Related Emissions (Regional Significance Analysis)

Construction Year	Pollutant (pounds per day)					
	ROG	**NO_X**	**CO**	**SO_2**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Construction Year One	3.26	15.90	19.80	0.03	0.91	0.71
SCAQMD Regional Significance Threshold	*75*	*100*	*550*	*150*	*150*	*55*
Exceed SCAQMD Regional Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Appendix A for Model Data Outputs.
Notes: Emissions taken of the season, summer or winter, with the highest outputs. Emission reduction for construction emissions are applied based on the required implementation of SCAQMD Rule 403. The specific Rule 403 measures applied in CalEEMod include the following: sweeping/cleaning adjacent roadway access areas daily; washing equipment tires before leaving the construction site; water exposed surfaces three times daily; and limit speeds on unpaved roads to 25 miles per hour.
$PM_{2.5}$ = fine particulate matter (diameter of 2.5 microns or less)

As shown in Table 4.3-1, emissions generated during Project construction would not exceed the SCAQMD's regional thresholds of significance. Therefore, criteria pollutant emissions generated during Project construction would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard, and no health effects from Project criteria pollutants would occur. As such, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

Localized Construction Significance Analysis

The nearest sensitive receptor to the WRP Project Area is a single-family residence 127 feet to the to the north of the Project boundary, fronting Avenue 38. The nearest sensitive receptor to the MP 113.2 Pump Station is a single-family residence 353 feet to the northwest, fronting Avenida Vidrio. The nearest sensitive receptors to the area where approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline is proposed to be installed are single family residences approximately 52 feet to the west, located on Jefferson Street. In order to identify localized, air toxic-related impacts to sensitive receptors, the SCAQMD recommends addressing Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) for construction. LSTs were developed in response to SCAQMD Governing Boards' Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative (I-4). The SCAQMD provided the *Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology* (dated June 2003 [revised 2008]) for guidance. The LST methodology assists lead agencies in analyzing localized impacts associated with Project-specific level proposed projects.

For the Proposed Project, the appropriate Source Receptor Area (SRA) for the localized significance thresholds is the Coachella Valley, SRA 30. LSTs apply to CO, NO_2, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. The Proposed Project would disturb approximately 5 acres during construction. The SCAQMD has produced lookup tables for projects that disturb less than or equal to 5 acres daily. Since CalEEMod calculates construction emissions based on the number of equipment hours and the maximum daily soil disturbance activity for each piece of equipment, Table 4.3-2 is used to determine the maximum daily disturbed acreage for comparison to LSTs.

Table 4.3-2. Equipment-Specific Grading Rates

Construction Phase	Equipment Type	Acres Graded/ Disturbed per 8-Hour Day	Equipment Quantity	Operating Hours per Day	Acres Graded per Day
Linear, Grubbing and Land Clearing	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.5	1	8	0.5
Linear, Grubbing and Land Clearing Total:					**0.5**
Linear, Grading, Excavation, and Pipeline Installation	Grader	0.5	1	8	0.5
Linear, Grading, Excavation, Pipeline Installation Total:					**0.5**
Site Preparation	Grader	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Rubber Tired Dozer	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.5	1	8	0.5
Site Preparation Total:					**1.5**
Grading	Grader	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Rubber Tired Dozer	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.5	2	8	1.0
Grading Total:					**2.0**
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.5	2	8	1.0
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting Total:					**1.0**

As shown in Table 4.3-2, the Project would disturb less than one acre in the linear grubbing and land clearing and the linear grading, excavation, and pipeline installation phases. As described, the SCAQMD has produced lookup tables for projects that disturb one, two and five acres. Since the LST's smallest option for disturbance is one acre, the one acre LST threshold is used for analyzing these construction phases. Project implementation could potentially disturb a total maximum of two acres during site

grading. Therefore, the LST threshold value for a two-acres site was employed from the LST lookup tables for this phase. The Proposed Project would disturb just over one acre during the combined building construction, paving, and painting phase and site preparation phases, and therefore, the LST threshold value for a one-acre site was employed. This is a conservative estimate since the analysis will only account for the dispersion of air pollutants over one acre before reaching sensitive receptors, as opposed to accounting for the dispersion of pollutants over the entire Project Area.

LST thresholds are provided for distances to sensitive receptors of 25, 50, 100, 200, and 500 meters. The nearest sensitive receptors to where the linear grubbing, land clearing and the linear grading, excavation, and pipeline installation phases are proposed to occur are single-family residences located to the west of Jefferson Street, approximately 52 feet, or 16 meters, from the site. The nearest sensitive receptor to where the site preparation, grading, and combined building construction, paving, and painting phases are proposed to occur is a single-family residence 127 feet, or 38 meters, to the north of the CVWD WRP 7 boundary. The SCAQMD Methodology explicitly states: "It is possible that a project may have receptors closer than 25 meters. Projects with boundaries located closer than 25 meters to the nearest receptor should use the LSTs for receptors located at 25 meters." LSTs for receptors located at 25 meters were utilized in this analysis. Furthermore, SCAQMD's methodology clearly states that "offsite mobile emissions from a project should not be included in the emissions compared to LSTs." Therefore, for the construction LST analysis, only emissions included in the CalEEMod "onsite" emissions outputs were considered. Table 4.3-3 presents the results of localized emissions from the most polluting activity.

Table 4.3-3. Construction-Related Emissions (Localized Significance Analysis)

Activity	Onsite Pollutant (pounds per day)			
	NO_X	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
1.0 Acre Threshold				
Linear, Grubbing and Land Clearing	1.90	2.69	0.08	0.07
Linear, Grading, Excavation, and Pipeline Installation	6.14	7.48	0.30	0.27
Site Preparation	13.70	12.90	0.65	0.59
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting	15.25	17.78	0.63	0.58
SCAQMD Localized Significance Threshold (1.0 Acres)	*132*	*878*	*4*	*3*
Exceed SCAQMD Localized Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
2.0 Acre Threshold				
Grading	15.90	15.40	0.74	0.68
SCAQMD Localized Significance Threshold (2.0 Acres)	*191*	*1,299*	*7*	*5*
Exceed SCAQMD Localized Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Appendix A for Model Data Outputs.
Notes: Emissions taken from the season with the highest outputs. Emission reduction/credits for construction emissions are applied based on the required implementation of SCAQMD Rule 403. The specific Rule 403 measures applied in CalEEMod include the following: sweeping/cleaning adjacent roadway access areas daily; washing equipment tires before leaving the construction site; water exposed surfaces three times daily; and limit speeds on unpaved roads to 25 miles per hour.

Table 4.3-3 shows that the emissions of these pollutants during construction would not result in significant concentrations of pollutants at nearby sensitive receptors. Therefore, significant impacts would not occur concerning LSTs during construction activities. LSTs were developed in response to SCAQMD Governing Boards' Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative. The SCAQMD Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative program seeks to ensure that everyone has the right to equal protection from air pollution. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant concerning LSTs during construction activities.

Long-Term Operational Impacts

Regional Operational Significance Analysis

Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in long-term operational emissions of criteria air pollutants such as PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, CO, and SO_2 as well as O_3 precursors such as ROGs and NO_X. As previously

described, operational air pollutant emissions were based on the Project dimensions identified in the Project site plans. Long-terms operational emissions attributable to the Project are identified in Table 4.3-4 and compared to the operational significance thresholds promulgated by the SCAQMD.

Table 4.3-4. Operational-Related Emissions (Regional Significance Analysis)

Emission Source	Pollutant (pounds per day)					
	ROG	**NO_X**	**CO**	**SO_2**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Summer Emissions						
Mobile	0.29	0.28	2.77	0.01	0.20	0.04
Area	0.44	0.01	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy	0.01	0.12	0.10	0.00	0.01	0.01
Total:	**0.74**	**0.41**	**3.48**	**0.01**	**0.21**	**0.05**
SCAQMD Regional Significance Threshold	*55*	*55*	*550*	*150*	*150*	*55*
Exceed SCAQMD Regional Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Winter Emissions						
Mobile	0.23	0.30	1.88	0.01	0.20	0.04
Area	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Energy	0.01	0.12	0.10	0.00	0.01	0.01
Total:	**0.58**	**0.42**	**1.98**	**0.01**	**0.21**	**0.05**
SCAQMD Regional Significance Threshold	*55*	*55*	*550*	*150*	*150*	*55*
Exceed SCAQMD Regional Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Appendix A for Model Data Outputs.
Notes: Emission projections predominately based on CalEEMod model defaults for Riverside County.

As shown in Table 4.3-4, the Project's emissions would not exceed any SCAQMD thresholds for any criteria air pollutants during operation.

The Riverside County portion of the SSAB is listed as a nonattainment area for the federal O_3 and PM_{10} standards and is also a nonattainment area for the state standards for O_3 and PM_{10} (CARB 2022). O_3 is a health threat to persons who already suffer from respiratory diseases and can cause severe ear, nose and throat irritation and increases susceptibility to respiratory infections. PM can adversely affect the human respiratory system. As shown in Table 4.3-4, the Proposed Project would result in increased emissions of

the O_3 precursor pollutants ROG and NOx, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$, however, the correlation between a project's emissions and increases in nonattainment days, or frequency or severity of potentially related illnesses, cannot be precisely quantified. The overall strategy for reducing air pollution and related health effects in the SCAQMD is contained in the SCAQMD 2016 AQMP. The AQMP provides control measures that reduce emissions to attain federal ambient air quality standards by their applicable deadlines such as the application of available cleaner technologies, best management practices, incentive programs, as well as development and implementation of zero and near-zero technologies and control methods. The CEQA thresholds of significance established by the SCAQMD are designed to meet the objectives of the AQMP and in doing so achieve attainment status with state and federal standards. As noted above, the Proposed Project would increase the emission of these pollutants, but would not exceed the thresholds of significance established by the SCAQMD for purposes of reducing air pollution and its deleterious health effects.

Localized Operational Significance Analysis

According to the SCAQMD localized significance threshold methodology, LSTs would apply to the operational phase of a proposed project only if the project includes stationary sources (e.g., smokestacks) or attracts heavy-duty trucks that may spend long periods queuing and idling at the site (e.g., warehouse or transfer facilities). The Proposed Project does not include such uses. Therefore, in the case of the Proposed Project, the operational LST protocol is not applied.

Because of these reasons, these impacts of the Proposed Project are less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

As previously described, sensitive receptors are defined as facilities or land uses that include members of the population that are particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples of these sensitive receptors are residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers. CARB has identified the following groups of individuals as the most likely to be affected by air pollution: the elderly over age 65, children under age 14, athletes, and persons with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis. The nearest sensitive receptor to the WRP 7 Project Area is a single-family residence 127 feet to the to the north of the Project boundary, fronting Avenue 38. The nearest sensitive receptor to the MP 113.2 Pump Station is a single-family residence 353 feet to the northwest, fronting Avenida Vidrio. The nearest sensitive receptors to the area where approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline is proposed to be installed are single family residences approximately 52 feet to the west, located on Jefferson Street.

Construction-Generated Air Contaminants

Construction-related activities would result in temporary, short-term Proposed Project-generated emissions of diesel particulate matter (DPM), ROG, NOx, CO, and PM_{10} from the exhaust of off-road, heavy-duty diesel equipment for site preparation (e.g., clearing, grading); soil hauling truck traffic; paving; and other miscellaneous activities. The Riverside County portion of the SSAB is listed as a nonattainment area for the federal O_3 and PM_{10} standards and is also a nonattainment area for the state standards for O_3, and PM_{10} (CARB 2022). Thus, existing O_3 and PM_{10} levels in the SSAB are at unhealthy levels during certain periods. However, as shown in Table 4.3-1 and Table 4.3-3, the Project would not exceed the SCAQMD regional or localized significance thresholds for emissions.

The health effects associated with O_3 are generally associated with reduced lung function. Because the Proposed Project would not involve construction activities that would result in O_3 precursor emissions (ROG or NOx) in excess of the SCAQMD thresholds, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to substantially contribute to regional O_3 concentrations and the associated health impacts.

CO tends to be a localized impact associated with congested intersections. In terms of adverse health effects, CO competes with oxygen, often replacing it in the blood, reducing the blood's ability to transport oxygen to vital organs. The results of excess CO exposure can include dizziness, fatigue, and impairment of central nervous system functions. The Project would not involve construction activities that would result in CO emissions in excess of the SCAQMD thresholds. Thus, the Project's CO emissions would not contribute to the health effects associated with this pollutant.

Particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) contains microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems. Particulate matter exposure has been linked to a variety of problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing. For construction activity, DPM is the primary TAC of concern. PM_{10} exhaust is considered a surrogate for DPM as all diesel exhaust is considered to be DPM and PM_{10} contains $PM_{2.5}$ as a subset. As with O_3 and NOx, the Project would not generate emissions of PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$ that would exceed the SCAQMD's thresholds. Accordingly, the Project's PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions are not expected to cause any increase in related regional health effects for these pollutants.

In summary, Project construction would not result in a potentially significant contribution to regional concentrations of nonattainment pollutants and would not result in a significant contribution to the adverse health impacts associated with those pollutants. Furthermore, the Proposed Project has been evaluated against the SCAQMD's LSTs for construction. As previously stated, LSTs were developed in response to SCAQMD Governing Boards' Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative and can be used to assist lead agencies in analyzing localized impacts associated with Project-specific level of proposed projects. The SCAQMD Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative program seeks to ensure that everyone has the right to equal protection from air pollution. The Environmental Justice Program is divided into three categories, with the LST protocol promulgated under Category I: *Further-Reduced Health Risk*. As shown in Table 4.3-1, the emissions of pollutants on the peak day of construction would

not result in significant concentrations of pollutants at nearby sensitive receptors. Thus, the fact that onsite Project construction emissions would be generated at rates below the LSTs for NO_x, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ demonstrates that the Proposed Project would not adversely impact vicinity sensitive receptors. A less than significant impact would occur.

Operational Air Contaminants

Operation of the Proposed Project would not result in the development of any substantial sources of air toxics. There are no stationary sources associated with the operations of the Proposed Project; nor would the Proposed Project attract additional mobile sources that spend long periods queuing and idling at the site. Furthermore, the Project is proposing to make upgrades to the existing systems, and once construction is complete, operational emissions would remain relatively similar to existing emissions. Onsite Project emissions would not result in significant concentrations of pollutants at nearby sensitive receptors. The Project would not have a high carcinogenic or non-carcinogenic risk during operation.

Carbon Monoxide Hot Spots

It has long been recognized that CO exceedances are caused by vehicular emissions, primarily when idling at intersections. Concentrations of CO are a direct function of the number of vehicles, length of delay, and traffic flow conditions. Under certain meteorological conditions, CO concentrations close to congested intersections that experience high levels of traffic and elevated background concentrations may reach unhealthy levels, affecting nearby sensitive receptors. Given the high traffic volume potential, areas of high CO concentrations, or "hot spots," are typically associated with intersections that are projected to operate at unacceptable levels of service during the peak commute hours. It has long been recognized that CO hotspots are caused by vehicular emissions, primarily when idling at congested intersections. However, transport of this criteria pollutant is extremely limited, and CO disperses rapidly with distance from the source under normal meteorological conditions. Furthermore, vehicle emissions standards have become increasingly stringent in the last 20 years. Currently, the allowable CO emissions standard in California is a maximum of 3.4 grams/mile for passenger cars (there are requirements for certain vehicles that are more stringent). With the turnover of older vehicles, introduction of cleaner fuels, and implementation of increasingly sophisticated and efficient emissions control technologies, CO concentration in the SSAB is designated as being in attainment. Detailed modeling of Project-specific CO "hot spots" is not necessary and thus this potential impact is addressed qualitatively.

A CO "hot spot" would occur if an exceedance of the state one-hour standard of 20 parts per million (ppm) or the eight-hour standard of 9 ppm were to occur. The analysis prepared for CO attainment in the SCAQMD's *1992 Federal Attainment Plan for Carbon Monoxide* in Los Angeles County and a Modeling and Attainment Demonstration prepared by the SCAQMD as part of the 2003 AQMP can be used to demonstrate the potential for CO exceedances of these standards. The SCAQMD is the air pollution control officer for much of southern California. The SCAQMD conducted a CO hot spot analysis as part of the 1992 CO Federal Attainment Plan at four busy intersections in Los Angeles County during the peak morning and afternoon time periods. The intersections evaluated included Long Beach Boulevard and Imperial Highway (Lynwood), Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue (Westwood), Sunset Boulevard and Highland Avenue (Hollywood), and La Cienega Boulevard and Century Boulevard (Inglewood). The busiest

intersection evaluated was at Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue, which has a traffic volume of approximately 100,000 vehicles per day. Despite this level of traffic, the CO analysis concluded that there was no violation of CO standards (SCAQMD 1992). In order to establish a more accurate record of baseline CO concentrations affecting Los Angeles, a CO "hot spot" analysis was conducted in 2003 at the same four busy intersections in Los Angeles at the peak morning and afternoon time periods. This "hot spot" analysis did not predict any violation of CO standards. The highest one-hour concentration was measured at 4.6 ppm at Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue and the highest eight-hour concentration was measured at 8.4 ppm at Long Beach Boulevard and Imperial Highway. Thus, there was no violation of CO standards.

Similar considerations are also employed by other Air Districts when evaluating potential CO concentration impacts. More specifically, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the air pollution control officer for the San Francisco Bay Area, concludes that under existing and future vehicle emission rates, a given project would have to increase traffic volumes at a single intersection by more than 44,000 vehicles per hour or 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal air does not mix—in order to generate a significant CO impact.

As discussed in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Proposed Project would result in negligible, if any, operation vehicle trips beyond existing conditions. Thus, the Proposed Project would not generate traffic volumes at any intersection of more than 100,000 vehicles per day (or 44,000 vehicles per day) and there is no likelihood of the Project traffic exceeding CO values.

Because of these reasons, air quality impacts to sensitive receptors are less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addresses in SMP PEIR.

Typically, odors are regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. However, manifestations of a person's reaction to foul odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, or anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory effects, nausea, vomiting, and headache).

As addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR, odors during construction may presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, these emissions are short-term in nature and will rapidly dissipate and be diluted by the atmosphere downwind of the emission sources. Additionally, odors would be localized and generally confined to the construction area. Therefore, construction odors would not adversely affect a substantial number of people to odor emissions.

During operations, the Proposed Project aims to make improvements that will increase treatment capacity at its wastewater treatment plant. However, implementation of the Project would not result in the introduction of any new processes that are considered to have a high odor-generation potential beyond existing conditions and would not result in substantial changes to treatment processes that are of primary concern with regard to odor generation (i.e., sludge handling or drying practices).

Furthermore, the SMP EIR notes that CVWD will continue to implement odor-control measures at all of its facilities for both liquid and solids treatment processes at locations with high potential for odors. These measures generally involve treating odorous air through adsorption units that chemically and physically remove and disperse odors. In addition, CVWD regularly implements best operating practices and good housekeeping, which also serve to reduce odor generation at all their facilities. Furthermore, the Project would also be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 402 to prevent occurrences of public nuisances. Rule 402 prohibits the discharge from any source that causes nuisance, annoyance, or discomfort to a considerable number of persons. As such, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact due to odors.

4.3.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.4 Biological Resources

The analysis of biological resources is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.2, Biological Resources, of that document. CVWD will serve as the CEQA Lead Agency. Relevant elements of the Proposed Project related to biological resources include removal of existing ruderal and landscaped vegetation within the Project Area. Information about biological resources was obtained from a review of regional databases, aerial photographs, prior environmental documents, and other pertinent literature including:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB; CDFW 2023) (Appendix B)
- California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Electronic Inventory (CNPS 2023) (Appendix C)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Species Lists (United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] 2023a) (Appendix F1)Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Coachella Valley Association of Governments [CVAG] 2007)
- National Wetlands Inventory Surface Waters and Wetlands Mapper (USFWS 2023b)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2023) – Provides the locations of "blue-line" streams as mapped on 7.5-Minute Topographic Map coverage
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey (NRCS 2023a)
- Aerial Imagery; Google Earth (Google 2023)

The Proposed Project is located outside of NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction; therefore, a NOAA Fisheries species list was not obtained for this Project.

The following applicable mitigation measures were adopted as part of the 2020 SMP PEIR and are incorporated as part of the Proposed Project and assumed in the analysis presented in this section.

BIO-2: **CVMSHCP Land Use Adjacency Guidelines.** Prior to final design approval for projects adjacent to a Conservation Area, compliance with Section 4.5 (Land Use Adjacency Guidelines) of the CVMSHCP shall be demonstrated. Such compliance shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, demonstrating the design of the project would not result in the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, or other elements that might degrade or harm biological resources or ecosystem processes within or adjacent to a Conservation Area.

BIO-3: **Pre-construction Burrowing Owl Surveys.** For covered activities in Conservation Areas, or other areas as designated in Section 4.4 of the CVMSHCP, pre-construction burrowing owl surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days and again 24 hours prior to the implementation of ground disturbing activities. The project area and area within 500 feet of the project area (or to the edge of the property if less than 500 feet) will be surveyed for burrows that could be used by burrowing owls. If burrows are located, the biologist will determine if owls are present in the burrow. If the burrow is determined to be occupied, the burrow will be flagged and a 160-foot non-breeding season buffer or 250-foot breeding season buffer will be established around the burrow. No activities will be permitted within the buffer until the young are no longer dependent on the burrow.

If burrowing owls are identified on site, then burrow excavation and collapse activities will be necessary. Burrow excavation and collapse activities shall only be conducted during the non-breeding season for burrowing owls (September 1 through January 31). Coordination with CDFW on burrow excavation and collapse activities will need to occur, and methods will follow the specific protocols and guidance outlined in the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012).

BIO-5: **Pre-construction Survey for Nesting Birds.** Construction activities of projects shall be conducted during the non-breeding season for birds (September 16 through December 31). This will avoid violations of the MBTA and CFGC Sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3513. If activities with the potential to disrupt nesting birds are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season (January 1 through July 31 for raptors and March 1 through September 15 for songbirds), a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the project area and adjacent areas where project activities have the potential to cause nest failure. If no nesting birds are observed during the survey, implementation of project activities may begin. If nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are found to be present, then avoidance or minimization measures shall be undertaken in consultation with CDFW. Measures shall include establishment of an avoidance buffer until nesting has been completed. The width of the buffer will be determined by the biologist in consultation with

CDFW. Typically, this is a minimum of 300 feet from the nest site in all directions (500 feet is typically recommended by CDFW for raptors), until the juveniles have fledged and there has been no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.

4.4.1 Environmental Setting

Assessment of the Proposed Project began with a review of relevant literature of the Project Area, the pump station, pipeline alignment area, and the surrounding vicinity using the CDFW's CNDDB (CDFW 2023; Appendix B), the CNPS's Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI; CNPS 2023; Appendix C), the USFWS's IPaC Species Lists (USFWS 2023a; Appendix F1), and the CVMSHCP Designations, to determine the special-status plant and wildlife species that have been documented on or near the Project Area. ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) biologists searched CNDDB and CNPSEI records within the Project Area boundaries as depicted on USGS 7.5-minute "Myoma" topographic quadrangle, plus the surrounding eight topographic quadrangles including La Quinta, West Berdoo Canyon, Keys View, East Deception Canyon, Indio, Seven Palms Valley, Rancho Mirage, and Cathedral City. The CNDDB and CNPSEI contain records of reported occurrences of federally or state-listed endangered, threatened, proposed endangered or threatened species, California Species of Special Concern (SSC), and/or other special-status species or habitat that may occur within or near the Project Area. An official species list was requested from the USFWS IPaC (USFWS 2023a; Appendix F1) for each of the three Project Areas to determine whether any federally listed species and/or Critical Habitats could occur within or in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (Appendix F2). The Proposed Project is located outside of NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction; therefore, a NOAA Fisheries species list is not required.

Analysis in this section is supplemented by information resulting from a general biological resources survey completed on May 24, 2023, by ECORP biologists with experience identifying special-status biological resources and their habitat requirements. During the survey, the biologists conducted a walkover survey throughout the entire Project Area, the pump station, and associated pipeline alignment areas plus a 500-foot buffer (Study Area), where accessible, to evaluate vegetation communities, wildlife habitats, and any areas that may potentially be jurisdictional waters. The biologists documented the plant and wildlife species present within the Study Area, and the location and condition of the Study Area was assessed for the potential to provide habitat for special-status plant and wildlife species. When possible, areas within the 500-foot buffer were scanned using binoculars to determine if suitable habitat for sensitive biological resources was present.

The Proposed Project would be subject to county, state, and federal regulations regarding compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), California ESA, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), and California Fish and Game Code.

4.4.1.1 Vegetation Communities

The Study Area does not support any sensitive native habitat communities. Vegetation communities/land cover types identified within the Project Area and 500-ft buffer include developed, disturbed, agriculture, and disturbed *Atriplex canescens* Shrubland Alliance (Figure 4). Plant species observed during the biological survey include fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), allscale

saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*), broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*), great bougainvillea (*Bougainvillea spectabilis*), bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), goldenbush (*Ericameria* sp.), common sunflower (*Helianthus annus*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), date palm (*Phoenix* sp.), arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), knotweed (*Polygonum* sp.), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), bush seepweed (*Suaega nigra*), athel (*Tamarix aphylla*), tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*), and fan palm (*Washingtonia* sp.).

4.4.1.2 Wildlife

The wildlife species observed within the Study Area were typical of the developed setting as well as the adjacent desert habitat present. Wildlife species observed during the biological survey include mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), and mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*).

4.4.1.3 Soils

The soils identified within the Project Area, pump station, and associated pipeline alignment areas are comprised of the following units: CsA – Coachella fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, GbA – Gilman fine sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, Is – Indio very sandy loam, and MaB – Myoma fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes. These soil units vary between well drained and somewhat excessively drained.

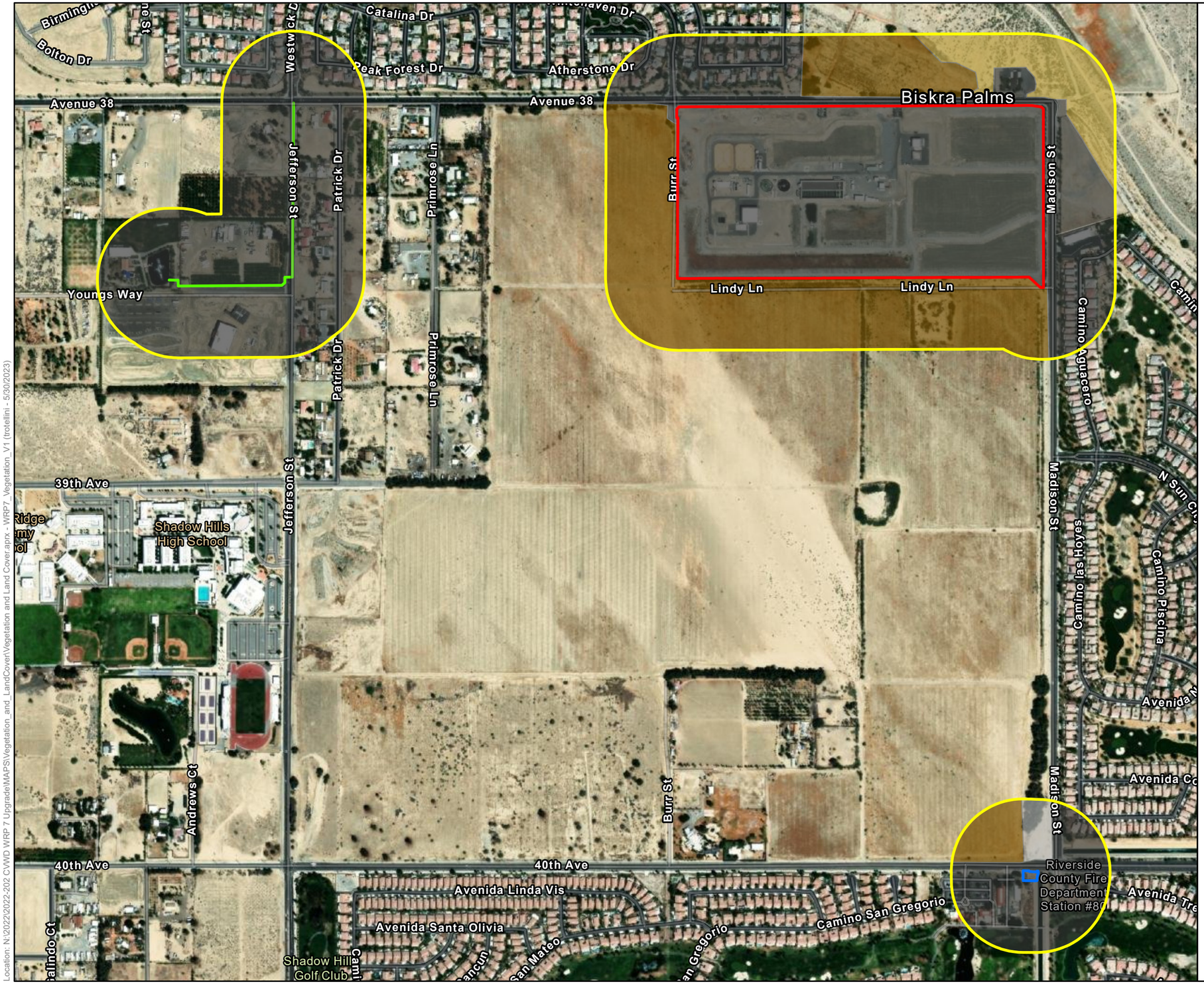
4.4.1.4 Potential Waters of the U.S.

National Wetland Inventory

The USFWS is the principal Federal agency that provides information to the public on the extent and status of the Nation's wetlands. The USFWS has developed a series of maps, known as the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) to show wetlands and deepwater habitat. This geospatial information is used by federal, state, and local agencies, academic institutions, and private industry for management, research, policy development, education, and planning activities. The NWI program was neither designed nor intended to produce legal or regulatory products; therefore, wetlands identified by the NWI program are not the same as wetlands defined by the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE).

A formal aquatic resources delineation was not completed as part of the biological survey. A desktop review of the NWI Mapper (USFWS 2023b) was performed to review mapped wetlands within the Study Area (Figure 5). The NWI Mapper identifies two features in the Project Area, defined as follows:

- **NWI Feature 1:** Freshwater Emergent Wetland classified as PEM1Cx (Palustrine, Emergent, Persistent (1), Seasonally Flooded, and Excavated).
- **NWI Feature 2:** Freshwater Pond Wetland classified as PUBHx (Palustrine, Unconsolidated Bottom, Permanently Flooded, and Excavated).



Map Contents

- Project Area
- MP 113.2 Pump Station
- 500-ft Buffer
- Pipeline Alignment

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

- Agriculture
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Disturbed *Atriplex canescens* Shrubland Alliance

Sources: ESRI

Other Related Info if Needed

Location: N:\2022\2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Upgrade\MAPS\Vegetation_and_LandCover\Vegetation and Land Cover.aprx - WRP7_Vegetation_V1 (trotellini - 5/30/2023)

Map Date: 5/30/2023

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Scale in Feet
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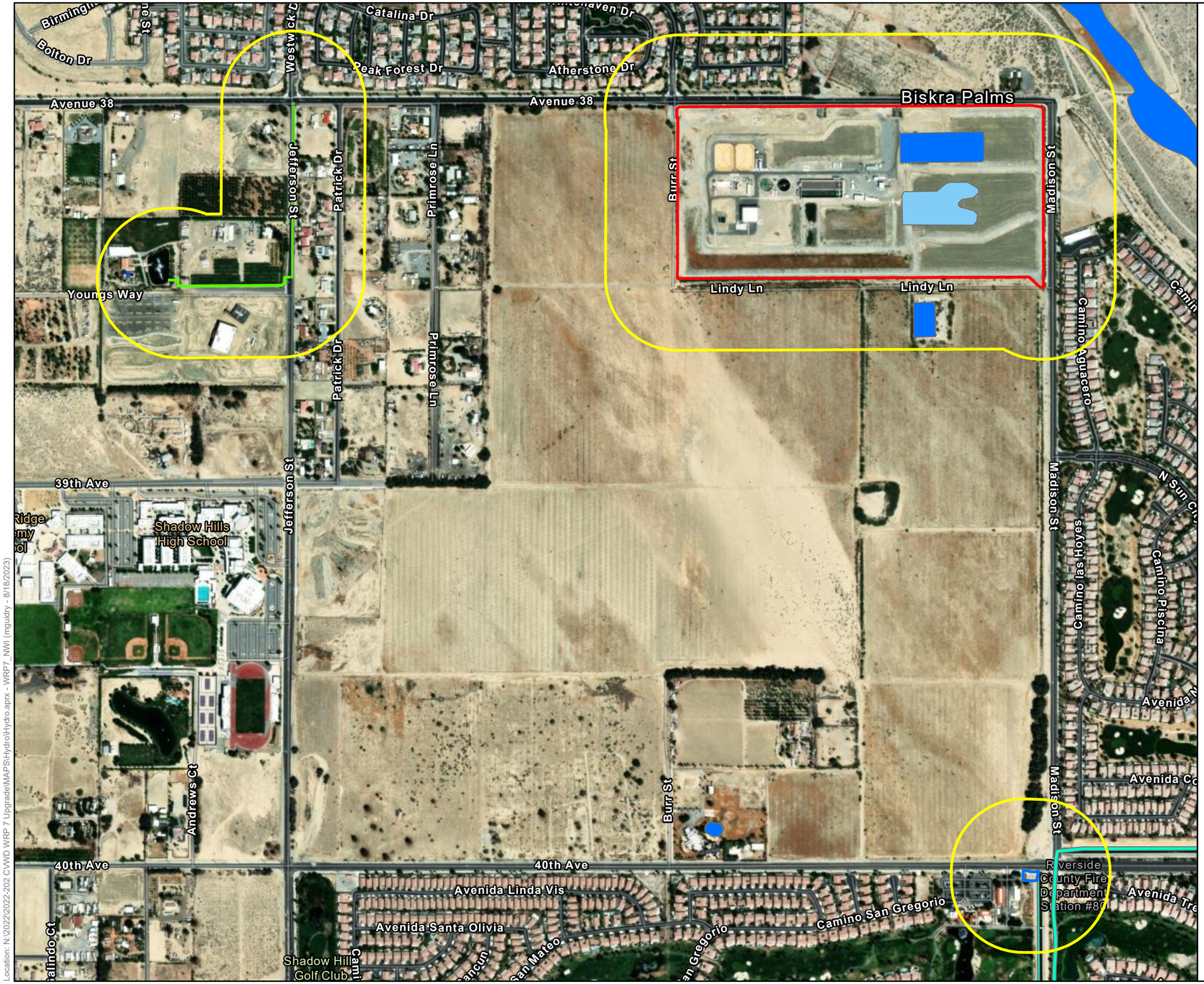
Figure 4. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Phase 1 NPW Improvements Project



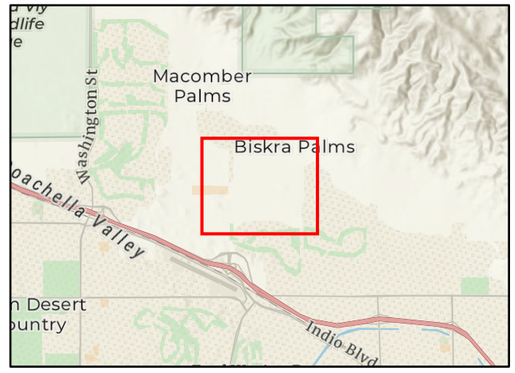
Map Contents

- Project Area
- MP 113.2 Pump Station
- 500-ft Buffer
- Pipeline Alignment

NWI Type

- PEM1Cx (Palustrine, Emergent, Persistent (1), Seasonally Flooded, and Excavated)
- PUBHx (Palustrine, Unconsolidated Bottom, Permanently Flooded, and Excavated)
- Riverine

Sources: ESRI, NWI
Other Related Info if Needed



Location: N:\2022\2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Upgrade\MAPS\Hydro\Hydro aprx - WRP7_NWI (mguidry - 8/18/2023)

Map Date: 5/17/2023

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Scale in Feet
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Figure 5. National Wetlands Inventory

2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Upgrade

Additionally, a NWI Riverine Feature (R5UBFx) occurs immediately east of the pump station. No NWI Features occur on or adjacent to the pipeline alignment.

The Project Area contains numerous water basins, two of which contained standing water at the time of the biological survey. These two water basins were also vegetated along their perimeters containing plant species including bermuda grass and arrowweed. Under the current definitions of Waters of the U.S. and Waters of the State, these water basins are not considered jurisdictional features.

Aerial imagery shows a manmade lake located at the southwestern end of the pipeline alignment on Young's Farm property. Mr. Young, the landowner, communicated that the manmade lake contains a couple of species of fish including catfish (*Ameiusus* sp. and/or *Ictalurus* sp.) and mosquito fish (*Gambusia* sp.). The manmade lake located on Young's farm is a man-made agricultural stock pond supplied by groundwater from a private well at the owner's discretion. At the time of a June 2023 field survey, small amounts of emergent vegetation were present along the bank and submergent vegetation was visible within the pond. This feature is not considered jurisdictional to USACE under the current guidelines. The manmade lake does not possess a surface hydrologic connection to any downstream Waters of the U.S. In addition, the manmade lake does not support any surface water-related interstate commerce. The manmade lake is an agricultural pond created in upland and is filled by an onsite groundwater well. Under current federal definition of Waters of the U.S., this agricultural pond would not be regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

4.4.1.5 Special-Status Plants

The literature review and database searches identified 43 special-status plant species that have been documented near the Study Area within the Myoma quadrangle and surrounding eight quadrangles (CDFW 2023; CNPS 2023). A list was generated from the results of the literature review and the database search. During the site visit, the Study Area was evaluated for suitable habitat that could support any of the special-status plant species.

No sensitive plant species were observed within the Study Area during the site visit. Based on the habitat found onsite, special status plant species are presumed to be absent from the Project Area due to lack of suitable habitat and the presence of disturbed soils/current land use, the Project Area being outside the known elevation range for that species, and/or the species not being observed during the biological survey.

4.4.1.6 Special-Status Wildlife

Special-status wildlife species include those classified as endangered or threatened, proposed or candidate species for listing by the USFWS or CDFW, or considered a CDFW SSC. The literature review and database searches identified 28 special-status wildlife species that have been documented near the Study Area within the Myoma quadrangle and surrounding eight quadrangles (CDFW 2023).

CVMSHCP modeled wildlife habitats that occur within or adjacent to the Study Area for the following species: Coachella giant sand treader cricket (*Macrobaenetes valgum*), flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*), Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), Le Conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma*

lecontei), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), and Palm springs ground squirrel (*Xerospermophilus tereticaudus chlorus*). However, no suitable habitat for either Le Conte's thrasher or Palm Springs round-tailed ground squirrel was observed within the Study Area during the biological survey.

Although the Project Area is developed, it does contain suitable habitat for several special-status wildlife species including burrowing owl (BUOW), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), and western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*). Only one special-status wildlife species was observed within the Project Area during the biological survey: BUOW, a CDFW SSC.

The Project Area and the immediate surrounding area contain low to moderately suitable habitat for Coachella giant sand treader cricket, flat-tailed horned lizard, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and Palm Springs pocket mouse. The remaining species from the literature review are presumed absent from the Project Area.

4.4.1.7 Critical Habitat

The USFWS online service for information regarding Threatened and Endangered Species Final Critical Habitat designation within California was reviewed to determine if the Project Area occurs within any species designated Critical Habitat. Critical Habitat for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard exists approximately 2.4 miles west of the Project Area.

4.4.1.8 Wildlife Movement Corridors

The Study Area is within a moderately developed area. The Proposed Project is within the planning area for the CVMSHCP. However, it is not within a Conservation Area. Nearby Conservation Areas include East Indio Hills and Indio Hills Palms Conservation Area which is also a Biological Corridor Linkage located north and east from the Project Area. It is possible that the Project Area functions in local wildlife movement; however, based on the relatively small size of the site and the fact that it is adjacent to paved roads/developed areas, it is unlikely that the site plays a critical role in local wildlife movement. Project activities would not interfere substantially with the movement of any wildlife species and/or wildlife corridors because no migratory wildlife corridors or native wildlife nursery sites were identified within the Project Area.

4.4.2 Biological Resources Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Sensitive Plant Species

Project activities could result in the direct removal of herbaceous forbs and common ruderal plant species as well as the removal and relocation of palm trees. Common plant species present within the Study Area occur in large numbers throughout the region and their removal does not meet the significance threshold. Based on the high levels of disturbance, low habitat quality, and the lack of detection of any special-status plants during the biological habitat assessment, the Proposed Project is not expected to impact any special-status plant species. Based on the habitat found onsite, no direct impacts are expected to occur as a result of Project implementation, and no mitigation measures are recommended.

Sensitive Wildlife Species

Development of the Project Area would result in the disruption and removal of disturbed/developed and non-native habitat. Due to the lack of native habitat and the level of existing disturbance levels onsite and within the vicinity (e.g., developed, agricultural, disturbed, and disturbed *Atriplex canescens* Shrubland Alliance), these impacts would not be expected to reduce the general wildlife populations below self-sustaining levels within the region and impacts to non-sensitive wildlife species do not meet the significance thresholds. Due to the developed nature of the Project Area, surrounding development, and through compliance with the CVMSHCP, impacts from the Proposed Project are anticipated to have a less than significant effect on these wildlife species.

The Project Area and surrounding area contain low to moderately suitable habitat for several special-status wildlife species that are covered by the CVMSHCP: Coachella giant sand treader cricket, flat-tailed horned lizard, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard, and Palm Springs pocket mouse. These species also have CVMSHCP modeled wildlife habitats that occur within or adjacent to the Study Area. The Project Area is located outside of a defined Conservation Area of the CVMSHCP, and the Proposed Project is considered a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP. CVWD is a primary permittee with various obligations and commitments under the plan associated with CVMSHCP incidental take permit authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CVAG 2007). For CVMSHCP

covered activities located outside of Conservation Areas, impacts to special-status species are achieved through payment of mitigation fees imposed by the individual jurisdictions in which they occur. Payment of mitigation fees would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Burrowing Owl

One burrowing owl was observed within the Project Area at a burrow located on the wall of one of the water basins (Figure 6). Burrowing owl sign in the form of whitewash was present at the burrow entrance. Additionally, the Project Area contains suitable habitat, and multiple suitable size burrows were observed during the biological survey. The areas in the vicinity could also provide suitable foraging habitat as well as breeding habitat for burrowing owl. There are 11 previously documented occurrences of this species from the CNDDB in the vicinity of the Project Area (CDFW 2023). Due to the timing of the owl sighting during the breeding season, it is assumed that the Project Area supports breeding individuals.

Burrowing owl is a covered species under the CVMSHCP, which has special survey requirements for the species. In order to avoid potential impacts to this species, mitigation measures are proposed and include conducting a burrowing owl survey and implementation of avoidance measures, if the species is present.

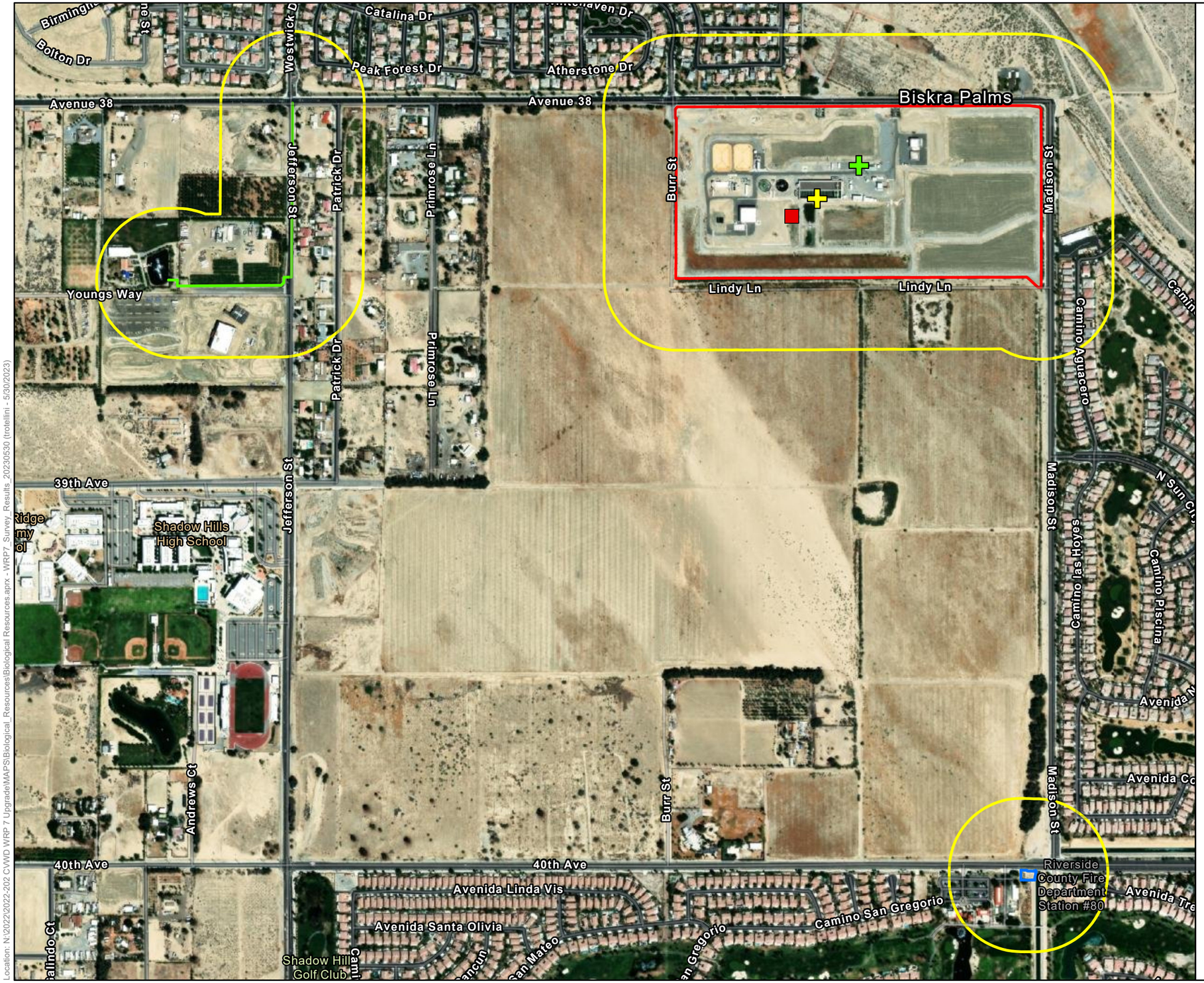
It should be noted that burrowing owl, although a "covered" species under the CVMSHCP, also receives protection under the Fish and Game Code and MBTA. Therefore, surveys and mitigation would be required regardless of the species' location within the Plan Area. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3, from the 2020 SMP PEIR, and Mitigation Measure BIO-Project Specific (PS)-1 would ensure that potential impacts to burrowing owls would be less than significant.

Loggerhead Shrike

The Study Area has suitable foraging and nesting habitat for loggerhead shrike. The Project Area contains suitable perches for hunting in the agricultural fields located immediately adjacent to the Project Area. In addition, CNDDB has one previously documented occurrence of this species in the vicinity of the Project Area (CDFW 2023). Implementation of BIO-5 from the 2020 SMP PEIR would reduce impacts to loggerhead shrike to less than significant.

Nesting Birds and Other Raptors

The Study Area has the potential to support various avian species and raptor nests due to the presence of existing structures, shrubs, and trees onsite. Active bird nests were identified within the Project Area during the biological survey including an active red-tailed hawk nest located in a communications tower and greater than 100 active cliff swallow nests located underneath an overhang of a concrete building (Figure 6). Since Project activities and the removal of vegetation could result in impacts to raptor species and nesting birds, Mitigation Measure BIO-5 from the 2020 SMP PEIR shall be implemented to reduce impacts to less than significant. Disturbing or destroying active nests is a violation of the MBTA (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.). In addition, nests and eggs are protected under Fish and Game Code 3503.



Map Contents

- Project Area
- MP 113.2 Pump Station
- 500-ft Buffer
- Pipeline Alignment

Survey Results

- Cliff Swallow Nest (Occupied)
- Red-tailed Hawk Nest (Occupied)
- Burrow with Burrowing Owl

Sources: ESRI, CVMSHCP
Other Related Info if Needed

Location: N:\2022\2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Upgrade\MAPS\Biological_Resources\Biological Resources.aprx - WRP7_Survey_Results_20230530 (trotellini - 5/30/2023)

Map Date: 5/30/2023

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Scale in Feet
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Figure 6. Biological Survey Results

2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Phase 1 NPW Improvements Project

Bat Species

The Project Area and adjacent area has the potential to support two special-status bat species due to the presence of existing structures and tree species (i.e., palm trees with intact thatch). These bat species include western mastiff bat and western yellow bat. Western mastiff bat is primarily a cliff-dwelling species; however, it can also be found roosting in crevices such as those found on man-made structures such as buildings. Western yellow bat is a foliage-roosting species that is known to roost in native and non-native palm trees and other broadleaf trees.

Bats in California are currently protected by the California Fish and Game Code, Sections 86, 1600, 2000, 2014, 3007, and 4150; California Public Resources Code, Division 14, Section 21000 et seq.; and California CCR Title 14 including, but not limited to Section 251.1, CEQA regulations (Section 15000 et seq.), Section 15380 – Endangered, Rare, or Threatened Species, Section 15382 – Significant Effect on the Environment, and Appendix O.

Regulations of particular relevance to this Proposed Project include Title 14, Section 251.1 of the CCR, which prohibits harassment (defined in that section as an intentional act that disrupts an animal's normal behavior patterns, including breeding, feeding, or sheltering) of nongame mammals (e.g., bats), and California Fish and Game Code Section 4150, which prohibits *take* or possession of all nongame mammals or parts thereof. Any activities resulting in bat mortality (e.g., the destruction of an occupied bat roost that results in the death of bats), disturbance that causes the loss of a maternity colony of bats (resulting in the death of young), or various modes of nonlethal pursuit or capture may be considered *take* as defined in Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code. In addition, impacts to bat maternity colonies, which are considered native wildlife nursery sites, could be considered significant under CEQA. Project activities can result in impacts to bat species; however, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-PS-2 through BIO-PS-5 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Potential impacts to vegetation communities/land cover types due to the implementation of the Proposed Project include grading and vegetation removal. Individual native plant species located in the Project Area were present in volumes not large enough to be considered their own vegetation community. Based on an assessment of vegetation communities and land cover types (Figure 4), the Proposed Project will not impact any native habitats, riparian habitat, or sensitive natural communities. No critical habitat for any

listed threatened or endangered species as defined under the Federal Endangered Species Act is defined in the Project Area. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The water basins located at the WRP 7 facility do not meet the current definition of Waters of the U.S. or Waters of the State, which excludes waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons. Therefore, these water basins are not considered jurisdictional features.

The manmade lake located on Young's farm is a man-made agricultural stock pond supplied by groundwater from a private well at the owner's discretion. At the time of a June 2023 field survey, small amounts of emergent vegetation were present along the bank and submergent vegetation was visible within the pond. This feature is not considered jurisdictional to USACE under the current guidelines. The manmade lake does not possess a surface hydrologic connection to any downstream Waters of the U.S. In addition, the manmade lake does not support any surface water-related interstate commerce. The manmade lake is an agricultural pond created in upland and is filled by an onsite groundwater well. The pond appears to be exempt under Section II(3)(d)(v) of the State Board's Procedures as agricultural stock watering. None of the exemptions in Sections 2, 3a, or 3b that could negate the agricultural stock watering exemption appear to apply to the agricultural pond. Under current federal definition of Waters of the U.S, and the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State, this agricultural pond would not be regulated under Section 404/401 of the Clean Water Act or the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, respectively.

The pond located in the Project Area at Young's farm, fed by groundwater from a private well, is not a "natural flow" of a stream, river, or lake, and it is unlikely it would be considered jurisdictional by CDFW, and therefore, is not subject to a 1600 LSA notification. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The Study Area may serve a function in local wildlife dispersal and foraging; however, due to the developed nature of the Project Area and the high activity levels present onsite, the loss of foraging habitat and/or effect on local wildlife movement would be less than significant. No long-term or significant effects to wildlife movement are anticipated due to Project implementation. Although, the Project Area does not lie within a CVMSHCP-designated wildlife corridor, East Indio Hill Conservation Area is adjacent to the Project Area; however, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to have significant impacts related to habitat fragmentation and regional wildlife movement. In addition, fencing and gates are present surrounding the Project Area, and roads and nearby residences are also a barrier to wildlife movement. Indirect impacts could result from increased human disturbance, noise, lighting, and other edge effects. These indirect impacts would only occur during construction and would not be permanent. Therefore, indirect impacts are not considered significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

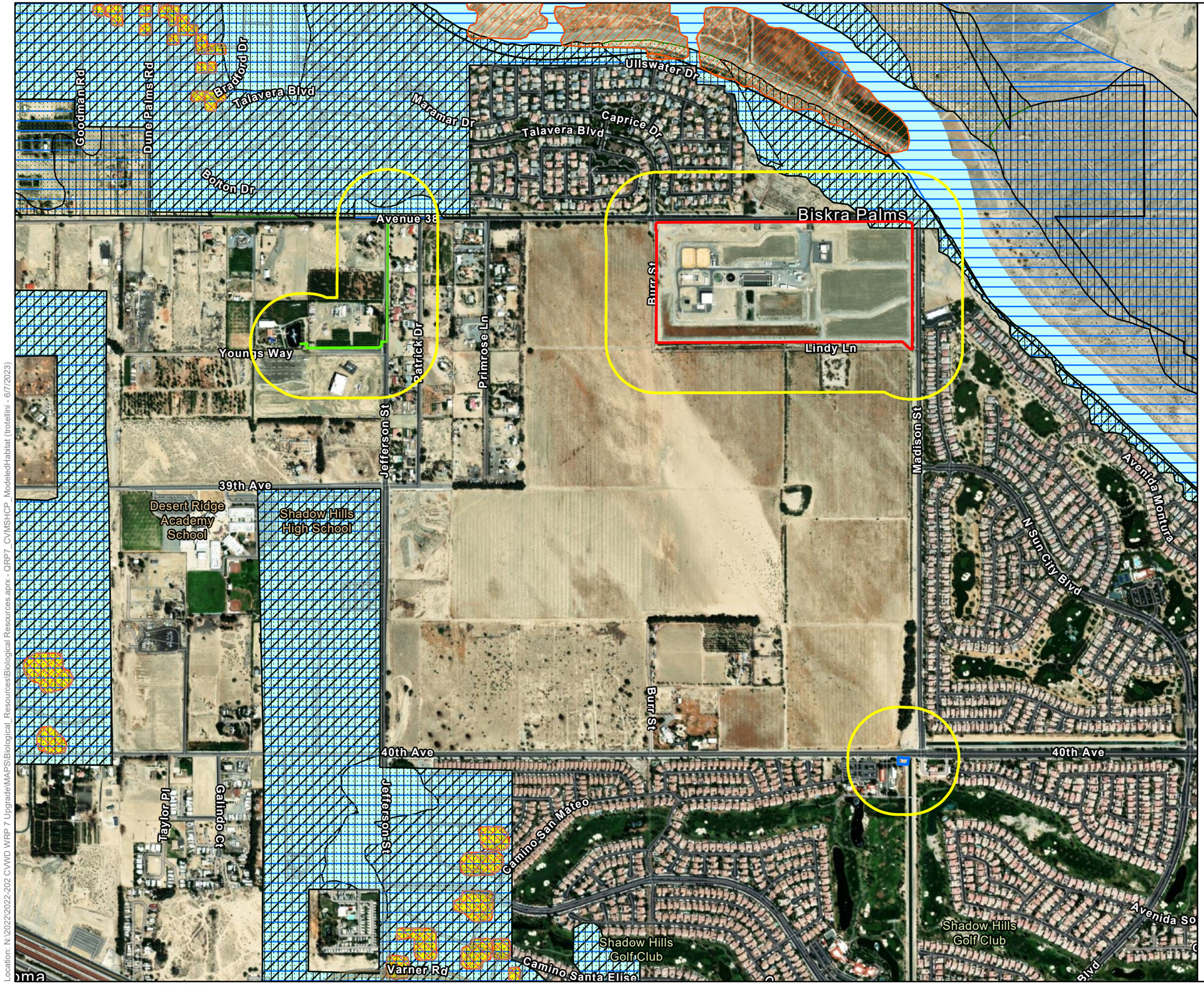
No Impact.

The City has no local policies or ordinances that would pertain to the protection of biological resources other than the implementation of the CVMSHCP. Additionally, the City has no ordinances regarding the preservation of trees. No portions of the Project Area occur within an unincorporated area of Riverside County and are located above 5,000 feet in elevation and, therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with Riverside County Ordinance No. 559, which prohibits the removal of living native trees. No other jurisdiction has tree preservation policies. No impact would occur. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

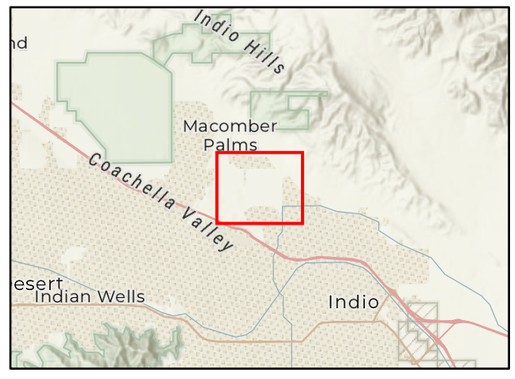
The Proposed Project falls within the CVMSHCP planning area and the Coachella Valley Water District Jurisdiction. The CVMSHCP designates 21 Conservation Areas within its Planning area which have increased protections for covered species. The Proposed Project is not within a Conservation Area but does overlap within areas designated as CVMSHCP-modeled habitat for six wildlife species (Figure 7). Four of these six species are protected under the CVMSHCP and have low to moderately suitable habitat present in the Project Area and the immediate surrounding area (Figure 8). Because the Proposed Project falls within the CVMSHCP planning area, the Project activity is covered through CVWD's incidental take permit and permittee obligations in the CVMSHCP, while impacts to any species covered by the CVMSHCP are authorized and offset through the implementation of the CVMSHCP goals and objectives. At the time of construction, CVWD would ensure compliance with the CVMSHCP and continue to be an abiding permittee, and therefore, impacts to covered species would be less than significant.



Map Contents

- Project Area
- MP 113.2 Pump Station
- 500-ft Buffer
- Pipeline Alignment
- Coachella Giant Sand Treader Cricket and Fringe Toed Lizard
- Flat-tailed Horned Lizard
- Crissal Thrasher
- Le Conte's Thrasher
- Least Bell's Vireo
- Palm Springs Ground Squirrel
- Palm Springs Pocket Mouse
- Yellow Warbler
- Yellow-breasted Chat

Sources: ESRI, CVMSHCP
Other Related Info if Needed



Location: N:\2022\2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Upgrade\MAPS\Biological_Resources\Biological Resources.aprx - QRP7_CVMSHCP_ModeledHabitat (trotellini - 6/7/2023)

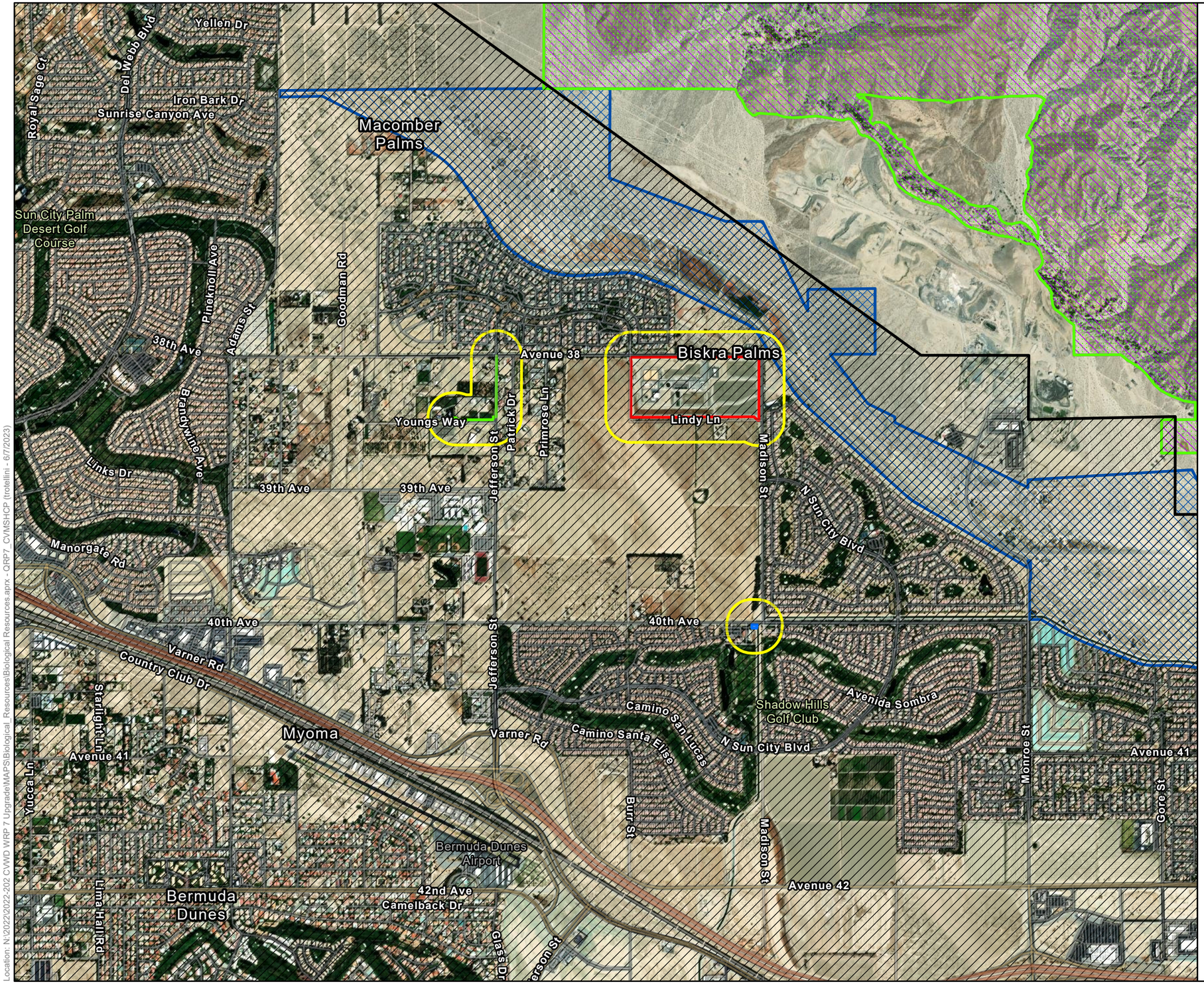
Map Date: 5/30/2023

ECORP Consulting, Inc.
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Scale in Feet
0 1,000

Figure 7. CVMSHCP Designations - Modeled Species Habitat

2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Phase 1 NPW Improvements Project



Map Contents

- Project Area
- MP 113.2 Pump Station
- 500-ft Buffer
- Pipeline Alignment
- Coachella Valley Water District Jurisdiction

CVMSHCP Designations

Biological Corridor Linkages

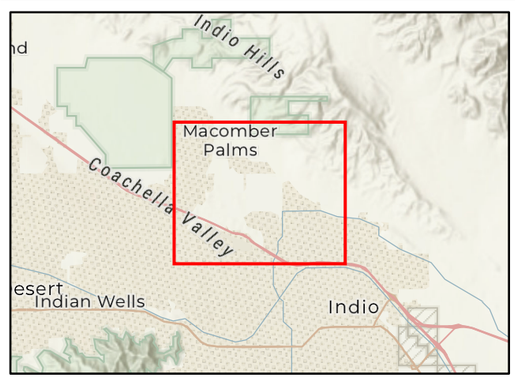
- Indio Hills Palms Conservation Area

Conservation Areas

- East Indio Hills Conservation Area
- Indio Hills Palms Conservation Area

Sources: ESRI, CVMSHCP

Other Related Info if Needed



Location: N:\2022\2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Upgrade\MAPS\Biological_Resources\Biological Resources.aprx - QRP7_CVMSHCP (trotellini - 6/7/2023)

Map Date: 6/7/2023

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Scale in Feet
0 2,000

Figure 8. CVMSHCP Designations

2022-202 CVWD WRP 7 Phase 1 NPW Improvements Project

4.4.3 Mitigation Measures

BIO-PS-1: **Burrowing Owl Presence/Absence.** If, during the pre-construction Burrowing Owl Surveys, burrows onsite are determined to be unoccupied, construction may proceed. If the surveys determine the presence of burrowing owl, mitigation in accordance with the CDFW shall be implemented as follows:

If burrowing owls are identified as being resident onsite outside the breeding season (September 1 to February 14), they may be relocated to other sites by a permitted approved biologist (permitted approved by CDFW) or passive relocation in coordination with CDFW, as allowed in the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012).

If an active burrow is found during the breeding season, the burrow shall be treated as a nest site, and temporary fencing shall be installed at a distance from the active burrow, to be determined by the biologist, to prevent disturbance during grading or construction. Installation and removal of the fencing or staking with flagging shall be done with a biological monitor present.

Active relocation and eviction/passive relocation require the preservation and maintenance of suitable burrowing owl habitat determined through coordination with the Wildlife Agencies.

BIO-PS-2: **Pre-construction Bat Surveys.** Prior to the initiation of Project activities within 300 feet of identified potentially suitable bat roosting habitat within the Study Area, pre-construction bat surveys will be conducted by a qualified bat biologist. The pre-construction surveys will examine existing structures and trees within the Study Area that have features suitable for day roosting and/or night roosting. Suitable bat roosting features for trees (e.g., large tree cavities, basal hollows, loose or peeling bark, palm trees with intact thatch, etc.) and existing man-made structures (e.g., crevices and cracks commonly 0.5 to 4.0 inches wide, with an orientation shielded from wind and rain from above and allows entry from below or to the side; crevices with filler materials that create additional roosting surfaces, temperature regimes, and shelter) will be documented, and the area around these features will be searched for bats and bat sign (guano, staining, culled insect parts) prior to project initiation.

Pre-construction surveys should occur no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of Project activities, regardless of the time of year. During the preconstruction surveys, the qualified bat biologist will inspect all structures proposed for disturbance for evidence of bat occupation. If evidence of bat occupation is observed during the preconstruction survey and/or the structure is unable to be sufficiently inspected to determine occupation, the preconstruction survey will also include a nighttime emergence survey component. Nighttime emergence surveys should be conducted by a qualified bat biologist under appropriate weather conditions and moon phase. These surveys will inform the current size and composition of the roosting colony at a given structure at the time of Project activities and may dictate any modifications to the avoidance measures provided.

d) If no evidence of bat occupation of the structure is identified during the surveys and the qualified bat biologist determines that roosting bats are unlikely to be affected by the Project activities slated to occur beneath, on, or adjacent to the structure, then Project activities may proceed as planned without a biological monitor.

e) If evidence of bat occupation is identified during surveys and/or the emergence survey determines that bats are occupying the structure, the qualified bat biologist will identify the bats to the species level and evaluate the colony to determine its size and significance. The qualified bat biologist will then provide additional measures to avoid impacts to roosting bats.

f) If bats are determined to be day roosting in the structure during the preconstruction surveys, and construction is scheduled during the bat maternity season (April 1 through August 31), construction activities at the structure shall be postponed until after August 31 and the measures outlined below will apply:

    i. Monitoring of Project activities shall be conducted by a qualified bat biologist.

    ii. Night lighting shall be used only on the portion of the structure actively being worked on and focused on the direct area of work.

    iii. Airspace access to and from the roost features of the structure shall not be obstructed except in direct work areas.

    iv. To the extent practicable, internal combustion equipment such as generators and vehicles are not to be parked or operated beneath or adjacent to the structures unless they are required for Project-related work on that structure.

    v. Construction personnel shall not be present in non-active areas beneath the structure.

    vi. In the case of daytime Project activities, if the biological monitor determines that construction activities are causing day-roosting bats to leave the roost during daytime hours, the monitor shall stop that construction activity immediately and for the remainder of the day. This will allow any bats that may be roosting in that structure to leave that section of the roost that evening, and work may resume the following morning with a monitor present.

    vii. In the case of nighttime Project activities on or adjacent to structures identified as night roosts, if the biological monitor determines that construction activities are causing bats to not return for night roosting or altering foraging behavior, the monitor shall stop that construction activity immediately and for the remainder of the night. This will allow any bats to

return for night roosting the same night and work may resume the following night with a monitor present.

viii. If deemed necessary by the qualified bat biologist, additional avoidance measures (such as a sound blanket) may be implemented before activities within the vicinity resume.

BIO-PS-3: Nighttime Work Avoidance. Avoid night work at all structures where night roosting has been identified. If avoiding night work is impossible, further minimization measures such as those listed below will be necessary.

a) Night lighting shall be used only on areas actively being worked on and focused on the direct area of work.

b) Airspace access to and from the roost features of the structure shall not be obstructed except in direct work areas.

c) To the extent practicable, internal combustion equipment such as generators and vehicles are not to be parked or operated beneath or adjacent to the potential roosting structures unless they are required for Project-related work on that structure.

d) Construction personnel shall not be present in non-active areas beneath the structures or vegetation designated as bat roosting habitat.

BIO-PS-4: Cliff Swallow Nest Avoidance. Some bat species may roost in cliff swallow nests at any time of year. The removal of cliff swallow nests shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. If cliff swallow nests must be removed, they should be removed by, or under the direct supervision of a CDFW-approved bat biologist with a Scientific Collecting Permit from CDFW to handle bats, and in such a way that the nest is kept intact and not dropped to the ground until it can be inspected by the biologist. Swallow nest removal shall follow the guidance provided by the California Bat Working Group (CBWG) Bats in Swallow Nests resource (CBWG 2022).

BIO-PS-5: Tree Avoidance and Removal Process. If trees are scheduled to be removed (e.g., relocating)/modified (i.e., trimming) and determined to be suitable for bat roosting or if work is expected to occur within 100 feet of suitable trees, these activities should be scheduled between September 15 and February 28 to avoid the maternity season and when evening temperatures are not below 45 degrees Fahrenheit and rain is not over 0.5 inch in 24 hours.

If tree removal/modification or work within 100 feet of suitable trees must occur during the maternity season, a qualified bat biologist shall conduct a focused emergence survey(s) of the tree(s) within 48 hours of scheduled work. If a maternity roost is located, whether solitary or colonial, that roost will remain undisturbed until after the maternity season or until a qualified biological monitor has determined the roost is no longer active.

If work is expected to occur outside of the bat maternity season (during conditions that meet the parameters described above), work adjacent to trees suitable as bat habitat can continue

without additional surveying efforts. If trees with suitable bat roosting habitat are scheduled for removal or relocation during this time frame, removal using the two-step method should be conducted:

3. As much as feasible, vegetation and trees within the area that are not suitable for roosting bats will be removed first to provide a disturbance that might reduce the likelihood of bats using the habitat.

4. Two-step tree removal will occur over two consecutive days under the supervision of a qualified bat biologist. On Day 1, small branches and small limbs containing no cavity, crevice or exfoliating bark habitat on habitat trees (or outer fronds in the case of palm trees), as identified by a qualified bat biologist are removed first, using chainsaws only (i.e., no dozers, backhoes). The following day (Day 2), the remainder of the tree is to be felled/removed. (The intention of this method is to disturb the tree with noise and vibration and branch removal on Day 1. This should cause any potentially present day-roosting bats to abandon the roost tree after they emerge for nighttime foraging. Removing the tree quickly the next consecutive day should avoid reoccupation of the tree by bats.)

4.5 Cultural Resources

The analysis of cultural resources is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.3, Cultural Resources, of that document.

ECORP prepared a Historic Property Identification Report (HPIR) for the Proposed Project to identify potentially eligible cultural resources (i.e., archaeological sites and historic buildings, structures, and objects) that could be affected by the Project (ECORP 2023). The HPIR included a records search, literature review, Sacred Lands File (SLF) search with Tribal outreach, and a field survey. The HPIR fulfills the 2020 SMP PEIR Mitigation Measure CUL-1 which requires a project-specific CEQA-compliant Phase I Cultural Resources Study. Cultural resources include prehistoric archaeological sites, historic archaeological sites, and historic structures, and generally consist of artifacts, food waste, structures, and facilities made by people in the past. Prehistoric archaeological sites are places that contain the material remains of activities carried out by the native population of the area (i.e., Native Americans) prior to the arrival of Europeans in Southern California. Places that contain the material remains of activities carried out by people during the period when written records were produced after the arrival of Europeans are considered historic archaeological sites. Historic structures include houses, garages, barns, commercial structures, industrial facilities, community buildings, and other structures and facilities that are more than 50 years old. Historic structures may also have associated archaeological deposits, such as abandoned wells, cellars, privies, refuse deposits, and foundations of former outbuildings.

The information provided below is an abridged version of the HPIR and is included here to provide a brief context of the potential cultural resources in the Project Area. The records search results for the initial WRP Tertiary treatment Improvement Project indicated that two previous cultural resources studies were conducted within the initial Project Area. As a result of those studies, no sites or isolates were previously recorded within the initial Project Area. ECORP submitted an additional records search request to cover

the additional Project Areas; however, the results are still pending as of the date of this report. To compensate for this data gap, ECORP also reviewed known cultural resources inventories completed within the past 5 years, with search radius boundaries that overlap with the new Project search radius, for any potential previously recorded cultural studies and/or resources. As a result of this additional review, two previous cultural studies were found which fall within the record search radius half mile buffer for the Young's Farmland pipeline alignment.

The following applicable mitigation measures were adopted as part of the 2020 SMP PEIR and are incorporated as part of the Proposed Project and assumed in the analysis presented in this section.

CUL-1: For projects located within Known High-Sensitivity areas and Assumed High-Sensitivity areas, a qualified archaeologist shall conduct a project-specific CEQA-compliant Phase I Cultural Resources Study for inclusion in the project-specific CEQA document. The study shall include a records search at the applicable archaeological Information Center, a search of the Sacred Lands File by NAHC, and a field survey using standard archaeological methods. These studies shall occur during the project-specific CEQA process.

For projects located within Low-Sensitivity areas a project-specific CEQA-Compliant Phase I Cultural Resources Study shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist. However, because these areas have been subject to previous assessment, the CVWD may be able to utilize data from previous studies to reduce the effort necessary for a proposed project. Whether or not data from previous studies can be used to reduce study efforts will be dependent on the scope, methods, and age of the previous studies. These studies shall occur during the project-specific CEQA process.

CUL-2: If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for pre-contact and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify the Lead Agency, and applicable landowner. The agencies shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the

CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the appropriate County Coroner (per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, and Assembly Bill (AB) 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the project (§ 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

4.5.1 Environmental Setting

The entire Project Area consists of three separate Project Areas (the WRP No. 7 Tertiary Treatment facility, Project Area A; the MP 113.2 Pump Station, Project Area B; and the pipeline alignment, Project Area C) totaling approximately 69.78 acres of property and 2,159.5 feet of pipeline alignment. The entire Project Area is located in the northern half of the northeastern quarter of Section 4, the northeastern quarter of the northeastern quarter of Section 5, and the northeastern quarter of the northeastern quarter of Section 9 of Township 5 South, Range 7 East, San Bernardino Base and Meridian as depicted on the 1958 Myoma, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The Project Area includes seven parcels: APNs 691-100-029 and 691-100-030, which are located south of Avenue 38, north of Lindy Lane, west of Madison Street, and east of Burr Street; APN 691-180-006, which is south of Avenue 40 and west of Madison Street, adjacent to the canal; APN 691-050-021, which is at the western end of Young's Way; and APNs 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012, the Young's Farmland property (ECORP 2023).

4.5.1.1 Area of Potential Effects

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of the horizontal and vertical limits of a project and includes the area within which significant impacts or adverse effects to Historical Resources or Historic Properties could occur as a result of the project. The APE is defined for projects subject to regulations implementing Section 106 (federal law and regulations). For projects subject to CEQA review, the term Project Area is

used rather than APE. The terms Project Area and APE are interchangeable for the purpose of this document.

The horizontal APE consists of all areas where activities associated with a project are proposed and, in the case of this Project, equals the Project Area subject to environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA. This includes areas proposed for construction, vegetation removal, grading, trenching, stockpiling, staging, paving, and other elements in the official Project description. The horizontal APE is illustrated in Figure 1 and represents the survey coverage area. Project Area A is approximately 69.62 acres and measures 0.48 mile long by 0.23 mile wide. Project Area B is approximately 0.16 acres and measures approximately 113 feet long by 76 feet wide. Project Area C, the Pipeline Alignment, measures 2,159.5 feet long by 50 feet wide.

The vertical APE is described as the maximum depth below the surface to which excavations for project foundations and facilities will extend. Therefore, the vertical APE for this Proposed Project includes all subsurface areas where archaeological deposits could be affected. The subsurface vertical APE varies across the Project Areas. The maximum depth is assumed to extend as deep as 20 feet below the current surface, which is typically the greatest depth for buried utilities; therefore, a review of geologic and soils maps was necessary to determine the potential for buried archaeological sites that cannot be seen on the surface.

The vertical APE also is described as the maximum height of structures that could impact the physical integrity and integrity of setting of cultural resources, including districts and traditional cultural properties. For this Project, the above-surface vertical APE is assumed to be less than 50 feet above the surface.

4.5.2 Regulatory Setting

4.5.2.1 National Historic Preservation Act

The federal law that covers cultural resources that could be affected by federal undertakings is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires that federal agencies take into account the effects of a federal undertaking on properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The agencies must afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. The NHPA pertains to projects that entail some degree of federal funding or permit approval. The regulations that stipulate the procedures for complying with Section 106 are in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800.

The federal agency must seek comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and, in some cases, the ACHP, for its determinations of eligibility, effects, and proposed mitigation measures. Section 106 procedures for a specific project can be modified by negotiation of a Memorandum of Agreement or Programmatic Agreement between the federal agency, the SHPO, and, in some cases, the project proponent.

Effects to a cultural resource are potentially adverse if the lead federal agency, with the SHPO's concurrence, determines the resource eligible for the NRHP, making it a Historic Property, and if

application of the Criteria of Adverse Effects (36 CFR 800.5[a][2] et seq.) results in the conclusion that the effects will be adverse.

4.5.2.2 California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA is the state law that applies to a project's impacts on cultural resources. A project is an activity that may cause a direct or indirect physical change in the environment and that is undertaken or funded by a state or local agency, or requires a permit, license, or lease from a state or local agency. CEQA requires that impacts to Historical Resources be identified and, if the impacts will be significant, then apply mitigation measures to reduce the impacts.

A Historical Resource is a resource that 1) is listed in or has been determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) by the State Historical Resources Commission, or has been determined historically significant by the CEQA lead agency because it meets the eligibility criteria for the CRHR, 2) is included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in PRC 5020.1(k), or 3), and has been identified as significant in a historical resources survey, as defined in PRC 5024.1(g) (CCR Title 14, Section 15064.5(a)). Significant cultural resources must meet at least one of four criteria that define eligibility for listing on the CRHR (PRC § 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, § 4852).

Impacts to a Historical Resource, as defined by CEQA (listed in an official historic inventory or survey or eligible for the CRHR), are significant if the resource is demolished or destroyed or if the characteristics that made the resource eligible are materially impaired (CCR Title 14, Section 15064.5(b)). Demolition or alteration of eligible buildings, structures, and features that they would no longer be eligible would result in a significant impact. Whole or partial destruction of eligible archaeological sites would result in a significant impact. In addition to impacts from construction resulting in destruction or physical alteration of an eligible resource, impacts to the integrity of setting (sometimes termed *visual impacts*) of physical features in the Project Areas could also result in significant impacts.

Tribal cultural resources (TCRs) are defined in Section 21074 of the California PRC as sites, features, places, cultural landscapes (geographically defined in terms of the size and scope), sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included in or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR, or are included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1, or are 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 Section 5024.1. Section 1(b)(4) of AB 52 established that only California Native American tribes, as defined in Section 21073 of the California PRC, are experts in the identification of TCRs and impacts thereto. Because ECORP does not meet the definition of a California Native American tribe, it only addresses information in this report for which it is qualified to identify and evaluate, and that which is needed to inform the cultural resources section of CEQA documents. This report, therefore, does not identify or evaluate TCRs. Should California Native American tribes ascribe additional importance to or interpretation of archaeological resources described herein, or provide information about non-archeological TCRs, that information is documented separately in the AB 52 tribal consultation record between the tribe(s) and lead agency and summarized in the TCRs section of the CEQA document, if applicable.

4.5.3 Methods

4.5.3.1 Records Search

ECORP requested an initial records search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at the University of California, Riverside on August 31, 2022. The purpose of the records search was to determine the extent of previous surveys within a 0.5-mile (800-meter) radius of the initial Proposed Project Area, the WRP No. 7 Tertiary Treatment facility (Project Area A), and whether previously documented pre-contact or historic archaeological sites, architectural resources, or traditional cultural properties exist within this area. EIC staff completed and returned the records search to ECORP on October 14, 2022.

Because additional Project components, the pump station (Project Area B) and pipeline (Project Area C), were added to the Project in early 2023, ECORP submitted a second records search request on April 25, 2023, to include the expanded EIC record search boundary, which included a 0.5-mile (800-meter) radius around these new Project Areas. Currently, the results of this second request is still pending. ECORP supplemented this report with data from earlier EIC Records searches that overlap portions of the new Proposed Project Areas.

Record search results found that 16 previous cultural resource investigations have been conducted within the Project Areas or the 0.5-mile search radius, covering approximately 55 percent of the total area surrounding the Project Areas within the records search radius. Of the 16 studies, four were conducted within the Project Areas and the other 12 were within the 0.5-mile radius. These studies revealed the presence of pre-contact sites, including lithic scatters, debitage, manos, and metates, and one historical site, the Coachella Canal.

The records search also determined that four previously recorded pre-contact and historic-era cultural resources are located within 0.5 mile of the Project Area. Of these, three are believed to be associated with Native American occupation of the vicinity, and one is a historic-era site associated with early European-American irrigation, known as the Coachella Canal. There are no previously recorded cultural resources within the Project Area (ECORP 2023).

4.5.3.2 Sacred Lands File

In addition to the records search, ECORP contacted the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 31, 2022, to request a search of the Sacred Lands File for the initial Project Area (Project Area A), and requested a second search request as requested by California State Water Resources Control Board on April 24, 2023. The searches determine whether the California Native American tribes within the Project Areas have recorded Sacred Lands, because the Sacred Lands File is populated by members of the Native American community with knowledge about the locations of tribal resources. In requesting a search of the Sacred Lands File, ECORP solicited information from the Native American community regarding TCRs, but the responsibility to formally consult with the Native American community lies exclusively with the federal and local agencies under applicable state and federal laws.

A search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC dated October 3, 2022, failed to indicate the presence of Native American Tribal Cultural Resources in the initial Project Area (Project Area A). A second search of the Sacred Lands File by the NAHC dated May 15, 2023, failed to indicate the presence of Native American Tribal Cultural Resources in the updated Project Areas (Project Areas A, B, and C) (ECORP 2023).

4.5.3.3 Field Survey

On June 15, 2023, ECORP completed an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project Area under the guidance of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Identification of Historic Properties* (National Park Service [NPS] 1983) using 15-meter-spaced transects. ECORP examined the ground surface for indications of surface or subsurface cultural resources and inspected the general morphological characteristics of the ground surface for indications of subsurface deposits that may be manifested on the surface, such as circular depressions or ditches. Whenever possible, ECORP examined the locations of subsurface exposures caused by such factors as rodent activity, water or soil erosion, or vegetation disturbances for artifacts or for indications of buried deposits. ECORP did not conduct subsurface investigations or artifact collections during the pedestrian survey.

As a result of the field survey, one new cultural resource was identified within Project Area C: WRP-1, a segment of Jefferson Street. The resource was evaluated as not eligible for listing under any criteria for the NRHP or the CRHR (ECORP 2023).

4.5.4 Cultural Resources Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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 pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The CHRIS records search results revealed that four previously recorded pre-contact and historic-era cultural resources are located within 0.5 mile of the Project Area. Of these, three are believed to be associated with Native American occupation of the vicinity, and one is a historic-era site associated with early European-American irrigation, known as the Coachella Canal. There are no previously recorded cultural resources within the Project Area (ECORP 2023).

As a result of the field survey, one new cultural resource was identified within Project Area C: WRP-1, a segment of Jefferson Street. Resource WRP-1 has been evaluated using NRHP and CRHR eligibility criteria and found to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR under any criteria (ECORP 2023). Therefore, neither resource is considered a historical resource under CEQA or a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Due to presence of aeolian dunes capable of covering sites and altering waterways, as well as the presence of alluvium along desert washes and the likelihood of pre-contact archaeological sites located along perennial waterways and on the shore of ancient Lake Cahuilla, there is a potential for buried pre-contact archaeological sites in the area. However, due to the extensive grading and heavy disturbance within the entire Project Area, the potential is considered low to moderate for buried pre-contact archaeological sites (ECORP 2023).

There always remains the potential for ground-disturbing activities to expose previously unrecorded cultural resources. Both CEQA and Section 106 of the NHPA require the lead agency to address any unanticipated cultural resource discoveries during Project construction (ECORP 2023). Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2, from the 2020 SMP PEIR, and Mitigation Measure CUL-PS-1 and CUL-PS-2 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

No formal cemeteries are located in or near the Project Area. Most Native American human remains are found in prehistoric archaeological sites. No impacts to human remains are anticipated; however, if any are encountered during ground disturbing construction activities, existing regulations (§7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, §5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, and AB 2641) are in place which detail the actions that must be taken if such discoveries are made. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-2, from the 2020 SMP PEIR, and Mitigation CUL-PS-2 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.5.5 Mitigation Measures

CUL-PS-1: Archaeological and Tribal Monitoring. Prior to the start of construction, the Project proponent shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist or tribal monitor representing a culturally affiliated tribe to monitor all ground-disturbing activities associated with

undisturbed soils during Project construction. Monitoring is not required for placement of equipment, filling in excavations that were monitored, work conducted in previously excavated and graded soils such as WRP 7, above-ground construction activities, or redistribution of soils that were previously monitored (such as the return of stockpiles to use in backfilling). At the discretion of the lead agency, both a professional archaeologist and tribal monitor may be required to monitor ground-disturbing activities associated with known sensitive areas of the Project during construction.

The archaeologist shall meet, or work under the direct supervision of someone who meets, the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology. The archaeologist and tribal monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt ground-disturbing or construction-related work within 100 feet of any discovery of potential historical or archaeological resources in order to implement any appropriate Project-specific mitigation measures developed to address unanticipated discoveries.

CUL-PS-2: **Post-Review Discoveries.** If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment and taking into account the opinion of the tribal monitor. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, the archaeologist shall immediately notify the lead agencies. The agencies shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines or a historic property under Section 106 NHPA, if applicable. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA or a Historic Property under Section 106; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find represents a Native American or potentially Native American resource that does not include human remains, then he or she shall further notify the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians. The agencies shall consult with the tribes on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource

under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Preservation in place is the preferred treatment, if feasible. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, they shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner (per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the Project (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (Section 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

4.6 Energy

The analysis of energy is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.4, Energy, of that document. Sources of energy relevant to the PEIR include the equipment-fuel necessary for construction and energy usage for the treatment and pumping of wastewater.

This IS/MND analyzes energy consumption due to the potential direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Project. Such impacts include the depletion of nonrenewable resources (e.g., oil, natural gas, coal) and emissions of pollutants during the construction phase. The impact analysis focuses on equipment-fuel necessary for Project construction and the energy usage necessary for the Project's operation of new equipment, such as the new UV wastewater treatment system.

4.6.1 Environmental Setting

Energy relates directly to environmental quality. Energy use can adversely affect air quality and other natural resources. The vast majority of California's air pollution is caused by burning fossil fuels.

Consumption of fossil fuels is linked to changes in global climate and depletion of stratospheric ozone. Transportation energy use is related to the fuel efficiency of cars, trucks, and public transportation; choice of different travel modes (auto, carpool, and public transit); vehicle speeds; and miles traveled by these modes. Construction and routine operation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure also consume energy. In addition, residential, commercial, and industrial land uses consume energy, typically through the usage of natural gas and electricity.

4.6.1.1 Energy Types and Sources

California relies on a regional power system comprised of a diverse mix of natural gas, renewable, hydroelectric, and nuclear generation resources. Natural gas provides California with a majority of its electricity, closely followed by renewables, large hydroelectric and nuclear (California Energy Commissions [CEC] 2022). The Imperial Irrigation District (IID), the sixth largest electrical utility in California serving more than 158,000 customers in Imperial County and parts of Riverside and San Diego counties, provides electrical services to the Project Area. IID utilizes megawatts of energy derived from a diverse resource portfolio that includes its own generation, and long- and short-term power purchases. Located in a region with sunshine, geothermal capacity, wind, and other renewable potential, IID has met or exceeded all Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements to date, procuring renewable energy from diverse sources including biomass, biowaste, geothermal, hydroelectric, solar, and wind (IID 2023).

4.6.2 Energy Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The impact analysis focuses on the equipment-fuel necessary for Project construction and the energy usage necessary for the new UV wastewater treatment. The Proposed Project would make improvements to existing CVWD facilities and install a new linear pipeline. Addressing energy impacts requires an agency to make a determination as to what constitutes a significant impact. There are no established thresholds of significance, statewide or locally, for what constitutes a wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy for a proposed land use project. The amount of fuel necessary for Project construction is calculated and compared to the most recent year of fuel consumed in Riverside County. The amount of total construction-related fuel use was estimated using ratios provided in the Climate Registry's General Reporting Protocol for the Voluntary Reporting Program, Version 2.1 (Climate Registry 2016).

Fuel necessary for Project construction would be required for the operation and maintenance of construction equipment and the transportation of materials to the Project Area. The fuel expenditure necessary for construction of the upgrades and linear pipeline would be temporary, lasting only as long as Project construction. The Proposed Project's gasoline fuel consumption during the one-time construction period is estimated to be 20,591 gallons over the course of construction. This would increase the annual fuel use in Riverside County by 0.0019 percent. As such, Project construction would have a nominal effect on local and regional energy supplies. No unusual Project characteristics would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy efficient than at comparable construction sites in the region or the state. Construction contractors would purchase their own gasoline and diesel fuel from local suppliers and would judiciously use fuel supplies to minimize costs due to waste and subsequently maximize profits. Additionally, construction equipment fleet turnover and increasingly stringent state and federal regulations on engine efficiency combined with state regulations limiting engine idling times and requiring recycling of construction debris, would further reduce the amount of transportation fuel demand during Project construction. For these reasons, it is expected that construction fuel consumption associated with the Proposed Project would not be any more inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary than other similar development projects of this nature. This is a less than significant impact.

The improvements would not affect existing operations of the CVWD facilities or increase the number of traffic trips to the facility. As such, the energy utilized to function the facilities and the fuel consumption for trips to the facilities would remain the same. As a part of the improvements, the aged infrastructure and pumps would be upgraded and expanded to accommodate the distribution of future water demand. New pumps and the associated upgraded equipment would reduce some energy consumption used to treat and pump the water. Energy calculations for wastewater treatment and distribution were made in accordance with California Energy Commission's Refining Estimates of Water Related Energy Use in California (CEC 2006) guidance for water related energy use in California. Electricity consumption associated with water distribution in southern California is approximately 1,272 kwh/MG (CEC 2006). Overall, any major increases to energy consumption associated with the pumping and distribution of water would relate to the increases in future demand for water. Nevertheless, the proposed infrastructure improvements are necessary to accommodate the projected growth of the region, and thus, the Proposed Project would not result in the inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy.

Additionally, the Project proposes the installation of a new UV water treatment process, which would replace the chlorine disinfection method that is currently used. According to U.S Department of Energy, it is estimated that low pressure UV lamps consume 100 to 250 kWh per million gallons (MG) of water. The Project proposes future users to consume about 6.2 MG of water per day. As such, for future water demand by users, this would equal out to a conservative estimate of approximately 1,550 kwh/day as a result of the UV water treatment. However, current operation utilizes chlorine water treatment, which consumes about 60 to 250 kwh per MG of water (US Department of Energy 2021). Although this addition of UV water treatment system may have the potential to increase energy consumption, it is noted that the installation of the UV system would eliminate the cost, environmental health impacts, and lifecycle costs related to chlorine disinfection. As noted in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the proposed infrastructure improvements are necessary to accommodate the projected growth of the region, and thus, the Proposed Project would not result in the inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy. Because of these reasons,

this is a less than significant impact to the operational energy usage or fuel consumption as a result of the Proposed Project.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would be designed in a manner that is consistent with relevant energy conservation plans designed to encourage development that results in the efficient use of energy resources. The Proposed Project would be built to the Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings, as specified in Title 24, Part 6, of the CCR (Title 24). Title 24 was established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. Title 24 is updated approximately every three years, with the most recent update of the 2022 standards that became effective on January 1, 2023. The 2022 Energy Standards improve upon the 2019 Energy Standards for new construction of, and additions and alterations to, residential and nonresidential buildings. The 2022 update to the Energy Standards encourages efficient electric heat pumps, establishes electric-ready requirements for new homes, expands solar photovoltaic and battery storage standards, strengthens ventilation standards, among other goals. The 2022 Energy Standards build and improve upon previous goals of achieving net Zero Net Energy. Buildings permitted on or after January 1, 2023, must comply with the 2022 Standards. Compliance with Title 24 is mandatory at the time new building permits are issued by city and county governments. Additionally, in January 2010, the State of California adopted the California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen) that establishes mandatory green building standards for all buildings in California. The code was most recently updated in 2022, effective for all applicable developments starting January 1, 2023. The code covers five categories: planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, and environmental quality. With these building standards in place, the Proposed Project would not obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

For these reasons, this impact would be less than significant.

4.6.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.7 Geology and Soils

The analysis of geology and soils is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR found impacts to geology and soils for all Master Plan projects not to be significant because sanitation facilities would be designed by registered civil

engineers to ensure all necessary geotechnical constraints are considered during project design (CVWD 2022).

Analysis in this section is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.7.1 Environmental Setting

4.7.1.1 Geomorphic Setting

The City of Indio lies to the south of the Indio Hills and consist of Plio-Pleistocene sedimentary rocks of the Palm Spring and Ocotillo formations as well as younger Quaternary alluvium.

4.7.1.2 Regional Seismicity and Fault Zones

The California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, defines an *active fault* as one that has been subjected to surface displacement within the last 11,000 years. A fault is considered *inactive* if it has not shown geologic evidence of surface displacement in the last 11,000 years.

There are three major, known faults in Riverside County: the San Andreas, San Jacinto, and Elsinore faults. The San Andreas Fault and San Jacinto Fault are two of California's most active faults. Several properties within Indio and its sphere of influence are directly impacted by the southernmost section of the San Andreas fault and/or secondary faults and fractures (City of Indio 2019a). The South Branch of the San Andreas Fault is located approximately 1 mile north of the Project Area.

4.7.1.3 Soils

Soils in the Indio region with higher Storie Indices and capability classifications include the Coachella, Gilman, and Indio soil series, which compose approximately 57 percent of Indio's total area (City of Indio 2019a).

According to the USDA's NRCS Web Soil Survey website, six soil types are located within the Project Area (NRCS 2023a). These soil types include the following:

- Coachella fine sandy loam (CsA), 0 to 2 percent slopes;
- Gilman loamy fine sand (GaB), 0 to 5 percent slopes;
- Gilman fine sandy loam (GbA), 0 to 2 percent slopes;
- Indio fine sandy loam (Ip);
- Indio very fine sandy loam (Is); and
- Myoma fine sand (MaB), 0 to 5 percent slopes

The soil underlying the WRP 7 site was found to consist of undocumented fill, alluvial, fluvial, and eolian deposits. Due to the generally well consolidated nature of the underlying soil and lack of groundwater,

liquefaction is not a design consideration. Dewatering will not be required for the planned facilities on WRP 7. Laboratory results indicate that the soil on the WRP 7 site is corrosive to buried ferrous metals and concrete, therefore all below and at grade infrastructure will be designed to be corrosion resistant. The selected concrete will be specified to conform to the appropriate American Society for Testing and Materials C150 Type V to mitigate corrosion from sulphates (Black & Veach 2022).

4.7.1.4 Paleontological Resources

The City of Indio is located in the Coachella Valley, a large southwest to southeast trending basin that is the result of the well-known San Andreas Fault system in California. Sedimentary deposition has been slowly filling this basin since the Miocene Epoch (23.0 to 5.3 million years ago). Being an area of sedimentary deposition, the potential for paleontological resources exists. Five sedimentary units in the City have the potential to contain significant paleontological resources, including the Mecca Formation, Palm Springs Formation, Canebrake Conglomerate, Older Quaternary Lake Sediments, and Ocotillo Conglomerate (City of Indio 2019a).

Riverside County's Map My County (MMC) reporting tool was used to assess the paleontological sensitivity of the Project Area. A search was conducted for Project Area using APNs. The Project Area includes seven APNs 691-100-029, 691-100-030, 691-180-006, 691-050-021, 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012 (Riverside County 2023a).

Paleontological sensitivity designations are defined as the following:

- Undetermined Potential (U): Areas underlain by sedimentary rocks for which literature and unpublished studies are not available have undetermined potential for containing significant paleontological resources. These areas must be inspected by a field survey conducted by a qualified vertebrate paleontologist.
- Low Potential (L): Following a literature search, records check and a field survey, areas may be determined by a qualified vertebrate paleontologist as having low potential for containing significant paleontological resources subject to adverse impacts.
- High Sensitivity (High A): Based on geologic formations or mappable rock units that are rocks that contain fossilized body elements, and trace fossils such as tracks, nests, and eggs. These fossils occur on or below the surface.
- High Sensitivity (High B): Sensitivity is equivalent to High A, but is based on the occurrence of fossils at a specified depth below the surface. The category High B indicates that fossils are likely to be encountered at or below four feet of depth, and may be impacted during excavation by construction activities.

Parcels within the Project Area with Low Potential include APNs 691-100-029, 691-100-030, 691-050-021, 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012. A parcel with High Sensitivity (High A) in the Project Area includes APN 691-180-006.

4.7.2 Geology and Soils Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

No Impact.

i) Several properties within the City are impacted by the southernmost section of the San Andreas fault and/or secondary faults. The South Branch of the San Andreas Fault is located approximately 1 mile north of the Project Area, however no known active faults are directly within the Project Area (City of Indio 2019a). Due to the absence of any onsite active faults, no impact related to fault-rupture would occur in the Project Area and no mitigation is required.

Less than Significant Impact.

ii) Just like most of southern California, in the event of an earthquake strong ground shaking is expected to occur at the Project Area. The City is subject to ground shaking due to fault ruptures along nearby active faults. The most intense shaking that could damage structures would be from the San Andreas Fault, which passes along northern Indio.

The City requires that all new structures to be designed in accordance with the most recent California Building Code (CBC) adopted by City Council, including the provisions regarding seismic loads, lateral forces and grading and not built across the trace of an active fault. The Proposed Project would comply with current applicable codes and standards which would reduce the risk of loss, injury, or death resulting from strong ground-shaking. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

No Impact.

iii) Liquefaction is a phenomenon where water-saturated granular soil loses shear strength during strong ground shaking produced by earthquakes. The loss of soil strength occurs when cyclic pore water pressure increases below the groundwater surface. Potential hazards due to liquefaction include the loss of bearing strength beneath structures, possibly causing foundation failure and/or significant settlements.

The City could experience seismic shaking levels that have the potential for liquefaction in areas where groundwater is generally shallower than 30 feet (City of Indio 2019a). Due to the generally well consolidated nature of the Project Area's underlying soil and lack of groundwater, liquefaction is not a design consideration for the Project Area. Therefore, no impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

Less than Significant Impact.

iv) Landslides and surficial slope failure are most likely to occur in areas with a slope greater than 25 percent (hillside areas) and along steep bluffs. Since the City of Indio is relatively flat with undeveloped hillsides along the northern boundary, the City is at low risk for landslides (City of Indio 2019a). The Project Area is also relatively flat, therefore there is a low landslide risk. The Proposed Project's facilities would be designed to withstand geologic conditions anticipated to occur in the Project Area. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are included as part of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prepared for the Proposed Project and would be implemented to manage erosion and the loss of topsoil during construction-related activities, as described in Section IX. Implementation of the SWPPP would reduce soil erosion impacts to a less than significant level.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

According to the City's General Plan, Indio is at low risk for landslides due to its relatively flat topography (City of Indio 2019a). The Project Area is not located within an area susceptible to landslides and is also flat. Refer to Threshold iv) above for an analysis of landslides.

Ground subsidence involves the settling of ground surface due to extraction of oil, gas, or groundwater. The City is an area of historic subsidence. The principal cause of land subsidence in the City is groundwater extraction. A network of continuous Global Positioning System (GPS) stations has been set up in the Coachella Valley to monitor this subsidence (City of Indio 2019a).

Due to the generally well consolidated nature of the underlying soil and lack of groundwater, liquefaction is not a design consideration for the Project Area. Dewatering will not be required for the planned facilities (Black & Veach 2022).

As discussed in Threshold ii) above, the City requires that all new structures are designed in accordance with the most recent CBC adopted by City Council. All of the Proposed Project's structures and buildings will be designed for gravity, live, wind, and seismic loads and load combinations per the CBC. For buildings, lateral seismic and wind loads will be transferred to the foundation using lateral force resisting systems per American Society of Civil Engineers-7 Standard and CBC (Black & Veach 2022). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not contribute to a new exposure of people or structures to substantial adverse effects associated with onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Impacts would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The NRCS Web Soil Survey website lists six soil types within the Project Area. These soil types are Coachella fine sandy loam (CsA), 0 to 2 percent slopes; Gilman fine sandy loam (GbA), 0 to 2 percent slopes; Indio fine sandy loam (Ip); Indio very fine sandy loam (Is); and Myoma fine sand (MaB), 0 to 5 percent slopes (NRCS 2023a).

Silts and sands are usually non-expansive or have very low expansion potential, while clays are recognized as expansive soils. As the Project area is located on sandy loam and sand, the Proposed Project is not expected to be negatively impacted by expansive soils. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

All proposed WRP 7 and MP 113.2 pump station improvements are within existing CVWD facilities. The proposed Young's Farmland NPW pipeline would be constructed within the ROW of Jefferson Street and on Young's Farmland private property. The City's sewer lines are available for the disposal of wastewater. The Project WRP 7 facility currently treats flows of 5 MGD and the tertiary processes including filtration and disinfection have a capacity of 2.5 MGD. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

According to the MMC search results, the Project Area includes parcels with Low Potential (APNs 691-100-029, 691-100-030, 691-050-021, 691-060-010, 691-050-010, and 691-050-012) and a parcel with High Sensitivity (High A) (APN 691-180-006). The areas of Low Potential are determined to have a low potential for containing significant paleontological resources subject to adverse impacts. Areas with High Sensitivity (High A) have a high potential to contain fossilized body elements and trace fossils such as tracks, nests, and eggs which would occur on or below the surface (Riverside County 2023a).

Due to the high paleontological sensitivity potential within a portion of the Project Area, any fossil specimens recovered would be scientifically significant. The development of the Project Area could impact

any paleontological resources discovered during excavation activities. Impacts would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-PS-1.

4.7.3 Mitigation Measures

GEO-PS-1: **Unanticipated Discovery – Paleontological Resource.** If paleontological resources (i.e., fossil remains) are discovered during excavation activities, the contractor will notify CVWD and cease excavation within 50 feet of the find until a qualified paleontological professional can provide an evaluation of the find. The qualified paleontological professional will evaluate the significance of the find and recommend appropriate measures for the disposition of the resource (e.g., fossil recovery, curation, data recovery, and/or monitoring). Construction activities may continue on other parts of the construction site outside of the 50-foot buffer while evaluation and treatment of the paleontological resource takes place.

4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

This analysis was prepared using methods and assumptions recommended in the rules and regulations of the SCAQMD. This section presents regional and local existing conditions in addition to pertinent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions-related standards and regulations. The purpose of this assessment is to estimate Project-generated GHG emissions and to determine the level of impact the Project would have on the environment.

4.8.1 Environmental Setting

Greenhouse gas emissions are released as byproducts of fossil fuel combustion, waste disposal, energy use, land use changes, and other human activities. This release of gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and chlorofluorocarbons, creates a blanket around the earth that allows light to pass through but traps heat at the surface, preventing its escape into space. While this is a naturally occurring process known as the greenhouse effect, human activities have accelerated the generation of GHGs beyond natural levels. The overabundance of GHGs in the atmosphere has led to an unexpected warming of the earth and has the potential to severely impact the earth's climate system.

Each GHG differs in its ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere based on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. CH_4 traps over 25 times more heat per molecule than CO_2, and N_2O absorbs 298 times more heat per molecule than CO_2 (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2014). Often, estimates of GHG emissions are presented in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e), which weigh each gas by its global warming potential. Expressing GHG emissions in CO_2e takes the contribution of all GHG emissions to the greenhouse effect and converts them to a single unit equivalent to the effect that would occur if only CO_2 were being emitted.

The local air quality agency regulating the Riverside County portion of the SSAB is the SCAQMD. To provide guidance to local lead agencies on determining significance for GHG emissions in CEQA documents, SCAQMD staff convened a GHG CEQA Significance Threshold Working Group. The Working Group was formed to assist the SCAQMD's efforts to develop a GHG significance threshold and is composed of a wide variety of stakeholders including the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR),

CARB, the Attorney General's Office, a variety of city and county planning departments in the Basin, various utilities such as sanitation and power companies throughout the Basin, industry groups, and environmental and professional organizations. On September 28, 2010, SCAQMD Working Group Meeting #15 provided an interim screening level numeric "bright-line" threshold of 3,000 metric tons of CO_2e annually and an efficiency-based threshold of 3.0 metric tons of CO_2e per service population (defined as the people that work and reside in the Project Area) per year in 2035. The SCAQMD has not announced when staff is expecting to present a finalized version of these thresholds to the governing board.

The numeric bright line and efficiency-based thresholds described above were developed to be consistent with CEQA requirements for developing significance thresholds, are supported by substantial evidence, and provide guidance to CEQA practitioners and lead agencies with regard to determining whether GHG emissions from a proposed project are significant.

Additionally, the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP) aims to reduce GHG emissions within the City by providing clear policy guidance. The City's CAP offers GHG reduction strategies for improving connectivity and land use patterns, improving transportation systems, incorporating energy efficiency standards, increasing the City's renewable energy supply, and reducing solid waste. The CAP identifies the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) guidance of 900 metric tons of CO_2e as a conservative screening threshold for determining if projects would need further analysis for significant impacts. For proposed projects above the screening threshold, the City requires completion of the Climate Ready Development Review Checklist. The checklist is designed to reflect the targets set for the measures and policies set out in the CAP.

In *Center for Biological Diversity v. Department of Fish and Wildlife* (2015) 62 Cal. 4th 2014, 213, 221, 227, following its review of various potential GHG thresholds proposed in an academic study [Crockett, *Addressing the Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: California's Search for Regulatory Certainty in an Uncertain World* (July 2011), 4 Golden Gate U. Envtl. L. J. 203], the California Supreme Court identified the use of numeric bright-line thresholds as a potential pathway for compliance with CEQA GHG requirements. The study found numeric bright line thresholds designed to determine when small projects were so small as to not cause a cumulatively considerable impact on global climate change was consistent with CEQA. Specifically, Public Resources Code section 21003(f) provides it is a policy of the State that "[a]ll persons and public agencies involved in the environmental review process be responsible for carrying out the process in the most efficient, expeditious manner in order to conserve the available financial, governmental, physical and social resources with the objective that those resources may be better applied toward the mitigation of actual significant effects on the environment." The Supreme Court-reviewed study noted, "[s]ubjecting the smallest projects to the full panoply of CEQA requirements, even though the public benefit would be minimal, would not be consistent with implementing the statute in the most efficient, expeditious manner. Nor would it be consistent with applying lead agencies' scarce resources toward mitigating actual significant climate change impacts." (Crockett, *Addressing the Significance of Greenhouse Gas Emissions: California's Search for Regulatory Certainty in an Uncertain World* (July 2011), 4 Golden Gate U. Envtl. L. J. 203, 221, 227.)

Project emissions are compared to the SCAQMD bright line numeric threshold of 3,000 metric tons annually. This threshold assists in determining if the Proposed Project complies with applicable plans,

policies, regulations and requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions. Additionally, the Proposed Project is assessed for consistency with the City's CAP Screening Threshold and Climate Ready Development Review Checklist.

4.8.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

GHG emissions-related impacts are assessed in accordance with methodologies recommended by the SCAQMD. Where GHG emission quantification is required, emissions are modeled using CalEEMod version 2022.1. CalEEMod is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to quantify potential GHG emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. Project construction generated GHG emissions are calculated using CalEEMod model defaults for Riverside County. Operational GHG emissions were based on the Project dimensions identified in the Project Area plans and energy calculations for wastewater treatment and distribution were made in accordance with California Energy Commission's Refining Estimates of Water Related Energy Use in California (CEC 2006) guidance for water related energy use in California. Additionally, the energy calculations in regard to the UV water treatment system were made in accordance with the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Tips for Wastewater Treatment Plants (2021).

Construction Significance Analysis

Construction-related activities that would generate GHG emissions include worker commute trips, haul trucks carrying supplies and materials to and from the Project Area, and off-road construction equipment (e.g., dozers, loaders, excavators). Table 4.8-1 illustrates the specific construction generated GHG emissions that would result from construction of the Project. Once construction and upgrades for the Proposed Project are complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease.

Table 4.8-1. Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Emissions Source	**CO_2e (Metric Tons/ Year)**
Construction Year One	209
Total Construction Emissions	**209**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Appendix D for Model Data Outputs.

As shown in Table 4.8-1, Project construction would result in the generation of approximately 209 metric tons of CO_2e over the course of construction. Once construction is complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease. Consistent with SCAQMD recommendations, Project construction GHG emissions have been amortized of the expected life of the Project, which is considered to be 30 years per the SCAQMD. The amortized construction emissions are added to the annual average operational emissions (see Table 4.8-2). The construction impacts are less than significant.

Operational Significance Analysis

Operation of the Proposed Project's upgrades to the facilities would result in an increase in GHG emissions primarily associated with onsite energy from the wastewater treatment and distribution pumping. Energy calculations and associated GHG emissions for the upgraded water treatment and distribution systems were made in accordance with CEC guidance for water related energy use in California. More specifically, energy calculation takes into account the proposed UV water treatment system, which were calculated using the U.S Department of Energy's Energy Tips for Wastewater Treatment Plants. Long-term operational GHG emissions attributed to the Project are identified in Table 4.8-2.

Table 4.8-2. Operational-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Emissions Source	**CO_2e (Metric Tons/ Year)**
Construction Emissions (amortized over the 30-year life of the Project)	7
Mobile	91
Area	0
Energy	2,606
Water	8
Waste	5
Vegetation	1
Total	**2,718**
SCAQMD Significance Threshold	*3,000*
Exceed SCAQMD Threshold?	**No**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Appendix A for Model Data Outputs.
Notes: Emission projections predominately based on CalEEMod model defaults for Riverside County. Energy calculations and associated GHG emissions for water treatment and distribution were made in accordance with the CEC's Refining Estimates of Water Related Energy Use in California (2006) and the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Tips for Wastewater Treatment Plants.

As shown in Table 4.8-2, operational-generated emissions associated with the upgrades to the facilities would not exceed the SCAQMD's numeric bright-line threshold. It is important to note that a portion of the operational GHG emissions shown above capture some GHG emissions are already occurring under existing conditions, such as energy needed for wastewater treatment and distribution. However, the GHG emissions modeled above only presents the operational GHG emissions that would result from the upgraded facilities and pumps that the Project proposes. SCAQMD thresholds were developed based on substantial evidence that such thresholds represent quantitative levels of GHG emissions, compliance with which means that the environmental impact of the GHG emissions will normally not be cumulatively considerable under CEQA. These thresholds were developed as part of the SCAQMD GHG CEQA Significance Threshold Working Group. The working group was formed to assist the SCAQMD's efforts to develop a GHG significance threshold and is composed of a wide variety of stakeholders including the State OPR, CARB, the Attorney General's Office, a variety of city and county planning departments in the SSAB, various utilities such as sanitation and power companies throughout the basin, industry groups, and environmental and professional organizations. The 3,000 metric tons of CO_2e per year value represents less than one percent of future 2050 statewide GHG emissions target. This impact is less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project would upgrade the CVWD wastewater treatment plant facilities and construct a 2,500 linear foot pipeline to expand water distribution. The Proposed Project would support the City's CAP policies for water recycling and water conservation. Although the City's CAP promotes the usage of the CAPCOA screening threshold of 900 metric tons of CO_2e and the completion of the Climate-Ready Development Review Checklist, this applies to typical development projects. As seen in Table 4.8-2, the operational GHG emissions surpass the CAPCOA screening threshold of 900 metric tons of CO_2e annually, yet it is noted that majority of the emissions modeled are already occurring under existing conditions. The Proposed Project's upgrades and construction would increase energy efficiency and likely not be a significant source of new GHG emissions. Furthermore, due to the fact that the Project proposes infrastructure, the aspects of the Proposed Project are not directly applicable to the criteria assessed in the Climate Ready Development Review Checklist. It is noted that the Proposed Project would not conflict with any of the criteria considered in the checklist or otherwise hinder the implementation of CAP policies. As such, the Proposed Project would in no way hinder or conflict with the GHG-reducing goals and strategies. Additionally, as shown in Table 4.8-2, Project-generated GHG emissions would not surpass the SCAQMD's GHG significance thresholds, which were prepared with the purpose of complying with statewide GHG-reduction efforts and the Scoping Plan. Additionally, the Proposed Project would be designed and operated to meet or exceed the applicable requirements of the Green Building Standards. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would be subject to the 2022 Title 24 Standards which represent challenging but achievable design and construction practices that represent a major step towards meeting Zero Net Energy. As such, this impact is less than significant.

4.8.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The analysis of hazards and hazardous materials is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR concluded that project construction and operation would comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use and storage of hazardous materials. In Riverside County, 11 sites are on the Cortese list and 4 sites are on the list in Imperial County; however, none of the sites are within the individual project areas included in the Master Plan. For these reasons, the PEIR did not further analyze hazards and hazardous materials (CVWD 2022).

Analysis in this section is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.9.1 Environmental Setting

A material is considered hazardous if it appears on a list of hazardous materials prepared by a federal, state, or local agency, or if it has characteristics defined as hazardous by such an agency. A hazardous material is defined by the California Health and Safety Code, Section 25501 as follows:

> "Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

A hazardous material is defined in 22 CCR Section 662601.10 as follows:

> A substance or combination of substances which, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics, may either (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed.

Transporters of hazardous waste in California are subject to several federal and state regulations. They must register with the California Department of Health Services (DHS) and ensure that vehicle and waste container operators have been trained in the proper handling of hazardous waste. Vehicles used for the transportation of hazardous waste must pass an annual inspection by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Transporters must allow the CHP or DHS to inspect its vehicles and must make certain required inspection records available to both agencies. The transport of hazardous materials that are not wastes is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation through national safety standards.

Other risks resulting from hazardous materials include the use of these materials in local industry, businesses, and agricultural production. The owner or operator of any business or entity that handles hazardous material above threshold quantities is required by state and federal laws to submit a business plan to the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). The Riverside County Department of Environmental Health Hazardous Materials Branch is designated by the California Environmental Protection Agency as the CUPA for Riverside County. The CUPA program is designed to consolidate, consistently administer, and coordinate the six hazardous materials programs within the County. This approach strives to reduce overlapping and sometimes conflicting requirements of different governmental agencies independently managing these programs. The CUPA also oversees the two Participating Agencies (Corona Fire and Riverside Fire) that implement hazardous materials programs within the County (Riverside County 2023b).

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, both the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are required to maintain lists of sites known to have hazardous substances present in the environment. Both agencies maintain up-to-date lists on their websites.

4.9.2 Hazards and Hazardous Materials Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

Some hazardous materials, such as diesel fuel, would be used during construction of the Proposed Project. The use of such materials would not create a significant hazard to the public as the release of any construction-related spills would be prevented through the implementation of BMPs listed in the SWPPP. Equipment maintenance or refueling would occur offsite and not in the construction area.

Two chemical systems currently support the tertiary system: aluminum sulfate (50 percent solution strength) for coagulation of filterable solids and chlorine for disinfection. The chemical storage and feed systems will be located at the existing alum storage and feed area and placed under a new pre-engineered metal canopy to mitigate UV degradation of chemicals, crystallization within the pumps, and to protect operations and maintenance staff. Due to safety concerns with plant operators as well as neighboring land uses, the existing chlorine gas storage and feed system will be decommissioned as the primary disinfection method and will be replaced with UV disinfection technology. The existing vendor supplying chlorine gas will remove the cannisters from the WRP 7 facility. Chlorine (including in the form of sodium hypochlorite [bleach]) is necessary for maintenance dosing at the filter, UV channels, seasonal storage, and NPW distribution system to control algae blooms (Black & Veatch 2022). The UV system does not involve the use of any hazardous materials. These substitutions will mitigate issues related to safety and handling.

New chemical disinfection storage and feed equipment will be located in the existing chemical storage area adjacent to the existing alum storage and feed system. It will be placed under a new pre-engineered metal canopy to mitigate UV degradation of chemicals, crystallization within the pumps, and to protect operations and maintenance staff.

Project construction and operation would comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use and storage of hazardous materials. According to the City's Development Code 3.04.09, the use, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials shall be regulated and monitored according to standards established by the USEPA, DHS, DTSC, the Riverside County Department of

Environmental Health, and the City's Fire and Building Codes (City of Indio 2022a). Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

As noted above, some hazardous materials, such as diesel fuel, would be used during construction. A SWPPP listing BMPs to prevent construction pollutants and products from violating any water quality standard or waste discharge requirements would be prepared for the Proposed Project. The release of any construction-related spills would be prevented through the implementation of BMPs listed in the SWPPP.

Operations of the Proposed Project involve use of sodium hypochlorite for maintenance dosing at the filter, UV channels, seasonal storage, and NPW distribution system. New chemical disinfection storage and feed equipment will be located in the existing chemical storage area adjacent to the existing alum storage and feed system. It will be placed under a new pre-engineered metal canopy to mitigate UV degradation of chemicals, crystallization within the pumps, and to protect operations and maintenance staff.

Unless otherwise indicated in the equipment control descriptions, equipment in automatic mode shall be transitioned to manual mode and stopped if the equipment fails or becomes unavailable. When equipment failure is sensed or when the equipment transitions from available to unavailable, the active state (start, open, forward, initiate, etc.) control output will be removed.

Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project is located approximately 0.62 mile northeast of Shadow Hills High School, the closest school to the Project Area. The Proposed Project is located more than one-quarter mile from an existing or proposed school. No impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the DTSC, the State Department of Health Services, the SWRCB, and the California Integrated Waste Management Board to compile and annually update lists of hazardous waste sites and land designated as hazardous waste property throughout the State.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) Cortese List Data Resources records were reviewed to help determine whether hazardous materials have been handled, stored, or generated in the Project Area or the adjacent properties and businesses (CalEPA 2022).

The Cortese List is a compilation of five separate websites that includes:

1. DTSC's EnviroStor – identifies waste or hazardous substances sites.
2. SWRCB's GeoTracker – identifies underground storage tanks for which an unauthorized release report was filed, cleanup sites, and all solid waste disposal facilities from which there is a mitigation of hazardous waste for which a regional board has notified DTSC.
3. A pdf of solid waste disposal sites identified by the SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.
4. A list of cease-and-desist orders and clean up and abatement orders.
5. A list of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action.

DTSC's EnviroStor indicated that that Project Area was not identified as a hazardous waste or substances site (DTSC 2023). The EnviroStor search identified the following two cleanup sites approximately 0.70 mile west of the Project Area:

- Jefferson Elementary School
    - Location: Avenue 39/Jefferson Street, Indio, CA 92201
    - Site Type: School Investigation
    - Potential Contaminants of Concern: Arsenic, DDT

    - Potential Media Affected: Soil
    - Cleanup Status: No Further Action as of 2/11/2004
- Avenue 39 High School
    - Location: Jefferson Street/Avenue 39, Indio, CA 92201
    - Site Type: School Investigation
    - Potential Contaminants of Concern: Chlordane, DDD, DDE, DDT
    - Potential Media Affected: Soil
    - Cleanup Status: No Further Action as of 6/19/2002

GeoTracker did not identify the Project Area as a location for an underground storage tank for which an unauthorized release report was filed, a cleanup site, or a solid waste disposal facility from which there is a mitigation of hazardous waste for which a regional board has notified DTSC (SWRCB 2023). The GeoTracker search identified the following four LUST Cleanup Sites approximately 1 mile east of the Project Area:

- Massey Sand & Rock
    - Location: 38155 Monroe Street, Indio, CA 92201
    - Site Type: LUST Cleanup Site
    - Potential Contaminants of Concern: Gasoline
    - Potential Media Affected: Soil
    - Cleanup Status: Completed – Case Closed as of 8/25/1992
- Tarmac California
    - Location: 38155 Monroe Street, Indio, CA 92201
    - Site Type: LUST Cleanup Site
    - Potential Contaminants of Concern: Diesel
    - Potential Media Affected: Soil
    - Cleanup Status: Completed – Case Closed as of 11/8/1995
- Granite Construction Company
    - Location: 38000 Monroe Street, Indio, CA 92203
    - Site Type: LUST Cleanup Site
    - Potential Contaminants of Concern: Diesel, Gasoline
    - Potential Media Affected: Soil
    - Cleanup Status: Completed – Case Closed as of 12/24/2003
- Granite Construction Company
    - Location: 38155 Monroe Street, Indio, CA 92203
    - Site Type: LUST Cleanup Site
    - Potential Contaminants of Concern: Diesel
    - Potential Media Affected: Soil
    - Cleanup Status: Completed – Case Closed as of 7/22/2010

A list of solid waste disposal sites with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit was also checked. No records were listed. The list of cease-and-desist orders and clean

up and abatement orders did not include the Project Area location. The list of hazardous facilities subject to corrective action do not include the Project Area location.

As the Proposed Project is not listed on one of the five websites provided to fulfill the Cortese List, the Proposed Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impact would occur and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Bermuda Dunes Airport is a privately-owned, public-use general aviation airport located along the central, western edge of the City, approximately 1.7 mile southwest of the Project Area. As a privately owned facility, no master plan has been prepared for Bermuda Dunes Airport. The Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) identifies the Airport Influence Area for Bermuda Dunes Airport. The Project Area is located within Airport Compatibility Zone E (Other Airport Environs). In Zone E there is no limit for maximum densities, hazards to flights are prohibited, and an airspace review is required for objects taller than 100 feet (Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission 2004). The Proposed Project would comply with the ALUCP and would not include structures that pose a hazard to flights or for people residing or working in the Project Area. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Riverside County East County Operations Center is located at 82695 Dr. Carreon Boulevard and is the facility where regional operations are coordinated in the event of a natural, technological, intentional human-made, or unintentional human-made disaster. Emergency evacuation information as well as urgent actions to take during disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, and floods is disseminated Riverside County community members through the County of Riverside Emergency Management Department's

(EMD) Alert RivCo alerting system. According to Riverside County's Emergency Operations Plan, the Evacuation/Reentry Unit will coordinate evacuation and reentry with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department (Riverside County 2019).

Implementation of the Proposed Project would require pipeline construction to occur within the public ROW of Jefferson Street from Young Way until its connection with Avenue 38 which may temporarily restrict vehicular traffic. Furthermore, the Proposed Project design would be submitted to and approved by the City's Fire and Police Departments prior to any construction activities to ensure there is no interference with emergency evacuation. Upon construction completion, streets affected by construction would be restored to pre-disturbance conditions. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project would involve construction within the existing public ROW and improvements to the existing CVWD WRP 7 facility, including habitable buildings. The City's General Plan area, including the Project Area, is not within a wildfire severity zone as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) (CAL FIRE 2023; City of Indio 2019a). The risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires is low. Impacts would be less than significant.

4.9.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

The analysis of hazards and hazardous materials is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.6, Hydrology and Water Quality, of that document. The analysis of hydrology and water quality is applicable to the Proposed Project which would involve an increase in impervious structures at the WRP 7 site (CVWD 2022).

The following applicable mitigation measures were adopted as part of the 2020 SMP PEIR. They are incorporated as part of the Proposed Project and have been assumed in the analysis presented in this section.

HYD-1: **Stormwater Management Facilities.** To mitigate for the alteration of existing drainage patterns that could result in erosion, siltation, flooding, polluted runoff, and/or impede or redirect flood flows, CVWD will consider surface water runoff increases from new impervious surfaces and drainage patterns during planning and design phases of each

project. Each site would include design of improved stormwater management facilities onsite to avoid offsite discharge that would exceed the capacity of the stormwater system or cause flooding. A grading and drainage plan will be included in each improvement plan set for construction. The plan will identify and implement temporary and permanent BMPs and other construction controls to ensure that increases in stormwater flows off-site are minimized.

Analysis in this section is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Proposed Project's environmental setting.

4.10.1 Environmental Setting

4.10.1.1 Regional Hydrology

The Salton Sea Transboundary Watershed encompasses the entire CVWD service area and includes the Whitewater, East Salton Sea, and Imperial sub watersheds. The southern boundary of the CVWD service area is the Salton Sea with the Chocolate Mountains on the eastern boundary, the Santa Rosa Mountains on the western boundary and the southern tip of the San Bernardino Mountains to the north. The Coachella Valley and City of Indio are part of the Whitewater River Watershed which drains the local surrounding mountains and foothills into the Salton Sea, an endorheic saline lake, and is part of the larger Colorado River Basin Region (CVWD 2022).

The City's largest water supply source is groundwater from the Whitewater River Basin. This basin has an estimated storage capacity of approximately 30 million acre-feet. Groundwater levels have been declining since the 1930s as a result of overdraft, however, in eastern Coachella Valley, groundwater levels have stabilized in recent years. Natural recharge to the groundwater basin is estimated to be approximately 50,000 acre feet per year (AFY), which is only a fraction of annual pumping (City of Indio 2019a).

4.10.1.2 Site Hydrology and Onsite Drainage

The Proposed Project is located within the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit. The main drainage course for the entire Coachella Valley region from north of Palm Springs to the Salton Sea is the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. This channel meanders through the City in a west to east direction, partially along I-10 and is maintained by CVWD. Additional existing regional drainage facilities include the East Side Dike which is located north and east of the Project Area (Albert A. Webb Associates [Webb Associates] 2019).

The Proposed Project would include pipeline replacements and extensions in the existing roadway of Jefferson Street from Young Way until its connection with Avenue 38. Drainage from these existing roads are directed to the East Side Dike and the Coachella Canal. The topography of the WRP 7 facility is comprised of natural grade and sunken earthen basins to support secondary treatment percolation. The overall plant site slopes downward from a high point on the northwest corner at an elevation of 53 feet to a low point on the southeast corner at an elevation of 47 feet. Dirt roads run along the west and south borders of WRP 7 on the undeveloped properties. Northeast of WRP 7 is an earthen dike running northwest to southeast to direct stormwater away from the facility. Stormwater generated at the facility is directed to retention basins and does not leave the boundaries of the facility (Black & Veatch 2022).

4.10.2 Hydrology and Water Quality Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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 groundwater quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

The analysis of Impact HYD-1 in the 2020 SMP PEIR concluded that impacts to water quality form erosion, sedimentation, or interference with shallow groundwater during construction of the Proposed Project would be less than significant. A detailed discussion of the regulatory setting for water quality is provided in Section 4.6, Hydrology and Water Quality, of the 2020 SMP PEIR.

The Proposed Project includes upgrades to existing underground and above-ground infrastructure and new infrastructure which would require grading activities. Construction activities could result in the release of pollutants such as sediment, construction materials, and hazardous materials to surface waters and/or groundwater. Other potential sources of pollutants would be the accidental spill or release of hazardous materials from leaking equipment, unsecured stored materials, and stockpiling and staging areas (CVWD 2022).

Grading activities during construction would result in the temporary removal of impervious surfaces, landscaping, and soil excavation to access areas to replace or construct new pipeline and other underground improvements. Areas temporarily disturbed during construction would be restored to existing or improved stabilized conditions. Site restoration activities would include re-paving and replacement of impervious surfaces, backfilling of trenches and excavations with native or new material, and replanting of landscaping or native vegetation. Temporary staging areas would also be restored once construction is completed (CVWD 2022).

WRP 7 is permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for Coachella Valley Water District, Improvement District 58 Water Reclamation Plant 7, Indio – Riverside County pursuant to Board Order R7-2022-0009 and the Proposed Project would comply with the permit. The Proposed Project would also comply with 22 CCR Section 60304. Title 22 requirements state the required treatment stages and the expected water quality at each stage necessary to produce compliant water. The Project proposes to retrofit and improve the WRP 7 tertiary treatment system; with overall treated water effluent capacity from the facility remaining the same (Black & Veatch 2022).

The discharge of waste authorized by the WDRs satisfies the conditions to be exempt from the requirements of Title 27 of the CCR because (1) the discharge is regulated by these WDRs; (2) these WDRs will ensure the discharge complies with the Basin Plan; and (3) the discharge will not include "hazardous waste." Additionally, stormwater generated at the WRP 7 facility is currently directed to retention basins

and does not leave the boundaries of the facility. No violations of water quality standards or WDRs would occur. Impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

The analysis of Impact HYD-2 in the 2020 SMP PEIR concluded that the planned conversion of some wastewater at WRP 7 to recycled water use would decrease groundwater pumping and would not negatively impact sustainable groundwater management of the subbasins (CVWD 2022).

Groundwater is a receiving water for treated effluent from WRP 7. WRP 7 discharges a small portion of treated effluent to groundwater through percolation ponds and the majority of treated effluent as recycled water to the NPW system used for landscape and golf course irrigation. Use of recycled water for irrigation instead of stored groundwater reduces groundwater pumping and would not negatively impact sustainable groundwater management of the subbasins (CVWD 2022). The proposed pipelines would be installed underground and would not impede groundwater supplies or recharge. The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to substantial depletion of groundwater supplies or interference with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. Impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 that would:					
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite;	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

i) The analysis of Impact HYD-3 in the 2020 SMP PEIR concluded that the Proposed Project includes improvements that would add impervious surfaces that could affect existing drainage patterns increasing onsite erosion and sediment transport during storm events. The new impervious surfaces would not be located within any streams or rivers so the drainage areas would not be impacted. Post-construction BMPs would reduce the potential for substantial erosion or siltation (CVWD 2022).

In compliance with the 2020 SMP PEIR's Mitigation Measure HYD-1, CVWD will consider surface runoff during planning and design phases and include a grading and drainage plan for construction to mitigate for the alteration of existing drainage patterns that could result in erosion and siltation. The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to altering the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. Impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

ii) The Proposed Project includes improvements that would add impervious surfaces that could potentially create additional flooding on- or offsite. The area of new impervious surfaces would be relatively small within each of the individual project areas. There would be some changes to site drainage patterns, surface runoff, and flood management (CVWD 2022).

In compliance with the 2020 SMP PEIR's Mitigation Measure HYD-1, CVWD will consider surface was runoff during planning and design phases and include a grading and drainage plan for construction to mitigate flooding. Additionally, stormwater generated at the WRP 7 facility is directed to retention basins onsite and does not leave the boundaries of the facility, therefore preventing onsite and offsite flooding. The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to altering the existing drainage pattern or substantially increasing the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite. Impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Less than Significant Impact.

iii) The analysis of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems in the 2020 SMP PEIR notes that CVWD recently prepared the Eastern Coachella Valley Stormwater Master Plan Project

which includes a portion of the Project Area and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel north of the Salton Sea. The Stormwater Master Plan describes planning and implementation of improvements to the stormwater infrastructure and capacity and guidelines for future development in the area for stormwater management.

Additionally, there are no stormwater discharges from the WRP 7 facility to waters of the United States because stormwater generated at the facility is directed to retention basins and does not leave the boundaries of the facility. The proposed improvements would not create runoff such that the capacity of the retention basins would be exceeded. The proposed NPW pipeline which would be located below ground would not create or contribute to runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Impacts would be less than significant.

Less than Significant Impact.

iv) The WRP 7 facility is within Zone A which is within the 100-year floodplain, and existing flood control dikes constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation are located to the north of the WRP and south of offsite percolation ponds. Planned above-ground improvements to WRP 7 within the 100-year floodplain include projects to improve secondary and tertiary treatment processes with new structures and existing facility improvements (CVWD 2022).

After construction, Project components would increase impervious surfaces, however, flood flows may be redirected around new improvements before being directed to the onsite retention basins. Implementation of the proposed pipeline would not increase impervious surfaces as it would be located underground. Impacts would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The analysis of risk of release of pollutants in the 2020 SMP PEIR concluded that improvements at WRP 7 could increase the risk of the release of untreated wastewater and/or chemicals into the environment during a flood event. Improvements constructed within the 100-year floodplain at WRP 7 could be damaged during extreme flood events which could have a significant impact to public wastewater treatment services and water quality of receiving waters (CVWD 2022).

The northwest portion of the City north of I-10 and within the Whitewater River are located within the 100-year floodplain. Some isolated areas within the northwestern and southwestern portion of the City fall within the 500-year floodplain (City of Indio 2019a). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) Number 06065C1620G, Panel 1620G shows the Project Area is within Zone A, a special flood hazard area with no Base Flood Elevations determined; Zone X, a special flood hazard area with 0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard; and Letters of Map Revision (LOMR) 11-09-1520P (FEMA 2008). A LOMR is a letter from FEMA officially revising the current National Flood Insurance Program map to show changes to flood plains, regulatory foodways, or flood elevations. FIRM Number 06065C1650G shows the portion of the Project Area south of Avenue 40 is in Zone D, Area with Flood Risk due to Levee.

The City adopted a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in 2018. The LHMP identified flooding as having an above average severity and above average probability. CVWD adopted its LHMP in 2019.

CVWD approved a regional flood project that will provide protection for northeast Indio and the surrounding area. The North Indio Regional Flood Control Project, set to be completed Summer 2024, will construct a 2.5-mile long series of concrete flood control channels and will connect with existing channels starting in Sun City Palm Desert and take flows from there through North Indio to channels in Sun City Shadow Hills and into the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. The second phase of this project includes obtaining levee accreditation from FEMA for the existing East Side Dike. The North Indio Regional Flood Control Project will protect North Indio land and homes from regional flooding, remove about 2,700 acres of North Indio land from FEMA's designated special flood hazard area, and eliminate the flood insurance requirement for area residents. The likelihood of flood hazard within the Project Area would be reduced.

The Project Area is more than 75 miles from the Pacific Ocean and is outside a tsunami inundation zone. Seiches are waves that oscillate in enclosed water bodies, such as reservoirs, lakes, and ponds, or semi-enclosed bodies of water. Seiches may be triggered by moderate or large submarine earthquakes or sometimes by large onshore earthquakes. Inundation from a seiche can occur if the wave overflows a containment of an artificial body of water. According to the City's General Plan Safety Chapter, the City is not within an inundation zone in the event of a dam or levee failure and is not at risk for tsunami or seiche (City of Indio 2019a). Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As described in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the existing CVWD facility is permitted by the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in accordance with the Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Plan. The Proposed Project improvements would comply with the RWQCB Goals and Management Principles for implementation of the Water Quality Control Plan for the basin as stated below:

- Encourage reclamation of wastewaters, wherever feasible, in order to preserve freshwater supplies to protect water quality to the maximum extent possible
- Waste collection, treatment, discharge systems in addition to their primary function, shall also be oriented towards optimization of the quality of state waters and the reclamation of wastewaters for beneficial use
- Source control and pretreatment of wastes will be required wherever necessary to minimize degradation of water quality
- Evaporative loss of reclaimable wastewater is to be minimized

The increase in recycled water supplied by WRP 7 for irrigation use from the Proposed Project improvements would help meet the objectives of the sustainable groundwater management plans by reducing reliance on pumped groundwater for golf course irrigation and other irrigation users. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no impact to implementation of a water quality control plan nor sustainable groundwater management plan, consistent with the findings of the 2020 SMP PEIR.

4.10.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.11 Land Use and Planning

The analysis of land use and planning is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.7, Land Use, Planning, and Agriculture, of that document. Relevant elements of the Proposed Project related to land use and planning include improvements to existing CVWD facilities, construction of a new NPW pipeline, and operation and maintenance improvements (CVWD 2022).

4.11.1 Environmental Setting

The City of Indio has an urban pattern that includes established residential areas and commercial corridors in the historic part of the City, and suburban housing and commercial uses along the edge of the City. The City's planning area is composed of various land uses including vacant land (52 percent), residential uses (12 percent), transportation/communication/utility (13 percent), agricultural uses (8 percent), open space/recreation/horse facilities (5 percent), and other uses (10 percent) (City of Indio 2019a).

The City includes 14 subareas, of which the Project Area is located in the Northwest Indio subarea. The Northwest Indio subarea includes a mix of older rural neighborhood development, newer suburban neighborhood development, agricultural uses, and undeveloped open space. It is bounded on the west by golf course development within unincorporated Riverside County, on portions of the south and east sides by suburban residential development within Indio, and the northerly portion of the area is bounded by undeveloped desert to the east, north, and west (City of Indio 2019a).

4.11.2 Land Use and Planning Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As described in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Master Plan includes improvements to existing WRPs and lift stations; rehabilitation of existing sewer pipelines; construction of new sewer pipelines and lift stations; and operation and maintenance improvements. New sewer pipelines would primarily be located within the existing right-of-way of existing roadways. There are locations where sewer pipelines would need to traverse open land; however, sewer pipelines would be located underground which would not divide an established community (CVWD 2022).

The Proposed Project would improve existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station in order to reduce the usage of NPW from the Coachella Canal by generation of more RW which would benefit NPW/RW users in the WRP 7 service area. The proposed NPW pipeline would be located underground. Due to the nature of the Proposed Project, it would not physically divide an established community. Consistent with the findings of the 2020 SMP PEIR, no impact would occur. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The analysis of land use impacts in the 2020 SMP PEIR concluded that the proposed infrastructure improvements would support existing and future land uses in the Project Area. Improvements to existing facilities would continue the current use of each facility and as such, these improvements would be compatible and not conflict with land use plans, policies, or regulations. The Master Plan also includes the construction and operation of new sewer pipelines and lift stations. New sewer pipelines would primarily be located within the existing ROW of existing roadways. There are locations where sewer pipelines would need to traverse open land; however, sewer pipelines would be located underground. Infrastructure uses, such as sewer pipelines, are generally an allowed use in land use designations as these facilities provide support for other land uses (CVWD 2022).

The land use designation and zoning designation for the Project Area is Public and Institutional. The Project is compatible with acceptable uses. The Project aligns with the City's goals as described in the General Plan:

- Goal CE-2: Water Conservation
    - Policy CE-2.7 Reclaimed and recycled water use. Work with the CVWD, Valley Sanitation District (VSD), and the Indio Water Authority (IWA) to use reclaimed and recycled water.
- Goal IE-1: Surface and Subsurface Water
    - Policy IE-1.1 Water supply. Work with CVWD and IWA to ensure an adequate supply of domestic water facilities to sustain existing and projected water needs.
- Goal IE-3: Wastewater Collection
    - Police IE-3.1 Agency coordination. Work with VSD, CVWD, and IWA to ensure reasonable and adequate wastewater capacity is available to serve current and future demand and pursue opportunities to utilize reclaimed and recycled water.

The Proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable land use plans or policies and no impact would occur.

4.11.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.12 Mineral Resources

The analysis of mineral resources is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR found that the installation of sanitation infrastructure would not involve areas in the region mined for mineral resources or areas with known classified land containing regionally significant mineral resources, as mandated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). For these reasons, no further analysis was conducted for mineral resources (CVWD 2022).

Analysis in this section is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Minerals are defined as any naturally occurring chemical elements or compounds formed by inorganic processes and organic substances. Minable minerals are defined as a deposit of ore or minerals having a value materially in excess of the cost of developing, mining, and processing the mineral and reclaiming the project area. The conservation, extraction, and processing of mineral resources is essential to meeting the needs of society.

Under SMARA, cities and counties shall adopt ordinances "...that establish procedures for the review and approval of reclamation plans and financial assurances and the issuance of a permit to conduct surface mining operations..." (PRC Section 2774). The intent of this legislation is to ensure the prevention or mitigation of the adverse environmental impacts of mining, the reclamation of mined lands, and the production and conservation of mineral resources are consistent with recreation, watershed, wildlife, and public safety objectives (PRC Section 2712).

SMARA requires the State Geologist to classify land into Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) according to the known or inferred mineral potential of that land. The process is based solely on geology, without regard to existing land use or land ownership. The primary goal of mineral land classification is to ensure that the mineral potential of land is recognized by local government decision makers and considered before land use decisions, which could preclude mining, are made.

The State Mining and Geology Board has defined the following MRZs for Indio, which describe mineral resources deposit areas (City of Indio 2019a):

- MRZ-1: Areas where available geologic information indicates that little likelihood exists for the presence of significant mineral resources.
- MRZ-2a: Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data indicate that significant measured or indicated resources are present. Contains known economic mineral deposits.
- MRZ-2b: Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information indicates that significant inferred resources are present.
- MRZ-3: Areas containing known or inferred mineral occurrences of undetermined mineral resource significance.
- MRZ-4: Areas where available information is inadequate for assignment to any other MRZ.

According to the City's General Plan Conservation Element, MRZs in the City include MRZ-1 and MRZ-2a while the sphere of influence also includes MRZ-2b and MRZ-3. The City's important mineral resources include sand, gravel, and termed aggregate. The Indio Quarry/Indio Hills Fan, located within the City's Sphere of Influence, is an existing permitted sand and gravel operation. Its resource area consists of a moderate-sized deposit that is located within 750 acres of an alluvial fan adjacent to and immediately south of Indio Hills (City of Indio 2019a). The Project Area is located in MRZ-1 and no mining operations currently occur in the Project Area.

4.12.2 Mineral Resources Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Area is within MRZ-1. The Project Area is not located within an area likely to be underlain by locally or regionally important mineral resources. Additionally, the Proposed Project would be located on a developed parcel and does not include mineral resource extraction, therefore the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or residents of the State. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project Area is within MRZ-1, in which there is little likelihood for the presence of significant mineral resources (City of Indio 2019a). There are no identified locally or regionally important mineral resources within the Project Area. The Proposed Project would not impact any areas of known mineral resources. No impact would occur.

4.12.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.13 Noise

The analysis of land use and planning is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 4.8, Noise, of that document.

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

Noise is generally defined as sound that is loud, disagreeable, or unexpected. The selection of a proper noise descriptor for a specific source is dependent on the spatial and temporal distribution, duration, and fluctuation of the noise. The noise descriptors most often encountered when dealing with traffic, community, and environmental noise include the average hourly noise level (in L_{eq}) and the average daily noise levels/community noise equivalent level (in L_{dn}/CNEL). The L_{eq} is a measure of ambient noise, while the L_{dn} and CNEL are measures of community noise. Each is applicable to this analysis and defined as follows:

- **Equivalent Noise Level (L_{eq})** is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this rating scale does not vary, regardless of whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.
- **Day-Night Average (L_{dn})** is a 24-hour average L_{eq} with a 10-dBA "weighting" added to noise during the hours of 10:00 pm to 7:00 am to account for noise sensitivity in the nighttime. The logarithmic effect of these additions is that a 60 dBA 24-hour L_{eq} would result in a measurement of 66.4 dBA L_{dn}.
- **Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)** is a 24-hour average L_{eq} with a 5-dBA weighting during the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm and a 10-dBA weighting added to noise during the hours of 10:00 pm to 7:00 am to account for noise sensitivity in the evening and nighttime, respectively.

Noise can be generated by a number of sources, including mobile sources, such as automobiles, trucks and airplanes, and stationary sources, such as construction sites, machinery, and industrial operations.

Sound spreads (propagates) uniformly outward in a spherical pattern, and the sound level decreases (attenuates) at a rate of approximately 6 dB for each doubling of distance from a stationary or point source. Sound from a line source, such as a highway, propagates outward in a cylindrical pattern (cylindrical spreading). Sound levels attenuate at a rate of approximately 3 dB for each doubling of distance from a line source, such as a roadway, depending on ground surface characteristics (Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] 2011). Soft surfaces, such as soft dirt or grass, can absorb sound, so an excess ground-attenuation value of 1.5 dB per doubling of distance is normally assumed (FHWA 2011).

The manner in which older structures in California were constructed generally provides a reduction of exterior-to-interior noise levels of about 20 to 25 dBA with closed windows (Caltrans 2002). The exterior-to-interior reduction of newer structures is generally 30 dBA or more (Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. 2006).

4.13.1.1 Human Response to Noise

The human response to environmental noise is subjective and varies considerably from individual to individual. Noise in the community has often been cited as a health problem, not in terms of actual

physiological damage, such as hearing impairment, but in terms of inhibiting general well-being and contributing to undue stress and annoyance. The health effects of noise in the community arise from interference with human activities, including sleep, speech, recreation, and tasks that demand concentration or coordination. Hearing loss can occur at the highest noise intensity levels.

Noise environments and consequences of human activities are usually well represented by median noise levels during the day or night or over a 24-hour period. Environmental noise levels are generally considered low when the CNEL is below 60 dBA, moderate in the 60- to 70-dBA range, and high, above 70 dBA. Examples of low daytime levels are isolated, natural settings with noise levels as low as 20 dBA and quiet, suburban, residential streets with noise levels around 40 dBA. Noise levels above 45 dBA at night can disrupt sleep. Examples of moderate-level noise environments are urban residential or semi-commercial areas (typically 55 to 60 dBA) and commercial locations (typically 60 dBA). People may consider louder environments adverse, but most will accept the higher levels associated with noisier urban residential or residential-commercial areas (60 to 75 dBA) or dense urban or industrial areas (65 to 80 dBA). Regarding increases in dBA, the following relationships should be noted in understanding this analysis:

- Except in carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a change of 1.0 dBA cannot be perceived by humans.
- Outside of the laboratory, a 3.0-dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference.
- A change in level of at least 5.0 dBA is required before any noticeable change in community response would be expected. An increase of 5.0 dBA is typically considered substantial.
- A 10.0-dBA change is subjectively heard as an approximate doubling in loudness and would almost certainly cause an adverse change in community response.

4.13.1.2 Noise Sensitive Land Uses

Noise-sensitive land uses are generally considered to include those uses where noise exposure could result in health-related risks to individuals, as well as places where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. Residential dwellings are of primary concern because of the potential for increased and prolonged exposure of individuals to both interior and exterior noise levels. Additional land uses such as hospitals, historic sites, cemeteries, and certain recreation areas are considered sensitive to increases in exterior noise levels. Schools, churches, hotels, libraries, and other places where low interior noise levels are essential are also considered noise-sensitive land uses.

The Proposed Project would be located on several different sites within the City. The nearest sensitive receptor to the Water Treatment Plant Project Area is a single-family residence located 127 feet to the to the north of the Project boundary, fronting Avenue 38. The nearest sensitive receptor to the MP 113.2 Pump Station is a single-family residence located 353 feet to the northwest, fronting Avenida Vidrio. The nearest sensitive receptors to the area where approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline is proposed to be installed are single family residences approximately 52 feet to the west, located on Jefferson Street.

4.13.1.3 Vibration Fundamentals

Ground vibration can be measured in several ways to quantify the amplitude of vibration produced, including through peak particle velocity (PPV) or root mean square velocity. These velocity measurements measure maximum particle velocity at one point or the average of the squared amplitude of the signal, respectively.

Vibration impacts on people can be described as the level of annoyance and can vary depending on an individual's sensitivity. Generally, low-level vibrations may cause window rattling but do not pose any threats to the integrity of buildings or structures.

4.13.1.4 Existing Ambient Noise Environment

The most common and significant source of noise in the City of Indio is mobile noise generated by transportation-related sources, such as roadways, rail, and Bermuda Dunes Airport. Other sources of noise in Indio are the Music Festival and special events that occur in Indio's festival district. Additionally, the City experiences noise generated by various land uses (i.e., industrial facilities, agricultural uses, residential and commercial). More specifically, the noise environment in the Proposed Project Area is impacted by transportation, commercial, and residential noise sources. One of the Proposed Project's locations, where the upgrades of MP 113.2 Pump Station are proposed, is approximately 1.1 miles from Interstate Highway 10 (I-10), a substantial source of noise in the area.

4.13.2 Noise Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction Noise Analysis

Onsite Construction Noise

Construction noise associated with the Proposed Project would be temporary and would vary depending on the specific nature of the activities being performed. Noise generated would primarily be associated with the operation of off-road equipment for onsite construction activities as well as construction vehicle traffic on area roadways. Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction (e.g., site preparation, excavation, paving). Noise generated by

construction equipment, including earth movers, pile drivers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower power settings. Other primary sources of acoustical disturbance would be random incidents, which would last less than one minute (such as dropping large pieces of equipment or the hydraulic movement of machinery lifts). During construction, exterior noise levels could negatively affect sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the construction site.

The City's Municipal Code Section 95C.08 prohibits construction noise between the hours 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays and government holidays. The City does not promulgate a numeric threshold pertaining to the noise associated with construction. This is due to the fact that construction noise is temporary, short term, intermittent in nature, and would cease on completion of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would be required to adhere to City Municipal Code Section 95C.08.

To estimate the worst-case onsite construction noise levels that may occur at the nearest noise-sensitive receptors and in order to evaluate the potential health-related effects (i.e., physical damage to the ear, phycological effects) from construction noise, the construction equipment noise levels were calculated using the Federal Highway Administration's Roadway Noise Construction Model and compared against the construction-related noise level threshold established in the Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Noise Exposure prepared in 1998 by National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). A division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, NIOSH identifies a noise level threshold based on the duration of exposure to the source. The NIOSH construction-related noise level threshold starts at 85 dBA for more than 8 hours per day; for every 3-dBA increase, the exposure time is cut in half. This reduction results in noise level thresholds of 88 dBA for more than 4 hours per day, 92 dBA for more than 1 hour per day, 96 dBA for more than 30 minutes per day, and up to 100 dBA for more than 15 minutes per day. For the purposes of this analysis, the lowest, more conservative threshold of 85 dBA L_{eq} is used as an acceptable threshold for construction noise at the nearby sensitive receptors. There are several close sensitive receptors to the various areas where construction will occur. The nearest sensitive receptor to the WRP 7 Project Area is a single-family residence located 127 feet to the to the north of the Project boundary, fronting Avenue 38. The nearest sensitive receptor to the MP 113.2 Pump Station is a single-family residence located 353 feet to the northwest, fronting Avenida Vidrio. The nearest sensitive receptors to the area where approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline is proposed to be installed are single-family residences located approximately 52 feet to the west, located on Jefferson Street. The anticipated short-term construction noise levels generated for the necessary equipment is presented in Table 4.13-1.

Table 4.13-1. Construction Average (dBA) Noise Levels at Nearest Receptor

Construction Phase	Estimated Exterior Construction Noise Level @ Closest Receptors (dBA L_{eq})	Construction Noise Standard (dBA L_{eq})	Exceeds Standards?
NPW Pipeline			
Grubbing and Land Clearing	81.3	*85*	**No**
Grading, Excavation, and Pipeline Installation	83.5	*85*	**No**
Paving	82.8	*85*	**No**
MP 113.2 Pump			
Site Preparation	67.6	*85*	**No**
Grading	68.9	*85*	**No**
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting	71.3	*85*	**No**
WRP Facility			
Site Preparation	76.5	*85*	**No**
Grading	77.8	*85*	**No**
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting	80.2	*85*	**No**

Source: Construction noise levels were calculated by ECORP Consulting using the FHWA Roadway Noise Construction Model (FHWA 2006). Refer to Appendix E for Model Data Outputs.

Notes: Construction equipment used during construction provided using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), version 2022.1. CalEEMod is designed to calculate air pollutant emissions from construction activity and contains default construction equipment and usage parameters for typical construction projects based on several construction surveys conducted in order to identify such parameters.

L_{eq} = The equivalent energy noise level, is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time. Thus, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this rating scale does not vary, regardless of whether the noise occurs during the day or the night.

As shown in Table 4.13-1, construction activities would not exceed the NIOSH established noise standards. It is noted that construction noise was modeled on a worst-case basis. It is very unlikely that all pieces of construction equipment would be operating at the same time. This is a less than significant impact.

Offsite Construction Worker Trips

Project construction would result in additional traffic on adjacent roadways over the period that construction occurs. According to CalEEMod, which is designed to model emissions for land use development projects, based on typical construction requirements. CalEEMod generates the construction

assumptions, including construction equipment duration and the number of construction-related automotive trips. The maximum number of Project construction trips traveling to and from the Project Area during a single construction phase would not be expected to be 10 daily trips in total. According to Caltrans Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol (2013), a doubling of traffic on a roadway is required to result in an increase of 3 dB (outside of the laboratory, a 3-dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference). The various parts of the Project Area are accessible from Avenue 38, Madison Street, Avenue 40, and Jefferson Street. According to the City's General Plan Mobility Element, Avenue 38, Jefferson Street, and Madison Street are classified as 2-Lane Collector with Median Roadways. Avenue 40 is classified as a 4-Lane Boulevard with Median. These two classifications of roadways serve to connect major areas within the City, and can accommodate medium volumes of vehicular traffic, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian walkways. Furthermore, according to the City's General Plan Noise Element, Avenue 38 and Avenue 40 already experience noise levels of approximately 65 to 70 dBA with portions of the roadways experiencing more than 70 dBA. Additionally, Jefferson Street and Madison Street experience noise levels of approximately 65 to 70 dBA. As such, the roadways are experiencing enough traffic on the roadways to experience noise levels above 65 dBA. Thus, the 10 daily trips generated during Project construction would not result in a doubling of traffic, and therefore its contribution to existing traffic noise would not be perceptible. Additionally, it is noted that construction is temporary, and these trips would cease upon completion of the Project. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

Operational Noise Analysis

Noise-sensitive land uses are locations where people reside or where the presence of unwanted sound could adversely affect the use of the land. Residences, schools, hospitals, guest lodging, libraries, and some passive recreation areas would each be considered noise-sensitive and may warrant unique measures for protection from intruding noise. There are several close sensitive receptors to the various areas where construction will occur. The nearest sensitive receptor to the WRP 7 Project Area is a single-family residence located 127 feet to the to the north of the Project boundary, fronting Avenue 38. The nearest sensitive receptor to the MP 113.2 Pump Station is a single-family residence located 353 feet to the northwest, fronting Avenida Vidrio. The nearest sensitive receptors to the area where approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline is proposed to be installed are single family residences located approximately 52 feet to the west, located on Jefferson Street.

Operational Traffic Noise

The Project proposes to make improvements to the existing CVWD WRP and associated facilities. The upgrades to the systems and installation of the linear pipeline would not result in an increase in operational daily traffic trips to the CVWD facilities. The existing operations of the CVWD would continue after the Proposed Project's construction is completed at the same level of intensity. As such, there would be no increase in traffic trips that would result in an increase in ambient noise levels at sensitive receptors close to the Project Area's locations. This impact is less than significant.

Onsite Operational Noise

As previously mentioned, the Proposed Project aims to upgrade the existing CVWD wastewater treatment plant facilities and construct a 2,500 linear foot pipeline to expand water distribution. The operations of the Proposed Project would not increase any perceivable noise producing activities that would take place in the surrounding areas of the various sites associated with the Project. The upgrades made to the CVWD facilities are not expected to be a significant source of noise that would impact the nearby sensitive noise receptors. As such, operational noise produced as a result of the Proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction Vibrational Analysis

Excessive groundborne vibration impacts result from continuously occurring vibration levels. Increases in groundborne vibration levels attributable to the Proposed Project would be primarily associated with short-term construction-related activities. Construction in the Project Area would have the potential to result in varying degrees of temporary groundborne vibration, depending on the specific construction equipment used and the operations involved. Ground vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in magnitude with increases in distance.

Construction-related ground vibration is normally associated with impact equipment such as pile drivers, jackhammers, and the operation of some heavy-duty construction equipment, such as dozers and trucks. It is not anticipated that pile drivers or jackhammers would be necessary during Project construction. Vibration decreases rapidly with distance, and it is acknowledged that construction activities would occur throughout the Project Area and would not be concentrated at the point closest to sensitive receptors. Groundborne vibration levels associated with construction equipment are summarized in Table 4.13-2.

Table 4.13-2. Representative Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment Type	PPV at 25 Feet (inches per second)
Large Bulldozer	0.089
Pile Driver	0.170
Loaded Trucks	0.076
Hoe Ram	0.089

Table 4.13-2. Representative Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment	
Equipment Type	**PPV at 25 Feet (inches per second)**
Jackhammer	0.035
Small Bulldozer/Tractor	0.003
Vibratory Roller	0.210

Source: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 2018; Caltrans 2020
Notes: PPV = peak particle velocity

The City does not regulate vibrations associated with construction. However, a discussion of construction vibration is included for full disclosure. For comparison purposes, the Caltrans (2020b) recommended standard of 0.3 inches per second PPV with respect to the prevention of structural damage for commercial buildings is used as a threshold. As identified in Table 4.13-2 above, this level of ground vibration equates to the range of human perception and is unlikely to cause damage to any type of building.

The nearest structure of concern to the various construction sites, with regard to groundborne vibrations, is a single-family residence, located approximately 52 feet east of Jefferson Road, where the proposed pipeline of the Proposed Project would be installed. All other sensitive receptors would be further away from the construction sites and would experience vibrations levels less than the values shown below in Table 4.13-3.

Based on the representative vibration levels presented for various construction equipment types in Table 4.13-2 and the construction vibration assessment methodology published by the FTA (2018), it is possible to estimate the potential Project construction vibration levels. The FTA provides the following equation:

$$[PPV_{equip} = PPV_{ref} \times (25/D)^{1.5}]$$

Table 4.13-3 presents the expected Proposed Project related vibration levels at a distance of 52 feet.

Table 4.13-3 Construction Vibration Levels at 52 Feet							
Receiver PPV Levels (in/sec)[1]					Peak Vibration	Threshold	Exceed Threshold?
Large Bulldozer, Caisson Drilling, & Hoe Ram	Loaded Trucks	Jackhammer	Pile Driver	Vibratory Roller			
0.030	0.025	0.012	0.057	0.070	**0.070**	*0.3*	**No**

Notes: [1]Based on the Vibration Source Levels of Construction Equipment included on Table 4.13-2 (FTA 2018). Distance to the nearest structure of concern to any of the various Project locations is approximately 52 feet measured from where construction will occur.

As shown in Table 4.13-3, vibration as a result of onsite construction activities in the Project Area would not exceed 0.3 PPV at the nearest structure. Thus, onsite Project construction would not exceed the recommended threshold. Because of these reasons, this impact is less than significant.

Operational Vibration Analysis

Project operations would not include the use of any stationary equipment that would result in excessive vibration levels. While the Proposed Project may accommodate heavy-duty trucks, these vehicles can only generate groundborne vibration velocity levels of 0.006 PPV at 50 feet under typical circumstances. Therefore, the Proposed Project would result in negligible groundborne vibration impacts during operations. This impact is less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The nearest airport to the Project Area is the Bermuda Dunes Airport located approximately 1.48 miles to the southwest of the closest portion of the Project Areas. According to the City's General Plan Noise Element, the Project Area is not within any of the noise contours from the airport. Therefore, the implementation of

the Proposed Project would not affect airport operations, nor result in increased exposure of those in the Project Area to aircraft noise.

4.13.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.14 Population and Housing

The analysis of population and housing is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR states the Master Plan would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and not in itself induce population growth; in addition, the proposed sewer infrastructure improvements are designed to meet sewer capacity demand but would not in themselves create the demand. For these reasons, the evaluation of population and housing was not carried forward for further analysis in the PEIR (CVWD 2022).

Analysis for population and housing is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

The City of Indio is the largest city in the Coachella Valley. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Indio has a population of 89,137. The City has 34,458 households with 2.54 persons per household (U.S. Census Bureau 2023). Indio is expected to reach a population of approximately 123,000 by 2040 and have 38,203 households with 3.14 persons per household. In addition to permanent residents, thousands of people reside in the City during the winter months and festivals (City of Indio 2019a).

4.14.2 Population and Housing Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned 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)?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

Section 2.4 of the 2020 SMP PEIR determined that growth in the CVWD service area is projected in the local General Plans and the Master Plan projects would not in themselves induce population growth. The Project does not propose to construct new housing or businesses. The new sanitation infrastructure would accommodate current and planned development and would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. Construction of the Proposed Project would use the local labor force and operation of the Project

would be conducted by existing CVWD staff. The Proposed Project would have no impact related to inducing substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project does not include the removal or disturbance of existing housing; therefore, it would not displace people or housing. No impact would occur.

4.14.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.15 Public Services

The analysis of public services is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR states that further analysis of public services was not carried forward because the Master Plan would not result in population growth increasing the need for additional public services. Impacts were found not to be significant (CVWD 2022).

Analysis for public services is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.15.1 Environmental Setting

4.15.1.1 Police Services

Police Services in the City of Indio are provided by the Indio Police Department. With a staff of approximately 80 employees, the Police Department is composed of the Field Services Division and the Support Services Division. The Field Services Division is responsible for controlling crime and public safety issues throughout Indio, investigating traffic collisions, enforcing traffic violations, participating in community outreach efforts, operating the K-9 Teams, Code Enforcement, and the School Resource Officer program. The support Services Division is responsible for supporting the Department's policing activities and initiatives. The Division consists of Police Investigations, the Communications Unit, Information Technology, and Property and Evidence Unit (City of Indio 2019a). The Indio Police Department is located at 46800 Jackson Street, approximately 4.7 miles southeast of the Project Area.

4.15.1.2 Fire Services

The Indio Fire Department provides fire and emergency medical services to the City. A full range of fire services are provided as part of the regional fire protection system through a cooperative agreement with the Riverside County Fire Department. Advanced life support services are provided with City Fire Ambulances staffed with two paramedic firefighters, four paramedic assessment engines and one paramedic truck. The Fire Department has 56 full-time staff and services are delivered from four stations located throughout the City (City of Indio 2019a). Indio Station #4, located at 81-025 Avenue 40, is located approximately 0.80 miles south of the Project Area.

4.15.1.3 Schools

The City of Indio is located within the Desert Sands Unified School District (DSUSD) and the Coachella Valley Unified School District. The City includes 20 schools, College of the Desert, and California Desert Trial Academy College of Law (City of Indio 2019a). The Project Area is served by DSUSD. DSUSD primarily serves five communities in the central Coachella Valley including Bermuda Dunes, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, and Palm Desert. 26,300 students attend 34 schools in the district including traditional high schools, alternative high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, and 16 preschools (DSUSD 2023).

Shadow Hills High School and Desert Ridge Academy Middle School are the nearest schools to the Project Area, located approximately 0.64 miles southwest and 0.84 miles southwest respectively.

4.15.1.4 Parks

The City provides 1.2 acres of City-owned parkland per 1,000 residents, excluding resort open spaces such as golf courses. The City maintains 16 existing parks totaling 107 acres (City of Indio 2019a). Burr Park, which contains basketball courts and playground equipment, is located approximately 2.22 miles south of the Project Area.

4.15.1.5 Other Public Facilities

The County of Riverside manages the Library System Indio Branch (City of Indio 2019a).

4.15.2 Public Services Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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:					
Fire Protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Police Protection?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Schools?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Parks?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Other Public Facilities?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

4.15.2.1 Fire Protection

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Master Plan would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and would not result in population growth which would increase the need for additional public services (CVWD 2022). The Proposed Project would not change existing demand for fire protection because no increase in population growth or employment would occur from the improvements to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and existing canal pump station. The Proposed Project would have no impact on fire protection. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

4.15.2.2 Police Services

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Master Plan would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and would not result in population growth which would increase the need for additional public services (CVWD 2022). The Proposed Project would not change existing demand for police services because no increase in population growth or employment would occur from the

improvements to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and existing canal pump station. The Proposed Project would have no impact on police services. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

4.15.2.3 Schools

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Master Plan would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and would not result in population growth which would increase the need for additional public services (CVWD 2022). The Proposed Project would not change existing demand for school facilities because no increase in population growth or employment would occur from the improvements to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and existing canal pump station. The Proposed Project would have no impact on schools. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

4.15.2.4 Parks

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Master Plan would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and would not result in population growth which would increase the need for additional public services (CVWD 2022). The Proposed Project would not change existing demand for parks because no increase in population growth or employment would occur from the improvements to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and existing canal pump station. The Proposed Project would have no impact on parks. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

4.15.2.5 Other Public Facilities

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Master Plan would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and would not result in population growth which would increase the need for additional public services (CVWD 2022). No other facilities would be affected by the improvements to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and existing canal pump station. The Proposed Project would have no impact on other public facilities. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

4.15.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.16 Recreation

The analysis of recreation is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR states no increase in the need for recreational resources would occur as a result of the Master Plan as it would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and would not in itself induce population growth. Recreation impacts were found not to be significant (CVWD 2022).

Analysis for recreation is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.16.1 Environmental Setting

The City provides 1.2 acres of City-owned parkland per 1,000 residents, excluding resort open spaces such as golf courses. The City maintains 16 existing parks totaling 107 acres. Existing pedestrian hiking trails are located generally northeast of Golf Center Parkway, as well as along Avenue 38 adjacent to the Talavera/Andreas Ranch development. In addition to these parks, the Desert Recreation District operates the Indio Community Center, gymnasium, and park located at Avenue 46 and Clinton Street (City of Indio 2019a).

Additional opportunities to increase parkland include negotiating joint-use agreements with the school districts to ensure school recreational facilities are open to the public during non-school hours, and working with utility and public service providers to allow recreational easements along utility corridors (City of Indio 2019a).

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments is currently working on the Coachella Valley Link (CV Link), a multi-modal transportation route that is intended to traverse the Coachella Valley. CV Link is a greenway serves as an integral component of Indio's recreational open space system by accommodating cyclists, pedestrians, low-speed electric, and other alternative-powered vehicles (City of Indio 2019a).

4.16.2 Recreation Materials Checklist

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐

Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR.

As identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the Master Plan would accommodate the planned growth in the CVWD service area and would not result in population growth; therefore, no increase in the need for recreational resources would occur (CVWD 2022). The Proposed Project consists of improving existing

tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station in order to reduce the usage of NPW from the Coachella Canal by generation of more RW. Routine maintenance of Project facilities would be managed by existing staff and would not result in an increase in employment. Therefore, no increase in demand or use of existing parks or recreational facilities would result from the implementation of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would have no impact on recreational resources. The Proposed Project impacts were adequately addressed in the 2020 SMP PEIR.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project would consist of upgrades to existing water infrastructure and would not affect recreational facilities. As such, the Proposed Project would not require the construction of new recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. No impact would occur.

4.16.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.17 Transportation

The analysis of transportation is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR states traffic generated during construction would be temporary and spread out over the CVWD service area over a 19-year planning horizon. There would be no increase in automobile trips to each individual Project Area because daily visits would not be required. Intermittent maintenance by CVWD staff would require a negligible number of traffic trips annually. As such, impacts to transportation and traffic were found not to be significant and not analyzed further in the PEIR (CVWD 2022).

Analysis for transportation is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.17.1 Environmental Setting

4.17.1.1 Roadway Facilities

Vehicular travel is a major mode of transportation for residents and visitors of the City. The main freeway for regional and interregional vehicular travel is I-10 which runs east-west through the City. State Route

(SR) 86 is a north-south highway that links the Coachella Valley starting in the City of Indio and continuing southward through the Imperial Valley to the City of Calexico. Highway 111 provides local access to homes and businesses while facilitating regional travel. The portion of Highway 111 in the City is classified as a 6-Lane Major Arterial from Jefferson Street and is then reduced to a 4-Lane Secondary Highway near Arabia Street for its remaining length in the City (City of Indio 2019a). The Project Area is bordered to the north by Avenue 38 and the east by Madison Street, both classified as 2-Lane Collectors with a median or center left-turn lane.

4.17.1.2 Transit Facilities

Currently, SunLine Refueled operates a variety of bus routes through the City. Route 1EV, Route 6, Route 8, and Route 10 Commuter Link include stops in the City (SunLine Transit Agency 2023). Route 8 provides the closest bus stop for the Project Area, located near Showcase Parkway and Monroe Street, approximately 2.33 miles southeast of the Project Area.

4.17.1.3 Bicycle Facilities

Bicycle facilities in the City include Class I, II, III, and IV bicycle facilities. Class I Bike Paths provide a completely separated right-of-way for exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians with crossflow minimized. Class II Bike Lanes provide a delineated right-of-way for one-way bike travel on a street or highway. Class III Bike Routes provide a shared use with pedestrians or motor vehicle traffic. Class IV Separated Bikeways provide a protected lane for one-way bike travel on a street or highway Avenue 38 along the northern boundary of the Project Area supports Class II Bike Lanes and trails and Madison Street to the east of the Project Area supports Class II Bike Lanes (City of Indio 2019a).

4.17.1.4 Pedestrian Facilities

According to the City's General Plan Mobility Element, all new neighborhoods are required to be pedestrian friendly by including features such as short blocks, wide sidewalks, shaded streets, and convenient pedestrian street crossings. Additionally, a network of transportation corridors throughout the City are planned to provide more connectivity for pedestrians and bicycles (City of Indio 2019a).

4.17.2 Transportation Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

As identified in the 2020 SMP PEIR, traffic generated during construction would be temporary. There would be no resultant increase in automobile trips because the improved facilities would not require daily visits (CVWD 2022). Short-term construction-related traffic would not conflict with the City's Transportation Element or impede the implementation of City programs supporting walking, bicycling, and use of public transportation. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) addresses the criteria for analyzing transportation impacts and establishes the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric as the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts in a CEQA document. Section 15064.3(b)(3) allows an agency to determine a project's transportation impact on a qualitative basis if a VMT methodology is unavailable, as is the case with the Proposed Project.

Section 15064.3(b)(3) is as follows:

> "Qualitative Analysis. If existing models or methods are not available to estimate the vehicle miles traveled for the particular project being considered, a lead agency may analyze the project's vehicle miles traveled qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destinations, etc. For many projects, a qualitative analysis of construction traffic may be appropriate."

The Proposed Project would result in a short-term increase in the amount of traffic on the local roadways during construction. Following completion of the Project there would be no increase in traffic beyond current conditions. As stated in the 2020 SMP PEIR, the improved facilities would not require daily visits and intermittent maintenance by CVWD staff would require a negligible number of traffic trips on an annual basis (CVWD 2022). The Proposed Project would not increase the capacity of any of the affected roadways in the area and, as such, would not lead to a measurable and substantial increase in VMT. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Project proposes improvements to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station at WRP 7, including retrofitting the existing dual media filter basins with cloth disk filters, constructing a UV system in an enclosed building, abandoning the existing chorine gas system and maintaining the chlorine contact basin, replacing aged infrastructure at canal water delivery pump station MP 113.2, and pipeline improvements in the existing roadway of Jefferson Street from Young Way until its connection with Avenue 38. The uses are compatible with the existing water reclamation facility and do not involve any hazardous geometric design features such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Construction of the Proposed Project would require construction activities to occur within the public ROW along Jefferson Street from Young Way until its connection with Avenue 38. Traffic generated during construction would be temporary and would not affect any major arterials within the City. Upon construction completion, streets affected by construction would be returned to pre-disturbance conditions. Furthermore, the Proposed Project design would be submitted to and approved by the City's Fire and Police Departments prior to any construction activities to ensure adequate emergency access is provided. No impact would occur.

4.17.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

4.18.1 Environmental Setting

4.18.1.1 Ethnography

Prior to the arrival of European Americans in the region, indigenous groups speaking more than 100 different languages and occupying a variety of ecological settings inhabited California. The uniqueness of California's indigenous groups were recognized and thus they were classified as belonging to the California culture area. California was further subdivided into four subculture areas: Northwestern, Northeastern, Southern, and Central (ECORP 2023).

Ethnographic accounts of Native Americans indicate that the Project Area lies predominantly within the original territory of the Cahuilla. The Cahuilla spoke a Takic language. The Takic group of languages is part of the Uto-Aztecan language family. The Cahuilla occupied a territory ranging from the San Bernardino Mountains in the north to the Chocolate Mountains and Borrego Springs in the south, and from the Colorado Desert in the east to Palomar Mountain in the west. They engaged in trade, marriage, shared rituals, and war with other groups of Native Americans whose territories they overlapped, primarily the Serrano and Gabrielino (ECORP 2023).

Cahuilla subsistence consisted of hunting, gathering, and fishing. Villages were often located near water sources, most commonly in canyons or near drainages on alluvial fans. Cahuilla buildings consisted of dome-shaped or rectangular houses, constructed of poles covered with brush and above-ground granaries. Other material culture included baskets, pottery, and grinding implements; stone tools, arrow shaft straighteners and bows; clothing (loincloths, blankets, rope, sandals, skirts, and diapers); and various ceremonial objects made from mineral, plant, and animal substances (ECORP 2023).

As many as 10,000 Cahuilla may have existed at the time of European contact in the eighteenth century. Circa 1900, Cahuilla lived in the settlements of La Mesa, Toro, and Martinez on the Augustin and Toro Indian Reservations east and southeast of the Project Area. As of 1974, approximately 900 people claimed Cahuilla ancestry (ECORP 2023).

There was no substantial Euro-American settlement in the Coachella Valley until the Southern Pacific Railroad completed its line from Los Angeles to Indio (then known as Indian Wells) in 1876. The railroad was completed to Yuma in 1877, linking southern California with Arizona and points east. Wells to supply water for the steam locomotives were dug at Indio, Coachella (originally named Woodspur), Thermal (originally named Kokell), and Mecca (originally named Walters). Settlement began around these wells and railroad stations, forming the nucleus of today's Coachella Valley towns (ECORP 2023).

4.18.2 Regulatory Setting

4.18.2.1 Assembly Bill 52

Effective July 1, 2015, AB 52 amended CEQA to require that: 1) a lead agency provide notice to those California Native American tribes that requested notice of projects proposed by the lead agency; and 2)

for any tribe that responded to the notice within 30 days of receipt with a request for consultation, the lead agency must consult with the tribe. Topics that may be addressed during consultation include TCRs, the potential significance of Project impacts, type of environmental document that should be prepared, and possible mitigation measures and Project alternatives.

Pursuant to AB 52, Section 21073 of the PRC defines California Native American tribes as "a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of the Statutes of 2004." This includes both federally and non-federally recognized tribes.

Section 21074(a) of the PRC defines TCRs for the purpose of CEQA as:

1. Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes (geographically defined in terms of the size and scope), sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
    a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources; and/or
    b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1; and/or
    c. 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 Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Because criteria a and b also meet the definition of a historical resource under CEQA, a TCR may also require additional consideration as a historical resource. TCRs may or may not exhibit archaeological, cultural, or physical indicators.

Recognizing that California tribes are experts in their TCRs and heritage, AB 52 requires that CEQA lead agencies provide tribes that requested notification an opportunity to consult at the commencement of the CEQA process to identify TCRs. Furthermore, because a significant effect on a TCR is considered a significant impact on the environment under CEQA, consultation is used to develop appropriate avoidance, impact minimization, and mitigation measures.

4.18.2.2 Tribal Coordination Methods

On August 2, 2023, CVWD sent project notification letters to formally initiate AB 52 consultation with the tribes listed below, in accordance with PRC Section 21080.3.1(e):

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Pacific Region

- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Southern California Agency
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Palm Springs Agency
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- Cahuilla Band of Indians
- Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians
- Ramona Band of Cahuilla
- Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
- Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

On August 7, 2023, the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians responded to the notification letter stating that they are unaware of specific cultural resources that may be affected by the Proposed Project, but would like to be notified should any cultural resources be discovered during Project development.

On August 17, 2023, the ACBCI responded to the notification letter stating the Project Area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI reservation but is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. The ACBCI Tribal Historic Preservation Office requests formal government-to-government consultation under AB 52 in addition to copies of any cultural resource documentation, cultural resources inventory, record search results, and the presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor during ground disturbing activities.

AB 52 consultation is ongoing as of the release of this Draft IS/MND (August 2023). The results of the AB 52 consultation process will be included as part of the Final IS/MND.

4.18.3 Tribal Cultural Resources Environmental Checklist and Discussion

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

i-ii) On August 2, 2023, CVWD formally initiated AB 52 consultation and notified all Tribes listed above. On August 7, 2023, the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians responded to the notification letter stating that they are unaware of specific cultural resources that may be affected by the Proposed Project, but would like to be notified should any cultural resources be discovered during Project development. On August 17, 2023, the ACBCI responded to the notification letter stating the Project Area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI reservation but is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. The ACBCI Tribal Historic Preservation Office requests formal government-to-government consultation under AB 52 in addition to copies of any cultural resource documentation, cultural resources inventory, record search

results, and the presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor during ground disturbing activities.

AB 52 consultation is ongoing as of the release of this Draft IS/MND (August 2023) and CVWD is currently awaiting response letters from any other Tribes that wish to consult. The results of the AB 52 consultation process and any proposed mitigation measures will be included as part of the Final IS/MND.

Searches of the SLF by the NAHC failed to indicate the presence of TCRs in the Project Area. If no tribal cultural resources are identified during the consultation process, a potentially significant impact to known tribal cultural resources would not occur. However, subsurface construction disturbances (e.g., excavation, grading) associated with the Proposed Project would have the potential to impact unknown tribal cultural resources. To ensure proper protection of any unknown resources, should they be encountered during project-related ground disturbance activities, Mitigation Measures CUL-PS-1 and CUL-PS-2, as described in Section 4.5 of this IS/MND would be required. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. In addition, tribal monitoring may be requested by the Tribes during AB 52 consultation.

4.18.4 Mitigation Measures

CUL-PS-1: **Archaeological and Tribal Monitoring.** Prior to the start of construction, the Project proponent shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist or tribal monitor representing a culturally affiliated tribe to monitor all ground-disturbing activities associated with undisturbed areas of the Project during construction. Monitoring is not required for placement of equipment, filling in excavations that were monitored, work conducted in previously excavated and graded soils such as WRP 7, above-ground construction activities, or redistribution of soils that were previously monitored (such as the return of stockpiles to use in backfilling). At the discretion of the lead agency, both a professional archaeologist and tribal monitor may be required to monitor ground-disturbing activities associated with known sensitive areas of the Project during construction.

The archaeologist shall meet, or work under the direct supervision of someone who meets, the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology. The archaeologist and tribal monitor shall have the authority to temporarily halt ground-disturbing or construction-related work within 100 feet of any discovery of potential historical or archaeological resources in order to implement any Project-specific mitigation measures developed to address unanticipated discoveries.

CUL-PS-2: **Post-Review Discoveries.** If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment and taking into account the opinion of the tribal monitor. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, the archaeologist shall immediately notify the lead agencies. The agencies shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines or a historic property under Section 106 NHPA, if applicable. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA or a Historic Property under Section 106; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find represents a Native American or potentially Native American resource that does not include human remains, then he or she shall further notify the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians. The agencies shall consult with the tribes on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, if the find is determined to be a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Preservation in place is the preferred treatment, if feasible. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either: 1) is not a Historical Resource under CEQA, as defined in Section 15064.5(a) of the CEQA Guidelines; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, they shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner (per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the Project (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (Section 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (Section 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a

reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

4.19 Utilities and Service Systems

The analysis of utilities and service systems is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR states construction and operation of the Master Plan projects, which are utility infrastructure projects, would not require a significant amount of new utilities to operate such facilities. As such, no further analysis of utilities and services systems was conducted (CVWD 2022).

Analysis for utilities and service systems is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.19.1 Environmental Setting

4.19.1.1 Water Service

The IWA and CVWD are responsible for providing water service to the City of Indio. IWA's service area covers approximately 38 square miles and encompasses the majority of the City and some of the unincorporated sphere of influence. The remaining northwest portion of the planning area, including the Project Area, is served by CVWD. CVWD's service area covers approximately 1,000 square miles from the San Gorgonio Pass to the Salton Sea, mostly within the Coachella Valley (City of Indio 2019a).

CVWD relies on a combination of water from groundwater, the Colorado River, State Water Project water, and recycled water. CVWD is also working on a demonstration desalination facility to treat drain water and groundwater for potable and non-potable uses (City of Indio 2019a). CVWD obtains groundwater from both the Indio and the Mission Creek Subbasins. Imported water from the Colorado River is received through the Coachella Canal, a branch of the All-American Canal. This water is used for agricultural, golf course, and landscape irrigation purposes, as well as groundwater recharge. It is not used to meet municipal demands. Water Entitlement from the State Water Project is exchanged for Colorado River Water and is received from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's Colorado River Aqueduct and is used for groundwater recharge. It is not used to meet municipal demands (Water Systems Consulting, Inc. [WSC] 2021).

4.19.1.2 Wastewater and Storm Drainage

Wastewater service is provided to the City by the VSD, which serves a majority of the City's population, and CVWD, which treats the remaining percentage of Indio's wastewater. VSD operates a wastewater treatment plant at the northeast quadrant of Van Buren Street and Enterprise Way, just southwest of I-10. This plant treats approximately 6.5 MGD of wastewater (City of Indio 2019a). CVWD operates five WRPs, two of which (WRP 7 and WRP 10) generate recycled water for irrigation of golf courses and large

landscaped areas (WSC 2021). CVWD's WRP 7 is within the Project Area, as the Project proposes upgrades to the existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station.

Regional drainage facilities are constructed, operated, and maintained by the CVWD. Local drainage facilities are maintained by the City and generally convey runoff from local streets to the regional facilities. The Whitewater River Storm Channel, which is part of the Colorado River Basin Region, is the main regional drainage facility for Indio, eventually draining into the Salton Sea. The local storm drain system consists of gutters, engineered storm drains, and channels. The majority of these existing facilities are located south of the Whitewater River Storm Channel and I-10 (City of Indio 2019a).

4.19.1.3 Solid Waste

Burrtec Waste and Recycling Services provides the collection, transport, recycling, and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste for the City (City of Indio 2019a). Collection includes solid waste, recyclable materials, green waste, organic waste, construction and demolition debris, and bulky items which are delivered to a disposal facility, material recovery facility, organics processing facility, or another approved facility pursuant to the City's 2022 Waste Hauler Contract (City of Indio 2022b).

4.19.1.4 Electricity

Electricity service within the City is provided by IID (City of Indio 2019a).

4.19.1.5 Natural Gas

The Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas services to the City (City of Indio 2019a).

4.19.2 Utilities and Service Systems Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The Proposed Project would improve existing tertiary treatment plant processes and existing canal pump station at the WRP 7 water reclamation facility to reduce the use of NPW from the Coachella Canal by generation of more RW. The Proposed Project will not impact natural gas, electric power, or telecommunication facilities. The environmental effects from constructing the proposed pipeline

improvements are described in this Initial Study. Impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

CVWD along with five other urban water suppliers collaborated on planning efforts related to water resources in the 2020 Coachella Valley Regional Urban Water Management Plan (RUWMP). According to the RUWMP, projected total gross water use by 2045 would be 164,966 acre-feet per year (AFY) and projected retail demands for water by 2045 would be 148,166 AFY. Urban water supplies during a normal year, single dry year, and multiple dry year are fully reliable (WSC 2021).

The agricultural irrigation, golf course irrigation, and groundwater recharge uses in the service area are not served from CVWD's urban water system. Non-potable uses are served by sources such as the Coachella Canal, Mid-Valley Pipeline system, tertiary-treated recycled water, or private groundwater wells. Recycled water use within the service area is projected to be 16,800 AFY by 2045 and recycled water supplies is projected to be 16,800 AFY by 2045 (WSC 2021).

The Proposed Project would improve existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station to reduce the usage of NPW from the Coachella Canal by generation of more RW. Construction of the Proposed Project would require minimal water during construction for compaction and dust control purposes. During operation, WRP 7 would continue to treat wastewater collected within CVWD's service area and provide more RW, which helps manage groundwater overdraft. No impact would occur.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Area includes WRP 7 which currently treats wastewater flows of 5 MGD. The secondary processes at the plant have 5 MGD capacity, and the tertiary processes including filtration and disinfection have a capacity of 2.5 MGD. As discussed above, the Proposed Project would improve existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station. The NPW delivery pump station would be improved from 4,600 gpm to 10,400 gpm to provide delivery of NPW to both existing and Phase II users. The Project proposes to retrofit and improve the WRP 7 tertiary treatment system; with overall treated water effluent capacity from the facility remaining the same. Impacts would be less than significant.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Less than Significant Impact.

Minimal waste would be generated by the Proposed Project during construction. During operation the Proposed Project would not generate solid waste. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

Waste generated by the Proposed Project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

4.19.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.20 Wildfire

The analysis of wildfire is tiered from the 2020 SMP PEIR and was addressed in Section 2.4, CEQA Overview, of that document. The 2020 SMP PEIR states that Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the Coachella Valley are generally located along the east-facing slopes of the Santa Rosa-San Jacinto

Mountains. The sanitation projects are sited within the Coachella Valley floor and are not in the Santa Rosa-San Jacinto Mountain hillsides, therefore wildfire impacts were found not to be significant (CVWD 2022).

Analysis for wildfire is supplemented by the following information that is specific to the Project's environmental setting.

4.20.1 Environmental Setting

The City's Planning Area is not prone to any major wildland fires due to its desert environment, which does not support large amounts of brush. Wildfire probability for the City is low with moderate severity (City of Indio 2019b). The General Plan area, including the Project Area, is not within a wildfire severity zone as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) (CAL FIRE 2023; City of Indio 2019a).

4.20.2 Wildfire Environmental Checklist and Discussion

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The 2020 SMP PEIR states that Fire Hazard Severity Zones within the Coachella Valley are generally located along the east-facing slopes of the Santa Rosa-San Jacinto Mountains. The Proposed Project is not located within or near a state responsibility area and is not classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) (CAL FIRE 2023). Implementation of the Proposed Project would require construction activities to occur within the public ROW along Jefferson Street from Young Way to its connection with Avenue 38. Construction activities, which may temporarily restrict vehicular traffic, would be required to implement adequate and appropriate measures to facilitate the passage of persons and vehicles through/around any required road closures. The Proposed Project design would be submitted to and approved by the City's Fire and Police Departments prior to any construction activities to ensure consistency with applicable fire and building code regulations, including emergency access/evacuation routes. Upon construction completion, streets affected by construction would be returned to pre-disturbance conditions. No impact would occur.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project is not located within a state responsibility area and is not classified as a VHFHSZ (CAL FIRE 2023). The City is relatively flat with undeveloped hillsides along the northern boundary. Additionally, site topography at WRP 7 is comprised of natural grade and sunken earthen basins to support secondary treatment percolation. The overall WRP 7 site slopes downward from a high point on the northwest corner at an elevation of 53 feet to a low point on the southeast corner at an elevation of 47 feet. No impact would occur.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project is not located within a state responsibility area and is not classified as a VHFHSZ (CAL FIRE 2023). The Proposed Project would improve existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station including improving pipelines within the NPW distribution system. The Proposed Project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities. No impact would occur.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

No Impact.

The Proposed Project is not located within a state responsibility area and is not classified as a VHFHSZ (CAL FIRE 2023). The City is relatively flat with undeveloped hillsides along the northern boundary. WRP 7 site topography is comprised of natural grade and sunken earthen basins to support secondary treatment percolation. The overall WRP 7 plant site slopes downward from a high point on the northwest corner at an elevation of 53 feet to a low point on the southeast corner at an elevation of 47 feet. Site grading will maintain approximate existing site elevations. Stormwater generated at the facility is directed to retention basins and does not leave the boundaries of the facility. Stormwater outside of the facility is directed away from the facility to an earthen stormwater dike running northwest to southeast on the northeast end of the WRP 7 site (Black & Veatch 2022). The Project Area is also relatively flat, therefore there is a low landslide risk. The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. No impact would occur.

4.20.3 Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

4.21.1 Mandatory Findings of Significance Environmental Checklist and Discussion

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to substantially 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

As discussed throughout this Initial Study, potentially significant impacts were identified for biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, and tribal cultural resources. The Proposed Project's impacts would be less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-5; CUL-1 through CUL-2; and HYD-1 from the 2020 SMP PEIR and Mitigation Measures BIO-PS-1 through BIO-PS-5; CUL-PS-1 and CUL-PS-2; and GEO-PS-1 from this document.

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) 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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual (and potentially less than significant) project effects that, when considered together or in concert with other projects combine to result in a significant impact within an identified geographic area. In order for a project to contribute to cumulative impacts, it must result in some level of impact on a project specific level.

As discussed throughout this Initial Study, potentially significant impacts were identified for biological resources, cultural resources, paleontological resources, and tribal cultural resources. The Proposed Project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be considerable with the incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-5; CUL-1 through CUL-2; and HYD-1 from the 2020 SMP PEIR and Mitigation Measures BIO-PS-1 through BIO-PS-5; CUL-PS-1 and CUL-PS-2; and GEO-PS-1 from this document. Furthermore, other projects would be subject to CEQA and would undergo the same level of review as the Proposed Project and include mitigation measures to minimize potentially significant impacts.

Does the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Project Impact Adequately Addressed in SMP PEIR	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.

The checklist categories of: Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Population and Housing, Tribal Cultural Resources, Noise, Transportation, and Wildfire evaluate Project impacts that may have adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. All of the Project's impacts on human beings, both direct and indirect, that are attributable to the Project were identified and mitigated where necessary. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not either directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects on human beings because all potentially adverse direct and indirect impacts of the Proposed Project are identified as having no impact, less than significant impact, or less than significant impact with mitigation. Direct and indirect impacts to human beings would be less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures listed in this Initial Study.

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5.0 COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REGULATIONS

CVWD is seeking funding for the Proposed Project under the SWRCB's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program, which is partially funded through the EPA. Because of the federal nexus with the EPA, projects seeking funding through the CWSRF Program are subject to federal laws and regulations (e.g., federal "cross-cutters"). Under the CWSRF Program, SWRCB uses a project's CEQA document along with federal cross-cutting documentation in place of a NEPA document; this document is termed a "CEQA-Plus" document. This section addresses the Project's compliance with federal laws and regulations to satisfy the CEQA-Plus requirements.

5.1 Federal Regulations Evaluation

5.1.1 Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act

The Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA) is a salvage bill that provides for the preservation of historical and archaeological materials and data that might be lost or destroyed through federally funded or licensed activities or programs (54 U.S. Code [USC] sections 312501-312508). This includes flooding, the construction of access roads, relocation of railroads and highways, or any other federally funded activity that is associated with the construction of a dam or reservoir. The AHPA authorizes federal agencies to transfer up to 1 percent of the total amount authorized for the project to the Secretary of the Interior for archeological salvage. Under this law, historical and archaeological resources do not have to be eligible, or considered eligible, in the National Register of Historic Properties for an impact to occur (NPS 2023).

Pursuant to the terms of the Programmatic Agreement on Historic Preservation for the CWSRF, the EPA requires that the State Water Board carry out the requirements of federal regulation 36 CFR Section 800.4 through 800.6, and other applicable sections of 36 CFR Part 800. The EPA retains the responsibility for compliance with AHPA requirements (SWRCB 2017).

Record search results found that 16 previous cultural resource investigations have been conducted within the Project Areas or the 0.5-mile search radius, covering approximately 55 percent of the total area surrounding the Project Areas within the records search radius. Of the 16 studies, four were conducted within the Project Areas and the other 12 were within the 0.5-mile radius. These studies revealed the presence of pre-contact sites, including lithic scatters, debitage, manos, and metates, and one historical site, the Coachella Canal.

The CHRIS records search results revealed that four previously recorded pre-contact and historic-era cultural resources are located within 0.5 mile of the Project Area. Of these, three are believed to be associated with Native American occupation of the vicinity, and one is a historic-era site associated with early European-American irrigation, known as the Coachella Canal. There are no previously recorded cultural resources within the Project Area. As a result of the field survey, one new cultural resource was identified within Project Area C: WRP-1, a segment of Jefferson Street. There always remains the potential for ground-disturbing activities to expose previously unrecorded cultural resources. Implementation of

Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2, from the 2020 SMP PEIR, and Mitigation Measure CUL-PS-1 and CUL-PS-2 would reduce impacts to cultural resources to less than significant.

5.1.2 Clean Air Act

General Conformity ensures that the actions taken by federal agencies do not interfere with a state's plans to attain and maintain national standards for air quality.

Established under the Clean Air Act (section 176(c)(4)), the General Conformity rule plays an important role in helping states improve air quality in those areas that do not meet the NAAQS. Under the General Conformity rule, federal agencies must work with state and local governments in a nonattainment or maintenance area to ensure that federal actions conform to the air quality plans established in the applicable state or tribal implementation plan (EPA 2023a). The overall purpose of the General Conformity rule is to ensure that:

- Federal activities do not cause or contribute to new violations of NAAQS;
- Actions do not worsen existing violations of the NAAQS; and
- Attainment of the NAAQS is not delayed.

Predicted annual construction-generated emissions for the Proposed Project are summarized in Table 4.3-1. Construction-generated emissions are short term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur, and would not be considered a significant air quality impact since the volume of pollutants generated does not exceed the Conformity Determination thresholds.

5.1.3 Coastal Barriers Resources Act

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 designated various undeveloped coastal barriers for inclusion in the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). The CBRA encourages the conservation of storm-prone and dynamic coastal barriers by withdrawing the availability of federal funding and financial assistance within the CBRS (USFWS 2023c).

The Proposed Project is not within the CBRS, as it is in the State of California. The CBRS encompasses areas along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico coasts but not the Pacific Coast. Therefore, the Coastal Barriers Resources Act does not apply to the Project.

5.1.4 Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) was passed by Congress to encourage coastal states to develop and implement a Coastal Zone Management Program (CZMP). The intents of CZMPs are to: protect natural resources; manage development in high hazard areas; give development priority to coastal-dependent uses; provide public access for recreation; prioritize water-dependent uses; and coordinate state and federal actions (NOAA 2023). The federal government certified the California Coastal Management Program in 1977, the enforceable policies of which are found in Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976, as amended (California Coastal Commission 2023).

The Project would be located in the City of Indio, over 75 miles east of the Pacific Coast. None of the Project's components would be located within the coastal zone, thus the CZMA does not apply to the Project.

5.1.5 Endangered Species Act, Section 7

The ESA (16 USC 1531 et seq.) and subsequent amendments establish legal requirements for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. The ESA is administered by the USFWS for terrestrial species, and by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for marine species and anadromous fish. Under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires that for actions authorized, funded, or carried out by a federal agency, that the agency shall consult with USFWS and/or NMFS to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of the endangered or threatened species (USACE 2023a).

The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard is the only federally listed Threatened and State listed Endangered reptile species that has low to moderate potential to occur in the Study Area. This is a highly specialized endemic lizard that is restricted to windblown sand deposits (dunes) on the floor of the Coachella Valley in Riverside County, California. Further, no incidental sightings of this species were made during the site assessment. However, mitigation measures discussed in Section 4.1.2 of this report would reduce the potential impacts to a less than significant level. Additionally, CVWD is a permittee included on the CVMSHCP's incidental take permit issued by USFWS in compliance with Section 7 which allows take authorization for Covered wildlife species (USFWS 2008). Therefore, the Project would not have the potential to violate the ESA.

5.1.6 Environmental Justice

In 1994, President Clinton issued the Executive Order (EO) 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," to focus federal attention on the environmental and human health effects of federal actions on minority and low-income populations with the goal of achieving environmental protection for all communities (USEPA 2022). EO 12898 directs federal agencies to:

- Identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law
- Develop a strategy for implementing environmental justice
- Promote nondiscrimination in federal programs that affect human health and the environment, as well as provide minority and low-income communities access to public information and public participation.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) oversees federal compliance with EO 12898 (CEQ 1997). According to the CEQ environmental justice guidelines, minority populations should be identified if:

- A minority population percentage either exceeds 50 percent of the population of the affected area, or
- If the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (e.g., a governing body's jurisdiction, neighborhood census tract, or other similar unit).

A project may involve an environmental justice concern if the project could create new disproportionate impacts on minority, low-income, or indigenous populations; exacerbate existing disproportionate impacts on minority, low-income, or indigenous populations; or present opportunities to address existing disproportionate impacts on minority, low-income, or indigenous populations that are addressable through the project (SWRCB 2017).

The City's 6th Cycle Housing Element (2021-2029) provides race and ethnicity characteristics and income information for the City of Indio based on the U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey. Table 5.1-1 shows Year 2019 ethnic and racial characteristics of the City's population.

Table 5.1-1. Race and Ethnicity (2019)

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent of Total
White, Non-Hispanic	26,357	29.5
Black, Non-Hispanic	2,747	3.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	156	0.2
Asian or Pacific Islander	1,915	2.1
Hispanic (Any Race)	57,439	64.2
Other	103	0.1
Two or More Races	752	0.8
Total	**89,469**	**100**

Source: City of Indio 2022c

As shown, the City of Indio's minority population is greater than 50 percent. For the region, Hispanic residents represent 47 percent of the population and White (non-Hispanic) residents represent 37 percent (City of Indio 2022c).

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) identifies income categories based on the area median income (AMI) of Riverside County. The AMI for Riverside County in 2020 was $75,300 for a hypothetical family of four. HCD's categories include the following:

- Extremely low-income: household earning up to 30 percent of the AMI
- Very low-income: households earning between 31 to 50 percent of the AMI
- Low-income: households earning between 51 to 80 percent of the AMI
- Moderate-income: households earning between 81 to 120 percent of the AMI
- Above moderate-income: households earning over 120 percent of the AMI

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy estimates for 2013 to 2017 show that approximately 53 percent of the City's households had incomes in the moderate or above-moderate income level, approximately 20 percent of households had incomes in the low-income level, and approximately 27 percent of households had incomes in the very low and extremely low-income levels (City of Indio 2022c).

Senate Bill (SB) 535 (2012) established requirements for minimum funding levels to disadvantaged communities (DACs) and made CalEPA responsible for identifying DACs based on "geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria." Additionally, AB 1550 (2016) directed CalEPA to identify DACs and establish minimum funding levels. In May 2022, CalEPA updated the DAC designation to formally designate the following four categories of disadvantaged geographic areas (California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment [OEHHA] 2023):

- Census tracts receiving the highest 25 percent of overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (1,984 tracts);
- Census tracts lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 due to data gaps, but receiving the highest 5 percent of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores (19 tracts);
- Census tracts identified in the 2017 DAC designation as disadvantaged, regardless of their scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (307 tracts); and
- Lands under the control of federally recognized Tribes.

CalEPA's SB 535 Disadvantage Communities Map tool shows the DACs census tracts and tribal areas as of 2022. The Project Area does not fall within the overlay area and therefore does not contain any DACs (OEHHA 2023).

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool is designed to assist in the evaluation of DACs throughout the state, as defined within the various grants programs that are the responsibility of DWR's Financial Assistance Branch. Based on this mapping tool, the census block groups containing the Project Area is within a DAC overlay for the Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2014 to 2018 dataset. However, under the most recent ACS 2016 to 2020 dataset, the Project Area is no longer within the DAC overlay area (DWR 2023).

Potential adverse impacts of the Project are limited to short-term, construction-related noise effects. Once completed, the Project would be beneficial to the NPW/RW users in the WRP 7 service area by improving existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station in order to generate more RW and reduce the usage of NPW from the Coachella Canal. Therefore, the Project does not involve any activity that is likely to be of interest to or could have a disproportionate impact upon minority or low-income populations.

On August 2, 2023, CVWD formally initiated consultation with the tribes listed in Section 4.18 Tribal Cultural Resources and received responses from the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. The Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians were unaware of specific cultural resources that may be affected by the Proposed Project, but requested they be notified if any cultural resources are discovered during Project development. The ACBCI requested formal government-to-government consultation under AB 52 in addition to copies of any cultural resource documentation,

cultural resources inventory, record search results, and the presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor during ground disturbing activities.

CVWD is awaiting responses from any other Tribes that wish to consult. The results of the consultation process and any proposed mitigation measures will be incorporated in the Final IS/MND.

Searches of the SLF by the NAHC failed to indicate the presence of TCRs in the Project Area. If no tribal cultural resources are identified during the consultation process, a potentially significant impact to known tribal cultural resources would not occur. However, subsurface construction disturbances (e.g., trenching, excavation, grading) associated with the Proposed Project would have the potential to impact unknown tribal cultural resources. To ensure proper protection of any unknown resources, should they be encountered during project-related ground disturbance activities, Mitigation Measures CUL-PS-1 and CUL-PS-2 discussed in Section 4.5.5 and Section 4.18.4 of this report would reduce potential impacts to cultural resources and TCRs to a less than significant level. Therefore, the Project would not have a disproportionate impact upon indigenous populations or tribes.

5.1.7 Farmland Protection Policy Act

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is intended to minimize the contribution of federal programs to the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It assures that to the extent possible federal programs are administered to be compatible with state, local units of government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland. It does not authorize the federal government to regulate the use of private or nonfederal land, or in any way, affect the rights of property owners. Under the FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land (NRCS 2023b).

The Project is located on land designated as Urban and Built-Up Land and Other Land. The Project Area is bordered to the north, south, and east by Urban and Built-Up Land, Farmland of Local Importance, Prime Farmland, and Other Land and to the east by Other Land and Urban and Built-Up Land (DOC 2023). The Project Area is not currently used for agriculture and no Prime or Unique Farmlands or Farmland of Statewide Importance is located within the Project Area. As such, the Project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

5.1.8 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-666(e)), approved in 1934 and amended in 2020, directs USFWS to investigate and report on proposed federal actions that affect any stream or other body of water and to provide recommendations to minimize impacts on fish and wildlife resources. The provisions of Section 662(a) and Section 663(a) do not apply to those projects for the impoundment of water where the maximum surface area of such impoundments is less than ten acres, nor to activities for or in connection with programs primarily for land management and use carried out by federal lands under their jurisdiction (SWRCB 2017).

Project activities may affect fish and wildlife resources. A manmade lake is located within the Project Area at Young's Farm property, and communication with the landowner indicated that the lake contains some species of fish. The Project Area also contains numerous water basins, two of which contained standing water at the time of the biological survey and were observed to be utilized by various avian species. Additionally, these basins may serve as foraging habitat for many wildlife species in the area, including, but not limited to, bat species. Each of these aquatic features are less than ten acres in size, and therefore, the provisions stipulated in Section 662(a) and Section 663(a) do not apply to this Project. Despite this, mitigation measures have been proposed and discussed in Section 4.4.3 of this report that would reduce potential impacts to wildlife resources to a less than significant level. Implementation of these mitigation measures eliminates the potential for this Project to violate the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

5.1.9 Floodplain Management

EO 13690, The Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (January 30, 2015) revises EO 11988, Floodplain Management (May 24, 1977), and directs federal agencies to take the appropriate actions to reduce risk to federal investments, specifically to update their flood-risk reduction standards. The goal of this directive is to improve the resilience of communities and federal assets against the impacts of flooding. These impacts are anticipated to increase over time due to the effects of climate change and other threats (FEMA 2019). FEMA's FIRMs are official community maps that shows special flood hazard areas and risk premium zones (FEMA 2020).

As explained in Section 4.10 (Hydrology and Water Quality), FEMA FIRM Number 06065C1620G, Panel 1620G shows the Project Area is within Zone A, a special flood hazard area with no Base Flood Elevations determined (FEMA 2008). The City adopted a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in 2018. The LHMP identified flooding as having an above average severity and above average probability. CVWD approved a regional flood project that will provide protection for northeast Indio and the surrounding area. This North Indio Regional Flood Control System will collect flood flows from the outlets of the Sun City Palm Desert Whitewater River/stormwater channels and convey them to the Sun City Shadow Hills channels, which will ultimately connect to the Coachella Valley Storm Channel. The second phase of this project includes obtaining levee accreditation from FEMA for the existing East Side Dike. This will reduce the likelihood of the hazard.

All Project improvements outside the WRP 7 property would be underground and would not redirect or impede flood waters. Improvements to WRP 7 would add impervious surfaces that could potentially create additional flooding on- or offsite. There would be some changes to site drainage patterns, surface runoff, and flood management. Stormwater generated at the facility is directed to retention basins onsite and does not leave the boundaries of the facility, thereby preventing onsite and offsite flooding. Therefore, no impacts related to flood hazards or flood water flows would occur.

5.1.10 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) (Public Law 104-267) passed in 1976 and was amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-297) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act in 2007. The MSA, as amended,

governs marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters out to 200 nautical miles from shore and encourages "long-term biological and economic sustainability of our nation's marine fisheries." The goals of the MSA are to prevent overfishing, to rebuild overfished stocks, to increase long-term economic and social benefits, and to ensure a safe and sustainable supply of seafood. The act is in place to protect our natural resources, to maximize the possible use of these resources, and to make sure the use of marine resources is done in a safe manner. Amendments to the 1996 MSA require the identification of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for federally managed species and the implementation of measures to conserve and enhance this habitat. Any project requiring federal authorization is required to complete and submit an EFH Assessment with the application and either show that no significant impacts to the essential habitat of managed species are expected or identify mitigations to reduce those impacts. Under the MSA, Congress defined EFH as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" (16 USC § 1802(10)). The EFH provisions of the MSA offer resource managers a means to heighten consideration of fish habitat in resource management. Pursuant to section 305(b)(2), federal agencies shall consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding any action they authorize, fund, or undertake that might adversely affect EFH. The Proposed Project is over 75 miles inland and would not affect any fisheries or EFH. Therefore, the MSA does not apply to the Project.

5.1.11 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

The MBTA of 1918 (16 USC 703-712) prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species, including eggs or active nests, except as permitted by regulation (e.g., licensed hunting of waterfowl or upland game species) by the USFWS. The MBTA states that it applies only to migratory bird species that are native to the United States or U.S. territories, and that a native migratory bird species is one that is present as a result of natural biological or ecological processes (USFWS 1918).

As described in Section 4.1.2 of this IS/MND, birds protected under the MBTA could nest within existing structures, shrubs, and trees on and adjacent to the Project Area. Mitigation Measure BIO-PS-5 - Preconstruction Survey for Nesting Birds requires that ground-disturbing and vegetation-disturbing work be completed during the non-nesting season to avoid impacts to nesting birds. If this is determined to be infeasible, a pre-construction survey by a qualified biologist shall be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities no more than three days in advance of vegetation clearing/ground disturbance activities. Active bird nests identified during the survey effort shall be avoided until such time that the qualified biologist has determined that the nest(s) is vacant. Depending on the location of the active nest(s), the qualified biologist may establish a no-work buffer around the active nest. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-PS-5 would ensure the Project would not violate the MBTA.

5.1.12 National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended sets forth the responsibilities that federal agencies must meet in regard to cultural resources, especially in regard to Section 106 as set forth in the regulations (36 CFR Part 800). The NHPA establishes a national preservation program and a system of procedural protections, which encourage both the identification and protection of historic resources, including archeological resources, at the federal level and indirectly at the state and local level. Federal

agencies must conduct the necessary studies and consultations to identify cultural resources that may be affected by an undertaking, evaluate cultural resources that may be affected to determine if they are eligible for the NRHP (that is, whether identified resources constitute historic properties), and assess whether such historic properties would be adversely affected. Historic properties are resources listed on or eligible for listing on the NRHP (36 CFR 800.16[l][1]). A property may be listed in the NRHP if it meets criteria provided in the NRHP regulations (36 CFR 60.4). Typically, such properties must also be 50 years or older (36 CFR 60.4[d]). The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association and: (A) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or (B) That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or (C) That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess artistic value, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or (D) That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Section 106 defines an adverse effect as an effect that alters, directly or indirectly, the qualities that make a resource eligible for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR 800.5[a][1]). Consideration must be given to the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, to the extent that these qualities contribute to the integrity and significance of the resource. Adverse effects may be direct and reasonably foreseeable or may be more remote in time or distance (36 CFR 8010.5[a][1]).

As discussed in Section 4.5 (Cultural Resources) of this IS/MND, the Historic Property Identification Report completed by ECORP (2023), analyzed the APE based on the provisions for the treatment of cultural resources contained within Section 106 of the NHPA. A record search was conducted in order to determine the potential for the Project to adversely affect cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP. As part of this process, the horizontal APE consists of all areas where activities associated with a project are proposed and, in the case of this Project, equals the Project Area subject to environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act and CEQA. This includes areas proposed for construction, vegetation removal, grading, trenching, stockpiling, staging, paving, and other elements in the official Project description. The horizontal APE is illustrated in Figure 1 and represents the survey coverage area. Project Area A is approximately 69.62 acres and measures 0.48 mile long by 0.23 mile wide. Project Area B is approximately 0.16 acres and measures approximately 113 feet long by 76 feet wide. Project Area C, the Pipeline Alignment, measures 2,159.5 feet long by 50 feet wide.

The vertical APE is described as the maximum depth below the surface to which excavations for project foundations and facilities will extend. Therefore, the vertical APE for this Project includes all subsurface areas where archaeological deposits could be affected. The subsurface vertical APE varies across the Project Areas. The maximum depth is assumed to extend as deep as 20 feet below the current surface, which is typically the greatest depth for buried utilities; therefore, a review of geologic and soils maps was necessary to determine the potential for buried archaeological sites that cannot be seen on the surface.

The vertical APE also is described as the maximum height of structures that could impact the physical integrity and integrity of setting of cultural resources, including districts and traditional cultural properties. For this Project, the above-surface vertical APE is assumed to be less than 50 feet above the surface.

Record search results found that 16 previous cultural resource investigations have been conducted within the Project Areas or the 0.5-mile search radius, covering approximately 55 percent of the total area surrounding the Project Areas within the records search radius. Of the 16 studies, four were conducted within the Project Areas and the other 12 were within the 0.5-mile radius. These studies revealed the presence of pre-contact sites, including lithic scatters, debitage, manos, and metates, and one historical site, the Coachella Canal.

The CHRIS records search results revealed that four previously recorded pre-contact and historic-era cultural resources are located within 0.5 mile of the Project Area. Of these, three are believed to be associated with Native American occupation of the vicinity, and one is a historic-era site associated with early European-American irrigation, known as the Coachella Canal. There are no previously recorded cultural resources within the Project Area. As a result of the field survey, one new cultural resource was identified within Project Area C: WRP-1, a segment of Jefferson Street. Resource WRP-1 was evaluated using NRHP and CRHR eligibility criteria and found to be not eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR under any criteria (ECORP 2023). Therefore, neither resource is considered a historical resource under CEQA or a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA and the Project would not violate the NHPA.

5.1.13 Protection of Wetlands

The purpose of EO 11990 (May 24, 1977) is to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities for (1) acquiring, managing, and disposing of Federal lands and facilities; and (2) providing Federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and (3) conducting Federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulating, and licensing activities (EPA 2023b). To meet these objectives, EO 11990 requires federal agencies, in planning their actions, to consider alternatives to wetland sites and limit potential damage if an activity affecting a wetland cannot be avoided.

As described in Section 4.4 (Biological Resources) of this Initial Study, the Proposed Project contains a man-made agricultural stock pond supplied by groundwater from a private well at the owner's discretion. At the time of a June 2023 field survey, small amounts of emergent vegetation were present along the bank and submergent vegetation was visible within the pond. This feature is not considered jurisdictional to USACE under the current guidelines. The manmade lake does not possess a surface hydrologic connection to any downstream Waters of the U.S. In addition, the manmade lake does not support any surface water-related interstate commerce. The manmade lake is an agricultural pond created in upland and is filled by an onsite groundwater well. Under current federal definition of Waters of the U.S., this agricultural pond would not be regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

5.1.14 Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10

The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) (33 USC Section 401 et seq.) is the initial authority for the USACE regulatory permit program to protect navigable waters in the development of harbors and other construction and excavation. Section 10 of the RHA requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through USACE, for the construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States. Structures or work outside the limits defined for navigable waters of the United States require a Section 10 permit if the structure or work affects the course, location, or condition of the water body. The law applies to any dredging or disposal of dredged materials, excavation, filling, rechannelization, or any other modification of a navigable water of the United States, and applies to all structures. It includes, without limitation, any wharf, dolphin, weir, boom breakwater, jetty, groin, bank protection (e.g., riprap, revetment, bulkhead), mooring structures such as pilings, aerial or subaqueous power transmission lines, intake or outfall pipes, permanently moored floating vessel, tunnel, artificial canal, boat ramp, aids to navigation, and any other permanent, or semi-permanent obstacle or obstruction (USACE 2023b).

The Proposed Project involves improvements to existing tertiary treatment plant processes and an existing canal pump station as well as installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of NPW pipeline to connect Young's Farmland to the existing NPW pipeline on Avenue 38. The Project does not include the construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States, and would not require a Section 10 permit. The RHA does not apply to the Project.

5.1.15 Safe Drinking Water Act

The Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (SDWA) was established to protect the quality of drinking water in the U.S. This law focuses on all waters actually or potentially designed for drinking use, whether from above ground or underground sources. The SDWA authorizes EPA to establish minimum standards to protect tap water and requires all owners or operators of public water systems to comply with these primary (health-related) standards. The EPA also establishes minimum standards for state programs to protect underground sources of drinking water from endangerment by underground injection of fluids (EPA 2023c). Under this SDWA, Congress emphasizes preventing contamination of aquifers that are the sole source of drinking water for a community under the SDWA.

The Proposed Project is located in the City of Indio within Riverside County, California. Designated sole source aquifers in California are located in Fresno County, Scotts Valley, and on the California/Mexico border, none of which would be in the vicinity of the Proposed Project (EPA 2023d). Therefore, the SDWA does not apply to the Project.

5.1.16 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 USC Section 1271 et seq.) establishes the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) for the protection of certain selected rivers with important scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values. These rivers shall be preserved in free-flowing conditions and they and their immediate environments shall be protected. Rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational. The Act designates specific rivers for inclusion in the NWSRS and prescribes the methods and standards by which additional rivers may be added. Regardless of classification, each

river in the NWSRS is administered with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values that caused it to be designated. Designation neither prohibits development nor gives the federal government control over private property. Recreation, agricultural practices, residential development, and other uses may continue. The Act purposefully strives to balance dam and other construction at appropriate sections of rivers with permanent protection for some of the country's most outstanding free-flowing rivers. To accomplish this, it prohibits federal support for actions such as the construction of dams or other instream activities that would harm the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, or outstanding resource values.

There are no wild and scenic rivers within the vicinity of the Proposed Project. The nearest designated wild and scenic river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is Palm Canyon Creek from the southern boundary of Section 6, Township 7 South, Range 5 East to the San Bernardino National Forest boundary in Section 1, Township 6 South, Range 4 East, located approximately 17 miles southeast of the City (NWSRS 2023). Therefore, no portion of the Project is located within or near a designated wild and scenic river.

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6.0 ALTERNATIVES DESCRIPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

CWSRF projects must undergo an alternatives analysis except for projects that are statutorily or categorically exempt.

The alternatives analysis is included in the CWSRF Grant Funding Project Environmental Report submitted as part of the CWSRF technical package. Please refer to Appendix G.

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7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

7.1 Coachella Valley Water District

Lead Agency

Carlos Huerta, Environmental Specialist

Jignesh Ladhawala, Senior Engineer

William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor

7.2 ECORP Consulting, Inc.

CEQA Documentation/Air Quality/Biological Resources/Cultural Resources/Greenhouse Gas/Noise

Sonia Sifuentes, Project Manager/Southern California Cultural Resources Manager

Freddie Olmos, Southern California Regional CEQA/NEPA Group Manager

Samantha Alfaro, Environmental Planner

Anaya Ward, Environmental Planner

Margaret Partridge, Environmental Planner

Seth Myers, Air Quality/GHG/Noise/Energy

Chelsie Brown, Biologist

Carla Marriner, Biologist

Stacie Tennant, Biologist

Corrina Tapia, Biologist

Steven Wintergerst, Archaeologist

Casey LeJeune, Archaeologist

Nicholas Bizzell, Archaeologist

Evelyn Hildebrand, Archaeologist

Michael DeGiovine, Archaeologist

Nathan Hallam, Architectural Historian

Torrey Rotellini, GIS

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