Yucaipa Valley Water District
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YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
INITIAL STUDY AND
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
LIFT STATION NO. 4 REPLACEMENT PROJECT

OCTOBER 2023

Prepared by

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PART 1 - PROJECT INFORMATION

A. YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) is a special district that provides water supply, treatment, and distribution; recycled water supply and distribution services; and wastewater collection and treatment within its service area. Formed in 1971, YVWD acquired many of the private water companies serving the Yucaipa Valley. YVWD serves customers in the Cities of Yucaipa and Calimesa, as well as some unincorporated portions of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. YVWD currently provides municipal water service to a population of approximately 52,000 residents within its service area.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Proposed Project

YVWD's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project (the Project) generally consists of construction of a sewage lift station (New Lift Station No. 4) with a capacity of approximately 630 gallons per minute (gpm), and demolition and removal of an existing sewage lift station (Existing Lift Station No. 4), having a capacity of 550 gpm. Construction of the Project is expected to include the following.

New Lift Station No. 4

- Site preparation and grading;
- Installation of a prefabricated aboveground duplex sewage pump station;
- Construction of a cast-in-place concrete wet well;
- Construction of a cast-in-place concrete emergency storage tank;
- Construction of approximately 90 linear feet of 12-inch diameter sewer main, 90 linear feet of 15-inch diameter sewer main, and approximately 100 linear feet of 18-inch diameter sewer main;
- Construction of approximately 160 linear feet of 8-inch diameter force main;
- Installation of electrical and gas utility services and associated equipment and appurtenances;
- Installation of a 150 kilowatt (kW) natural gas standby generator;

- Installation of 8-foot tall site perimeter tubular steel fencing, including one 20-foot wide access gate, and one 4-foot wide man gate;
- Construction of three 60-inch diameter sewer manholes on site, and construction of one 60-inch diameter sewer manhole within Calimesa Boulevard;
- Placement of 6-inch thick Class 2 base on site finished surface;
- Painting of aboveground facilities; and
- Lift station startup and testing.

Existing Lift Station No. 4

- Demolition and removal of all above ground facilities and those located within the upper 6 feet below ground surface associated with Existing Lift Station No. 4, with the exception of the existing electrical and site light and pole that will be preserved in place; and
- Abandonment in place of remaining facilities associated with Existing Lift Station No. 4 that are located greater than 6 feet below ground surface.

The Project includes constructing and placing the New Lift Station No. 4 into operation to collect raw sewage flows from residential and business developments within the lift station service area and pumping the raw sewage into YVWD's Waste Water Treatment Plant headworks.

2. Purpose

YVWD's Existing Lift Station No. 4 was constructed in 1986 and is reaching the end of its useful service life. The current capacity of the existing lift station is also inadequate for future planned residential developments in the lift station service area. The purpose of the Project is to replace the existing lift station with a new larger-capacity lift station that will meet YVWD's future development expansions and eliminate the maintenance issues associated with an aging lift station.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1. Location

The Project site is situated east of Interstate 10, south of Sandalwood Drive, and northwest of Redwood Lane, in the City of Calimesa, part of Riverside County, California. The Project is located on YVWD-owned property consisting of Assessor's Parcel Number 413-210-039 and a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 413-210-054, as well as within the Calimesa Boulevard public street right-of-way, all within the City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California. Refer also to **Figures 1 through 3** herein.

2. Climate

Climate in YVWD's service area is characterized by low humidity, high summer temperatures, and mild dry winters. Summer high temperatures are often 90 or more degrees Fahrenheit (°F). Fall, winter, and spring high temperatures are typically in the 60s and 70s. The area normally receives an average annual rainfall of approximately 14 inches, most of which occurs during December through March.

3. Land Use

The northern area of the Project site contains the District's Existing Lift Station No. 4, while the southern area of the Project Site is currently undeveloped. The Project site is bounded by Calimesa Boulevard and State Route 10 to the west and open space uses to the north, south, and east. A majority of the Project site is on land that was formerly used as a golf course.

D. COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

This document has been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, codified in California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21000 *et seq* (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq*). Pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, this Initial Study has been prepared to determine whether the Project may have a significant effect on the environment.

This Initial Study for YVWD's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project has been prepared by Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated under contract with YVWD to comply with the provisions of CEQA.

E. LEAD AGENCY

YVWD is lead agency for the Project, as it is the public agency with the primary responsibility for preparing CEQA documents and for carrying out and approving the Project. Since YVWD is responsible for the Project, it must comply with the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines issued by the State of California.

YVWD routinely constructs new facilities, maintains them, and replaces them as necessary to maintain adequate, reliable, and safe service to its customers. The Project is a continuation of the authority that YVWD has exercised in the past.

F. PUBLIC INFORMATION DOCUMENT

This is a public information document prepared in compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act, codified in California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21000 et seq (CEQA) and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq (State CEQA Guidelines). Pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, this Initial Study for the Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project has been prepared by Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated under contract with YVWD to comply with the provisions of CEQA.

The purposes of this Initial Study are to provide YVWD with information to use as a basis for identifying the potential environmental impacts of the Project, for determining the appropriate CEQA document to prepare for the Project, to facilitate environmental assessment of the Project, and to provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in the Project's CEQA document. Additionally, this document identifies mitigation intended to avoid or reduce any adverse environmental impacts of the Project.

PART 2
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST

PART 2 - ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CHECKLIST

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title:

Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

Yucaipa Valley Water District
12770 Second Street
Yucaipa, CA 92399

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Matthew Porras, Director of Engineering
Yucaipa Valley Water District
(909) 790-3300

4. Project Location:

Refer to **Part 1.C(1)** on **Page 3** herein. Refer also to **Figures 1 through 3** herein.

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

Yucaipa Valley Water District
12770 Second Street
Yucaipa, CA 92399

6. General Plan Designation:

Commercial Neighborhood (CN)

7. Zoning:

Commercial Neighborhood (CN)

8. Description of Project:

Refer to **Part 1.B**, beginning on **Page 1** herein.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Refer to **Part 1.C(2)** and **Part 1.C(3)**, beginning on **Page 3** herein.

10. Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

- City of Calimesa (encroachment permit)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (standby generator permit)

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

On September 6, 2023, YVWD sent formal notification letters to the following Native American tribes, which had previously requested such notification from YVWD:

- Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians

On September 12, 2023, in response to YVWD's notification letter, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (the tribe) requested additional information and documents pertaining to the Project. After YVWD provided the requested documents and information, the tribe, on September 14, 2023, requested that certain mitigation measures for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources be included in the Project. The tribe did not request to consult with YVWD on the Project.

YVWD did not receive a response from Morongo Band of Mission Indians. YVWD did not receive a request for consultation on the Project from any tribe.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

- ❑ Aesthetics
- ❑ Agriculture/Forestry Resources
- ❑ Air Quality
- ❑ Biological Resources
- ❑ Cultural Resources
- ❑ Energy
- ❑ Geology/Soils
- ❑ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ❑ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- ❑ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ❑ Land Use/Planning
- ❑ Mineral Resources
- ❑ Noise
- ❑ Population/Housing
- ❑ Public Services
- ❑ Recreation
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ❑ Utilities/Service Systems
- ❑ Wildfire
- ❑ Mandatory Findings of Significance
- ☒ None

C. DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency):

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

❑ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

❑ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

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

❑ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

October 16, 2023

David F. Scriven
KRIEGER & STEWART, INCORPORATED
District Consulting Engineer
YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Date

D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

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

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

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

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

   a. Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

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

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

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

9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Issue I. Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*The Project and its associated features and appurtenances will be located on YVWD's existing properties, as described in **Part 1.C** of this Initial Study. The Project consists of belowground facilities (e.g. sewer main, force main, valves, etc.) and structures not exceeding 15 feet in height (e.g. sewage pump station, standby generator, fencing, light poles). The Project site is not located within a designated scenic vista, and the proposed facilities will not obstruct public views of a scenic vista. For these reasons, the Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*There are no "Officially Designated State Scenic Highways" within close proximity to the Project Site. Interstate 10, which is located just west of the Project Site, is not listed as an "Eligible State Scenic Highway" in the vicinity of the Project. The nearest Officially Designated State Scenic Highway is State Route 38, which was designated in 1968 and is located approximately 6 miles northerly of the Project Site. The Project consists of low-lying and belowground facilities and would not substantially damage any scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. Refer also to **Issue I(a)** above.*

Issue I. Aesthetics (continued)

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 a 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?	Potentially Significant Impact ❑	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ❑	Less Than Significant Impact ❑	No Impact ☒

The Project Site is surrounded by roadways and open space. The northern area of the Project site includes the Existing Lift Station No. 4, and the remainder of the Project site is currently undeveloped. existing water system facilities, while the northern area of the site is undeveloped. The Project is located on and adjacent to the site of the Existing Lift Station No. 4 and would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Further, the Project would not conflict with the zoning designation of the Project site.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	Potentially Significant Impact ❑	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ❑	Less Than Significant Impact ❑	No Impact ☒

The Project site includes an existing light atop a pole that will remain in place, as well as two additional poles with security lights. Said lights are directed downward and contained within the Project site. For these reasons, the Project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area.

Issue II. Agriculture and Forest Resources

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in forest protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Based on maps available from the State of California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, online at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF, the Project site is located within an area of land categorized as "Urban and Built-Up Land", which is defined below.

***Urban and Built-Up Land** is 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. Common examples include residential, industrial, commercial, institutional facilities, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, and water control systems.*

There is no land categorized as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (collectively, Farmland) located on or adjacent to the Project site. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project would not convert Farmland to non-agricultural use.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project site is zoned Commercial Neighborhood by the City of Calimesa. The Project site is not zoned for agricultural use, and there are no Williamson Act contracts in effect on any of the parcels included in the Project Site. For these reasons, the Project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or with a Williamson Act Contract.

Issue II. Agriculture and Forest Resources (continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project 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))?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project site consists of YVWD-owned properties in the City of Calimesa with a zoning designation of Commercial Neighborhood. There are no lands zoned for forest land or timberland located on or adjacent to the Project site. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project site does not contain nor adjoin any forest land. Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Refer also to ***Issue II(c)*** *above.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project does not involve changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, as these resources are not located on or adjacent to the Project site. Refer also to ***Issues II(a) through II(d)****, above.*

Issue III. Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which encompasses all of Orange County, and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. Air quality conditions within the SCAB are under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

A project is considered to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan if it would result in population or employment growth that would exceed the estimates for such growth that are set forth in the applicable air quality plan.

The Project will be operated as part of YVWD's existing wastewater collection and treatment system, and the Project does not have the potential to result in population or employment growth in the area beyond temporary employment for construction of Project facilities. For these reasons, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct any applicable air quality plan.

*Potential impacts related to greenhouse gases are described in **Issue VIII** herein.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project 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 threshold?	❑	❑	☒	❑

*As described in **Issue III(a)** above, the Project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). Air quality conditions in the SCAB are under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).*

State and federal designations based on the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the project area are listed below. "Attainment" is the category given to an area that has had no CAAQS or NAAQS violations in the past

3 years. "Non-Attainment" is the category given to an area that has had one or more such violations in the past 3 years. An area is considered "Unclassified" when there is insufficient data.

Under the CAAQS, the Project area is classified as Non-Attainment for ozone (O_3), for particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or less in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$), and for particulate matter measuring greater than 2.5 microns and up to 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10}). The Project area is classified as Attainment for carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), sulfates (SO_4), and lead. The Project area is unclassified for hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) and visibility reducing particles. Additional information about each of these pollutants and the CAAQS is available at the California Air Resources Board website at www.arb.ca.gov/resources/california-ambient-air-quality-standards.

Under the NAAQS, the Project area is classified as Non-Attainment for Ozone (O_3) and $PM_{2.5}$, and as Unclassified/Attainment for PM_{10}, CO, NO_2, SO_2, and lead. Additional information about these pollutants and the NAAQS is available on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website at www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants.

Project construction air pollutant emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod, 2022.1). A copy of the CalEEMod report for the Project is included in ***Appendix D*** *herein. Peak day air pollutant emissions estimated to be generated during construction are set forth in* ***Table 1*** *below.*

Table 1
Estimated Peak Day Construction Equipment Exhaust Emissions for Construction of Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project

	Pollutants (pounds/day[(1)])					
	VOC	**NO_X**	**CO**	**SO_x**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Project Construction Emissions	**2.49**	**17.6**	**22.3**	**0.05**	**1.09**	**0.07**
SCAQMD Significance Thresholds[(2)]	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**

(1) Peak day

(2) Mass Daily Thresholds for Construction (SCAQMD, March 2023)

Construction activities will result in a temporary increase in quantities of air pollutants in the Project area, including airborne dust, resulting from operation of construction vehicles and equipment. Dust will be mitigated to the extent possible using dust palliatives (such as water) and best management practices (BMPs) specified in the construction contract documents for the Project. Air pollutant emissions resulting from Project construction are well below the significance thresholds established by SCAQMD and will be short-term.

Ongoing operation of the Project will generate small quantities of air pollutant emissions resulting from occasional (infrequent) operation of the natural gas-powered standby generator and daily YVWD vehicle trips to the Project site for routine operation and maintenance; however, said daily vehicle trips are already taking place as part of operation and maintenance of the Existing Lift Station No. 4. Therefore, Project operation would not result in an increase in vehicle trips or air pollutant emissions over existing conditions.

For the reasons described above, air pollutant emissions generated by construction and operation of the Project will be less than significant and will not result in an increase in O_3, PM_{10}, or $PM_{2.5}$, for which the Project area is designated Non-Attainment under the CAAQS and/or the NAAQS.

Issue III. Air Quality (continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	❑	❑	☒	❑

*Sensitive receptors nearest the Project site are residences on surrounding properties, with the nearest residence located approximately 450 feet northwesterly of the Project site. Quantities of air pollutant emissions, including dust, will temporarily increase during Project construction; however, as described in **Issue III(b)** herein, said increases will be less than significant and short-term. Ongoing operation of the Project will not result in an increase in air pollutant emissions over current conditions. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Project construction will not result in emissions other than those described above, and the Project will not result in odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people. Because the Project includes an air phase odor control system, any odors resulting from Project operation are not expected to extend beyond the boundaries of the Project site. For these reasons, the Project will not result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors, adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

Issue IV. Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	❑	☒	❑	❑

Certain species of plants and animals have low populations, limited distributions, or both. Such species are vulnerable to further declines in population and distribution and may be subject to extirpation as the human population grows and the habitats these species occupy are converted to urban or other uses. State and federal laws, particularly the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) provide the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with mechanisms for conserving and protecting native plant and animal species. Many plants and animals have been formally listed as "Threatened" or "Endangered" under FESA, CESA, or both, while many others have been designated as candidates for such listing. Additionally, others have been designated as "Species of Special Concern" by CDFW, as "Species of Concern" by USFWS, or are on lists of rare, threatened or endangered plants developed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Collectively, all of these listed and designated species are referred to as "special status species".

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), codified in 50 CFR Section 10.13, makes it unlawful to "take" (i.e. harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect) migratory birds or their nests, eggs, feathers, or any part thereof. With few exceptions, all native bird species are protected by the MBTA. Birds protected under the MBTA are also referred to as "special status species".

LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) performed a biological resources assessment of the Project Site, the methods, findings, and recommendations of which are set forth in the report titled, Biological Resources Assessment, Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project, Calimesa, Riverside County, California, dated August 2023 (Biological Report). A copy of the Biological Report is included in ***Appendix B*** *herein. The following summary is based on the Biological Report.*

Special status species that may occur on the Project site include burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia hypugaea) and nesting birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which are described in additional detail below.

- ***Burrowing Owl***

  Burrowing owl is designated as a California Species of Special Concern and has a low probability of occurring at the Project Site. Potential burrowing owl habitat on the Project site is considered marginal due to the presence of dense ruderal vegetation and non-native grassland, as well as the small size of the Project site. To avoid or reduce potential impacts on burrowing owl, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is included in the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program included in ***Appendix A*** *herein.*

- ***Nesting Birds***

  The Project site provides suitable habitat for nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the California Fish and Game Code, or both. In order to avoid or reduce potential impacts to nesting birds, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 is included in the Project. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program included in ***Appendix A*** *herein.*

  With incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Burrowing Owl

The Project site contains potential habitat for burrowing owl. To determine whether burrowing owl is present on the Project site, a focused burrowing owl survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. The focused survey includes four site visits conducted during the breeding season, with one visit between February 15 and April 15 and three visits, at least three weeks apart, between April 15 and July 15, with at least one of these three taking place after June 15. If burrowing owl is detected, the preparation of a burrowing owl mitigation plan would be required in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If no burrowing owl is detected during the focused survey, then a preconstruction burrowing owl survey is required within 14 days prior to initial ground-disturbing activities, including vegetation removal, on the Project site.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Nesting Birds

The Project site contains suitable habitat for nesting bird species. To avoid potential effects to nesting birds, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 3 days and not more than 7 days prior to any construction activities, including vegetation removal. If no nesting birds are found during the preconstruction survey, then construction may commence within 7 days of completion of the preconstruction survey.

If nesting birds are found during the preconstruction survey, the qualified biologist will establish an exclusionary buffer or buffers around the nests. The buffer(s) will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under guidance of the qualified biologist. No construction activities are allowed within the buffer zone(s) until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

Whether or not any nesting birds were identified during the preconstruction survey, if more than 7 days have lapsed since the preconstruction survey and construction or vegetation removal have not yet commenced, then another preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted to determine whether any nesting birds have moved into the site.

Issue IV. Biological Resources (continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*Based on the Biological Report cited in **Issue IV(a)**, there are no riparian habitats or natural communities of concern located on the Project site. Therefore, the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community.*

Issue IV. Biological Resources (continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*Based on the Biological Report cited in **Issue IV(a)** above, there are no wetlands or stream courses located on or adjacent to the Project Site. Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	❑	❑	☒	❑

*The Project site is located within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). Based on the Biological Report cited in **Issue IV(a)** herein, the Project site is within an MSHCP special linkage area, which is composed of MSHCP criteria cells. The project site is also within an MSHCP proposed constrained linkage. The constrained linkage would support regional wildlife movement within the boundaries of the MSHCP from non-contiguous habitats easterly and westerly of the project site. Calimesa Boulevard and Interstate 10, located just westerly of the Project site, serve as major barriers to regional wildlife movement. Therefore, although the project will result in an incremental loss of habitat for wildlife movement, the Project is not anticipated to result in a substantial effect to regional wildlife movement and MSHCP linkages because of the Project's relatively small footprint and because the adjacent Calimesa Boulevard and nearby Interstate 10 serve as major barriers to regional wildlife movement. Additionally, no nursery sites occur on the Project site. For these reasons, the Project would not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.*

Issue IV. Biological Resources (continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project site contains coast live oak trees that are subject to the City of Calimesa's oak tree policy. The oak trees will be preserved in place and will not be impacted by the Project. Therefore, no trees subject to a tree preservation policy or ordinance will be removed. The Project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project site is located within the planning boundaries of the Western Riverside County MSHCP; however, YVWD is not a signatory to the MSHCP and is not pursuing an MSHCP Participating Special Entity designation for the Project. For these reasons, the Project is not subject to compliance with the MSHCP and is instead subject to the requirements of the Federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act.

Issue V. Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	❑	☒	❑	❑

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(3) states, in part, that "Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (Pub. Res. Code § 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852), including the following:

> *"(A) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;*

(B) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

(C) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or

(D) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history".

Further, California Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(j) states that "a 'Historical resource' includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California."

CRM TECH performed a historical and archaeological resources survey of the Project site, the methods, results, and recommendations of which are set forth in the report, Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project, City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California, dated August 1, 2023 (Cultural Report), a copy of which is included in ***Appendix C*** *herein.*

As part of its historical and archaeological resources study of the Project site, CRM TECH conducted a historical/archaeological resources records search, pursued historical background research, conducted an intensive-level field survey of the Project site, and contacted the Native American Heritage Commission to request a search of the Sacred Lands File.

Based on the Cultural Report, no historical or archaeological resources had been recorded within or in the vicinity of the Project site, and no such resources were found during the field survey of the Project site. Further, a search of the Native American Sacred Lands File did not identify any sites of traditional cultural value in the vicinity.

Although no historical or archaeological resources were identified within or in the vicinity of the Project site, mitigation will be implemented in order to avoid or reduce potential impacts on previously-undiscovered cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, which is included in ***Appendix A*** *herein. With implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5.*

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources

In the event that cultural resources are discovered during Project construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot radius buffer area) shall cease, and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards in archaeology will be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the Project outside of the buffer area may continue during the assessment of the find. Additionally, YVWD will contact the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN), as detailed in Mitigation Measure TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact and/or historic-era finds and will provide YSMN with the archaeologist's determination after the initial assessment of the nature of the find, so that YSMN can provide tribal input with regard to significance and treatment of the potential resource. If significant pre-contact and/or historic era cultural resources, as defined by CEQA, are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist will develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which will be provided to YSMN for review and comment, as detailed in Mitigation Measure TCR-1. Further, if any significant pre-contact and/or historic era cultural resource is discovered, a qualified archaeologist will monitor the remainder of construction ground-disturbing activities and will implement the Monitoring and Treatment Plan accordingly.

Issue V. Cultural Resources (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	❑	☒	❑	❑

*Refer to **Issue V(a)** above. As set forth in the Cultural Report, no archaeological resources have been identified on or in the vicinity of the Project site. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 is incorporated into the Project to ensure that Project construction will not result in a significant adverse impact on any previously-undiscovered historical or archaeological resources discovered during Project construction. With incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, described in **Issue V(a)** above, the Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Potential impacts upon tribal cultural resources are described in **Issue XVIII** herein.*

Issue V. Cultural Resources (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	❑	☒	❑	❑

There are no known cemeteries or burial grounds located on or adjacent to the Project site. To avoid or reduce potential impacts upon any human remains that may be inadvertently encountered during Project construction, Mitigation Measure CUL-2 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, which is included in ***Appendix A*** *herein. Additionally, the Project will comply with the provisions of Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.*

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Human Remains

In the event that any human remains, or what appear to be human remains, are uncovered or encountered during Project construction, the construction contractor will halt or divert all work within a 100-foot buffer of the find and will immediately notify the Riverside County Coroner's Office via telephone. After notifying the County Coroner, the contractor will also notify Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) via telephone. Construction activities will not resume in the area of the find until YVWD notifies the construction contractor to resume construction activities. California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 will be enforced for the duration of the Project.

Issue VI. Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The primary energy resource that will be consumed during construction of the Project is fuel needed by the construction contractor for operating construction vehicles and equipment. Operation of the Project will require fuel for travel of one YVWD vehicle trip to the Project site daily; however, this vehicle trip is already taking place for operation of the Existing Lift Station No. 4 facilities on the northern portion of the Project site. Additionally, electricity will be used to operate the pumps, electrical switchgear, controls, site lighting, and telemetry system. Natural gas will be used to power a standby generator on

an infrequent basis. This energy use is needed for construction and operation of the lift station as part of YVWD's wastewater system and would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

Issue VI. Energy (continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*Construction and operation of the Project will not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Refer also to **Issue VI(a)** above.*

Issue VII. Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	❑	❑	❑	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	❑	❑	☒	❑
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	❑	❑	❑	☒
iv) Landslides?	❑	❑	❑	☒

i) A geotechnical study of the Project site was conducted by Leighton Consulting, Inc., the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of which are set forth in the report, Geotechnical Exploration Yucaipa Valley Water District Wastewater Lift Station No.4 8900± Calimesa Boulevard, Calimesa, Riverside County, California, dated June 13, 2023 (Leighton Report). Based on the Leighton Report, the Project Site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The Project site is within an Earthquake Fault Zone associated with the San Gorgonio Pass fault zone, as designated by the County of Riverside; however, the fault is not active in the area of the Project site. For these reasons, construction and operation of

the Project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault.

ii) *Being located in seismically-active southern California, the Project site is subject to strong seismic ground shaking. Based on the Leighton Report cited in* ***Issue VII(a)(i)*** *above, there are several active and potentially active faults in the region that could produce significant ground shaking at the Project site. The Project does not include any structures intended for more than occasional human occupancy (lift station building), and Project facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with the recommendations provided in the Leighton Report. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project is not expected to directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking.*

iii) *Based on the Leighton Report cited in* ***Issue VII(a)(i)*** *above, the potential for liquefaction to occur at the Project site is low, due to the lack of shallow groundwater and the relatively dense nature of the subsurface soil. The Project does not include facilities intended for more than occasional human occupation, and Project facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with the recommendations provided in the Leighton Report. For these reasons, the Project will not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including seismic-related ground failure, such as liquefaction.*

iv) *Based on information available in the online map titled "CGS Information Warehouse: Landslides", provided by the California Geological Survey, there are no landslides mapped in the vicinity of the Project site. Further, the Project Site is relatively flat and is not known to be subject to landslides. For these reasons, the Project will not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides.*

Issue VII. Geology and Soils (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Beside the area occupied by the Existing Lift Station No. 4, the Project site has been disturbed by prior agricultural use and recent weed abatement activities. With the exception of the areas of the site occupied by aboveground Project facilities, disturbed ground surfaces at the Project site will be returned to near-preconstruction conditions and overlain with a 6-inch thick layer of Class 2 base. No erosion related to the Project is expected to occur after completion of construction and final site stabilization. Best management practices will be implemented by the construction contractor to avoid or reduce erosion during Project construction. For these reasons, and because the Project site is relatively flat, the Project would not result in substantial soil erosion or substantial impacts related to the loss of topsoil.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*Based on the Leighton Report cited in **Issue VII(a)(i)**, the Project site is located within a broad canyon consisting of fine to medium sand. Based on Leighton's subsurface investigation at the Project site, undocumented fill soils were encountered to a depth of approximately 3 feet below ground surface (bgs) as well as clayey sand and silty sand down to a depth of approximately 50½ feet bgs. Further, dense and stiff alluvial soils are expected below the New Lift Station No. 4 facilities, and Project facilities will be constructed in accordance with the specific geotechnical design recommendations set forth in the Leighton Report. The Project does not include facilities whose construction and operation are capable of causing on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, liquefaction, or collapse.*

*For the above reasons, the Project would not expose people or critical structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death, involving unstable geologic units or soils. Refer also to **Issue VII(a)** above.*

Issue VII. Geology and Soils (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*Based on the Leighton Report cited in **Issue VII(a)(i)**, onsite soils are anticipated to exhibit "very low" to "low" expansion potential. The Project would not create substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property related to expansive soil.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project does not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	❑	☒	❑	❑

Federal, state, and local regulations and policies provide protection for paleontological resources. These include, but are not limited to, the federal Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-011, Title VI, Subtitle D) and California Public Resources Code Section 30244.

*CRM TECH performed a paleontological resources assessment of the Project site, the methods, results, findings, and recommendations of which are set forth in the report, Paleontological Resources Assessment Report Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project, City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California, dated August 1, 2023 (Paleontological Report), a copy of which is included in **Appendix D** herein.*

As part of its assessment, CRM TECH initiated a paleontological records search, conducted a literature review, and conducted a systematic field survey of the Project site in accordance with the guidelines of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Based on the findings of the paleontological assessment, the Project has a high potential to impact significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources in the native alluvial sediments present throughout the Project area. Based on these findings, CRM TECH recommends that a paleontological resource impact mitigation program be developed and implemented to avoid or reduce impacts on significant nonrenewable paleontological resources. The measures set forth in Mitigation Measure PALEO-1 comprise the paleontological resource impact mitigation program and will be implemented during Project construction. Mitigation Measure PALEO-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, a copy of which is attached to the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration in ***Appendix A*** *herein. With incorporation of PALEO-1, construction and operation of the Project would not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or geological feature.*

Mitigation Measure PALEO-1: Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program

Based on the findings of a paleontological assessment conducted for the Project site, the Project has a high potential to impact significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources in the native alluvial sediments present throughout the Project area. The following measures will be implemented to protect any paleontological resources uncovered during ground disturbance at the Project site:

- *A qualified paleontological monitor will monitor all earth-moving operations reaching beyond the previously-disturbed surface soils in order to ensure the timely identification of the undisturbed, potentially-fossiliferous sediments when they are encountered.*
- *The paleontological monitor will be prepared to quickly salvage fossil remains upon discovery to avoid construction delays and shall have the authority to temporarily halt or divert construction equipment and activities to allow for removal of abundant or large specimens.*
- *Collected samples of sediment will be processed to recover small fossils, and all recovered non-microscopic specimens should be identified and curated at a repository with permanent retrievable storage.*
- *A report of findings, including an itemized inventory of recovered specimens, will be prepared upon completion of the procedures outlined above. The report will include a discussion of the significance of the paleontological findings, if any. The report and the inventory, when submitted to Yucaipa Valley Water District, signifies completion of the paleontological resources impact mitigation program.*

Issue VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	❑	❑	☒	❑

Gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere are referred to as greenhouse gases (GHGs). GHGs that are emitted due to human activities, primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels (e.g. gasoline in motor vehicles), are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O). The most common GHG that results from human activities is CO_2, followed by CH_4 and N_2O, respectively.

To quantify and combine these three GHGs into a single figure, each gas is converted to "carbon dioxide equivalent" (CO_2e) units. CO_2e is defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as, "A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential (GWP)…The carbon dioxide equivalent for a gas is derived by multiplying the tons of the gas by the associated GWP." The GWPs for carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide are 1, 25, and 298, respectively.

*The Project is expected to generate GHGs during construction and operation. GHGs emitted during construction would result from operating construction vehicles and equipment and from workers' vehicles commuting to and from the Project Site. Estimated quantities of GHGs that would be generated during Project construction total approximately 5,395 metric tons of CO_2e, as calculated by reports generated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod, Version 2022.1). A copy of the CalEEMod output report is included in **Appendix E** herein.*

GHGs emitted during ongoing operation and maintenance would result from occasional (infrequent) operation of the natural gas-powered standby generator and daily vehicle trips to and from the Project site; however, since these vehicle trips are already taking place for operation of the Existing Lift Station No. 4 on the Project site, the Project would not result in an increase in vehicle trips for ongoing operation and maintenance above existing conditions; therefore, there would be no impact.

SCAQMD has a significance threshold of 10,000 metric tons of CO_2e per year; therefore, project construction GHG emissions of 5,395 metric tons of CO_2e is not considered significant. Further, said construction GHG emissions are temporary and will not continue after completion of construction.

For the reasons described above, the Project will not generate GHG emissions that would, either directly or indirectly, have a significant impact on the environment.

Issue VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases?	❑	❑	❑	☒

*As described in **Issue VIII(a)** above, construction of the Project would generate insignificant quantities of GHGs, while operation of the Project would not result in an increase in GHG emissions over existing conditions. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not conflict with any plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.*

Issue IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Small quantities of fuel, lubricants, adhesives, paint, and coatings will be used during construction of the Project. Said use will be short-term and strictly controlled, and waste materials will be properly disposed of. Such materials will not be allowed to enter any drainage. Further, operation of the Project does not involve the generation, transport, use, storage, or disposal of any hazardous materials. Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project includes constructing and operating replacement domestic sewage lift station facilities, along with associated controls, discharge piping, and appurtenances, for use in collecting sewage flows and pumping it into YVWD's Wastewater Treatment Plant headworks. The New Lift Station No. 4 will

replace the Existing Lift Station No. 4, which is approaching the end of its useful service life. The Project does not have the potential to 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. Refer also to ***Issue IX(a)*** *above.*

Issue IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	❑	❑	❑	☒

There are no schools located within one-quarter mile of the Project site. The nearest school is located approximately a half mile to the southeast of the Project site. Project construction and operation will take place within the existing Project site and adjoining public street right-of-way and will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project site is not located on a site included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. According to maps and data available to the public on EnviroStor (the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) database located online at http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public), the nearest such site is the Jorco Chemical Company site, located at 32185 Outer Highway 10, Redlands, California 92373. Jorco Chemical Company occupied the site from 1955 to 2003, and remedial actions have been taken to remove contaminated soil. Due to the distance from the Project site, no impacts are expected. For these reasons, the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment related to a hazardous materials site.

Issue IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The airport nearest the Project site is the Redlands Municipal Airport, located approximately eight miles northwesterly of the Project site. According to maps included in the Redlands Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (adopted February 18, 1997 by Redlands City Council and revised on May 6, 2003), the Project Site does not lie within a compatibility zone or a noise contour of the Redlands Municipal Airport. The Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise related to proximity to an airport.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Transportation corridors will remain open during Project construction; although, lane closures are expected during construction within Calimesa Boulevard. Construction within Calimesa Boulevard will be short-term and will not require a complete road closure. Once construction is complete, there would be no additional vehicle trips to the Project site over existing conditions. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	❑	❑	☒	❑

Based on maps available on the Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer available on the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire Resource and Assessment Program website (http://frap.fire.ca.gov), the Project Site is not located in an area designated as a moderate, high, or very high fire hazard severity zone. There is a slight risk of fire occurring during Project construction; however, the risk is less than significant and short-term. Additionally, construction contract documents for the Project will require construction contractors to comply with safety standards specified in Title 8

of the California Code of Regulations and that any equipment or machinery that poses a risk of emitting sparks or flame be equipped with an arrestor, thereby further limiting potential impacts. Project facilities do not include structures intended for more than occasional human occupation. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

Issue X. Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project includes constructing and operating a replacement domestic sewage lift station, along with associated controls and appurtenances, for use in pumping wastewater flows from the lift station's service area to YVWD's Waste Water Treatment Plant headworks. The Project will comply with all applicable water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, and all of the requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana River Basin Region (Regional Board). For these reasons, the Project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project does not have a water demand beyond that required during construction. Therefore, the Project does not have the potential to substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge.

Issue X. Hydrology and Water Quality (Continued)

c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	❑	❑	☒	❑
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?	❑	❑	☒	❑
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	❑	❑	❑	☒
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	❑	❑	❑	☒

i) Current impervious surfaces on the Project site include the Existing Lift Station No. 4 facilities. The site will be graded during Project construction. The paved portion of existing facilities will be removed and replaced with Class 2 base, and the only impervious facilities on the completed Project site will be the aboveground New Lift Station No. 4 facilities. Because the site will not be paved and is relatively flat, stormwater will be more likely to percolate onsite rather than flow offsite; however, this will not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Therefore, drainage flow and pattern changes will be less than significant and will not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.

ii) Because the Project site will not be paved, the Project is not expected to substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite. Refer also to ***Issue X(c)(i)*** *above.*

iii) The Project would not create or contribute any runoff water or result in stormwater runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Refer also to ***Issues X(c)(i)*** *and* ***X(c)(ii)*** *above.*

iv) Project facilities do not have the potential to impede or redirect flood flows. Refer also to ***Issues X(c)(i)*** *through* ***X(c)(iii)*** *above.*

Issue X. Hydrology and Water Quality (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	❑	❑	☒	❑

Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map No. 06065C0890G, effective 08/28/2008 and revised to reflect a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) effective August 8, 2022, the Project site is located within an area mapped as a Regulatory Floodway, associated with the Garden Air Golf Course Wash. Although the Project site is located within a floodway, Project facilities would not release pollutants as a result of inundation due to flooding. Based on the California Official Tsunami Inundation Maps available on the California Department of Conservation website at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps, there are no tsunami inundation areas mapped within Riverside County. There are no water bodies of sufficient size located near the Project site that would put the site at risk of a seiche. For these reasons, the Project would not risk release of pollutants due to inundation.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The water quality control plan applicable to the Project area is the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin Region, adopted in 1995 and updated in 2008, 2011, 2016, and 2019. The Project does not include features that will conflict with or obstruct water quality policies or objectives, and will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the water quality control plan cited above.

The Project site is located within the boundaries of the San Gorgonio Pass Groundwater Sustainability Agency, overlying the adjudicated Beaumont Basin. The Project does not have the potential to adversely impact groundwater in the Beaumont Basin.

For the reasons described above, the Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Issue XI. Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project physically divide an established community?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project is located on and adjacent to the site of the Existing Lift Station No. 4, all within property owned by YVWD. The Project does not have the potential to physically divide an established community.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project is being constructed on existing YVWD-owned properties. Project construction and operation will take place within the bounds of the existing YVWD-owned properties and adjoining public street right-of-way in Calimesa Boulevard. The Project will not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

Issue XII. Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Project facilities will be located within YVWDs existing properties, which are not known to contain any mineral resources that would be of value to the region or to the residents of the state. The Project would not impact the availability of any known mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites. For these reasons, the Project would not 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.

Issue XII. Mineral Resources (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Based on Figure OS-6 of the County of Riverside Multipurpose Open Space Element, dated December 8, 2015, which is part of the Riverside County General Plan, the Project site is located in an area mapped as "MRZ-3", meaning that the significance of mineral deposits is undetermined. The Project will not result in the loss of availability of a local-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Refer also to ***Issue XII(a)*** *above.*

Issue XIII. Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	❑	❑	☒	❑

The Project will generate increased noise levels in the area temporarily during construction as a result of construction vehicles and equipment operating onsite. Said construction noise will comply with the provisions of City of Calimesa Municipal Code Chapter 8.15, Noise Abatement and Control.

Based on the City of Calimesa 2014 General Plan, roadway noise is the most prevalent noise source in Calimesa. An incremental increase in noise resulting from operation of Project facilities is anticipated to be generated by the pumps included in the Project and by the infrequent operation (including semi-annual testing) of the standby generator; however, the pump building and generator enclosures are both sound-attenuating. Therefore, considering the existing ambient noise resulting from major roadways in the area, any noise resulting from operation of the Project facilities is not expected to be perceptible at any existing residences or other sensitive land uses in the vicinity. Calimesa Boulevard, which borders the Project site, is classified as a "Major Arterial", while Interstate 10 is also nearby to the west.

For the reasons described above, the Project will not result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established for the area.

Issue XIII. Noise (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project is not expected to result in excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise during Project construction or operation. Any groundborne vibration or groundborne noise generated during Project construction are not expected to be perceptible at any residences, with the nearest being located approximately 450 feet northwesterly of the Project site. Ongoing Project operation will not generate groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. For these reasons, the Project will not result in the generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Refer also to ***Issue XIII(a)*** *above.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The airport nearest the Project site is the Redlands Municipal Airport, located approximately eight miles northwesterly of the Project site. Based on maps included in the Redlands Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (adopted February 18, 1997 by Redlands City Council and revised on May 6, 2003), the Project site does not lie within a compatibility zone or a noise contour of the Redlands Municipal Airport.

For these reasons, the Project will not expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels related to airports.

Issue XIV. Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project 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 road or other infrastructure)?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project is intended to replace aged facilities reaching the end of their useful service life, as well as to accommodate future planned residential developments in the lift station service area. The Project will not require YVWD to hire additional permanent employees and would not induce unplanned growth in the area, either directly or indirectly.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project is located on existing YVWD property, does not include the construction or destruction of any housing, and does not have the potential to displace any existing people or housing.

Issue XV. Public Services

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

i) The Project does not include any features or facilities that would require additional or unusual fire protection resources.

ii) The Project does not include any features or facilities that would require enhanced levels of police protection.

iii) The Project does not have the potential to increase or decrease the area's population and would therefore not result in a greater or lesser demand for schools. The Project will not adversely impact any school.

iv) The Project does not have the potential to increase or decrease the area's population, and therefore will not result in a greater or lesser demand for parks. The Project will not adversely impact any park.

v) The Project will not adversely affect other public facilities.

Issue XVI. Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Construction and operation of the Project do not have the potential to increase or decrease the area's population, and would therefore not result in increased or decreased use of parks or other recreational facilities. Refer also to ***Issue XIV(a)*** *herein.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project does not include recreational facilities and will not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities.

Issue XVII. Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	❑	❑	☒	❑

Minor, temporary impacts to traffic are expected to occur during construction of the Project due to workers' vehicles and construction vehicles and equipment at the Project site; however, said impacts will be less than significant and short-term. Additionally, temporary lane closures may be necessary during construction of the portion of the Project located within Calimesa Boulevard right-of-way. Operation of the Project will not increase vehicle trips in the area above existing conditions because the YVWD already visits the site daily for operation of the Existing Lift Station No. 4. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	❑	❑	☒	❑

Construction of the Project is expected to result in approximately ten worker vehicles traveling to and from the Project site per day. For the purposes of this analysis, we have assumed that workers will commute a total of 40 miles per day each, round-trip, which results in a total of 400 vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per day during construction. This amount of daily VMT will only occur during Project construction and is not significant considering the existing traffic levels in the area and the short-term nature of construction. Operation of the Project is expected to require approximately one daily YVWD vehicle trip to and from Project site daily; however, these trips are an existing ongoing activity that is necessary for operation of the existing facilities on the site. Therefore, no increase in VMT will result from operation of the Project. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b).

Issue XVII. Transportation (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project will be constructed on the Existing Lift Station No. 4 site and surrounding property. Besides a pipeline and manhole to be constructed within Calimesa Boulevard, no road improvements or other facilities located outside of the Project site are included in the Project. For these reasons, construction and operation of the Project will not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	❑	❑	❑	☒

While short-term lane closures may be necessary during construction taking place within Calimesa Boulevard, road closures are not expected. No road or lane closures pursuant to operation of the Project will be needed. For these reasons, the Project will not result in inadequate emergency access at the Project site or in the local vicinity.

Issue XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code 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.	❑	☒	❑	❑

i) *Based on the cultural resources report prepared by CRM TECH, cited in **Issue V(a)** herein and included in **Appendix C**, there are no known tribal cultural resources or other cultural resources on the Project site that are 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). Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource that is 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). Refer also to **Issue V(a)** herein.*

ii) *On September 6, 2023, YVWD sent formal notification letters to the following Native American tribes, who have previously requested such notice from YVWD:*

- *Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly San Manuel Band of Mission Indians)*
- *Morongo Band of Mission Indians*

On September 12, 2023, in response to YVWD's notification letter, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (the tribe) requested additional information and documents pertaining to the Project. After YVWD provided the requested information and documents, the tribe, on

September 14, 2023, requested that certain mitigation measures for cultural resources and tribal cultural resources be included in the Project (reflected in Mitigation Measure TCR-1). The tribe did not request to consult with YVWD on the Project.

YVWD did not receive a response from Morongo Band of Mission Indians. YVWD did not receive a request for consultation on the Project from any tribe.

Based on the cultural resources report prepared by CRM TECH, cited in ***Issue V(a)****, a copy of which is included in* ***Appendix C*** *herein, there are no known tribal cultural resources or other cultural resources on the Project site that are 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). However, in order to avoid or reduce potential impacts upon tribal cultural resources that may be present onsite but not yet discovered, Mitigation Measure TCR-1 is incorporated into the Project. Mitigation Measure TCR-1 is summarized below and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, a copy of which is included in* ***Appendix A*** *herein.*

Mitigation Measure TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources

YVWD will contact the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN), as detailed in Mitigation Measure CUL-1, of any pre-contact or historic-era cultural resources discovered during Project construction, and will provide YSMN with information regarding the nature of the find, so that YSMN can provide input with regard to significance and treatment of the find. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA, a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be developed by a qualified archaeologist, in coordination with YSMN, and all subsequent finds at the Project site shall be subject to said plan. The Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall allow for a monitor that represents YSMN to be present onsite during the remainder of ground-disturbing activities, should YSMN elect to place a monitor onsite. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the Project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be provided to YVWD for dissemination to YSMN. YVWD will consult in good faith with YSMN throughout Project construction.

Issue XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project 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 relocation or construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	❑	❑	☒	❑

The Project consists of construction and operation of a replacement sewage lift station, as described in ***Part 1(B)*** *herein. While Project facilities will include electric service and natural gas service as part of the Project, these facilities will all be located within the existing YVWD-owned Project site and will not have a significant environmental impact.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Water needed during construction, such as for dust control, will be available from YVWD's existing water supplies, and construction water demand will be less than significant and short-term. Operation of the Project facilities does not have a water demand. For these reasons, the Project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project includes replacement of existing wastewater facilities by YVWD, which provides wastewater service in the Project area.

Issue XIX. Utilities and Service Systems (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	☒	❑

Project operation will not generate solid waste. Small quantities of solid waste may be generated during Project construction; however, said quantities of solid waste would be minimal and would be recycled or accommodated by a local landfill. For these reasons, the project will not generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure. Further, the Project will not otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste*?*	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project will comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Refer also to ***Issue XIX(d)*** *above.*

Issue XX. Wildfire

If the Project is located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	❑	❑	❑	☒

Based on maps available on the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection State Responsibility Area Viewer, the Project Site is not located within a state responsibility area (SRA) or a very high fire hazard severity zone. The Project is not located in or adjacent to state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones and does not have the potential to substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Issue XX. Wildfire (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, or other factors, would the project exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project does not include habitable structures, and there would be no project occupants except for YVWD employees who are expected to visit the site daily for operation and maintenance purposes. Further, construction and operation of the Project will not exacerbate wildfire risks. Refer also to ***Issue XX(a)*** *above.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project 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?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project does not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that will exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment related to fire risk. Refer also to ***Issue XX(a)*** *above.*

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslide, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	❑	❑	❑	☒

The Project Site is relatively flat and, after completion of construction, disturbed surfaces not containing aboveground facilities will be overlain with Class 2 base. Construction and operation of the Project will not expose people or structures to significant risks as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

Issue XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

a) Does the project 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?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	❑	☒	❑	❑

- ***Biological Resources***

  *As described in **Issue IV** herein, the Project site contains suitable or potentially suitable habitat for burrowing owl and nesting birds. Potential Project impacts to burrowing owl and nesting birds will not be significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2, which are set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Project, attached to the Mitigated Negative Declaration included in **Appendix A** herein.*

- ***Archaeological and Historical Resources***

  *As described in **Issue V** herein, a historical/archaeological resources assessment was conducted at the Project site. Based on the assessment, there are no resources present on the Project site that meet the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or qualify as a historical or archaeological resource under CEQA. Construction and operation of the Project is not expected to eliminate known important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory; however, in order to avoid or reduce potential impacts upon any previously undiscovered historical or archaeological resources that may be present in subsurface deposits, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 is incorporated into the Project and is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program included in **Appendix A** herein. With incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the Project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.*

- ***Paleontological Resources***

  *As described in **Issue VII(f)** herein, a paleontological resources assessment was conducted at the Project site. Based on said assessment, the Project has a high potential to impact significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources in the native alluvial sediments present throughout the Project area. Therefore, in order to avoid or reduce adverse impacts to paleontological resources, a paleontological resource impact mitigation program is incorporated into the project as Mitigation Measure PALEO-1. Mitigation Measure PALEO-1 is set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and*

Reporting Program for the Project, a copy of which is included in ***Appendix A*** *herein. With incorporation of Mitigation Measure PALEO-1, the Project will not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California prehistory.*

Issue XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance (Continued)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	❑	❑	❑	☒

None of the impacts or potential impacts of the Project are cumulatively considerable.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	❑	❑	❑	☒

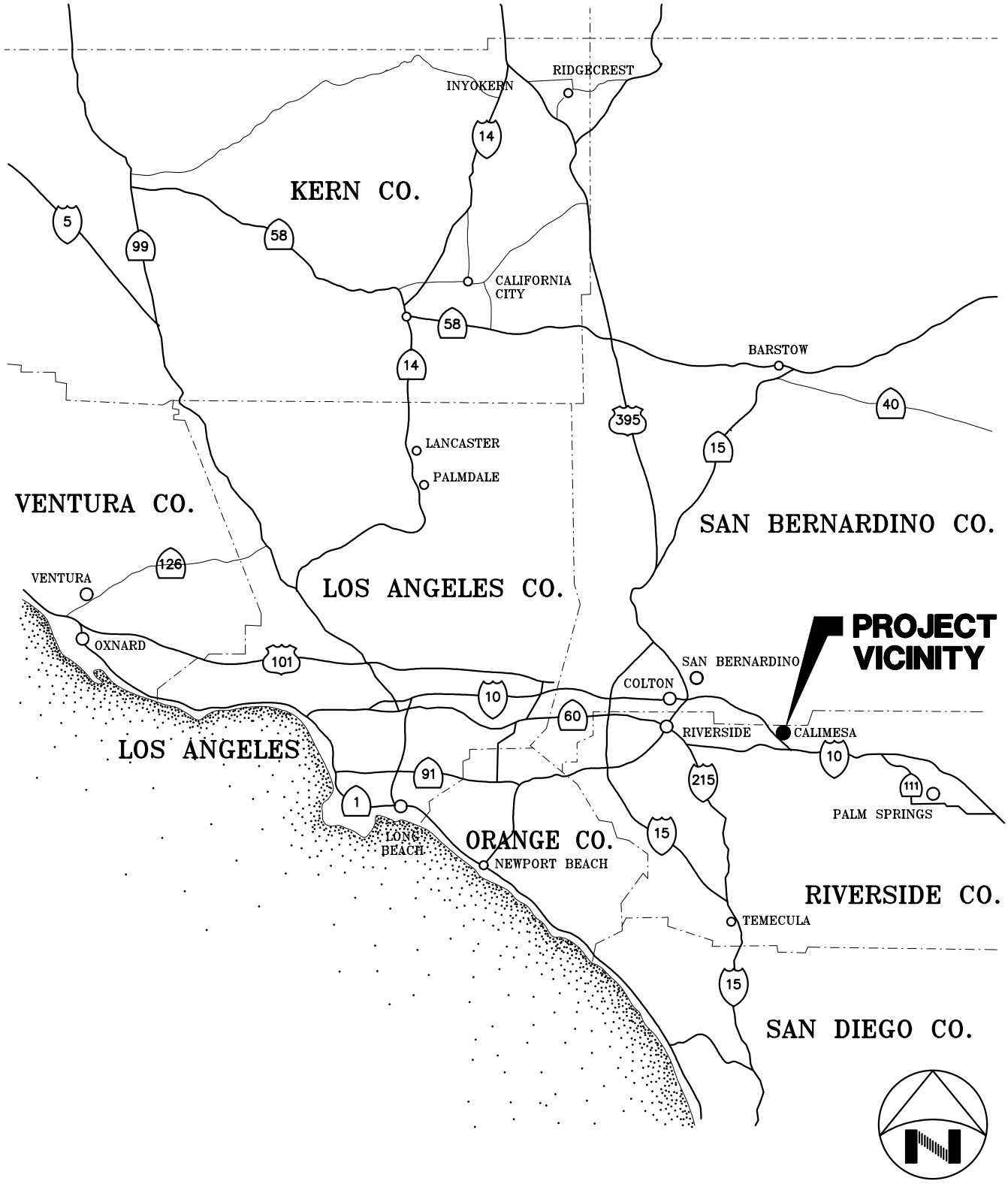
As described herein, none of the environmental effects of the Project will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

PART 3
REFERENCES AND SOURCES

PART 3 - REFERENCES AND SOURCES

- California Air Resources Board Website for California Ambient Air Quality Standards, www.arb.ca.gov/resources/california-ambient-air-quality-standards
- California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection State Responsibility Area Viewer, bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/state-responsibility-area-viewer
- California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources Protection, California Important Farmland Finder, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF
- California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3; Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15000 *et seq;* as amended December 28, 2018
- California Department of Conservation Tsunami Program Website, conservation.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps
- California Department of Toxic Substances Control Website, EnviroStor Database, www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public
- California Department of Transportation California Scenic Highway Mapping System Website, www.dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways
- California Emissions Estimator Model® (CalEEMod) Software, Version 2022.1, accessed online at caleemod.com
- City of Calimesa 2014 General Plan, City of Calimesa, adopted August 4, 2014
- County of Riverside Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder website for Agricultural Preserves, https://www.rivcoacr.org/agricultural-preserve-information
- County of Riverside General Plan, County of Riverside, 2015, updated 2021
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Service Center Website, www.msc.fema.gov
- Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer, Fire Resource and Assessment Program, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, https://frap.fire.ca.gov
- Google Earth Pro, Version 7.3.6.9345
- Office of the State Fire Marshal Website, osfm.fire.ca.gov
- South Coast Air Quality Management District Website, www.aqmd.gov
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Groundwater Management Website, water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management
- United States Environmental Protection Agency Website for National Ambient Air Quality Standards, www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants

FIGURES



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YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

LIFT STATION No.4 REPLACEMENT

PROJECT VICINITY

FIGURE 1 OF 3

SCALE: N.T.S. DATE: 08/17/23 DRAWN BY: TMW CHECKED BY: VEM W.O.: 818-149

818-149_ISF1.DWG

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YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

LIFT STATION No.4 REPLACEMENT

PROJECT AREA

FIGURE 2 OF 3

SCALE: 1"=400' DATE: 08/17/23 DRAWN BY: TMW CHECKED BY: VEM W.O.: 818-149

818-149_ISF2.DWG

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YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

LIFT STATION No.4 REPLACEMENT

PROJECT LOCATION

FIGURE
3
OF 3

SCALE: 1"=60' DATE: 08/17/23 DRAWN BY: TMW CHECKED BY: VEM W.O.: 818-149

818-149_ISF3.DWG

APPENDIX A

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
LIFT STATION NO. 4 REPLACEMENT PROJECT
DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project: YVWD's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project (the Project) generally consists of construction of a sewage lift station (New Lift Station No. 4) with a capacity of approximately 630 gallons per minute (gpm). The Project also includes demolition and removal of the Existing Lift Station No. 4, which is present on a portion of the Project site, is approaching the end of its useful service life, and has a capacity that is inadequate to serve future planned residential development within the lift station service area. A more detailed description of the Project is included in the Project Initial Study. A copy of the Project Initial Study is available for review at Yucaipa Valley Water District's office, located at 12770 Second Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

Location: The Project site is situated along Calimesa Boulevard, east of Interstate 10, south of Sandalwood Drive, and northwest of Redwood Lane, in the City of Calimesa. The Project is located on YVWD-owned property consisting of Assessor's Parcel Number 413-210-039 and a portion of 413-210-054, as well as within the Calimesa Boulevard public street right-of-way, all within the City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California. Figures 1, 2, and 3, copies of which are included with the Initial Study for the Project, depict the locations of the Project facilities.

Entity: Yucaipa Valley Water District

The District's Board of Directors, having conducted a careful and independent review of the Initial Study for the Project, having reviewed the written comments received prior to the public meeting of the Board, and having heard at a public meeting of the Board the comments of any and all concerned persons or entities, including the recommendation of District staff, does hereby find and declare that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the Board's findings is as follows:

> Construction and operation of the Project as modified will not result in significant adverse impacts upon any threatened or endangered species of plants or animals, nor will it result in damage to or destruction of any significant examples of California history or prehistory or tribal cultural resources. Potential impacts related to biological resources and historical/archaeological/paleontological/tribal cultural resources will be avoided or reduced by adhering to the terms of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (see Exhibit A, attached, which is incorporated herein by reference) prior to and throughout construction of the Project.

The Board of Directors hereby finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment. The Initial Study was prepared by Krieger & Stewart, the District's Consulting Engineer for this project. The Initial Study may be viewed at the office of the Yucaipa Valley Water District located at 12770 Second Street, Yucaipa, CA 92399.

Date: _____

_____
Joseph B. Zoba
General Manager
YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

EXHIBIT A TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Section I – Introduction

Section 21081.6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that a mitigation monitoring program be prepared prior to the approval of any project which incorporates mitigation measures as a condition of approval. Mitigation measures are generally adopted to reduce the potentially significant adverse environmental impacts of a project to a level that is less than significant. The mitigation monitoring program must ensure compliance with mitigation measures prior to and during project construction (and, if applicable, during project operation).

Since the project considered by the Initial Study for the Yucaipa Valley Water District's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project (Project) incorporates mitigation measures as a condition of approval, this mitigation monitoring and reporting program has been prepared and incorporated into the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project.

Section II – Biological Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue IV of the Project Initial Study, there is potential for burrowing owl, nesting bird species, or both, to be present on the Project site. Without mitigation, the Project could potentially result in significant adverse impacts upon these bird species. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to reduce potential impacts by the Project upon biological resources, particularly nesting birds, by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measures (**BIO-1 and BIO-2**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in a significant adverse impact upon burrowing owls or nesting birds. Each measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

BIO-1: Burrowing Owl

The Project site contains potential habitat for burrowing owl. To determine whether burrowing owl is present on the Project site, a focused burrowing owl survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist in accordance with California Department of Fish and Wildlife's 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. The focused survey includes four site visits conducted during the breeding season, with one visit between February 15 and April 15 and three visits at least three weeks apart, between April 15 and July 15, with at least one of these three taking place after June 15. If burrowing owl is detected, the preparation of a burrowing owl mitigation plan would be required in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If no burrowing owl is detected during the focused survey, then a preconstruction burrowing owl survey is required within 14 days prior to initial ground disturbing activities, including vegetation removal, at the Project site.

Responsible Party: YVWD Project Manager

Implementation Period: Prior to and During Project Construction

BIO-2: Nesting Birds

The Project site contains suitable habitat for nesting bird species. To avoid potential effects to nesting birds, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 3 days and not more than 7 days prior to any construction activities, including vegetation removal. If no nesting birds are found during the preconstruction survey, then construction may commence within 7 days of completion of the preconstruction survey.

If nesting birds are found during the preconstruction survey, the qualified biologist will establish an exclusionary buffer or buffers around the nests. The buffer(s) will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under guidance of the qualified biologist. No construction activities, including vegetation removal, are allowed within the buffer zone(s) until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

Whether or not any nesting birds were identified during the preconstruction survey, if more than 7 days have lapsed since the preconstruction survey and construction or vegetation removal have not yet commenced, then another preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted to determine whether any nesting birds have moved into the site.

Responsible Party: YVWD Project Manager

Implementation Period: Prior to and During Project Construction

Section III – Historical and Archaeological Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue V of the Project Initial Study, the Project would not result in an adverse impact upon any known historical or archaeological resources (cultural resources). This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to avoid or reduce the potential for impacts by the Project upon previously-undiscovered cultural resources that may be present in subsurface soil deposits by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measures (**CUL-1 and CUL-2**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in significant adverse impacts upon any previously-undiscovered cultural resources that may be uncovered during Project construction. Each measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

CUL-1: Cultural Resources

In the event that cultural resources are discovered during Project construction activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot radius buffer area) shall cease, and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards in archaeology will be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the Project outside of the buffer area may continue during the assessment of the find. Additionally, YVWD will contact the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN), as detailed in Mitigation Measure TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact and/or historic-era finds and will provide YSMN with the archaeologist's determination after the initial assessment of the nature of the find, so that YSMN can provide tribal input with regard to significance and treatment of the potential resource. If significant pre-contact and/or historic era cultural resources, as defined by CEQA, are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist will develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which will be provided to YSMN for review and comment, as detailed in Mitigation Measure TCR-1. Further, if any significant pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resource is discovered, a qualified archaeologist will monitor the remainder of construction ground-disturbing activities and will implement the Monitoring and Treatment Plan accordingly.

Responsible Party: YVWD Project Manager

Implementation Period: During Ground Disturbing Activities

CUL-2: Human Remains

In the event that any human remains, or what appear to be human remains, are uncovered or encountered during Project construction, the construction contractor shall halt or divert all work within a 100-foot buffer of the find and will immediately notify the Riverside County Coroner's Office via telephone. After notifying the County Coroner, the contractor shall also notify Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) via telephone. Construction activities will not resume in the area of the find until YVWD notifies the construction contractor to resume construction activities. California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 will be enforced for the duration of the Project.

Responsible Party: YVWD Project Manager
Implementation Period: During Ground Disturbing Activities

Section IV – Paleontological Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue VII of the Project Initial Study, a paleontological resources assessment was conducted for the Project site. Based on the paleontological resources assessment report, the Project has a high potential to impact significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources in the native alluvial sediments present throughout the Project area. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to avoid or reduce the potential for impacts by the Project upon previously-undiscovered paleontological resources that may be present in subsurface soil deposits by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measure (**PALEO-1**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in significant adverse impacts upon any previously-undiscovered paleontological resources that may be uncovered during Project construction. The measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

PALEO-1: Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program

Based on the findings of a paleontological resources assessment of the Project site, the Project has a high potential to impact significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources in the native alluvial

sediments present throughout the Project area. The following measures will be implemented to protect any paleontological resources uncovered during ground disturbance at the Project site:

- A qualified paleontological monitor will monitor all earth-moving operations reaching beyond the previously-disturbed surface soils in order to ensure the timely identification of the undisturbed, potentially-fossiliferous sediments when they are encountered.
- The paleontological monitor will be prepared to quickly salvage fossil remains upon discovery to avoid construction delays and shall have the authority to temporarily halt or divert construction equipment and activities to allow for removal of abundant or large specimens.
- Collected samples of sediment will be processed to recover small fossils, and all recovered non-microscopic specimens should be identified and curated at a repository with permanent retrievable storage.
- A report of findings, including an itemized inventory of recovered specimens, will be prepared upon completion of the procedures outlined above. The report will include a discussion of the significance of the paleontological findings, if any. The report and the inventory, when submitted to Yucaipa Valley Water District, signifies completion of the paleontological resources impact mitigation program.

Responsible Party: YVWD Project Manager
Implementation Period: During (and possibly after) Ground Disturbing Activities

Section V – Tribal Cultural Resources Mitigation Measures and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

As discussed in Issue XVIII of the Project Initial Study, there are no known tribal cultural resources or other cultural resources on the Project site, and the Project would not result in an adverse impact upon any known tribal cultural resources. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is intended to avoid or reduce the potential for impacts by the Project upon previously-undiscovered tribal cultural resources that may be present in subsurface soil deposits by specifying methods and procedures for avoiding or reducing such impacts.

The following mitigation measure (**TCR-1**) will be implemented in order to ensure that construction of Project facilities does not result in significant adverse impacts upon any previously-undiscovered tribal cultural resources that may be uncovered during Project construction. The measure is attended by a notation of the party responsible for its implementation and of the period for which it will be in effect.

TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources

YVWD will contact the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN), as detailed in Mitigation Measure CUL-1, of any pre-contact or historic-era cultural resources discovered during Project construction, and will provide YSMN with information regarding the nature of the find, so that YSMN can provide input with regard to significance and treatment of the find. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA, a cultural resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be developed by a qualified archaeologist, in coordination with YSMN, and all subsequent finds at the Project site shall be subject to said plan. The Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall allow for a monitor that represents YSMN to be present onsite during the remainder of ground-disturbing activities, should YSMN elect to place a monitor onsite. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the Project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be provided to YVWD for dissemination to YSMN. YVWD will consult in good faith with YSMN throughout Project construction.

Responsible Party: YVWD Project Manager

Implementation Period: During Ground Disturbing Activities

APPENDIX B

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT LIFT STATION NO. 4

REPLACEMENT PROJECT

CALIMESA, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

LSA

August 2023

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT LIFT STATION NO. 4 REPLACEMENT PROJECT CALIMESA, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared for:

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
3890 Orange Street, Suite 1509
Riverside, California 92502

Prepared by:

LSA Associates, Inc.
1500 Iowa Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, California 92507
(951) 781-9310

LSA Project No. 20230955

LSA

August 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated retained LSA to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment. This report has been prepared for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The project site does not contain habitat for federally/State listed species. The project site provides suitable habitat for burrowing owl, a special-status species, and other nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code. A focused burrowing owl survey would be required to determine any potential effects to burrowing owl. To avoid potential effects to nesting birds, prior to construction activities, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 3 days and not more than 7 days prior to any construction activities and vegetation removal.

No jurisdictional waters subject to the regulatory authority of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or the Regional Water Quality Control Board are present on the project site.

The project site contains coast live oak trees that are subject to the City of Calimesa oak tree policy.

The project site is within the planning boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) is the lead agency for the project and is not signatory to the MSHCP. YVWD is not pursuing an MSHCP Participating Special Entity designation for the project. Therefore, the project is not subject to compliance with the MSHCP.

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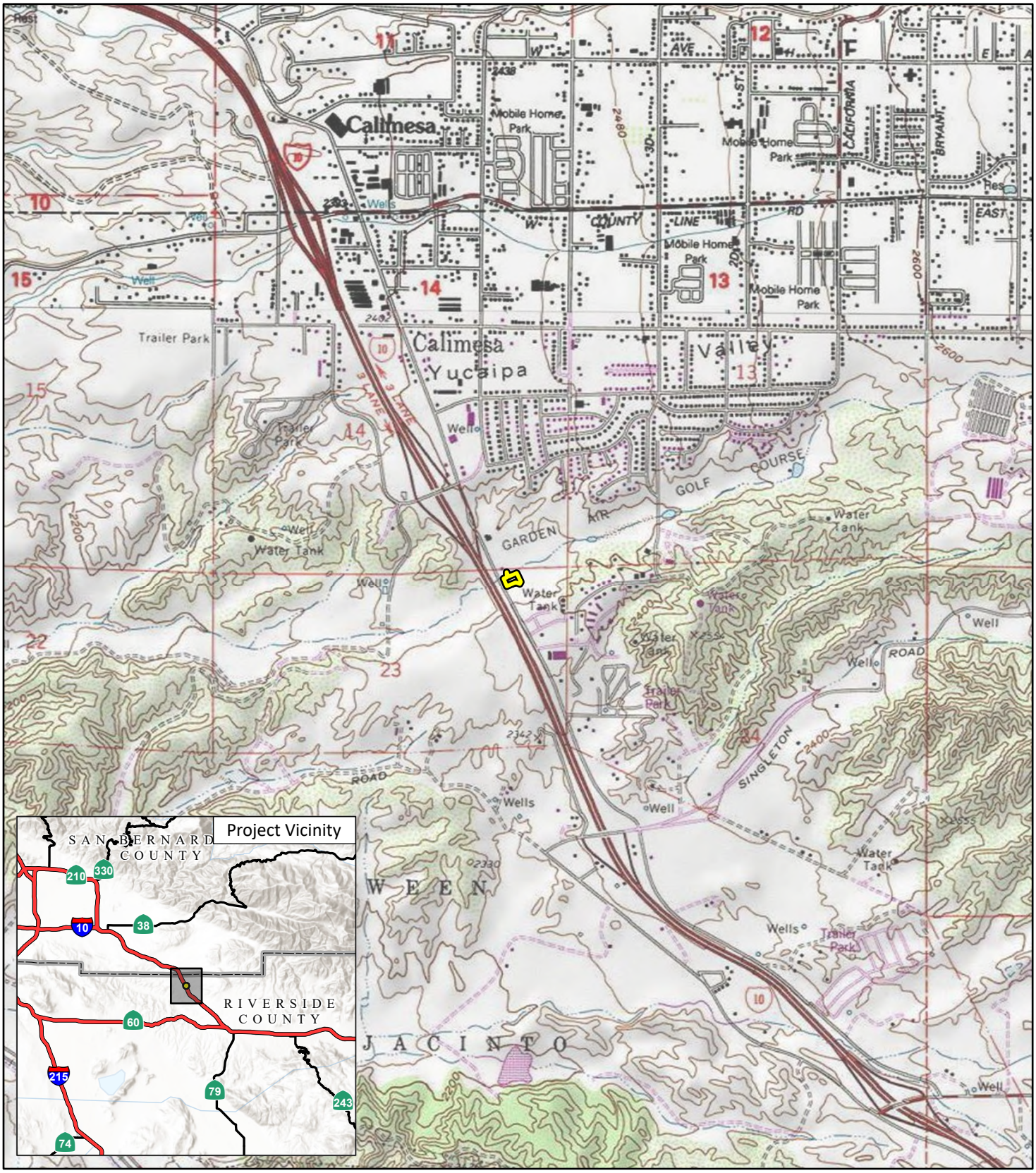
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CWA	federal Clean Water Act
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
MSHCP	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
project	Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
YVWD	Yucaipa Valley Water District

INTRODUCTION

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated retained LSA to prepare a Biological Resources Assessment for the approximately 0.7-acre proposed Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project (project). The project site is located along Calimesa Boulevard generally southeast of the intersection of Interstate 10 and Sandalwood Drive, Calimesa, Riverside County, California. The project site is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *El Casco and Yucaipa, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles in Section 23, Township 2 South, Range 2 West (see Figure 1).

The Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD) proposes to replace the existing Lift Station No. 4.



LSA

FIGURE 1

0 1000 2000
FEET

Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4

Project Location and Vicinity

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - *El Casco (1979)* and *Yucaipa (1988)*, CA

J:\20230955\GIS\Pro\East Valley Water District Li t Station No. 4\East Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4.aprx (8/18/2023)

METHODS

LITERATURE REVIEW

LSA conducted a literature review to assist in determining the existence or potential occurrence of special-interest plant and animal species within the project site and in the project vicinity. A record search of the *El Casco and Yucaipa, California* USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles was conducted on July 21, 2023 using Rarefind 5 (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] 2023). Current and historical aerial photographs were also reviewed using Google Earth (Google Earth Pro 2023). The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), Volume 1, Parts 1 and 2, was also reviewed (Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency 2003). The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Mapper and National Wetland Inventory were also queried (USFWS 2023a, 2023b). Soil types were determined using the WebSoil Survey (Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey version 3.4.0 [NRCS n.d.]).

FIELD SURVEY

LSA Biologist Denise Woodard conducted a general field survey of the project site on August 10, 2023, between 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Weather conditions during the survey consisted of cloudy skies (100 percent), a temperature of 70 degrees Fahrenheit, and winds ranging from 1 to 3 miles per hour. She surveyed the entire project site on foot and took notes on general site conditions, vegetation, and suitability of habitat for various special-interest elements. All plant and animal species observed or otherwise detected during this field survey were noted. Plant species observed are listed in Appendix A.

RESULTS

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The project site is vacant land that has been affected by existing and surrounding land uses. The site is affected by ongoing weed abatement practices, and surrounding land uses include the existing Lift Station No. 4 and vacant land on the north, undeveloped vacant land on the south and east, and Calimesa Boulevard and Interstate 10 on the west. Undeveloped lands in the immediate vicinity of the project site are primarily associated with the former Garden Air Golf Course, located westerly of the project site. The golf course itself is bordered by residential development. Olive trees (*Olea europaea*) were also noted easterly of the project site within the former golf course. As a result of existing and adjacent land uses, vegetation on the project site consists predominantly of ruderal/ non-native grasslands. The project is within the boundaries of the MSHCP, as discussed in further detail below.

Topography and Soils

The project site is relatively flat with an elevation of approximately 2,340 feet above mean sea level. The mapped soils on the project site consist of Hanford coarse sandy loam, 2 to 8 percent slopes. Soils observed on the project site appeared consistent with this designation.

Vegetation

Vegetation on the project site is best described as ruderal/non-native grasslands. Dominant species identified include shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), mouse barley (*Hordeum murinum*), and dove weed (*Croton setigerus*). Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees occur along the southeasterly site boundary.

Figure 2 shows vegetation and photograph locations, and Figure 3 shows site photographs. A complete list of plant species observed is provided in Appendix A, and wildlife species are discussed below.

Wildlife

Wildlife species observed within the project site are consistent with the existing setting and include American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), California scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), and Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*).

WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY MULTIPLE SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The MSHCP is a comprehensive multi-jurisdictional effort that includes western Riverside County and multiple cities. The MSHCP provides for the assembly of a Conservation Area consisting of Core Areas and Linkages for the conservation of species (Covered Species) and their associated habitats. Covered Species are 146 species of plants and animals of various federal and State listing statuses. The Conservation Area is to be assembled from portions of the MSHCP Criteria Area, which consists of quarter-section (i.e., 160-acre) Criteria Cells, each with specific criteria for species conservation

LSA

Project Location
Existing Lift Station No. 4
Photograph Locations

Vegetation Type
Ruderal / Non-Native Grasslands
Coast Live Oak

FIGURE 2

N

0 25 50
FEET

SOURCE: Google Maps

Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4
Vegetation and Land Cover

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1. View of ruderal/non-native grassland vegetation in foreground and the existing lift station in background.

2. View of ruderal/non-native grassland vegetation in foreground and offsite European olive trees in background.

3. View of ruderal/non-native grassland vegetation in foreground and existing lift station in background.

4. View of ruderal/non-native grassland vegetation in foreground and coast live oak trees in background.

LSA

FIGURE 3

Yucaipa Valley Water District
Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project
Site Photographs

5. View of current site conditions.

LSA

FIGURE 3
Page 2 of 2

Yucaipa Valley Water District
Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project
Site Photographs

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within that cell. The overall goal of this plan is to maintain biological and ecological diversity within a rapidly urbanizing region. The MSHCP was prepared to provide for the take and mitigation of the species covered under the MSHCP pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The MSHCP allows for the issuance of take at the local level, by MSHCP permittees, including the City of Calimesa, thereby streamlining the take authorization process on a project-by-project basis.

YVWD is the lead agency for this project and is not signatory to the MSHCP. YVWD is not pursuing obtaining an MSHCP Participating Special Entity designation for the project. Due to the project not being processed through the MSHCP for Covered Species, the project is subject to the FESA and/or CESA for any project effects to threatened, endangered, and/or candidate species.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

This section discusses special-status species observed or potentially occurring within the limits of the project site. Legal protection for special-interest species varies widely, from the comprehensive protection extended to listed threatened/endangered species to no legal interest at present. The CDFW, the USFWS, local agencies, and special-interest groups such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) publish watch lists of declining species. Species on watch lists can be included as part of the special-interest species assessment. The special-interest species list includes species that are candidates for State and/or federal listing and species on watch lists. Inclusion of species described in the special-interest species analysis is based on the following criteria:

- Direct observation of the species or its sign in the project site or immediate vicinity during previous biological studies;
- Sighting by other qualified observers;
- Records reported by the California Natural Diversity Database, published by the CDFW;
- Presence or location information for specific species provided by private groups (e.g., CNPS); and/or
- Project site lies within known distribution of a given species and contains appropriate habitat.

The special-interest species analysis revealed six special-interest species that are known to occur within a 1-mile radius of the project site. Table A lists these species with a data summary and determination of the likelihood of each species occurring on the project site.

Threatened/Endangered Species

Because YVWD is not a signatory of, and will not be participating in, the MSHCP, the project is subject to the FESA and/or CESA for any project effects to threatened, endangered, and/or candidate species.

Table A: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Activity Period	Occurrence Probability
Invertebrates				
Bombus crotchii Crotch bumble bee	US: – CA: SCE	Inhabits open scrub and grassland from coastal California to crest of Sierra-Cascade and in desert edge areas, south into Mexico. Primarily nests underground. Suitable bumble bee habitat requires the continuous availability of flowers on which to forage throughout the duration of the colony (spring through fall), colony nest sites, and overwintering sites for the queens.	Spring and summer	**Absent:** The ruderal/non-native grasslands on site do not support suitable flower availability and variability to support a colony.
Reptiles				
Anniella stebbinsi Southern California legless lizard	US: – CA: SSC	Inhabits sandy or loose loamy soils with high moisture content under sparse vegetation in Southern California.	Nearly year round, at least in southern areas	**Absent:** No loose loamy soils with high moisture content and sparse vegetation.
Birds				
Aimophila ruficeps canescens Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	US: – CA: SA	Steep, rocky coastal sage scrub and open chaparral habitats, particularly scrubby areas mixed with grasslands. From Santa Barbara County to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round, diurnal activity	**Absent:** No coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats.
Aquila chrysaetos (nesting and wintering) Golden eagle	US: – CA: CFP	Generally open country of the Temperate Zone worldwide. Nesting primarily in rugged mountainous country. Uncommon resident in Southern California.	Year-round diurnal	**Absent:** No suitable nesting habitat. However, this species may forage in the project vicinity.
Athene cunicularia hypugaea (burrow sites) Burrowing owl	US: – CA: SSC (breeding)	Open country in much of North and South America. Usually occupies ground squirrel burrows in open, dry grasslands, agricultural and range lands, railroad rights-of-way, and margins of highways, golf courses, and airports. Often uses man-made structures, such as earthen berms, cement culverts, cement, asphalt, rock, or wood debris piles. They avoid thick, tall vegetation, brush, and trees but may occur in areas where brush or tree cover is less than 30 percent.	Year-round	**Low.** Habitat on site is considered marginal due to dense ruderal/non-native grassland vegetation and small size (0.7 acre) of the project site. This species and its sign were not observed during the August 10, 2023 field survey.

Table A: Special-Status Species Summary

Species	Status	Habitat and Distribution	Activity Period	Occurrence Probability
Mammals				
Chaetodipus fallax fallax Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	US: – CA: SSC	Found in sandy herbaceous areas, usually associated with rocks or coarse gravel in coastal scrub, chaparral, grasslands, and sagebrush, from Los Angeles County through southwestern San Bernardino, western Riverside, and San Diego Counties to northern Baja California.	Year-round	**Absent:** Although grasslands are present, no suitable substrate (sandy soils, rocks or coarse gravel) occur.

Source: Compiled by LSA (2023).

LEGEND

CA: State Classifications

CFP Taxa State-listed as fully protected.
SA Special Animal. Refers to any other animal monitored by the Natural Diversity Database, regardless of its legal or protection status.
SCE Candidate for State-listing as Endangered.
SSC California Species of Special Concern. Refers to animals with vulnerable or seriously declining populations.

US: Federal Classifications

– No status.

Under provisions of Section 7(a)(2) of the FESA, a federal agency that permits, licenses, funds, or otherwise authorizes a project activity must consult with the USFWS to ensure that its actions would not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed threatened or endangered species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. The USFWS designates as threatened or endangered, species that are at risk of extinction and may also adopt recovery plans that identify specific areas that are essential to the conservation of a listed species. Critical habitat areas that may require special management considerations or protections can also be designated.

The CESA is administered by the CDFW and prohibits the "take" of plant and animal species identified as either threatened or endangered in the State of California by the Fish and Game Commission (Fish and Game Code Section 2050 to 2097). "Take" is defined as hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. Sections 2091 and 2081 of the CESA allow the CDFW to authorize exceptions to the prohibition of "take" of State-listed threatened or endangered plant and animal species for purposes such as public and private development. The CDFW requires formal consultation to ensure that a proposed project's actions would not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or destroy or adversely affect listed species' habitats.

One Candidate for State listing as endangered, Crotch bumble bee, was identified in Table A as potentially present in the project vicinity. Habitat (ruderal/non-native grasslands) on the project site is considered unsuitable for this species because it lacks suitable flower availability and variability to support a Crotch bumble bee colony, including colony nest sites and overwintering sites for the queens throughout the duration of a colony (spring through fall).

Non-Listed Special-Interest Species

Of the four non-listed special-interest species identified in Table A, three species, including Southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsii*), Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), and Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), are considered absent based on lack of suitable habitat. One species, burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*), has a low probability for occurrence.

CRITICAL HABITAT

The project site is not within federally designated critical habitat.

NESTING BIRDS

The project site contains suitable nesting habitat for burrowing owl, a special-status nesting bird, and other non-special-status bird species. Nesting bird species with potential to occur within the project site are protected by California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3800, and by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 United States Code 703–711). These laws regulate the take, possession, or destruction of the nest or eggs of any migratory bird or bird of prey.

JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. These waters include wetlands and non-wetland bodies of water that meet specific criteria, including a direct or indirect connection to interstate commerce. The USACE regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) is founded on a connection, or nexus, between the water body in question and interstate commerce. This connection may be direct (through a tributary system linking a stream channel with traditional navigable waters used in interstate or foreign commerce), or it may be indirect (through a nexus identified in the USACE regulations). To be considered a jurisdictional wetland under Section 404, an area must possess three wetland characteristics, each with its unique set of mandatory wetland criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology.

The CDFW, under Sections 1600 through 1616 of the California Fish and Game Code, regulates alterations to lakes, rivers, and streams (defined by the presence of a channel bed and banks, and at least an intermittent flow of water) where fish or wildlife resources may be adversely affected.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is responsible for the administration of Section 401 of the CWA. Typically, the areas subject to jurisdiction of the RWQCB coincide with those of the USACE (i.e., waters of the United States, including any wetlands). The RWQCB may also assert authority over “waters of the State” under waste discharge requirements pursuant to the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

No jurisdictional waters subject to the regulatory authority of the USACE, the CDFW, or the RWQCB are present on the project site.

IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a discussion of potential disturbances and recommendations for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures per applicable local, State, and federal policy.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Crotch Bumble Bee

The Crotch bumble bee, a State Candidate for listing as endangered, is considered absent from the project site based on the lack of suitable habitat. Therefore, the project will have no effects to this species.

CRITICAL HABITAT

No federally designated critical habitat is present within the project site; thus, there will be no project-related effects to critical habitat.

NON-LISTED SPECIAL-INTEREST SPECIES

Burrowing Owl

One special-interest species, burrowing owl, has potential to occur on the project site. This species has limited population distribution in Southern California, and development is further reducing its range and numbers. The burrowing owl has no official State or federal protection status but requires consideration under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Although no burrowing owl or its sign were found during the August 10, 2023 field survey, the burrowing owl is a mobile species and may occupy the site in the future. A focused survey is necessary to avoid any potential project effects to the burrowing owl per the following:

- A focused burrowing owl survey will be conducted in accordance with CDFW's 2012 *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFG 2012). Four site visits will be conducted during the breeding season: one between February 15 and April 15, and three, at least 3 weeks apart, between April 15 and July 15, with at least one of these after June 15. If burrowing owl is detected, the preparation of a burrowing owl mitigation plan would be required in coordination with the CDFW.

  If no burrowing owl are detected, a preconstruction survey would be required within 14 days prior to initial ground-disturbing activities.

NESTING BIRDS

The project site contains suitable habitat for nesting bird species. To avoid potential effects to nesting birds, implementation of the following measure would be required:

- Prior to construction activities, including vegetation removal, a preconstruction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 3 days and not more than 7 days

prior to any construction activities and vegetation removal. Should nesting birds be found, an exclusionary buffer will be established by the qualified biologist. The buffer will be clearly marked in the field by construction personnel under guidance of the qualified biologist. No construction activities will be allowed within this zone until the qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

JURISDICTIONAL WATERS

No jurisdictional waters subject to the regulatory authority of the USACE, the CDFW, or the RWQCB are present on the project site. Therefore, the project will have no effects to jurisdictional waters.

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT, CORRIDORS, AND NURSERY SITES

Wildlife movement includes seasonal migration along corridors and daily movements for foraging. Migration corridors may include areas of unobstructed movement of deer, riparian corridors providing cover for migrating birds, routes between breeding waters and upland habitat for amphibians, and areas between roosting and feeding areas for birds.

The project site is within an MSHCP special linkage area, which is composed of MSHCP criteria cells. The MSHCP special linkage was designed to be consistent with California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project (Spencer et al. 2010) linkage design associated with the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. The Habitat Connectivity Project identifies the linkage within the project area as a "linkage design area" but does not identify the linkage as an "essential connectivity area." The MSHCP special linkage generally extends in an easterly and westerly direction in the project vicinity.

The project site is also within an MSHCP proposed constrained linkage. The constrained linkage would support regional wildlife movement within the boundaries of the MSHCP from non-contiguous habitats easterly and westerly of the project site. Calimesa Boulevard and Interstate 10 serve as major barriers to regional wildlife movement westerly of the project site.

The MSHCP linkages on the project site are constrained by existing and surrounding land uses. Although the project will result in an incremental loss of habitat for wildlife movement, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in a substantial effect to regional wildlife movement and MSHCP linkages because of the project's relatively small footprint (0.7 acre), and because Calimesa Boulevard and Interstate 10 serve as major barriers to regional wildlife movement to the west.

No nursery sites occur on the project site. Therefore, the project will have no effects on nursery sites.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN

No natural communities of concern are present. Therefore, the project would have no effects to natural communities of concern.

LOCAL POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

The City of Calimesa's General Plan (City of Calimesa 2014) includes policies for governing biological resources. For example, policies may include tree preservation, locally designated species survey areas, local species of interest, and significant ecological areas.

The project site contains coast live oak trees that are subject to the City of Calimesa oak tree policy. If coast live oak trees are anticipated to be affected by the project, implementation of the following measure would be required:

- Coast live oak trees should be preserved whenever feasible. If preservation is not possible, trees should be replaced with oak trees of the same species at a ratio of 1:1.

- If coast live oak trees cannot be preserved, an oak tree assessment is required to determine project effects. In addition, for any oak trees to be replaced, the preparation of an oak tree mitigation and monitoring plan is required.

ADOPTED HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

The project is within the planning boundaries of the MSHCP. YVWD is the lead agency for the project but is not signatory to the MSHCP. YVWD is not pursuing an MSHCP Participating Special Entity designation for the project. Therefore, the project is not subject to compliance with the MSHCP.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

According to Section 15130 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, "cumulative impacts" refers to incremental effects of an individual project when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, and probable future projects. Project construction would contribute to the incremental loss of ruderal/non-native grasslands in the region, including potential habitat for special-status species. Cumulative impacts potentially include habitat fragmentation, increased edge effects, reduced habitat quality, and increased wildlife mortality. Cumulative impacts are not considered substantial with the implementation of mitigation measures identified in this document.

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APPENDIX A

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name
EUDICOT FLOWERING PLANTS	
Adoxaceae	**Muskroot family**
Sambucus mexicana	Blue elderberry
Asteraceae	**Sunflower family**
Ambrosia acanthicarpa	Flatspine bur ragweed
Erigeron canadensis	Canadian horseweed
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph weed
Brassicaceae	**Mustard family**
*Hirschfeldia incana**	Shortpod mustard
Chenopodiaceae	**Saltbush family**
*Salsola tragus**	Russian thistle
Euphorbiaceae	**Spurge family**
Croton setigerus	Dove weed
Fagaceae	**Beech family**
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak
Polygonaceae	**Buckwheat family**
Eriogonum gracile	Slender buckwheat
*Polygonum aviculare**	Common knotweed
Solanaceae	**Nightshade family**
Datura wrightii	Sacred thorn-apple
*Solanum elaeagnifolium**	White horse-nettle
Zygophyllaceace	**Caltrop family**
*Tribulus terrestris**	Puncture vine
MONOCOT FLOWERING PLANTS	
Arecaceae	**Palm family**
Washingtonia sp.	Fan palm
Poaceae	**Grass family**
*Bromus rubens**	Red brome
*Hordeum murinum**	Mouse barley

* = non-native species

APPENDIX C

CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY REPORT

YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
LIFT STATION NO. 4 REPLACEMENT PROJECT

City of Calimesa
Riverside County, California

For Submittal to:

Yucaipa Valley Water District
P.O. Box 730
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Prepared for:

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
3602 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Prepared by:

CRM TECH
1016 East Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

Bai "Tom" Tang, Principal Investigator
Michael Hogan, Principal Investigator

August 1, 2023
CRM TECH Contract No. 4001A

Title: Historical/Archaeological Resources Survey Report: Yucaipa Valley Water District Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project, City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California

Author(s): Deirdre Encarnación, Archaeologist/Report Writer
Daniel Ballester, Archaeologist/Field Director

Consulting Firm: CRM TECH
1016 East Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324
(909) 824-6400

Date: August 1, 2023

For Submittal to: Yucaipa Valley Water District
P.O. Box 730
Yucaipa, CA 92399
(909) 797-5117

Prepared for: Victoria E. Morrell
Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
3602 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 684-6900

USGS Quadrangle: El Casco, Calif., 7.5' quadrangle; Section 23, T2S R2W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian

Project Size: Approximately 0.8 acre

Keywords: Yucaipa Valley area; Phase I historical/archaeological resources survey; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 413-210-039 and 413-210-054; no "historical resources" under CEQA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between March and August 2023, at the request of Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated, CRM TECH performed a cultural resources study on an approximately 0.8-acre area at the Yucaipa Valley Water District's (YVWD) Lift Station No. 4 facility in the City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California. The subject property of the study consists of an irregularly shaped tract of former agricultural land in Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 413-210-039 and a portion of APN 413-210-054. It is located on the east side of Calimesa Boulevard and to the west of the Calimesa Country Club, in the northeast quarter of Section 23, T2S R2W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, as depicted in the United States Geological Survey El Casco, California, 7.5' quadrangle.

The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed removal and replacement of the existing lift station on the property. The YVWD, as the project proponent and the lead public agency, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the study is to provide the YVWD with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the proposed project would cause substantial adverse changes to any "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, that may exist in or around the project area.

In order to identify such resources, CRM TECH conducted a historical/archaeological resources records search, initiated a Native American Sacred Lands File search, contacted the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, pursued historical background research, and carried out an intensive-level field survey. Through the various avenues of research, this study did not encounter any "historical resources" within or adjacent to the project area.

Based on these findings, CRM TECH recommends to the YVWD a conclusion of *No Impact* regarding "historical resources." No further cultural resources investigation is recommended for the project unless construction plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study. However, if buried cultural materials are encountered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project, all work within 50 feet of the discovery should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

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INTRODUCTION

Between March and August 2023, at the request of Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated, CRM TECH performed a cultural resources study on an approximately 0.8-acre area at the Yucaipa Valley Water District's (YVWD) Lift Station No. 4 facility in the City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California (Fig. 1). The subject property of the study consists of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 413-210-039 and a portion of APN 413-210-054, located on the east side of Calimesa Boulevard and to the west of the Calimesa Country Club, in the northeast quarter of Section 23, T2S R2W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (Fig. 2, 3).

The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed removal and replacement of the existing lift station on the property. The YVWD, as the project proponent and the lead public agency, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the study is to provide the YVWD with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the proposed project would cause substantial adverse changes to any "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, that may exist in or around the project area.

In order to identify such resources, CRM TECH conducted a historical/archaeological resources records search, initiated a Native American Sacred Lands File search, contacted the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, pursued historical background research, and carried out an intensive-level field survey. The following report is a complete account of the methods, results, and conclusions of the study. Personnel who participated in these research procedures are named in the appropriate sections below, and their qualifications are provided in Appendix 1.

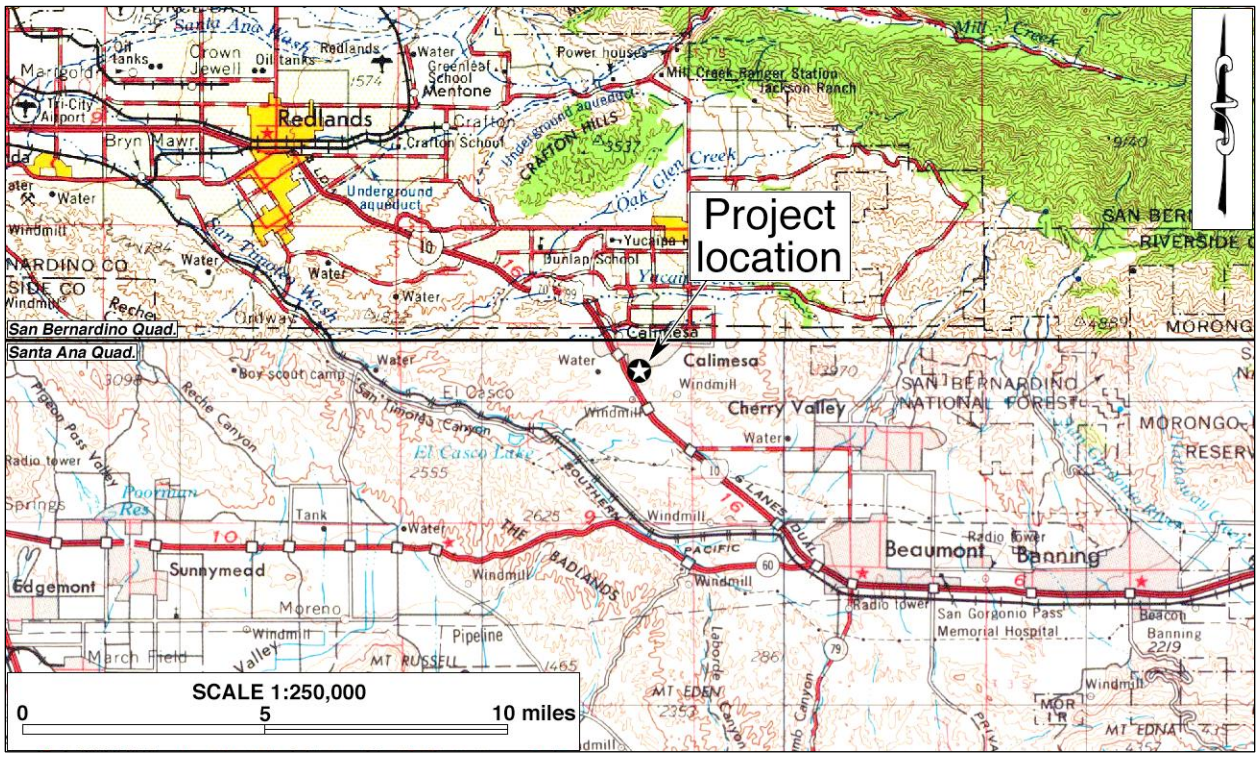

Figure 1. Project vicinity. (Based on USGS San Bernardino and Santa Ana, Calif., 120'x60' quadrangles [USGS 1969; 1979a])

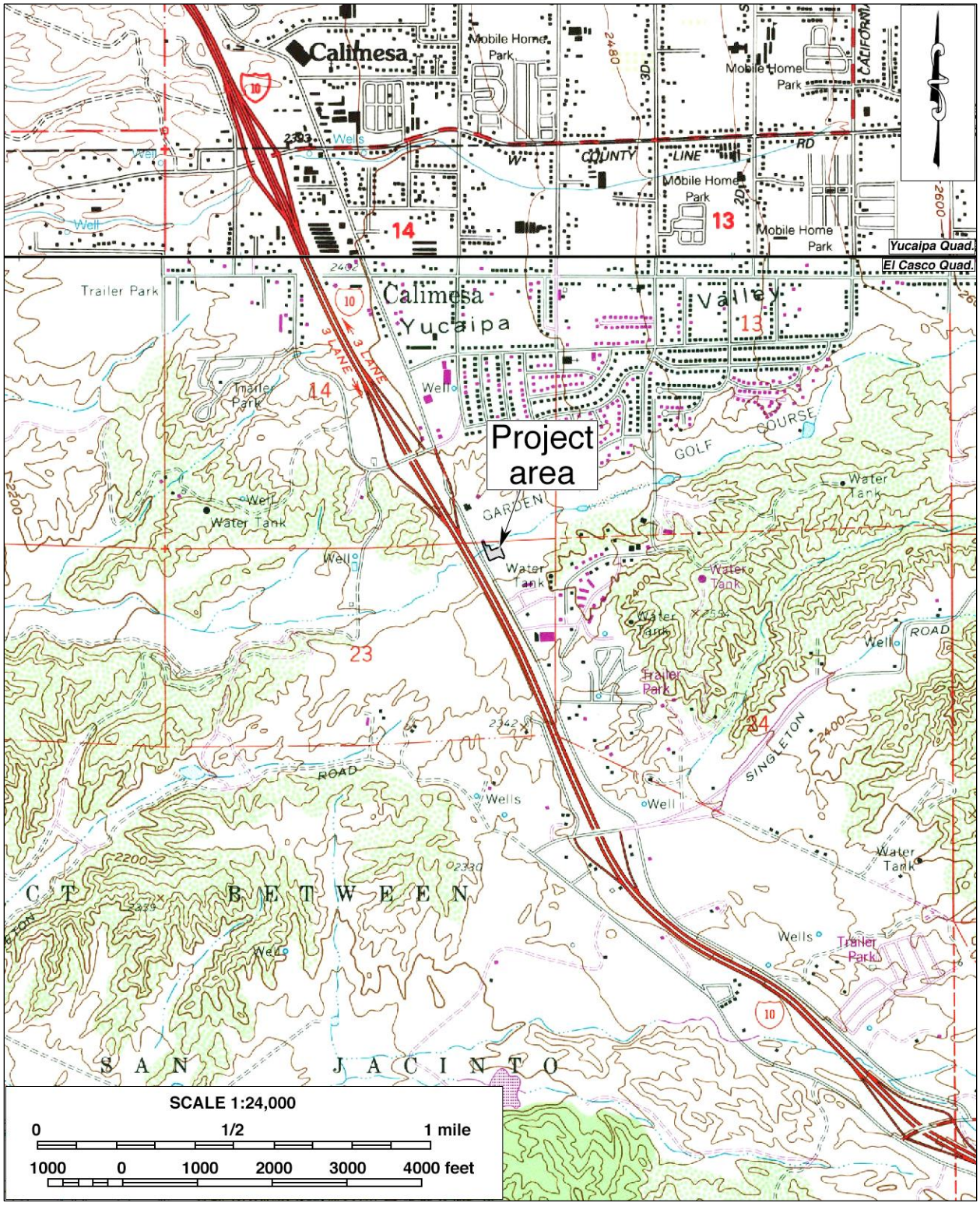

Figure 2. Project area. (Based on USGS El Casco and Yucaipa, Calif., 7.5' quadrangles [USGS 1979b; 1996])

Figure 3. Aerial image of the project area. (Based on Google Earth imagery)

SETTING

CURRENT NATURAL SETTING

The City of Calimesa is situated in the eastern end of the San Bernardino Valley, a broad inland valley defined by the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountain Ranges on the north and a series of low rocky hills on the south. The environment of the region is characterized by its temperate Mediterranean climate, with the average maximum temperature in July reaching well into the 90s (Fahrenheit) and the average minimum temperature in January hovering around 35 degrees. Rainfall is typically less than 20 inches annually, most of which occurs between November and March.

The project area consists of an irregularly shaped tract of former agricultural land in the central portion of the city. The surrounding area features a mix of rural, undeveloped land and suburban housing tracts, and the Calimesa Country Club on the adjacent property to the east is the nearest development. A lift station and a well currently exist along the western boundary of the property. The terrain in the project area is generally level, and the elevations range around 2,340 feet above mean sea level. Soils are composed of fine to medium sandy silt with small rocks. Recent ground clearing is evident, particularly in the eastern portion, but currently newly grown, relatively thick low-lying vegetation covers much of the ground surface, including mustard, jimsonweed, and other small grasses and brush (Fig. 4).

Figure 4. Current natural setting of the project area. (Photograph taken on May 18, 2023; view to the northwest)

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Context

The earliest evidence of human occupation in inland southern California was discovered below the surface of an alluvial fan in the Lakeview Mountains area of neighboring Riverside County, with radiocarbon dates clustering around 9,500 B.P. (Horne and McDougall 2008). Another site found near the shoreline of nearby Lake Elsinore yielded radiocarbon dates between 8,000 and 9,000 B.P. (Grenda 1997). Additional sites with isolated Archaic dart points, bifaces, and other associated lithic artifacts from the same age range have been found in the Cajon Pass area of San Bernardino County, typically atop knolls with good viewsheds (Basgall and True 1985; Goodman and McDonald 2001; Goodman 2002; Milburn et al. 2008).

The cultural history of southern California has been summarized into numerous chronologies, including the works of Chartkoff and Chartkoff (1984), Warren (1984), and others. The prehistory of the inland region specifically has been addressed by O'Connell et al. (1974), McDonald, et al. (1987), Keller and McCarthy (1989), Grenda (1993), Goldberg (2001), and Horne and McDougall (2008). Although the beginning and ending dates of different cultural horizons vary in different parts of the region, the general framework of the prehistory of inland southern California can be divided into three primary periods:

- Paleoindian Period (ca. 18,000-9,000 B.P.): Native peoples of this period created fluted spearhead bases designed to be hafted to wooden shafts. The distinctive method of thinning bifaces and spearhead preforms by removing long, linear flakes leave diagnostic Paleoindian markers at tool-making sites. Other artifacts associated with the Paleoindian toolkit include choppers, cutting tools, retouched flakes, and perforators. Sites from this period are very sparse across the landscape and most are deeply buried.
- Archaic Period (ca. 9,000-1,500 B.P.): Archaic sites are characterized by abundant lithic scatters of considerable size with many biface thinning flakes, bifacial preforms broken during manufacture, and well-made groundstone bowls and basin metates. As a consequence of making dart points, many biface thinning waste flakes were generated at individual production stations, which is a diagnostic feature of Archaic sites.
- Late Prehistoric Period (ca. 1,500 B.P.-contact): Sites from this period typically contain small lithic scatters from the manufacture of small arrow points, expedient groundstone tools such as tabular metates and unshaped manos, wooden mortars with stone pestles, acorn or mesquite bean granaries, ceramic vessels, shell beads suggestive of extensive trading networks, and steatite implements such as pipes and arrow shaft straighteners.

Ethnohistoric Context

The present-day Calimesa area is a part of the homeland of the Serrano people, which is centered in the San Bernardino Mountains but also includes part of the San Gabriel Mountains, much of the San Bernardino Valley, and the Mojave River valley in the southern portion of the Mojave Desert, reaching as far as the Cady, Bullion, Sheep Hole, and Coxcomb Mountains to the east, the Twentynine Palms area to the north, and possibly the southern edge of Kern County to the west. The

name “Serrano” was derived from a Spanish term meaning “mountaineer” or “highlander.” The basic written sources on Serrano culture are Kroeber (1925), Strong (1929), and Bean and Smith (1978). The following ethnographic discussion of the Serrano people is based mainly on these sources.

Prior to European contact, Serrano subsistence was defined by the surrounding landscape and primarily based on the gathering of wild and cultivated foods and hunting, exploiting nearly all of the resources available. their long-term settlements were located mostly on elevated terraces, hills, and finger ridges near reliable sources of water, especially in foothills and along major rivers. Loosely organized into exogamous clans led by hereditary heads, the clans were in turn affiliated with one of two exogamous moieties, the Wildcat (*Tukutam*) or the Coyote (*Wahiiam*). The exact nature of the clans, their structure, function, and number are not known, except that each clan was the largest autonomous political and landholding unit. The core of the unit was the patrilineage, although women retained their own lineage names after marriage. There was no pan-tribal political union among the clans.

The Serrano had a variety of technological skills that they used to acquire food, shelter, and clothing as well as to create ornaments and decorations. Common tools included manos and metates, mortars and pestles, hammerstones, fire drills, awls, arrow straighteners, and stone knives and scrapers. These lithic tools were made from locally sourced material as well as materials procured through trade or travel. They also used wood, horn, and bone spoons and stirrers; baskets for winnowing, leaching, grinding, transporting, parching, storing, and cooking; and pottery vessels for carrying water, storage, cooking, and serving food and drink. Much of this material cultural, elaborately decorated, does not survive in the archaeological record. As usual, the main items found archaeologically relate to subsistence activities.

Although contact with Europeans may have occurred as early as 1771 or 1772, Spanish influence on Serrano lifeways was minimal until the 1810s, when a mission *asistencia* was established on the southern edge of Serrano territory. Between then and the end of the mission era in 1834, most of the Serrano in the western portion of their traditional territory were removed to the nearby missions. In the eastern portion, a series of punitive expeditions in 1866-1870 resulted in the death or displacement of almost all remaining Serrano population in the San Bernardino Mountains. Today, most Serrano descendants are affiliated with the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (formerly known as the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians), the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, or the Serrano Nation of Indians.

Historic Context

The City of Calimesa occupies the southern portion of the Yucaipa Valley, which in turn comprises the eastern end of the San Bernardino Valley. The region received its first European visitors in 1772, when a small force of Spanish soldiers traveled through the San Bernardino Valley under the command of Pedro Fages, the comandante of Alta California (Beck and Haase 1974:15; Schuiling 1984:23). The name “San Bernardino” was bestowed on the region in the 1810s, when an *asistencia* to Mission San Gabriel and an associated mission rancho were established under that name in present-day Loma Linda (Lerch and Haenszel 1981).

In 1842, after secularization of the mission system, the Mexican authorities in Alta California granted Rancho San Bernardino, along with several adjacent former mission ranchos, to members of a prominent Los Angeles family, the Lugos. An adobe house built the following year by one of the grantees, Diego Sepulveda, became the earliest non-Indian settlement in the Yucaipa Valley (Schuiling 1984:38). As elsewhere in Alta California during the Spanish and Mexican periods, cattle raising was the primary economic activity on Rancho San Bernardino and other nearby land grants, often with the local Native American population providing the labor force (Lerch and Haenszel 1981). The subject properties were not included in any of the land grants and thus remained public land when Alta California was annexed by the United States in 1848.

After nine years of cattle raising on their vast domain, the Lugo family sold the entire rancho in 1851 to Amasa M. Lyman and Charles C. Rich, leaders of the Mormon colony that was to become today's City of San Bernardino (Schuiling 1984:45). During the 1850s, the Yucaipa wing of the rancho and the former Sepulveda adobe were occupied by John Brown, Sr., an early non-Mormon pioneer, although he never acquired the property from the Mormon leaders (Archer 1976). In 1857, the Yucaipa property was purchased by James W. Waters, who developed it into one of southern California's most prosperous stock ranches and grain farms (*ibid.*; Schuiling 1984:106).

James Waters sold the property to John C. Dunlap in 1869, and the Dunlap family continued the successful ranching and farming operations on the Yucaipa Ranch for the rest of the 19th century (Archer 1976; Schuiling 1984:106). In the early 20th century, following the death of John Dunlap and his wife, their heirs incorporated the Yucaipa Land and Water Company to subdivide the ranch into small farms (Archer 1976). For the next few decades, the Yucaipa Valley remained primarily an agricultural area where the local economy focused on a number of cash staples, from apples in the 1910s to peaches, plums, and cherries in the 1930s, followed by poultry after World War II (*ibid.*; Schuiling 1984:107).

In the southern portion of the Yucaipa Valley, the Calimesa area was initially named South Yucaipa or the South Bench and was known mainly for being a stop on a branch of the wagon road between the San Bernardino Valley and the San Gorgonio Pass (Gunther 1984:94; COC n.d.). In the 1910s, when the automobile highway network began to replace the wagon roads, the Yucaipa Valley route was selected for what would later become U.S. Highway 70/99 (and now Interstate 10) over the formerly preferred route in the San Timoteo Canyon, which provided a major boost to the growth of South Yucaipa (COC n.d.). In an effort to establish its own identity, South Yucaipa obtained a separate post office in 1929, and in the process adopted the new name of Calimesa, coined from "California" and "mesa," through a local contest (*ibid.*; Gunther 1984:94).

The Calimesa Improvement Association was formed in 1939 and a community center was constructed (COC n.d.). Ten years later, the community organized a volunteer fire department (*ibid.*). The City of Calimesa was incorporated in 1990, one year after its sister community of Yucaipa in San Bernardino County, with a land base of some 15 square miles and has since grown to a total population of more than 8,000 (U.S. Census Bureau n.d.). Like other formerly agrarian communities in the San Bernardino Valley region, Calimesa's rapid growth in recent decades has been driven primarily by residential and commercial development in the ongoing suburban expansion (COC n.d.).

RESEARCH METHODS

RECORDS SEARCH

On July 5, 2023, CRM TECH archaeologist Nina Gallardo completed the historical/archaeological resources records search for this study at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System. Located on the campus of the University of California, Riverside, the EIC is the State of California's official repository of cultural resources records for Riverside County. During the records search, Gallardo examined pertinent maps and records covering a one-mile radius of the project area for previously identified cultural resources and existing cultural resources reports. Previously identified cultural resources include properties designated as California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or Riverside County Landmarks, as well as those listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or the California Historical Resources Inventory.

NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

On March 31, 2023, CRM TECH submitted a written request to the State of California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a records search in the commission's Sacred Lands File. The NAHC is the State of California's trustee agency for the protection of "tribal cultural resources," as defined by California Public Resources Code §21074. In addition to the NAHC, CRM TECH also contacted the nearby Morongo Band of Mission Indians by electronic mail for further information. The correspondence between CRM TECH and the Native American representatives is summarized below and attached to this report in Appendix 2.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Historical background research for this study was conducted by CRM TECH archaeologist Deirdre Encarnación. Sources consulted during the research included published literature in local history, historical maps of the Calimesa area, and aerial/satellite photographs of the project vicinity. The maps consulted for this study included the U.S. General Land Office (GLO) land survey plat map dated 1880 and USGS topographic maps dated 1901-1996, which are accessible in digital format at the websites of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the USGS. The aerial and satellite photographs, taken in 1938-2023, are available at the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online website and through the Google Earth software.

FIELD SURVEY

On May 18, 2023, CRM TECH archaeologist Daniel Ballester carried out the pedestrian field survey of the project area. The survey was completed at an intensive level by walking a series of parallel northwest-southeast transects spaced 10 meters (approximately 33 feet) apart. In this way, the entire project area was carefully examined for any evidence of human activities dating to the prehistoric or historic period (i.e., 50 years or older). Ground visibility over much of the project area was poor (25%-50%) due to dense low-lying vegetation. Considering past ground disturbances by agricultural and construction activities, the field survey was considered to be moderately compromised but adequate for the purposes of this study.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

RECORDS SEARCH

According to EIC records, the project area had not been surveyed for cultural resources prior to this study, and no cultural resources had been recorded within or adjacent to the property. Within the one-mile scope of the records search, EIC records show at least 22 previous studies on various tracts of land and linear features completed between 1980 and 2019 (Fig. 5), resulting in the recordation of 16 historical/archaeological sites and two isolates (i.e., localities with fewer than three artifacts), as listed below in Table 1.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within the Scope of the Records Search

Primary No.	Trinomial	Description
33-004115	CA-RIV-4115H	Three foundations, corrugated metal scatter, concrete well platform, water well
33-009476	N/A	Noble's Ranch (California Point of Historical Interest)
33-013716	N/A	Single-family residence, late 1930s
33-013719	N/A	Wood-framed Ranch-style house, circa 1955
33-013721	N/A	Single-family residence, circa 1950
33-013724	N/A	Isolate: granite pestle
33-013993	N/A	Water retention features: well, pump, reservoir, cistern
33-013995	N/A	Remnant of 1940s concrete house slab and parking apron
33-014866	CA-RIV-7921	Historic-period refuse scatter
33-014867	CA-RIV-7922	Two wood-framed California Ranch-style houses, garage
33-014868	CA-RIV-7923	Water tower building, garage/shed remnants, concrete slabs
33-015000	N/A	Craftsman residence and associated barn
33-015002	N/A	Singleton Ranch irrigation and water transportation system
33-015004	N/A	Singleton Ranch District, circa 1870s through 1950s
33-015299	N/A	Isolate: two sun-colored amethyst glass fragments
33-015300	N/A	Electric utility line with eight wooden poles, circa 1940s-1950s
33-016792	N/A	Single-family residence, detached garage, wood barn, all circa 1929
33-016793	N/A	Two-story vernacular farmhouse, barn/residence, chicken coop, metal barn

One of the isolates was prehistoric (i.e., Native American) in nature, consisting of a granite pestle. The other known cultural resources all date to the historic period. The 16 sites included six buildings or groups of buildings constructed between 1929 and the 1950s, irrigation and water retention features, power transmission lines, a refuse scatter, and the remains of several ranch or farm. One of them represented a uncut stone building at Noble's Ranch, a California Point of Historical Interest. The second isolate consisted of two fragments of sun-colored amethyst glass. None of these cultural resources were recorded in the immediate vicinity of the project area, and thus none require further consideration during this study.

NATIVE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

In response to CRM TECH's inquiry, the NAHC stated in a letter dated April 10, 2023, that the Sacred Lands File search yielded negative findings for Native American cultural resources in the project vicinity. Noting that the absence of specific information does not preclude the presence of cultural resources in the vicinity, the commission recommended that local Native American groups be contacted for pertinent information and provided a referral list of 19 individuals associated with 13 local Native American groups (see App. 2). The NAHC's reply is attached to this report in

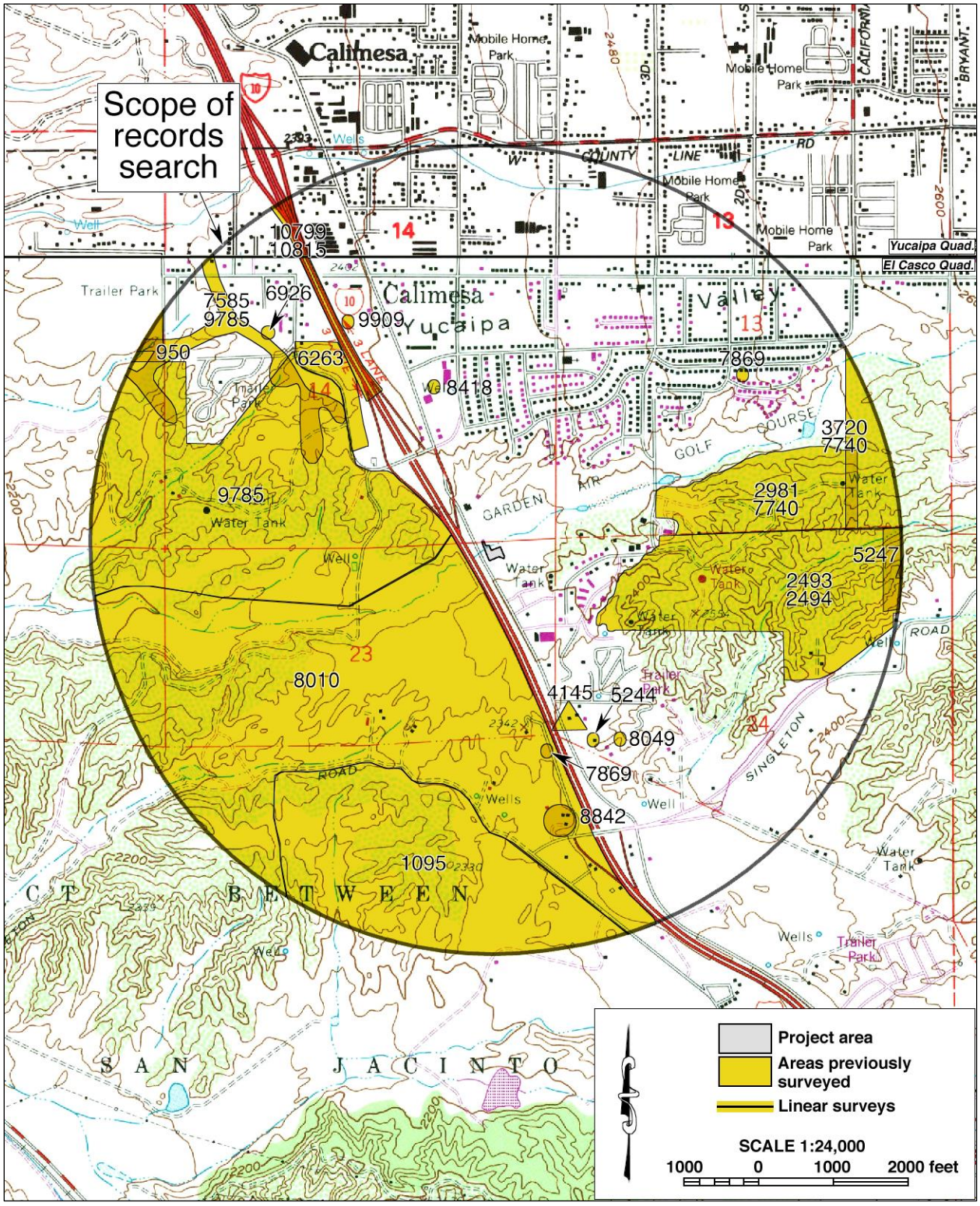

Figure 5. Previous cultural resources studies in the vicinity of the project area, listed by EIC file number. Locations of historical/archaeological resources are not shown as a protective measure.

Appendix 2 for reference by the YVWD in future government-to-government consultations with the pertinent tribal groups, if necessary. As of this time, no response has been received from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Historical sources suggest that the project area is relatively low in sensitivity for cultural resources from the historic period. As Figures 6-9 illustrate, no man-made features of any kind were known to be present within the project area throughout the 1850s-1950s era, although agricultural cultivation was apparent in aerial photographs from the mid-20th century (NETR Online 1938; 1959). The surrounding area, meanwhile, exhibited a typical settlement pattern for rural southern California by the 1930s-1950s, characterized by a loose grid of roads lined with scattered buildings, with most of the land dedicated to agriculture (*ibid.*; Figs. 8, 9). Within the project area, aerial images show that agricultural operations appear to have ceased by 1980, and the lift station was in place by 1996 (NETR Online 1980-1996). The lift station remains the only development within project boundaries to the present (NETR Online 1996-2020; Google Earth 1996-2023).

FIELD SURVEY

The field survey produced completely negative results for potential cultural resources, and no buildings, structures, objects, sites, features, or artifact deposits of prehistoric or historical origin were encountered. Ground surface within the project area has evidently been extensively disturbed, most recently by the construction, maintenance, and use of the existing Lift Station No.4 facility and

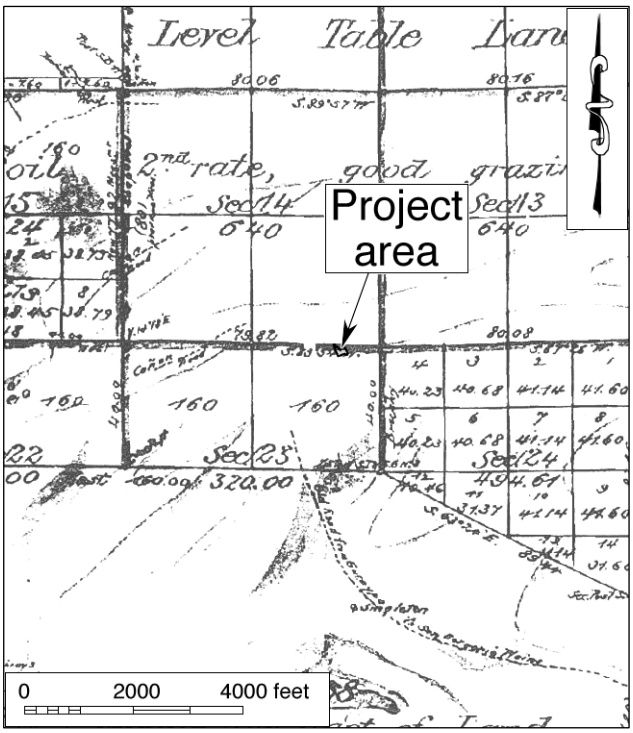

Figure 6. The project area and vicinity in 1879. (Source: GLO 1880)

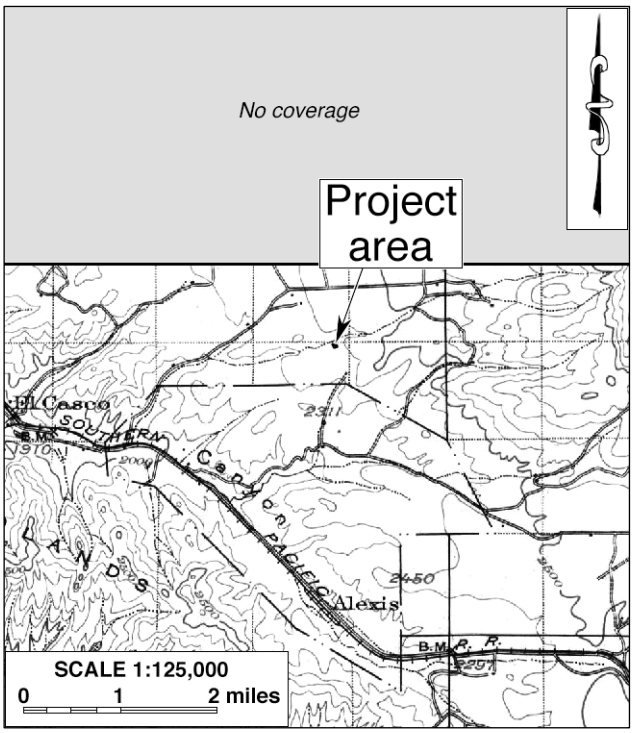

Figure 7. The project area and vicinity in 1897-1898. (Source: USGS 1901)

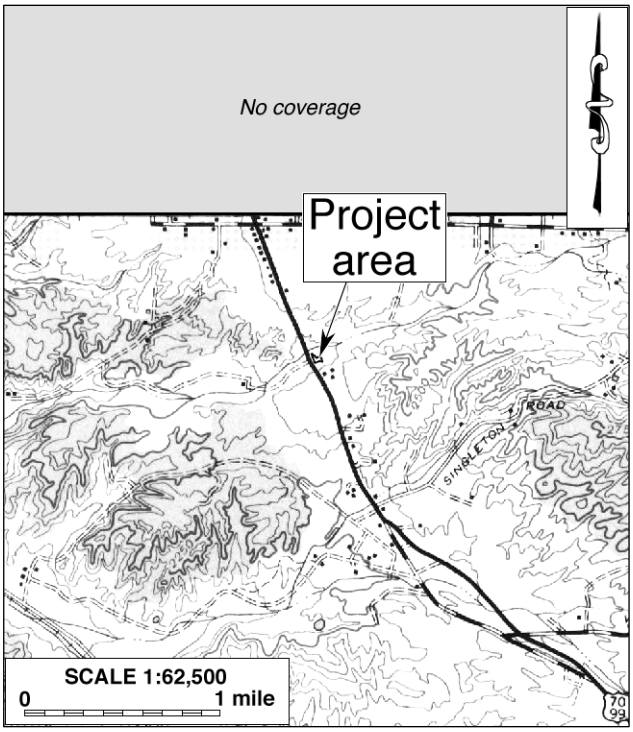

Figure 8. The project area and vicinity in 1939. (Source: USGS 1943)

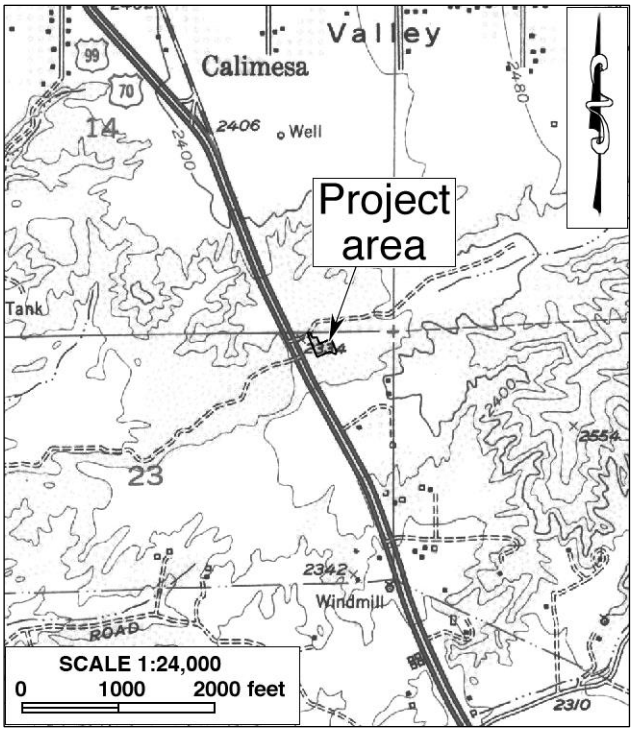

Figure 9. The project area and vicinity in 1951. (Source: USGS 1953)

by vegetation clearing in the eastern portion of the project area, as well as by past agricultural operations on the property, with little vestige of the natural landscape surviving today. Modern refuse items, of no historical or archaeological value, were observed along the western project boundary.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study is to identify potential cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area, and to assist the YVWD in determining whether such resources meet the official definition of "historical resources," as provided in the California Public Resources Code, in particular CEQA. According to PRC §5020.1(j), "'historical resource' includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California."

More specifically, CEQA guidelines state that the term "historical resources" applies to any such resources listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the lead agency (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(1)-(3)). Regarding the proper criteria for the evaluation of historical significance, CEQA guidelines mandate that "generally a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be 'historically significant' if the resource meets the criteria for

listing on the California Register of Historical Resources" (Title 14 CCR §15064.5(a)(3)). A resource may be listed in the California Register if it meets any of the following criteria:

(1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
(2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
(3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
(4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (PRC §5024.1(c))

In summary of the research results presented above, no potential "historical resources" were previously recorded within or adjacent to the project area, and none were found during the present survey. In addition, the Native American Sacred Lands File did not identify any sites of traditional cultural value in the vicinity, and no notable cultural features are known to have been present in the project area throughout the historic period. Therefore, this study concludes that no "historical resources" are known to exist within or adjacent to the project area.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CEQA establishes that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a "historical resource" or a "tribal cultural resource" is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (PRC §21084.1-2). "Substantial adverse change," according to PRC §5020.1(q), "means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired."

In conclusion, no "historical resources," as defined by CEQA, have been identified within or adjacent to the project area. Therefore, CRM TECH presents the following recommendations to the YVWD:

- The proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change to any known "historical resources."
- No other cultural resources investigation will be necessary for the project unless construction plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study.
- If any buried cultural materials are encountered during earth-moving operations associated with the project, all work within 50 feet of the discovery should be halted or diverted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the finds.

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1969 Map: San Bernardino, Calif. (120'x60', 1:250,000); 1958 edition revised.
1979a Map: Santa Ana, Calif. (120'x60', 1:250,000); 1959 edition revised.
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APPENDIX 1:
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/HISTORIAN
Bai "Tom" Tang, M.A.

Education

1988-1993	Graduate Program in Public History/Historic Preservation, University of California, Riverside.
1987	M.A., American History, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut.
1982	B.A., History, Northwestern University, Xi'an, China.
2000	"Introduction to Section 106 Review," presented by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the University of Nevada, Reno.
1994	"Assessing the Significance of Historic Archaeological Sites," presented by the Historic Preservation Program, University of Nevada, Reno.

Professional Experience

2002-	Principal Investigator, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
1993-2002	Project Historian/Architectural Historian, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
1993-1997	Project Historian, Greenwood and Associates, Pacific Palisades, California.
1991-1993	Project Historian, Archaeological Research Unit, University of California, Riverside.
1990	Intern Researcher, California State Office of Historic Preservation, Sacramento.
1990-1992	Teaching Assistant, History of Modern World, University of California, Riverside.
1988-1993	Research Assistant, American Social History, University of California, Riverside.
1985-1988	Research Assistant, Modern Chinese History, Yale University.
1985-1986	Teaching Assistant, Modern Chinese History, Yale University.
1982-1985	Lecturer, History, Xi'an Foreign Languages Institute, Xi'an, China.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Preliminary Analyses and Recommendations Regarding California's Cultural Resources Inventory System (with Special Reference to Condition 14 of NPS 1990 Program Review Report). California State Office of Historic Preservation working paper, Sacramento, September 1990.

Numerous cultural resources management reports with the Archaeological Research Unit, Greenwood and Associates, and CRM TECH, since October 1991.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/ARCHAEOLOGIST
Michael Hogan, Ph.D., RPA (Registered Professional Archaeologist)

Education

1991	Ph.D., Anthropology, University of California, Riverside.
1981	B.S., Anthropology, University of California, Riverside; with honors.
1980-1981	Education Abroad Program, Lima, Peru.
2002	"Section 106—National Historic Preservation Act: Federal Law at the Local Level," UCLA Extension Course #888.
2002	"Recognizing Historic Artifacts," workshop presented by Richard Norwood, Historical Archaeologist.
2002	"Wending Your Way through the Regulatory Maze," symposium presented by the Association of Environmental Professionals.
1992	"Southern California Ceramics Workshop," presented by Jerry Schaefer.
1992	"Historic Artifact Workshop," presented by Anne Duffield-Stoll.

Professional Experience

2002-	Principal Investigator, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
1999-2002	Project Archaeologist/Field Director, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
1996-1998	Project Director and Ethnographer, Statistical Research, Inc., Redlands, California.
1992-1998	Assistant Research Anthropologist, University of California, Riverside.
1992-1995	Project Director, Archaeological Research Unit, U.C. Riverside.
1993-1994	Adjunct Professor, Riverside Community College, Mt. San Jacinto College, U.C. Riverside, Chapman University, and San Bernardino Valley College.
1991-1992	Crew Chief, Archaeological Research Unit, U.C. Riverside.
1984-1998	Project Director, Field Director, Crew Chief, and Archaeological Technician for various southern California cultural resources management firms.

Research Interests

Cultural Resource Management, Southern Californian Archaeology, Settlement and Exchange Patterns, Specialization and Stratification, Culture Change, Native American Culture, Cultural Diversity.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Principal investigator for, author or co-author of, and contributor to numerous cultural resources management study reports since 1986.

Memberships

Society for American Archaeology; Society for California Archaeology; Pacific Coast Archaeological Society; Coachella Valley Archaeological Society.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST/REPORT WRITER
Deirdre Encarnación, M.A.

Education

2003	M.A., Anthropology, San Diego State University, California.
2000	B.A., Anthropology, minor in Biology, San Diego State University, California; with honors.
2021	Certificate of Specialization, Kumeyaay Studies, Cuyamaca College, California.
2001	Archaeological Field School, San Diego State University.
2000	Archaeological Field School, San Diego State University.

Professional Experience

2016-	Archaeological Consultant, Friends of Maha'ulepu, Koloa, Hawai'i.
2004-	Project Archaeologist/Report Writer, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
2001-2003	Part-time Lecturer, San Diego State University, California.
2001	Research Assistant for Dr. Lynn Gamble, San Diego State University.
2001	Archaeological Collection Catalog, SDSU Foundation.

Memberships

Society for California Archaeology; Society for Hawaiian Archaeology; California Native Plant Society.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGIST/FIELD DIRECTOR
Daniel Ballester, M.S., RPA (Registered Professional Archaeologist)

Education

2013	M.S., Geographic Information System (GIS), University of Redlands, California.
1998	B.A., Anthropology, California State University, San Bernardino.
1997	Archaeological Field School, University of Las Vegas and University of California, Riverside.
1994	University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.
2007	Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), California State University, San Bernardino.
2002	"Historic Archaeology Workshop," presented by Richard Norwood, Base Archaeologist, Edwards Air Force Base; presented at CRM TECH, Riverside, California.

Professional Experience

2002-	Field Director/GIS Specialist, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
2011-2012	GIS Specialist for Caltrans District 8 Project, Garcia and Associates, San Anselmo, California.
2009-2010	Field Crew Chief, Garcia and Associates, San Anselmo, California.
2009-2010	Field Crew, ECorp, Redlands.
1999-2002	Project Archaeologist, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
1998-1999	Field Crew, K.E.A. Environmental, San Diego, California.
1998	Field Crew, A.S.M. Affiliates, Encinitas, California.
1998	Field Crew, Archaeological Research Unit, University of California, Riverside.

Cultural Resources Management Reports

Field Director, co-author, and contributor to numerous cultural management reports since 2002.

APPENDIX 2

SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH RESULTS

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

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

April 10, 2023

Nina Gallardo
CRM TECH

Via Email to: ngallardo@crmtech.us

Re: Proposed Yucaipa Valley Water District's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project, Riverside County

Dear Ms. Gallardo:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Andrew.Green@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Andrew Green

Andrew Green
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Riverside County
4/10/2023

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Reid Milanovich, Chairperson
5401 Dinah Shore Drive — Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA, 92264
Phone: (760) 699 - 6800
Fax: (760) 699-6919
laviles@aguacaliente.net

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Patricia Garcia-Plotkin, Director
5401 Dinah Shore Drive — Cahuilla
Palm Springs, CA, 92264
Phone: (760) 699 - 6907
Fax: (760) 699-6924
ACBCI-THPO@aguacaliente.net

Augustine Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Amanda Vance, Chairperson
84-001 Avenue 54 — Cahuilla
Coachella, CA, 92236
Phone: (760) 398 - 4722
Fax: (760) 369-7161
hhaines@augustinetribe.com

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
Doug Welmas, Chairperson
84-245 Indio Springs Parkway — Cahuilla
Indio, CA, 92203
Phone: (760) 342 - 2593
Fax: (760) 347-7880
jstapp@cabazonindians-nsn.gov

Cahuilla Band of Indians
Daniel Salgado, Chairperson
52701 U.S. Highway 371 — Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 763 - 5549
Fax: (951) 763-2808
Chairman@cahuilla.net

Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeño Indians
Ray Chapparosa, Chairperson
P.O. Box 189 — Cahuilla
Warner Springs, CA, 92086-0189
Phone: (760) 782 - 0711
Fax: (760) 782-0712

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Ann Brierty, THPO
12700 Pumarra Road — Cahuilla, Serrano
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 755 - 5259
Fax: (951) 572-6004
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Road — Cahuilla, Serrano
Banning, CA, 92220
Phone: (951) 755 - 5110
Fax: (951) 755-5177
abrierty@morongo-nsn.gov

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer
P.O. Box 1899 — Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (760) 572 - 2423
historicpreservation@quechantribe.com

Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation
Manfred Scott, Acting Chairman
Kw'ts'an Cultural Committee
P.O. Box 1899 — Quechan
Yuma, AZ, 85366
Phone: (928) 750 - 2516
scottmanfred@yahoo.com

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Proposed Yucaipa Valley Water District's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project, Riverside County.

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Riverside County
4/10/2023

Ramona Band of Cahuilla
John Gomez, Environmental Coordinator
P. O. Box 391670 — Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 763 - 4105
Fax: (951) 763-4325
jgomez@ramona-nsn.gov

Ramona Band of Cahuilla
Joseph Hamilton, Chairperson
P.O. Box 391670 — Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 763 - 4105
Fax: (951) 763-4325
admin@ramona-nsn.gov

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Alexandra McCleary, Cultural Lands Manager
26569 Community Center Drive — Serrano
Highland, CA, 92346
Phone: (909) 633 - 0054
alexandra.mccleary@sanmanuel-nsn.gov

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians
Lovina Redner, Tribal Chair
P.O. Box 391820 — Cahuilla
Anza, CA, 92539
Phone: (951) 659 - 2700
Fax: (951) 659-2228
lsaul@santarosa-nsn.gov

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Wayne Walker, Co-Chairperson
P. O. Box 343 — Serrano
Patton, CA, 92369
Phone: (253) 370 - 0167
serranonation1@gmail.com

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Mark Cochrane, Co-Chairperson
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Thermal, CA, 92274
Phone: (760) 397 - 0300
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Cultural-Committee@torresmartinez-nsn.gov

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

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Proposed Yucaipa Valley Water District's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project, Riverside County.

APPENDIX D

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT REPORT

YUCAIPA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
LIFT STATION NO. 4 REPLACEMENT PROJECT

City of Calimesa
Riverside County, California

For Submittal to:

Yucaipa Valley Water District
P.O. Box 730
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Prepared for:

Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
3602 University Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Prepared by:

Ron Schmidtling, Principal Paleontologist
Deirdre Encarnación, Report Writer
CRM TECH
1016 East Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

August 1, 2023

Approximately 0.8-acre
USGS El Casco, Calif., 7.5' (1:24,000) quadrangle
Section 23, T2S R2W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian
CRM TECH Contract No. 4001P

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between March and August 2023, at the request of Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated, CRM TECH performed a paleontological resource assessment on an approximately 0.8-acre area at the Yucaipa Valley Water District's (YVWD) Lift Station No. 4 facility in the City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California. The subject property of the study consists of an irregularly shaped tract of former agricultural land in Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 413-210-039 and a portion of APN 413-210-054. It is located on the east side of Calimesa Boulevard and to the west of the Calimesa Country Club, in the northeast quarter of Section 23, T2S R2W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, as depicted in the United States Geological Survey El Casco, California, 7.5' quadrangle.

The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed removal and replacement of the existing lift station on the property. The YVWD, as the project proponent and the lead public agency, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the study is to provide the YVWD with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the proposed project would adversely affect any significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources, as required by CEQA, and to design a paleontological mitigation program, if necessary.

In order to identify any paleontological resource localities that may exist in or near the project area and to assess the probability for such resources to be encountered during the project, CRM TECH initiated a paleontological records search, conducted a literature review, and carried out a systematic field survey of the project area in accordance with the guidelines of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The results of these research procedures suggest that the proposed project's potential to impact significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources is relatively high in the native alluvial sediments present throughout the project area.

Based on these findings, CRM TECH recommends that a paleontological resource impact mitigation program be developed and implemented during the project to prevent impacts on significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources or reduce them to a level less than significant. As the primary component of the mitigation program, all earth-moving operations reaching beyond the previously disturbed surface soil should be monitored by a qualified paleontological monitor to ensure the timely identification of the undisturbed, potentially fossiliferous sediments when they are encountered. Under these conditions, the proposed project may be cleared to proceed in compliance with CEQA provisions on paleontological resources.

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INTRODUCTION

Between March and August 2023, at the request of Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated, CRM TECH performed a paleontological resource assessment on an approximately 0.8-acre area at the Yucaipa Valley Water District's (YVWD) Lift Station No. 4 facility in the City of Calimesa, Riverside County, California (Fig. 1). The subject property of the study consists of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 413-210-039 and a portion of APN 413-210-054, located on the east side of Calimesa Boulevard and to the west of the Calimesa Country Club, in the northeast quarter of Section 23, T2S R2W, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian (Fig. 2, 3).

The study is part of the environmental review process for the proposed removal and replacement of the existing lift station on the property. The YVWD, as the project proponent and the lead public agency, required the study in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of the study is to provide the YVWD with the necessary information and analysis to determine whether the proposed project would adversely affect any significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources, as required by CEQA, and to design a paleontological mitigation program, if necessary.

In order to identify any paleontological resource localities that may exist in or near the project area and to assess the probability for such resources to be encountered during the project, CRM TECH initiated a paleontological records search, conducted a literature review, and carried out a systematic field survey of the project area in accordance with the guidelines of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. The following report is a complete account of the methods, results, and conclusion of

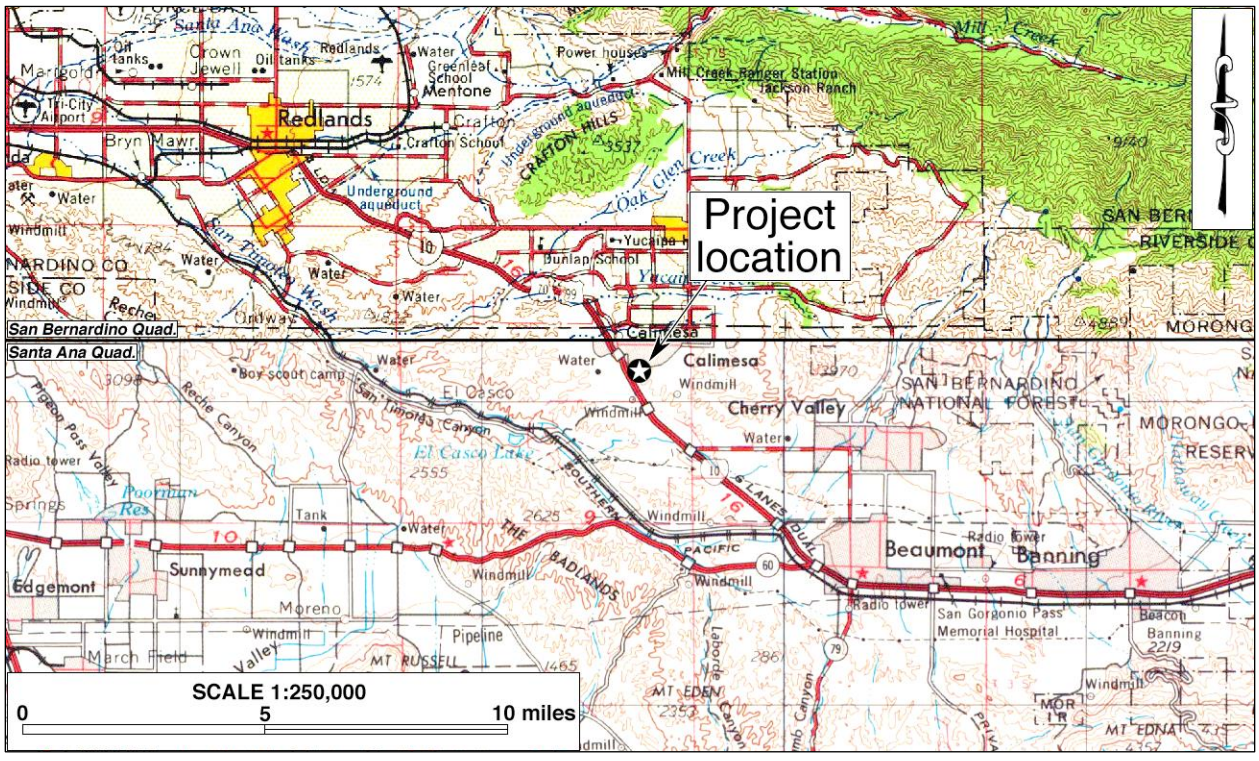

Figure 1. Project vicinity. (Based on USGS San Bernardino and Santa Ana, Calif., 120'x60' quadrangles, 1969/1979 edition)

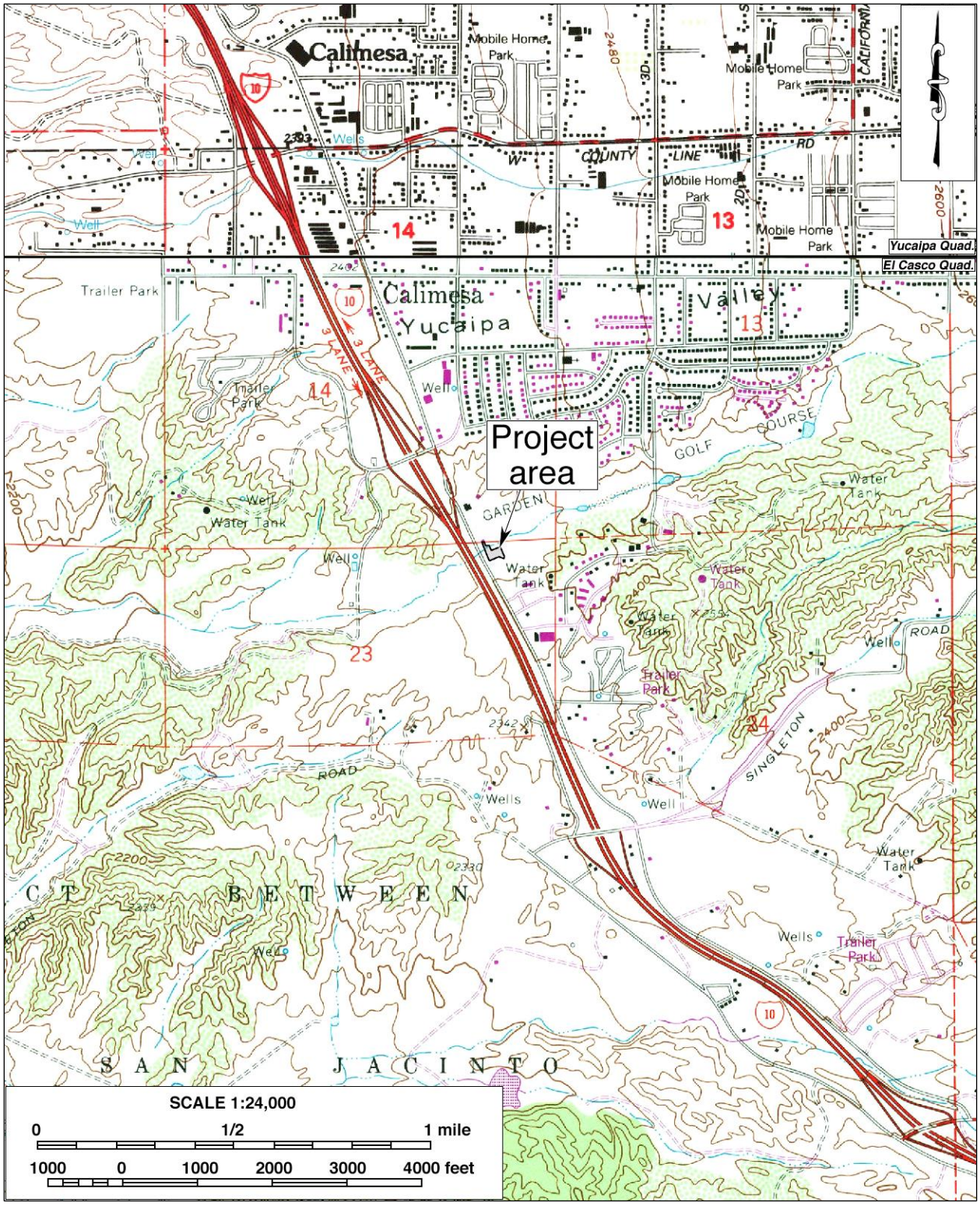

Figure 2. Project location. (Based on USGS El Casco and Yucaipa, Calif., 7.5' quadrangles, 1979/1996 edition)

Figure 3. Recent satellite image of the project area. (Based on Google Earth imagery)

this study. Personnel who participated in the study are named in the appropriate sections below, and their qualifications are provided in Appendix 1.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

DEFINITION

Paleontological resources represent the remains of prehistoric life, exclusive of any human remains, and include the localities where fossils were collected as well as the sedimentary rock formations in which they were found. The defining character of fossils or fossil deposits is their geologic age, typically older than recorded human history and/or older than the middle Holocene Epoch, which dates to circa 5,000 radiocarbon years (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2010:11).

Common fossil remains include marine and freshwater mollusk shells; the bones and teeth of fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals; leaf imprint assemblages; and petrified wood. Fossil traces, another type of paleontological resource, include internal and external molds (impressions) and casts created by these organisms. These items can serve as important guides to the age of the rocks and sediments in which they are contained, and may prove useful in determining the temporal relationships between rock deposits from one area and those from another as well as the timing of geologic events. They can also provide information regarding evolutionary relationships, development trends, and environmental conditions.

Fossil resources generally occur only in areas of sedimentary rock (e.g., sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, claystone, or shale). Because of the infrequency of fossil preservation, fossils, particularly vertebrate fossils, are considered nonrenewable paleontological resources. Occasionally fossils may be exposed at the surface through the process of natural erosion or because of human disturbances; however, they generally lay buried beneath the surficial soils. Thus, the absence of fossils on the surface does not preclude the possibility of their being present within subsurface deposits, while the presence of fossils at the surface is often a good indication that more remains may be found in the subsurface.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

According to guidelines proposed by Scott and Springer (2003:6), paleontological resources can be considered to be of significant scientific interest if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. The fossils provide information on the evolutionary relationships and developmental trends exhibited among organisms, living or extinct;
2. The fossils provide data useful in determining the age(s) of the rock unit or sedimentary stratum, including data important in determining the depositional history of the region and the timing of geologic events therein;
3. The fossils provide data regarding the development of biological communities or the interactions between paleobotanical and paleozoological biotas;
4. The fossils demonstrate unusual or spectacular circumstances in the history of life; and/or
5. The fossils are in short supply and/or in danger of being depleted or destroyed by the elements, vandalism, or commercial exploitation, and are not found in other geographic locations.

PALEONTOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY

The fossil record is unpredictable, and the preservation of organic remains is rare, requiring a particular sequence of events involving physical and biological factors. Skeletal tissue with a high percentage of mineral matter is the most readily preserved within the fossil record; soft tissues not intimately connected with the skeletal parts, however, are the least likely to be preserved (Raup and Stanley 1978). For this reason, the fossil record contains a biased selection not only of the types of organisms preserved but also of certain parts of the organisms themselves. As a consequence, paleontologists are unable to know with certainty, the quantity of fossils or the quality of their preservation that might be present within any given geologic unit.

Sedimentary units that are paleontologically sensitive are those geologic units (mappable rock formations) with a high potential to contain significant nonrenewable paleontological resources. More specifically, these are geologic units within which vertebrate fossils or significant invertebrate fossils have been determined by previous studies to be present or are likely to be present. These units include, but are not limited to, sedimentary formations that contain significant paleontological resources anywhere within their geographical extent as well as sedimentary rock units temporally or lithologically amenable to the preservation of fossils.

A geologic formation is defined as a stratigraphic unit identified by its lithic characteristics (e.g., grain size, texture, color, and mineral content) and stratigraphic position. There is a direct relationship between fossils and the geologic formations within which they are enclosed and, with sufficient knowledge of the geology and stratigraphy of a particular area, it is possible for paleontologists to reasonably determine the formation's potential to contain significant nonrenewable vertebrate, invertebrate, marine, or plant fossil remains.

The paleontological sensitivity for a geologic formation is determined by the potential for that formation to produce significant nonrenewable fossils. This determination is based on what fossil resources the particular geologic formation has produced in the past at other nearby locations. Determinations of paleontologic sensitivity must consider not only the potential for yielding vertebrate fossils but also the potential of yielding a few significant fossils that may provide new and significant taxonomic, phylogenetic, and/or stratigraphic data.

The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology issued a set of standard guidelines intended to assist paleontologists to assess and mitigate any adverse effects/impacts to nonrenewable paleontological resources. The guidelines defined four categories of paleontological sensitivity for geologic units that might be impacted by a proposed project, as listed below (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology 2010:1-2):

- **High Potential**: Rock units from which vertebrate or significant invertebrate, plant, or trace fossils have been recovered.
- **Undetermined Potential**: Rock units for which little information is available concerning their paleontological content, geologic age, and depositional environment.
- **Low Potential**: Rock units that are poorly represented by fossil specimens in institutional collections, or based on general scientific consensus only preserve fossils in rare circumstances.
- **No Potential**: Rock units that have no potential to contain significant paleontological resources, such as high-grade metamorphic rocks and plutonic igneous rocks.

SETTING

The City of Calimesa is situated in the San Bernardino Valley, which lies in the southern portion of the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province, near where it adjoins the adjacent Peninsular Ranges province (Jenkins 1980:40-41; Harms 1996:131). The Transverse Ranges province is characterized by a series of steep east-west trending mountain ranges and valleys (Harden 2004:426). This east-west structure contrasts with the usual coastal California northwest trend, hence the name "Transverse" (Jenkins 1980). The Transverse Ranges province extends west offshore to include the San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz Islands, and the eastern end of the province is the San Bernardino Mountains (*ibid.*).

In the San Bernardino Valley, a large irregular structural depression filled with alluvial deposits ranging in age from late Tertiary to Recent is overlain by channels of the Santa Ana River and its tributaries (Dutcher and Garrett 1963:1). The resulting valley is bounded by the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountain Ranges on the north to the Santa Ana Mountains and the Jurupa Hills on the south. Large alluvial fans, alluvial benches and terraces near the mountains, and stream channels underlie most of the area, but its landforms also include elongate hills, ridges, and scarps along the trace of the San Jacinto fault, which strikes northwestward roughly in the center of the valley (*ibid*.).

More specifically, the Calimesa area occupies the southern portion of the Yucaipa Valley, the easternmost offshoot of the San Bernardino Valley, and near the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. The environment of the region is characterized by its temperate Mediterranean climate, with the average maximum temperature in July reaching well into the 90s (Fahrenheit) and the average minimum temperature in January hovering around 35 degrees. Rainfall is typically less than 20 inches annually, most of which occurs between November and March.

The project area consists of an irregularly shaped tract of former agricultural land in the central portion of the city. The surrounding area features a mix of rural, undeveloped land and suburban housing tracts, and the Calimesa Country Club on the adjacent property to the east is the nearest development. A lift station and a well currently exist along the western boundary of the property. The terrain in the project area is generally level, and the elevations range around 2,340 feet above mean sea level. Soils are composed of fine to medium sandy silt with small rocks. Recent ground clearing is evident, particularly in the eastern portion, but currently newly grown, relatively thick low-lying vegetation covers much of the ground surface, including mustard, jimsonweed, and other small grasses and brush (Fig. 4).

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

RECORDS SEARCHES

The paleontological records search service for this study was provided by the Western Science Center (WSC) in Hemet. The WSC maintains files of regional paleontological localities as well as supporting maps and documents. The records search results were used to identify previously performed paleontological resource assessments and known paleontological localities within a one-mile radius of the project area. A copy of the records search results is attached to this report in Appendix 2.

Figure 4. Current natural setting of the project area. (Photograph taken on May 18, 2023; view to the northwest)

LITERATURE REVIEW

In conjunction with the records search, CRM TECH report writer Deirdre Encarnación reviewed geological literature pertaining to the project vicinity under the direction of principal paleontologist Ron Schmidtling. Sources consulted during the review include primarily topographic, geologic, and soil maps of the Calimesa area, the Riverside County GIS database on paleontological sensitivity, satellite and aerial images available at the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) Online website and through the Google Earth software, and other materials in the CRM TECH library, including unpublished reports produced during similar surveys in the vicinity.

FIELD SURVEY

On May 18, 2023, Ron Schmidtling and paleontological surveyor Daniel Ballester carried out the field survey of the project area. The survey was completed at an intensive level by walking a series of parallel northwest-southeast transects spaced 10 meters (approximately 33 feet) apart. In this way, the ground surface in the entire project area was systematically examined to determine soil types, verify the geological formations, and search for indications of paleontological remains. Ground visibility over much of the project area was generally poor (25%-50%) due to low-lying vegetation. Considering past ground disturbances by agricultural and construction activities, however, the field survey was considered to be moderately compromised but adequate for the purposes of this study.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

RECORDS SEARCHES

According to the WSC, the geologic formation underlying the project area is a combination of both Holocene and Pleistocene alluvial deposits (Stoneburg 2023; see App. 2). These Pleistocene alluvial units are known to have high preservation value, and as such are considered "highly paleontologically sensitive" (*ibid*.). No fossil localities were reported by the WSC within the project area or within a one-mile radius, but fossil localities from similarly mapped units were noted across Southern California (*ibid*.).

Based on these results, the WSC concluded that any fossil specimen(s) recovered in the project area would be scientifically significant, and that excavations associated with such development would impact these paleontologically sensitive units of Pleistocene and Pliocene age (Stoneburg 2023). Therefore, the WSC recommended that a paleontological resource mitigation program be implemented to monitor, salvage, and curate such specimens (*ibid*.).

LITERATURE REVIEW

The surface geology within the project area has been mapped by Dibblee (2003; Fig. 5) as *Qoa*, described as "older surficial sediments, weakly indurated alluvial fan deposits derived from local terrains." Dibblee further defines the *Qoa* sediments as "alluvial gravel and sand, light reddish brown and of granitic and gneiss detritus of San Bernardino Mountains in north areas, brownish gray in south area; top surface slopes slightly from source terrains" (*ibid*.). Matti and Morton (2015) mapped the soils as Qof_2, described as old alluvial fan deposits of upper to middle Pleistocene and further defined as "sandy, gravelly, and silty sediments deposited by streams that formed alluvial-fan landforms."

The surface geology in the project area was mapped by Morton and Miller (2006) as old axial-channel deposits of late to middle Pleistocene age (Qoa_1). The authors state that these deposits "on south side of San Bernardino Mountains, moderately dissected interstratified sand and gravel," and note that in the Yucaipa Valley, "Qoa_1 forms widespread body deposited by stream flows of Yucaipa and Oak Glen Creeks that converged southwest and flowed down ancestral Live Oak Canyon" (*ibid*.).

Riverside County paleontological sensitivity map classifies the project location as High Sensitivity ("High A"; RCIT n.d.). According to the County's general plan,

> High A is based on geologic formations or mapped rock units that are known to contain or have the correct age and depositional conditions to contain significant paleontological resources. These include rocks of Silurian or Devonian age and younger that have potential to contain remains of fossil fish, and Mesozoic and Cenozoic rocks that contain fossilized body elements and trace fossils such as tracks, nests and eggs. (County of Riverside 2015:4, 9-11)

Aerial and satellite images reveal that the project area was in use as agricultural land by the late 1950s (NETR Online 1938-1959). Although agricultural activities eventually ceased, ground

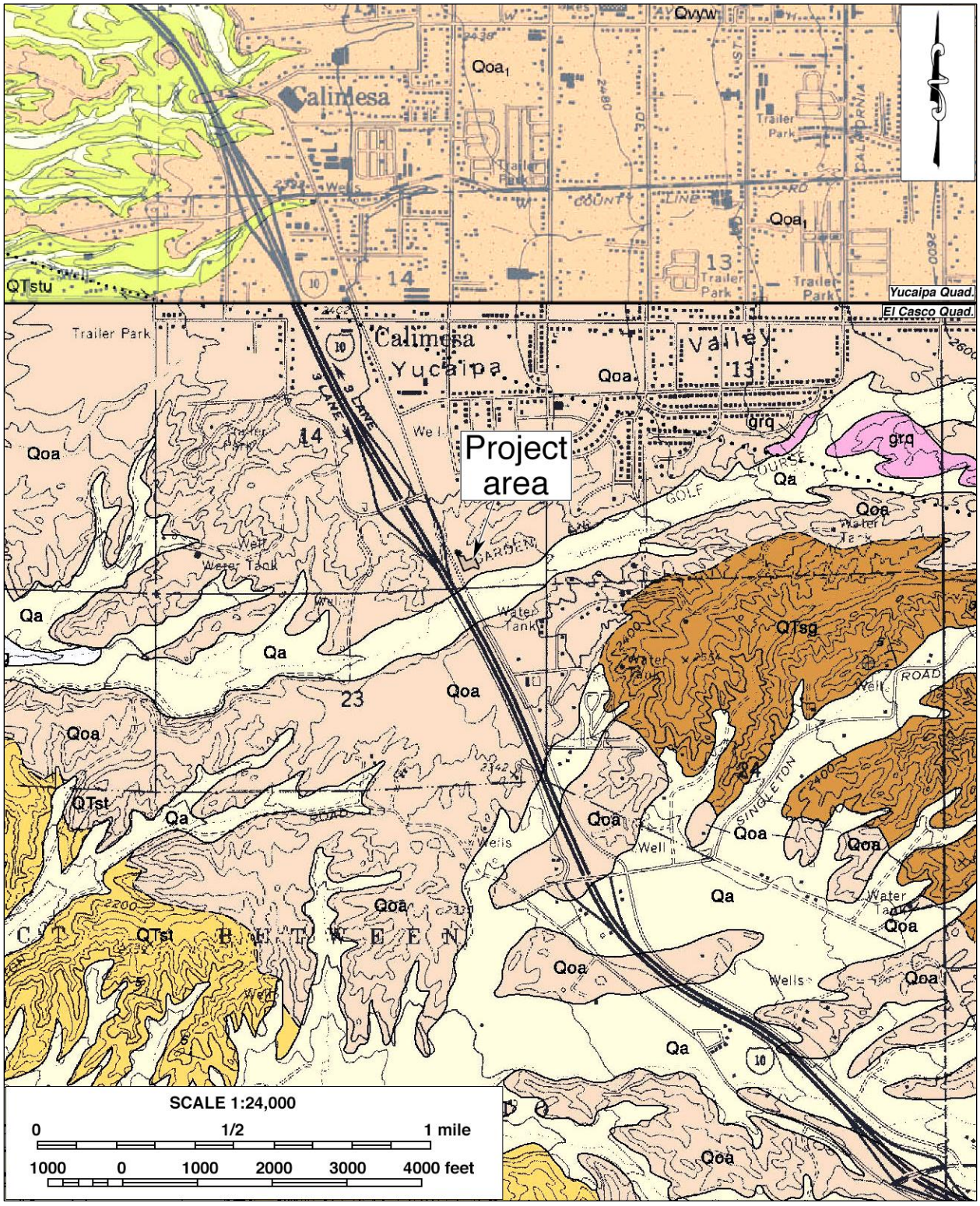

Figure 5. Geological map of the project vicinity. (Source: Dibblee 2003; Matti et al. 2003)

disturbance continued by the construction, use, and maintenance associated with the existing lift station (NETR Online 1959-2020; Google Earth 1996-2023).

FIELD SURVEY

Throughout the course of the field survey, no surface manifestation of any paleontological remains was observed within the project area. As mentioned above, the ground surface in the project area has been disturbed by decades of agricultural operations and by construction, maintenance, and use of the existing lift station.

DISCUSSION

The results of the records search and the literature review suggest that the project area is situated upon alluvial sediments of Pleistocene age, which in general have a high potential to contain significant, nonrenewable fossil remains. These soils have yielded significant fossils elsewhere in the project vicinity. While no fossil localities were identified within the project area, the WSC reported fossil discoveries throughout southern California from similar sediments as those mapped within the project area. In summary, excavations into the native soils in the project vicinity have a strong potential to encounter paleontological resources despite the lack of surface findings.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CEQA guidelines (Title 14 CCR App. G, Sec. V(c)) require that public agencies in the State of California determine whether a proposed project would "directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource" during the environmental review process. The present study, conducted in compliance with this provision, is designed to identify any significant, non-renewable paleontological resources that may exist within or adjacent to the project area, and to assess the possibility for such resources to be encountered in future excavation and construction activities.

Based on the research results presented above, the proposed project's potential to impact significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources appears to be high in the native alluvial sediments present throughout the project area. Therefore, CRM TECH recommends that a paleontological resource impact mitigation program be developed and implemented during the project to prevent impacts on significant, nonrenewable paleontological resources or reduce them to a level less than significant. The mitigation program should be developed in accordance with the provisions of CEQA (Scott and Springer 2003) as well as the proposed guidelines of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010), and should include but not be limited to the following components:

- All earth-moving operations reaching beyond the previously disturbed surface soil should be monitored by a qualified paleontological monitor to ensure the timely identification of the undisturbed, potentially fossiliferous sediments when they are encountered. The monitor should be prepared to quickly salvage fossil remains upon discovery to avoid construction delays but must have the power to temporarily halt or divert construction equipment to allow for removal of abundant or large specimens.

- Collected samples of sediment should be processed to recover small fossils, and all recovered specimens should be identified and curated at a repository with permanent retrievable storage.
- A report of findings, including an itemized inventory of recovered specimens, should be prepared upon completion of the procedures outlined above. The report should include a discussion of the significance of the paleontological findings, if any. The report and the inventory, when submitted to the Yucaipa Valley Water District, would signify completion of the program to mitigate potential impacts on paleontological resources.

Under these conditions, the proposed project may be cleared to proceed in compliance with CEQA provisions on paleontological resources.

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Stoneburg, Brittney Elizabeth
2023 Letter of findings, paleontological resources records search for the proposed project. Prepared by Western Science Center, Hemet, California. (See App. 2)

APPENDIX 1:
PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

PROJECT PALEONTOLOGIST
Ron Schmidtling, M.S.

Education

1995	M.S., Geology, University of California, Los Angeles.
1991	Pasadena City College, Pasadena, California.
1985	B.A., Archaeology, Paleontology, Ancient Folklore, and Art History, University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg.

Professional Experience:

2020-	Project Paleontologist, CRM TECH, Colton, California.
2014-	Instructor of Earth Science, History of Life, Ecology, and Evolutionary Biology, Columbia College Hollywood, Reseda, California.
2013, 2015	Volunteer, excavation of a camarasaur and a diplodocid in southern Utah, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, California.
1993-2014	Consultant, Getty Conservation Institute, Brentwood, California. • Geological Consultant on the Renaissance Bronze Project, characterizing constituents of bronze core material; • Paleontological Consultant for Antiquities/Conservation, identifying the foraminifera and mineral constituents of a limestone torso of Aphrodite; • Scientific Consultant on the Brentwood Site Building Project, testing building materials for their suitability in the museum galleries.
1999-2001	Archaeological and Paleontological Monitor, Michael Brandman Associates, Irvine, California.
1997	Department of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles.
1994	Scientific Illustrator and Teaching Assistant, Department of Earth and Space Sciences and Department of Biological Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles.

Memberships

AAPS (Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences), USA; CSEOL (Center for the Study of Evolution and the Origin of Life), Department of Earth Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles.

Publications and Reports

Author, co-author, and contributor on numerous paleontological publications and paleontological resource management reports.

REPORT WRITER
Deirdre Encarnación, M.A.

Education

2003	M.A., Anthropology, San Diego State University, California.
2000	B.A., Anthropology, minor in Biology, with honors; San Diego State University, California.

Professional Experience

2004-	Project Archaeologist/Paleontologist/Report Writer, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
2001-2003	Part-time Lecturer, San Diego State University, California.
2001	Research Assistant for Dr. Lynn Gamble, San Diego State University.
2001	Archaeological Collection Catalog, SDSU Foundation.

PALEONTOLOGICAL SURVEYOR/FIELD DIRECTOR
Daniel Ballester, M.S.

Education

2013	M.S., Geographic Information System (GIS), University of Redlands, California.
1998	B.A., Anthropology, California State University, San Bernardino.
1997	Archaeological Field School, University of Las Vegas and University of California, Riverside.
1994	University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico.

- Cross-trained in paleontological field procedures and identifications by CRM TECH Geologist/Paleontologist Harry M. Quinn.

Professional Experience

2002-	Field Director/GIS Specialist, CRM TECH, Riverside/Colton, California.
2011-2012	GIS Specialist for Caltrans District 8 Project, Garcia and Associates, San Anselmo, California.
2009-2010	Field Crew Chief, Garcia and Associates, San Anselmo, California.
2009-2010	Field Crew, ECorp, Redlands.
1999-2002	Project Paleontologist/Archaeologist, CRM TECH, Riverside, California.
1998-1999	Field Crew, K.E.A. Environmental, San Diego, California.
1998	Field Crew, A.S.M. Affiliates, Encinitas, California.
1998	Field Crew, Archaeological Research Unit, University of California, Riverside.

APPENDIX 2

RECORDS SEARCH RESULTS

WESTERN SCIENCE CENTER

May 5th, 2023

CRM Tech
Nina Gallardo
1016 E. Cooley Drive, Suite A/B
Colton, CA 92324

Dear Ms. Gallardo,

This letter presents the results of a record search conducted for the Proposed Yucaipa Valley Water District's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project in the city of Calimesa, Riverside County, CA. The project area is located alongside Calimesa Blvd and jest west of the Calimesa Country Club on Township 2 South, Range 2 West, Section 23 on the *El Casco, CA* USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The geologic unit underlying this project is mapped as a mix of Holocene and Pleistocene alluvial deposits (Matti, Morton, and Langenheim 2015). Pleistocene alluvial units are considered to be highly paleontologically sensitive. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the project area or within a 1 mile radius, but does have localities in similarly mapped units across Southern California.

Any fossils recovered from the Proposed Yucaipa Valley Water District's Lift Station No. 4 Replacement Project area would be scientifically significant. Excavation activity associated with development of the project area would impact the paleontologically sensitive Pleistocene and Pliocene units and it is the recommendation of the Western Science Center that a paleontological resource mitigation program be put in place to monitor, salvage, and curate any recovered fossils associated with the current study area.

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please feel free to contact me at bstoneburg@westerncentermuseum.org

Sincerely,

Brittney Elizabeth Stoneburg, MSc
Collections Manager

APPENDIX E

AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS

YVWD No. 4 Lift Station Summary Report

Table of Contents

1. Basic Project Information

1.1. Basic Project Information

Data Field	Value
Project Name	YVWD No. 4 Lift Station
Construction Start Date	1/1/2024
Operational Year	2025
Lead Agency	Yucaipa Valley Water District
Land Use Scale	Project/site
Analysis Level for Defaults	County
Windspeed (m/s)	2.50
Precipitation (days)	25.8
Location	33.989436, -117.054861
County	Riverside-South Coast
City	Calimesa
Air District	South Coast AQMD
Air Basin	South Coast
TAZ	5623
EDFZ	11
Electric Utility	Southern California Edison
Gas Utility	Southern California Gas
App Version	2022.1.1.17

1.2. Land Use Types

Land Use Subtype	Size	Unit	Lot Acreage	Building Area (sq ft)	Landscape Area (sq ft)	Special Landscape Area (sq ft)	Population	Description

Single Family Housing	3.00	Dwelling Unit	0.97	5,850	35,139	—	10.0	—

1.3. User-Selected Emission Reduction Measures by Emissions Sector

No measures selected

2. Emissions Summary

2.1. Construction Emissions Compared Against Thresholds

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Un/Mit.	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	2.79	2.49	17.6	22.3	0.05	0.67	0.43	1.10	0.62	0.10	0.72	—	5,371	5,371	0.22	0.06	1.88	5,395
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	2.79	2.48	17.6	21.7	0.05	0.67	0.43	1.10	0.62	0.10	0.72	—	5,333	5,333	0.22	0.06	0.05	5,355
Average Daily (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	2.00	1.78	12.6	15.6	0.03	0.48	0.30	0.78	0.44	0.07	0.51	—	3,832	3,832	0.16	0.04	0.58	3,849
Annual (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.36	0.33	2.31	2.85	0.01	0.09	0.05	0.14	0.08	0.01	0.09	—	634	634	0.03	0.01	0.10	637

2.4. Operations Emissions Compared Against Thresholds

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Un/Mit.	TOG	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	BCO2	NBCO2	CO2T	CH4	N2O	R	CO2e

Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	1.02	1.06	0.20	2.68	0.01	0.22	0.20	0.41	0.21	0.05	0.26	29.9	372	402	0.28	0.01	0.93	414
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.99	1.03	0.20	2.36	0.01	0.22	0.20	0.41	0.21	0.05	0.26	29.9	357	387	0.28	0.01	0.06	398
Average Daily (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.19	0.31	0.15	1.06	< 0.005	0.02	0.19	0.21	0.02	0.05	0.07	3.69	305	308	0.20	0.01	0.42	317
Annual (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.19	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.03	0.04	< 0.005	0.01	0.01	0.61	50.4	51.1	0.03	< 0.005	0.07	52.5

6. Climate Risk Detailed Report

6.2. Initial Climate Risk Scores

Climate Hazard	Exposure Score	Sensitivity Score	Adaptive Capacity Score	Vulnerability Score
Temperature and Extreme Heat	3	0	0	N/A
Extreme Precipitation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sea Level Rise	1	0	0	N/A
Wildfire	1	0	0	N/A
Flooding	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drought	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Snowpack Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Quality Degradation	0	0	0	N/A

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.
The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.
The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores do not include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

6.3. Adjusted Climate Risk Scores

Climate Hazard	Exposure Score	Sensitivity Score	Adaptive Capacity Score	Vulnerability Score
Temperature and Extreme Heat	3	1	1	3
Extreme Precipitation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sea Level Rise	1	1	1	2
Wildfire	1	1	1	2
Flooding	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drought	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Snowpack Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Quality Degradation	1	1	1	2

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.
The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.
The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

7. Health and Equity Details

7.3. Overall Health & Equity Scores

Metric	Result for Project Census Tract
CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score for Project Location (a)	35.0
Healthy Places Index Score for Project Location (b)	26.0
Project Located in a Designated Disadvantaged Community (Senate Bill 535)	No
Project Located in a Low-Income Community (Assembly Bill 1550)	Yes
Project Located in a Community Air Protection Program Community (Assembly Bill 617)	No

a: The maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects a higher pollution burden compared to other census tracts in the state.
b: The maximum Health Places Index score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects healthier community conditions compared to other census tracts in the state.

7.5. Evaluation Scorecard

Health & Equity Evaluation Scorecard not completed.