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Steve J. Bestolarides  
San Joaquin County Clerk

**Return To:**

**Woodbridge Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 580  
Woodbridge, CA 95258**

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**DOCUMENT TITLE**

**· Notice of Intent to Adopt A Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Woodbridge Irrigation District**

*1/25/2024*

**WOODBIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION 12-14-23-01  
APPROVING INITIAL STUDY AND DIRECTING PREPARATION OF AND  
GIVING NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE  
DECLARATION FOR INSTALLATION OF A SPENKER LATERAL  
PIPELINE PROJECT**

RECITALS

- A) Woodbridge Irrigation District's (WID) Spenker Lateral Canal, currently an open, unlined ditch with a known history dating back into the 1930's or older. Today the open canal, consist of approximately 9930 feet of a dirt lined canal that is known to result in excessive water loss. It presently parallel's Jesse's Grove's western boundary to Turner Road and then turns westerly paralleling Turner Rd to a point where it turns south an runs alongside, parallel with the ¼ section line to a point approximately 350 feet south of Sargent Road. A 600 foot stretch of the canal is presently piped as a result of past litigation due to canal leakage that leached into adjacent structures, this area is just south of Turner Road. The proposed pipeline project, would be built in 3 phases, phase 1 being approximately 2690 feet, phase 2 being approximately 5625 feet and phase 3 being approximately 4840 feet. The phase 1 section will be realigned to be more in-line with Phase 2 and 3. South of Turner Road, phase 2 & 3 will follow the existing alignment of the Canal as it exist today. The new 48" reinforced concrete pipeline and appurtances will provide an ultimate service area of approximately 1600± acres and provide greater water conservation than the open canal. The pipeline hereafter is referred to as the "Project".
- B) In September 2023, WID authorized, Dr. Robert Eckard of Flowpath to provide environmental services, including preparation of an Initial Study and other related documents to determine the environmental impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Spenker Lateral Project. Flowpath's evaluations include any potentially significant adverse impacts for Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Air Quality, Noise, Geology and Soils, Air Quality, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, Traffic, etc. as required by CEQA and concluded that there were clearly no significant adverse impacts if mitigation measures described in the Initial Study were implemented as part of the project. The IS concludes that the appropriate CEQA document for the proposed project would be a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Thereby the IS/MND will be the document that recommends inclusion of mitigation measures for WID's proposed Project. Upon that basis it is recommended that a IS/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) be prepared, circulated for Public Comment and upon review and consideration of all comments received during the published time period be presented to the Woodbridge Board of Directors for consideration for adoption/certification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF WOODBRIDGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT, as follows:

Section 1. Each of the aforesaid recitals is true and correct.

Section 2. The District conducted the Initial Study (IS) to identify potentially significant adverse effects on the environments and determine what CEQA document would be adequate for the proposed project. Based on the IS it was determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration would meet CEQA requirements so long as inclusion of mitigation measures are made part of the Project that would avoid or mitigate the effects to a point where no significant adverse environmental effect would occur. Those mitigation measures shall be included and made part of the Project, and accordingly, the Board hereby approves the Initial Study, including any minor or technical corrections made thereto upon recommendation of the Manager prior to publishing, as provided below,

Section 3. The Board of Directors intends to consider and possibly adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) at a special or adjourned regular Board meeting to be determined.

Section 4. The District Manager is hereby authorized and directed as follows:

- a. To promptly prepare or cause to be prepared: 1) a proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and 2) a Notice of Intent to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and 3) deliver the same to the County of San Joaquin and San Joaquin County Clerk not later than 20 days before the Board meeting yet to be determined.
- b. To have the Notice of Intent to be published in the Lodi News Sentinel shall read as follows:

#### **Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Directors of the Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID) of the intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the installation of a new 4-foot diameter pipeline for the existing Spenker Lateral, located in San Joaquin County, west of the City of Lodi, beginning at WID's existing West Main Canal and going southerly to point just north of Kettleman Lane (State Highway 12), approximately 13,165 feet of pipeline. The new pipeline will replace WID's existing open, unlined Spenker Lateral to provide potential irrigation water to a service area of approximately 1600 square acres, generally bounded by Davis Road to the west, De Vries Road to the east, Kettleman Lane to the south, and WID's West Main Canal to the north. The pipeline will also provide greater water conservation which is a goal of WID and the State of California. A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Directors to consider the adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration at the Woodbridge District office at 18750 N. Lower Sacramento Road, Woodbridge, CA 95258, at its regular Board Meeting meeting at 9:00am on Thursday, February 8, 2024.

The review period during which WID will receive written comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration begins December 26, 2023 and ends January 26, 2024. Any Written comments thereon to be considered must be physically received at the District office by 5 P.M. on January 26, 2024. The District phone # is (209) 625-8438; and its fax # is (209) 625-8663. A copy of the Initial Study (IS) and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is

available for review at the District office during normal working hours (8 A.M. to 5 P.M., Monday through Friday, except Holidays)

Date: 12/14/2023

Keith Bussman, Secretary/General Manager  
Woodbridge Irrigation District

Keith Bussman

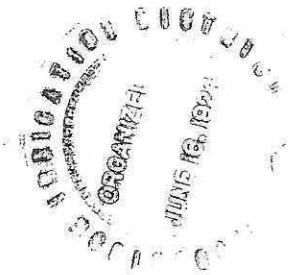
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: William Stokes, Ed Lucchesi, Bill Shinn, Hank VanExel, Bill Rogan

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ATTEST:



Keith Bussman  
Keith Bussman – Secretary

William Stokes  
William Stokes – President

Woodbridge Irrigation District

# Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

Spencer Lateral Undergrounding / Pipeline Water Conservation  
Project



Keith Bussman, General Manager  
12-13-2023

Initial Study  
Spenker Lateral Pipeline / Water Conservation Project  
Woodbridge Irrigation District

Keith Bussman, General Manager  
Woodbridge Irrigation District

December 13, 2023



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## Initial Study / Environmental Checklist

**Project Title:** Spenker Lateral Pipeline / Water Conservation Project

**Lead Agency Name and Address:** Woodbridge Irrigation District; P.O. Box 580, Woodbridge, CA 95258

**Contact Person and Phone Number:** Keith Bussman, General Manager; (209) 625-8438

**Project Location:** San Joaquin County, CA

**Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Woodbridge Irrigation District; P.O. Box 580, Woodbridge, CA 95258

**General Plan Designations:** Agricultural

**Zoning Designations:** AG Zone (San Joaquin County)

**Description of Project:** Construct, in three phases, approximately 2.6 miles of pipeline to replace the existing Spenker Lateral canal, then operate the canal to support continued / improved water management operations by Woodbridge Irrigation District.

**Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** Surrounding land use is rural agricultural.

**Other Public Agencies whose approval is required:** None / Not Applicable

**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, has consultation begun?** No consultation has been requested.



### Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The Project could potentially affect the environmental factor(s) checked below. The following pages present a more detailed checklist and discussion of each environmental factor.

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and 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/Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

### Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Keith Buzman     12-26-2023     Keith Buzman     General Manager

Signature                                  Date                                  Name                                  Position



## 1.0 Project Description

### 1.1 Introduction

The Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID; District) owns and operates the existing Spenker Lateral canal, located west and southwest of the City of Lodi, in San Joaquin County. The canal serves agricultural water users in its vicinity and downstream. The gravity-fed canal conveys surface-water-derived irrigation water, which WID provides to its customers under its existing water rights along the Mokelumne River, and other regional waterways. The existing canal is unlined and therefore results in water loss during operations.

To address / mitigate these losses, WID proposes to replace approximately 2.6 miles of existing Spenker Lateral canal with a buried pipeline. The proposed pipeline would be realigned from the existing WID West Main Canal through an existing vineyard and southerly to Turner Rd., along an agricultural road. South of Turner Rd., the pipeline would be installed along the alignment of the existing canal; use of the canal would be discontinued in favor of the proposed pipeline.

The pipeline would operate similar to how the existing lateral system operates, via a gravity system with a take-out structure placed in the existing West Main Canal on the northern end, and ending at its point of termination on the southern end. Along the pipeline alignment, there would be take-outs provided for agricultural users. Each take-out point would provide a source of irrigation water along the pipeline. Operations under the Project would mimic existing operations, except that the system would not be subject to losses associated with the current unlined canal based system.

Together, these actions, including additional details described below, constitute the Project, as discussed throughout this document.

This document has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15000 et seq.). CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before they approve or implement those projects.

The Initial Study is a public document used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In the case of the Project, WID is the lead agency and will use the Initial Study to determine whether the project has a significant effect on the environment.

If WID finds substantial evidence that any aspect of the project, either alone or in combination with other projects, may have a significant effect on the environment, that agency is required to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR), a supplement to a previously prepared EIR, or a subsequent EIR to analyze the project at hand. If the agency finds no substantial evidence that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant impact on the environment, a negative



declaration may be prepared. If, over the course of the analysis, the project is found to have a significant impact on the environment that, with specific mitigation measures, can be reduced to a less-than-significant level, a mitigated negative declaration may be prepared. In the case of this Project, all significant or potentially significant impacts on the environment would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with incorporation of the mitigation measures identified below. Therefore, a mitigated negative declaration has been prepared.

## 1.2 Responsible Agencies, Permits, and Approvals

Agency / Role	Required Approval or Permit
WID / Lead Agency	CEQA Adoption
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)	Responsible Agency; NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction

**Table 1.** Summary of Responsible Agencies, Permits, and Approvals

## 1.3 Project Location

The project would be located between WID's existing West Main Canal to the north, and Kettleman Ln (State Route (SR) 12) to the south. The northern end of the alignment would extend from the WID West Main Canal and be installed / buried along an existing agricultural road / vineyard area, for a length of approximately 2,690 ft., then align with the existing Spenker Lateral alignment in the vicinity of Turner Rd. Presently, to the north of Turner Rd., the existing Spenker Lateral is located approximately 1.3 miles west of the City of Lodi, whereas the lateral is located approximately 1.5 mile west of the City of Lodi to the south of Turner Rd. (Figure 1).

## 1.4 Existing Facilities

Existing facilities within the Project area include the existing WID West Main Canal at the far northern end of the alignment, and existing reaches of the Spenker Lateral, including segments that extend from its intersection with W Turner Rd to approximately 320 ft. south of W Sargent Rd, west of Lodi, California.

## 1.5 Proposed Facilities and Operation

The existing canal alignment would be replaced by a single buried, gravity-fed water conveyance pipeline that would be installed primarily within the existing footprint of the Spenker Lateral. In areas where the Project alignment does not overlie the existing canal—including areas located north of W Turner Rd.—the proposed pipeline would be installed into an easement within existing farmland. In all cases, the pipeline would be buried underground, and for farmed areas would allow continued use of these areas for farming operations. During operation, the pipeline would be operated consistent with current / present day operations, except that water would be conveyed via pipeline rather than via open canal.



## 1.6 Construction Phases and Process

The Project would be constructed in three phases. During interim periods between the construction of each phase, the Project would continue to operate, despite subsequent phases having not yet been constructed.

- Phase 1 (Q1-Q2 2024) would include installation then subsequent operation of pipeline from WID's West Main Canal in the north to Turner Rd. to the south, totaling approximately 2,690 linear ft.
- Phase 2 (Approximately Q4 2024 to Q2 2025) would include installation then subsequent operation of pipeline from Turner Rd in the north to Sargent Rd in the south, totaling approximately 5,625 linear ft.
- Phase 3 (Approximately Q4 2025 to Q2 2026) would include installation then subsequent operation of pipeline from Sargent Rd in the north to Kettleman Ln (SR 12), totaling approximately 4,840 linear ft.

Existing road crossings may be used pending verification of integrity and hydraulic analysis. Optionally, a new pipe would be installed via tunneling or jack and bore. Road disturbance would not be required. Construction staging areas would be located along / within the proposed alignment. During construction, the alignment would be excavated / trenched, the pipeline installed, then dirt spoils would be returned to the trench and leveled to be consistent with pre-existing conditions / current existing topography. To ensure safe traffic management and compliance with local construction and circulation requirements, however, WID would provide traffic management / traffic control during the construction process, as warranted.





**Figure 1.** Project Location.



## 2.0 Environmental Checklist

### 2.1 Aesthetics

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Environmental Setting

Visual or aesthetic resources include natural and built features within a landscape that contribute to the public’s experience and appreciation for the surrounding environment. Visual or aesthetic impacts can therefore occur depending on the extent to which a project’s presence would alter this existing perceived visual character and visual quality. The following analysis is based on review of Project maps and drawings, a visual survey of the Project area, aerial and ground level photographs of the Project area, and planning documents.

The proposed pipeline would be buried under existing farmland or within the existing footprint of the Spenker Lateral. As such, it would not be visible following construction.

#### Discussion

- a, b, d) **No Impact.** The Project is not located in an area that includes any designated scenic vistas. There are no scenic resources located in or surrounding the Project area, which is comprised of open farmland and the existing Spenker Lateral. Finally, the proposed pipeline would be buried; no surface facilities would be installed, and no new lights or reflective / glare generating surfaces would be installed within the Project area.
- c) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the Project would result in short-term / temporary impacts to the existing visual character and quality of the Project area. Construction activities would require the use of heavy equipment and storage of materials at construction sites. During construction, excavated areas, stockpiled



soils, and other materials within the construction and staging areas would contribute negative aesthetic elements in the visual landscape in the immediate vicinity of the Project. However, potential effects of the proposed Project would be temporary and would not significantly impact the long-term visual character of the area. For instance, all disturbed areas would be returned to their original state following construction. Moreover, the Project would not result in new permanent visual obstructions or other visual changes in character within that area. Therefore, the Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

## 2.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### ***Environmental Setting***

The Project is located exclusively in an area characterized by farmland. To characterize the environmental baseline for agricultural resources, Important Farmland Maps produced by the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) were reviewed. Important Farmland maps show categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance being located within or in close proximity to the Project area. County zoning for the Project area is AG Zone (General





Agriculture), which is established to preserve agricultural lands for the continuation of commercial agriculture enterprises.

**Discussion**

a, b, e) **No Impact.** While the project area is located in or in close proximity to important farmland, as defined above, and is zoned AG Zone, the project would result in the installation of belowground facilities and would only result in the temporary disturbance of the identified farmland. Following completion of construction, the targeted land area would continue to be utilized as farmland. Moreover the Project would not result in operational changes or other physical changes to the Project Area that would alter or limit potential for use of the site for agriculture, because no aboveground facilities would be installed, and no change in operation would occur.

c, d) **No Impact.** The Project Area is not located in an area that includes any forest or forested area, nor are any lands within the Project area zoned as forest land. Therefore, Project construction will not affect forest lands or areas zoned as forest lands.

**2.3 Air Quality**

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**



The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) is the local agency charged with administering local, state, and federal air quality management programs for San Joaquin County. The region currently suffers from high levels of ozone and particulate matter, both of which are derived primarily from the combustion of fossil fuels, including from the use of automobiles and other vehicles for transportation, and via the use of construction equipment. The following table summarizes current attainment status for the SJVAPCD, including the Project area.

Pollutant	Designation / Classification	
	Federal Standards	State Standards
Ozone - One hour	Revoked	Nonattainment/Severe
Ozone - Eight hour	Nonattainment/Extreme	Nonattainment
PM 10	Attainment	Nonattainment
PM 2.5	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Lead (Particulate)	No Designation/Classification	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride	No Federal Standard	Attainment

**Table 2.** Attainment Status for SJVAPCD

The SJVAPCD has established air quality thresholds of significance for CO, nitrogen oxides (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), sulfur oxides (SOx), PM10, and PM2.5, as shown in Table 3.

Pollutant	Construction Emissions (TPY)	Operational Emissions (TPY)	
		Permitted Equipment and Activities	Non-Permitted Equipment and Activities
CO	100	100	100
NOx	10	10	10
ROG	10	10	10
SOx	27	27	27
PM10	15	15	15
PM2.5	15	15	15

**Table 3.** SJVAPCD Emission Thresholds, Construction and Operation

**Discussion**

- a) **Less than Significant.** The Project would generate emissions only during construction. Project operation would not result in any airborne emissions.



Therefore, the following discussion here and in subsequent impact areas for air quality focuses solely on construction.

The SJVAPCD developed its Clean Air Plan (CAP) based on prior research, state of the art air quality management practices, and best available information, targeting development of a strategy to attain federal health-based 1997, 2006, and 2012 NAAQS for PM2.5 as quickly as possible (SJVAPCD 2018). Pursuant to the CAP, a significant impact would occur if a project conflicted with the plan by not incorporating the population-growth and vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) assumptions of the plan. Construction and operation of the Project would not be considered growth-inducing as it would not increase population or long-term operational traffic. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with the population-growth and vehicle-miles-traveled assumptions included in the CAP. As a result, the Project would not conflict with or obstruct with implementation of the CAP.

b,c)

**Less than Significant.** The Project consists of construction of pipelines to convey agricultural water via gravity feed. Construction associated with Project development would involve use of equipment and materials that would emit ozone precursor emissions (i.e., ROG, and NOx), as well as particulates (PM10 and PM2.5). Construction activities would also result in the emission of other criteria pollutants from equipment exhaust, construction-related vehicular activity, and construction worker automobile trips. Emission levels for these activities would vary depending on the number and type of equipment, duration of use, operation schedules, and the number of construction workers. Criteria pollutant emissions of ROG, NOx, and particulate matter from these emission sources would incrementally add to the regional atmospheric loading of ozone precursors and particulate matter during Project construction.

To evaluate the potential severity of anticipated emissions, anticipated emissions were quantified using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod). Results of the unmitigated estimated construction emission calculations for the proposed project are shown in Table 4. Note that construction emissions are presented as annual emissions, wherein the project would be deployed over three consecutive years.

Pollutant Source	Criteria Pollutant Emissions (TPY)			
	ROG	NOx	PM10	PM2.5
Project Construction	<1	2	1.6	<1
SJVAPCD Threshold	10	10	15	15
Exceedance?	No	No	No	No

**Table 4. Project Estimated Annual Emissions, Unmitigated.**



As shown in Table 4, Project emissions would not exceed applicable SJVAPCD thresholds applicable in the project area. Moreover, upon completion of construction activities, Project operations would not result in new emissions. As such, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutants. Therefore, the Project would result in a less than significant impact, and no mitigation would be required.

- d) **Less than Significant.** Diesel emissions would be generated from diesel-powered construction equipment and diesel trucks associated with Project construction. Diesel particulate matter (DPM) has been classified by the California Air Resources Board as a toxic air contaminant for the cancer risk associated with long-term (i.e., decades) of exposure to DPM. Given that construction would occur for a limited amount of time and spread out over a large geographic area, localized exposure to DPM would be minimal. As a result, the cancer risks from the Project associated with diesel emissions over a 70-year lifetime are very small. Therefore, the impacts related to DPM would be less-than-significant. Likewise, as noted above, the Project would result in emissions that are anticipated to be below relevant thresholds for criteria air pollutants during construction, with zero emissions during Project operation.
- e) **No Impact.** The Project would involve construction and operation of the proposed water conveyance pipeline. These activities would not generate odors.



## 2.4 Biological Resources

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

An evaluation of biological resources was conducted to determine whether any special-status species or sensitive habitat occurs within the proposed project area, totaling 31.44 acres. The biological survey area consisted of the proposed alignment with a 50-foot buffer each side of the pipeline. Data for the area was obtained from state and federal agencies. Prior to conducting the field survey, the following background tasks were conducted:

- Review of the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle for Lodi North, CA (USGS 2023);
- Review of color aerial photography for vegetative, topographic, and hydrologic signatures;
- Review of the Custom Soil Resource Report for San Joaquin County, California (NRCS 2023) for information about soils and geomorphology;



- Review of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Rarefind 5 online program;
- Review of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition online edition, v9.5);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project;

A field survey was conducted within the proposed project area on November 9, 2023 by certified wildlife biologist Lindsay Tisch to determine the habitats present and to assess potential impacts from the proposed project.

***Environmental Setting***

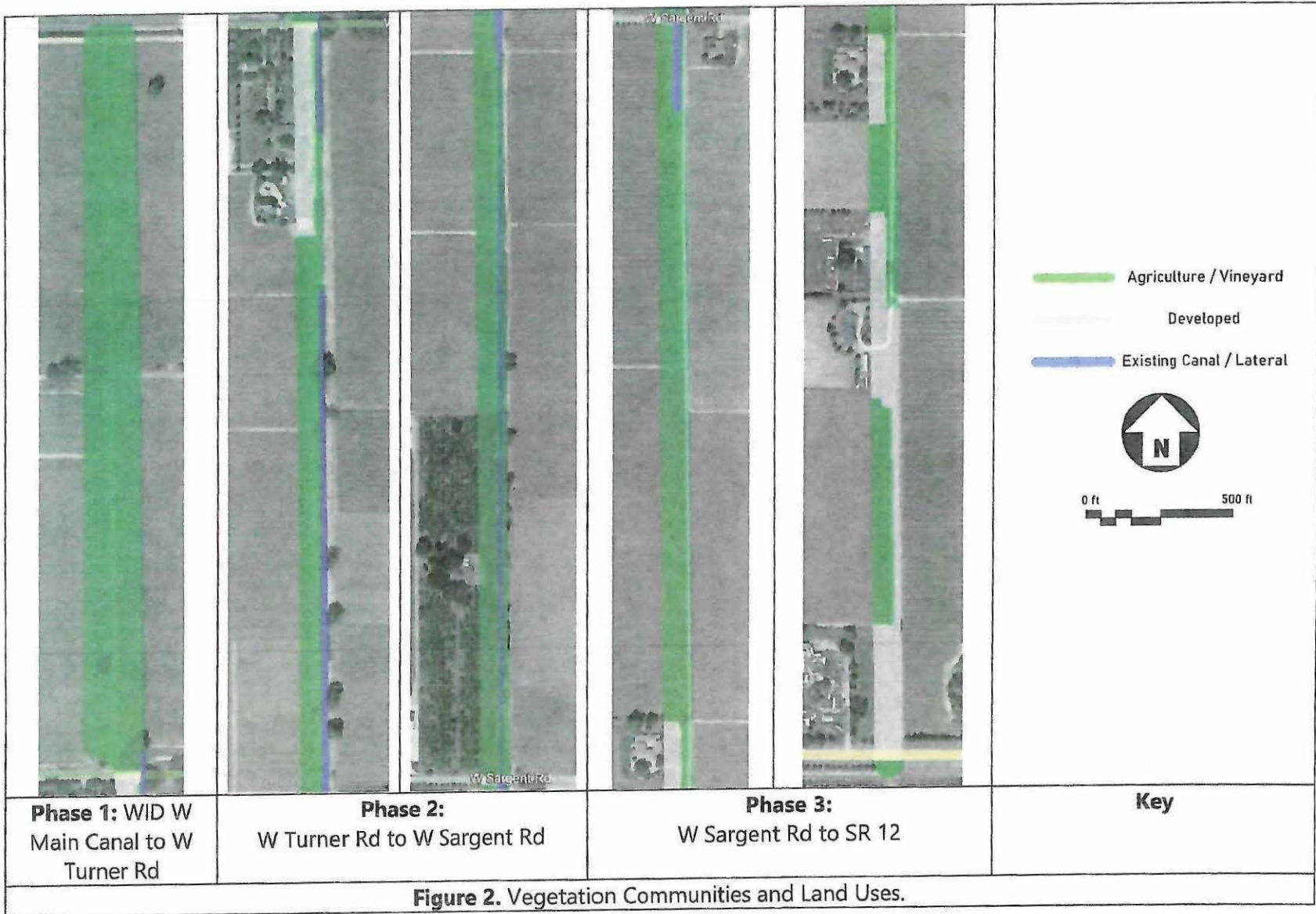
Topography in the proposed project area is generally flat. The elevation in the proposed project area ranges from approximately 31 to 36 feet above mean sea level. The topography in surrounding areas is characterized by flat terrain.

***Vegetation Communities and Land Uses***

Vegetation communities in the review area were classified in accordance with a Manual of California Vegetation Online version (CNPS 2023), as appropriate. Vegetation communities and land uses are listed below in Table 5. Figure 2 provides a map of the vegetation communities and lands uses within the proposed project area.

<b>Vegetation Community/Land Use</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Agriculture – Vineyards	24.61
Developed	4.85
Irrigation Canal– Spenker Lateral Canal	1.94
Irrigation Canal – WID Canal	0.04
Total	31.44
<b>Table 5. Vegetation Communities and Land Uses</b>	





**Figure 2.** Vegetation Communities and Land Uses.



### Agriculture - Vineyard

Vineyards are composed of single species planted in rows, usually supported on wood and wire trellises. Vines are normally intertwined in the rows but open between rows. Rows under the vines are usually sprayed with herbicides to prevent growth of herbaceous plants. Between rows of vines, grasses and other herbaceous plants may be planted or allowed to grow as a cover crop to control erosion. In the proposed project area, vineyards are the dominant land use type and consist of grapes

### Developed

Developed land uses include the dirt and paved roads that extend through the study area, along with a few rural residential homes.

### Irrigation Canal – Spenker Lateral Canal and WID Canal

Both the WID Canal and Spenker Lateral Canal are manmade irrigation canals excavated in dry land and constructed solely for agricultural irrigation purposes. The WID Canal has an average OHWM width of approximately 26 feet while the Spenker Lateral Canal has an average OHWM width of approximately 12 feet. The substrate of WID Canal irrigation canal consists of concrete and is largely devoid of vegetation; the substrate of the Spenker Lateral Canal consists of clay loam and is heavily vegetated with perennial plant species including wild oats (*Avena spp.*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), field mustard (*Brassica rapa*), field radish (*Raphanus sativus*), yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), prickly Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*). In addition, large valley oak trees (*Quercus lobata*) grow along the edges of this canal.

### ***Special-Status Plant Species***

The plants listed are considered to be of special concern based on (1) federal, state, or local laws regulating their development; (2) limited distributions; and/or (3) the presence of habitat required by the special-status plants occurring on site. After completion of the field surveys and review of existing information on special-status plants in the proposed project region, it was determined that no special-status plant species had the potential to occur within the proposed project area based on the lack of suitable habitat.

### ***Special-Status Wildlife Species***

After completion of the field surveys and review of existing information on special-status wildlife in the proposed project region, it was determined that four special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur within the proposed project area. These species include western pond turtle, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, and song sparrow ("Modesto" population). In addition, there is the potential for the proposed project to impact nesting birds and roosting bats. Each of these species is discussed below.

### Western Pond Turtle

The western pond turtle is a California Species of Special Concern. This moderate-sized aquatic turtle is commonly found in ponds, lakes, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with





rocky or muddy substrates. Their habitat often exhibits shoreline basking areas that may or may not be bordered by aquatic vegetation. Aquatic sites are often within woodlands, grasslands, and open forests, between sea level and 6,000 feet in elevation. Pond turtles bask on logs or other objects when water temperatures are lower than air temperatures. Their nests are created in upland areas with friable soils, often up to 0.25-mile of an aquatic site (Jennings and Hayes, 1994; Stebbins, 2003; Zeiner et al., 1988).

The Spencer Lateral Canal could provide potentially suitable foraging habitat for this species; the slopes of the banks, the access roads, and the floating debris that can accumulate within the canal, provide suitable basking habitat. This species was not observed during the surveys conducted in November 2019.

### Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk is a state-listed threatened species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Swainson's hawks were once found throughout lowland California and were absent only from the Sierra Nevada, north Coast Ranges, Klamath Mountains, and portions of the desert regions of the state. Presently, Swainson's hawks are restricted to portions of the Central Valley and Great Basin regions where suitable nesting and foraging habitat is still available. Swainson's hawks nest in riparian forests, remnant oak woodlands, isolated trees, and roadside trees. They forage primarily in open agricultural habitats, particularly those that optimize the availability of prey (e.g., alfalfa and other hay crops, some row and grain crops), but they also use irrigated pastures and annual grasslands (Estep 1989, England et al. 1997). Swainson's hawks breed in the Central Valley, occurring in California only during the spring and summer breeding season (generally, March through August), and migrate to Mexico and portions of Central and South America during winter. The proposed project area and landscape within 0.5 miles were assessed for potential Swainson's hawks nesting and foraging habitat. The mature trees within the proposed project area could provide suitable nesting habitat; however, no Swainson's hawks, or visible nests, were observed during the surveys conducted in November 2023.

### White-Tailed Kite

White-tailed kite is a year-round resident in central California and is a fully protected species; it has no federal status. This species typically nests in oak woodlands or trees, especially along marshes or river margins and may use any suitable tree or shrub of moderate height. Its nesting season may begin as early as February and extends into August. This raptor forages during the day for rodents, especially voles, in wet or dry grasslands and fields (Zeiner et al., 1990). The mature trees within the proposed project area could provide suitable nesting habitat. No white-tailed kites were observed during the surveys.



### Song Sparrow

Song sparrow is a California species of special concern and is the largest swallow in North America. Modesto song sparrow is found in a variety of habitats, including riparian willow thickets, valley oak riparian with an understory of blackberry, ruderal areas along levees and irrigation canals, and cattail and tule marshes (Gardali 2008). The song sparrow is endemic to California, where it resides only in the north-central portion of the Central Valley with highest densities occurring in the Butte Sink area of the Sacramento Valley and in the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta (Humple and Geupel 2004). The vineyards and vegetated areas around the Spencer Lateral Canal may provide marginal nesting habitat for song sparrow, while the fallow agricultural fields provide medium to low-quality foraging habitat for this species. This species was not observed during the surveys conducted in November 2023.

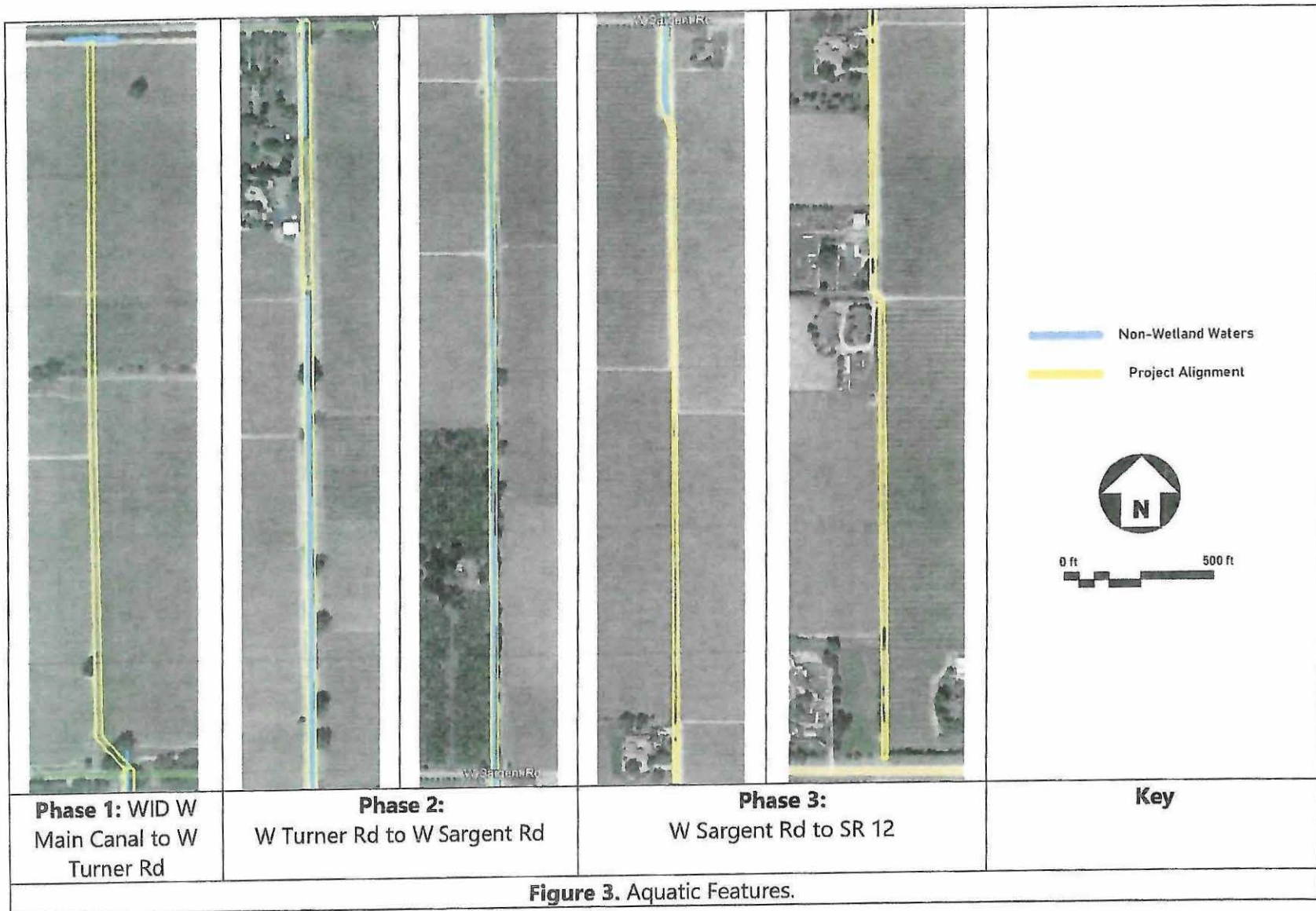
### Roosting Bats

The proposed project provides potential habitat for roosting bats. Many species of bats are known to utilize large, mature trees, particularly trees with cavities or a dense canopy for day roosting or maternity roosting habitat because they can provide either the cave-like or crevice-like roosting habitat some species require. Surveys conducted did not document any signs of bat presence (i.e., guano or urine staining under suitable trees). The large trees within the proposed project area could provide suitable roosting habitat for bats

### Nesting Birds

The proposed project area provides potential nesting habitat for migratory birds. Swallows, such as the barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) and cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), and black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) commonly nest around water. Common raptors, such as red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) and red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and other birds such as tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) and sparrows, commonly nest in large trees. No evidence of nesting was observed during the November 2023 survey but the vegetation communities within the proposed project area provide potential nesting habitat.





**Figure 3.** Aquatic Features.



### ***Aquatic Resources***

A total of 1.98 acres of aquatic features were mapped in the review area, consisting entirely of non-wetland waters. No wetlands were present. The reach of the WID Canal and Spenker Lateral Canal in the proposed project area exhibited a clearly defined ordinary high water mark (OHWM) but no other hydrology indicators were identified. Figure 3 provides a map of the aquatic resources within the proposed project area.

### ***Movement Corridors***

Wildlife movement corridors link areas of suitable wildlife habitat that may otherwise be separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, and/or areas of human disturbance or urban development. Topography and other natural factors, in combination with urbanization, can fragment or separate large open-space areas. The fragmentation of natural habitat creates isolated "islands" of habitat that may not provide sufficient area to accommodate sustainable populations and can adversely impact genetic and species diversity. Movement corridors mitigate the effects of this fragmentation by allowing animals to move between remaining habitats, which in turn allows depleted populations to be replenished and promotes genetic exchange between separate populations.

The proposed project area is highly fragmented by vineyards and rural residential development and does not serve as a wildlife movement corridor. However, the large trees adjacent to the Spenker Lateral Canal may provide a limited movement corridor for birds and small mammals.

### ***Discussion***

a) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** The proposed project is located in an agricultural environment with few areas of open land. The high level of disturbance associated with the land uses results in the proposed project area being of overall low value to wildlife. No candidate, sensitive, or special status species were observed in the proposed project area during the biological resource survey conducted in November 2023.

The large trees within the proposed project area could potentially support Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed kite, and other nesting migratory birds and small raptors. In addition, bat species could use the large trees as roosting habitat. In addition, the Spenker Lateral Canal provides suitable habitat for the western pond turtle.

The proposed project has the potential to affect western pond turtle, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, and other nesting migratory birds and raptors, and roosting bats if construction activities occur near suitable habitat in the project vicinity. If western pond turtles are present within the work area during construction, the movement of equipment within uplands and construction of bridge structures could crush pond turtles or nests containing eggs or young. If Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, and other migratory birds and raptors are nesting in or near construction, this could cause disruption to nesting activity



particularly if construction occurs during the nesting season (February 1 – August 31). If bats are roosting in the trees near construction, they will have to relocate to another suitable roost site potentially exposing them to increased stress and chance of predation. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-4 would reduce these impacts to less than significant levels. Impacts in this regard would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

#### **BIO-1: Western Pond Turtle**

- The construction area shall be dewatered prior to construction activities. CDFW shall be notified prior to dewatering activities.
- No more than two weeks prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the Project Proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to perform surveys for western pond turtle within suitable aquatic and upland habitat within the proposed project area. Surveys will include western pond turtle nests as well as individuals. The biologist (with the appropriate agency permits) will temporarily move any identified western pond turtles upstream of the construction area, and temporary barriers will be placed around the construction area to prevent ingress. Construction will not proceed until the work area is determined to be free of turtles. The results of these surveys will be documented in a technical memorandum that will be submitted to CDFW (if turtles are documented).
- Standard construction BMPs shall be implemented throughout construction to avoid and minimize adverse effects to the water quality within the proposed project area.

#### **BIO-2: Swainson's Hawk**

- Prior to construction, surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine the presence/absence of nesting Swainson's hawk in and within 0.50 miles of the proposed project area according to the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). If no Swainson's hawks are found during any of the surveys, no further mitigation will be necessary. If Swainson's hawk nests are found, CDFW will be consulted regarding measures to reduce the likelihood of forced fledging of young or nest abandonment by adult birds. These measures will likely include, but are not limited to, the establishment of a no-work zone around the nest until the young have fledged as determined by a qualified biologist.



### BIO-3: Nesting Birds

- If feasible, conduct all tree and shrub removal and grading activities during the non-breeding season (generally September 1 through January 31).
- If construction, grading or other project-related activities are scheduled during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), preconstruction nesting surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days from the beginning of construction. Preconstruction surveys shall be included suitable nesting habitat within the project impact area and within 250 feet.
- If the preconstruction surveys do not identify any active nests within areas potentially affected by construction activities, no further mitigation would be required.
- If the pre-construction surveys identify an active nest, a qualified biologist shall establish an appropriate no-work buffer around the active nest(s) using high visibility fencing. The size of the no-work buffer shall be determined by a qualified biologist based on the species, nest location relative to construction activities, and the nature of the proposed activities. Project activities shall be avoided within the no-work buffer until the nest is deemed no longer active by a qualified biologist.

### BIO-4: Roosting Bats

- A bat survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the areas where tree removal will occur and in areas adjacent to construction where suitable roosting habitat is present. If no roosting bats are found, no further mitigation would be necessary. If an active roost is identified, particularly a maternity roost, at the time of the survey, tree removal will not commence until the young have fledged. A qualified biologist will monitor the roost site on a daily basis in order to accurately determine when the roost is empty. The timing of tree removal will be developed by the qualified biologist to reduce the stress on the bats to the amount feasible while taking into account the proposed project schedule.

b)

**No Impact.** The proposed project is located in a largely agricultural area with rural residential development, and few open space areas. There is no riparian habitat, or other sensitive natural communities within the proposed project area. Therefore, the proposed project will not have a substantial adverse effect on



riparian habitat, or other sensitive natural communities and no impact would occur.

- c) **No Impact.** As described above, a total of 1.98 acres of aquatic features were mapped in the review area, consisting entirely of non-wetland waters. The proposed project does not contain state or federally protected wetlands; therefore, the proposed project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands and no impact would occur.
- d) **No Impact.** The general setting of the project area is largely agricultural with rural residential, and few open space areas and the project site does not contain any features commonly associated with wildlife or fish movement (natural waterways, arroyos, ridgelines, etc.). The proposed project would not substantially remove, degrade, or otherwise interfere with the structure or function of a wildlife movement corridor and no impact would occur.
- e) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** San Joaquin County has specific language in its general plan protecting significant oak groves with Resource Conservation designation and requiring a development permit and mitigations; however, the project is not located within an identified significant oak grove. If tree removal is necessary, trees would be replaced at a ratio consistent with County policy. Construction activities may occur within the dripline of native oak trees or other native trees. Work within the dripline of trees may cause permanent damage to the root system and the subsequent loss of the tree. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-5**, the Project would not be in conflict with any tree preservation policies and therefore would have a **less-than-significant impact**.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

#### **BIO-5: Tree Preservation**

- Prior to removal of any trees, an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist will conduct a tree survey in areas that may be impacted by construction activities. This survey will document tree resources that may be adversely impacted by implementation of the proposed Project. The survey will follow standard professional practices.
- A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) will be established around any tree or group of trees to be retained. The TPZ will be delineated by an ISA Certified Arborist. The TPZ will be defined by the radius of the dripline of the tree(s) plus one foot. The TPZ of any protected trees will be demarcated using fencing that will remain in place for the duration of construction activities.



- Construction-related activities will be limited within the TPZ to those activities that can be done by hand. No heavy equipment or machinery will be operated within the TPZ. Grading will be prohibited within the TPZ. No construction materials, equipment, or heavy machinery will be stored within the TPZ.

f) **No Impact.** Although the Project is located with the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (SJMSCP), the Project does not propose to permanently convert any large areas of wildlife habitat to developed land. The proposed canal alignment travels through an agricultural area dominated by vineyards, which does not provide wildlife habitat. The existing Spencer Lateral Canal would be abandoned in place and allowed to revert back to its natural upland state. The operation of the canals do not conflict with the SJMSCP. These conditions preclude the possibility of impacts, and no impact would occur.





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## 2.5 Cultural and Tribal Resources

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5??	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### **Environmental Setting**

Historic and cultural/tribal resources specialist Jesse Gonzales completed site visits for the proposed project alignment on November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. A records review was also completed a records search at the Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University for applicable historic and cultural resources, and conducted this research in consultation with applicable Indian tribes. Results from these evaluations did not identify any existing, known, or potentially eligible historic or pre-historic / cultural resources on site or in the immediate vicinity of the project site.



## Discussion

- a) **No Impact.** A historical resource is defined as any building, structure, site, or object listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or determined by a lead agency to be significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, or cultural annals of California. As noted under Environmental Setting, a records search and site visit indicated that there are no existing or eligible historical resources located in or immediately adjacent to the Project alignment. Therefore, project construction would not affect such resources.
- b) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** CEQA statutes require WID to consider the effects of a project on archaeological resources, then determine whether any identified archaeological resource is a historical resource. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 requires consideration of potential project impacts on "unique" archaeological resources that do not qualify as historical resources. Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21083.2 defines a unique archaeological resource as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets one or more of the following criteria. The resource: 1) contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions, and there is a demonstrable public interest in that information; 2) has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; and/or 3) is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

The records search and field survey completed in support of the Project did not identify any previously or currently noted surface evidence of archaeological or cultural resources. The Project area has been heavily disturbed by historic and ongoing agricultural practices, and the resulting ground surface is significantly altered from its historic character. While no evidence exists to indicate the presence of archaeological resources within the immediate Project area, the Project area is located in an area that may have been attractive to prehistoric inhabitants and could support previously unidentified archaeological resources. Therefore, the discovery of archaeological materials during ground-disturbing activities cannot be entirely discounted. In the unlikely event that archaeological materials are unearthed, Project construction could result in a potentially significant impact on archaeological resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would ensure that Project impacts to archaeological resources would be reduced to less-than-significant levels.

### **Mitigation Measures**

#### **CUL-1: Encounter of Cultural Resources**

If cultural resources are encountered, all activity in the vicinity of the find shall cease until it can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and a Tribal representative. Prehistoric



archaeological materials might include obsidian and chert flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, scrapers) or toolmaking debris; culturally darkened soil ("midden") containing heat-affected rocks, artifacts, or shellfish remains; and stone milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, hand stones, or milling slabs); and battered stone tools, such as hammer stones and pitted stones. Historic-period materials might include stone, concrete, or adobe footings and walls; filled wells or privies; and deposits of metal, glass, and/or ceramic refuse. If the archaeologist and Tribal representative determine that the resources may be significant, they shall notify the County. An appropriate treatment plan for the resources should be developed. The archaeologist shall consult with Tribal representatives in determining appropriate treatment for prehistoric or Native American cultural resources.

In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the archaeologist and Tribal representative, WID shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) shall be instituted. Work may proceed in other parts of the Project area while mitigation for cultural resources is being carried out.

- c) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** Results of the archival review discussed above indicate that the Project area and its vicinity have a low potential to contain buried cultural materials including human remains. However, the possibility of uncovering human remains cannot be entirely discounted. In the unlikely event that human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activity, disturbance of human remains could result in a potentially significant impact. Implementation Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would ensure that potential impacts to human remains would be minimized.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

#### **CUL-2: Encounter of Human Remains**

If human remains are encountered unexpectedly during construction excavation and grading activities, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the San Joaquin County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC. The NAHC shall then identify the person(s) thought to be the Most Likely Descendent, who shall help determine what course of action should be taken in dealing with the remains.



- d) **No Impact.** As noted above, an appropriate records search indicated that there are no known or documented tribal cultural resources, as defined, within the Project area or its vicinity. Therefore, no impact would occur. For a discussion of potential for encounter of previously unknown / undiscovered resources, refer to checklist item b) above.



## 2.6 Geology and Soils

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** The Project area is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, as defined by the California State Department of Conservation, Geological Survey (CGS, formerly the Division of Mines and Geology), and no active or potentially active faults exist on, or in the immediate vicinity of the site.



According to California Department of Conservation earthquake shaking potential maps, the Project area is located in an area that is distant from known, active faults, and will experience lower levels of shaking less frequently, with damage likely limited to weaker masonry structures. Additionally, the Project area, including all facilities, is located in an area of flat topography that is not subject to landslides. The Project would involve trenching and excavating to a depth of no more than 10 feet on primarily level terrain and would incorporate the use of trench shoring measures consistent with applicable building codes and CAL/OSHA requirements for trenching and excavation activities. As a result, the potential for slope instability hazards and landslides during construction and operation of the Project is not considered significant. Therefore, strong seismic shaking, seismic ground failure, and landslides are not anticipated.

- b) **Less than Significant.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Soil Conservation Service (NRCS), classifies soils in the vicinity of the Project area as various grades of silty to clayey loam with 0 to 2 percent slope. The soils in the Project area are primarily moderately to well drained with slow runoff, and low erosion hazard. As a result, significant potential for soil erosion during construction and operation of the proposed Project is not anticipated. Potential erosional effects of Project construction associated with storm water flows and other water movement, are discussed in Section 2.8, Hydrology and Water Quality.
- c, d) **Less-than-Significant.** Based on information collected from the NRCS Soil Survey, the Project area primarily contains soils with low shrink-swell potential. Soil shrink-swell has the potential to damage proposed structural foundations, paved roads and streets, and underground utilities including pipelines. Expansion and contraction of soils, depending on the season and amount of surface water infiltration, could exert enough pressure on structures to result in cracking, settlement, and uplift. Differential settlement is a concern in areas where proposed structures could place loads heavier than the soils could tolerate. However, soils with elevated shrink-swell potential are not expected to be located on site. Moreover, on site and surrounding topography is generally flat, alleviating potential for the occurrence of other soils that are capable of landslide, lateral spreading, or other similar considerations.
- e) **No Impact.** The proposed Project does not include the installation of any septic systems or alternative wastewater disposal systems.
- f) **No Impact.** There are no paleontological features identified within or in the vicinity of the Project.



## 2.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

**a, b)** **Less than significant.** Modeling evaluation completed for the air quality discussion previously indicated that the project would emit less than 500 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over the duration of the project. This amount would not exceed any applicable local or state level GHG emissions thresholds, and would not meaningfully contribute to GHG emissions within California or the region. These GHG emissions would not conflict with any other plans, policies, or other requirements regarding reduction of GHG emissions.





## 2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

<b>Would the Project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Environmental Setting**

Information about hazardous materials sites in the Project area was collected by conducting a review of the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal EPA) Cortese List Data Resources (Cortese List). The Cortese list includes the following data resources that provide information regarding the facilities or sites identified as meeting the Cortese list requirements: the list of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database; the list of Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites from GeoTracker database; the list of solid waste disposal sites identified by State Water Resources Control Board; the list of active Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders from Water Board; and the list of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5



of the Health and Safety Code identified by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. The Cortese List is a reporting document used by the state, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. The Cortese List is updated at least annually, in compliance with California regulations (California Code Section 65964.6(a)(4)). The Cortese List includes federal superfund sites, state response sites, non-operating hazardous waste sites, voluntary cleanup sites, and school cleanup sites.

Identified sites located within 1 mile of the project site were limited, and included the following:

1. **IDLEWILD MARKET**, 2,700 ft west of the Project alignment (T0607700145): 3049 HWY 12 W, LODI, CA 95240. This site is a former leaking underground storage tank (LUST) Cleanup Site. The site was closed as of 1998, with remediation complete.

No other hazardous materials sites were identified.

### **Discussion**

a, b) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the proposed pipeline could temporarily increase the transport of materials generally regarded as hazardous materials that are used in construction activities. Limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluids, and other similarly related materials would be brought into the Project area, used, and stored during the construction period.

Numerous laws and regulations govern the transport, use, storage, handling and disposal of hazardous materials to reduce the potential hazards associated with these activities. Cal/OSHA is responsible for developing and enforcing workplace safety standards, including the handling and use of hazardous materials. Transportation of hazardous materials is regulated by the DOT and Caltrans. Together, federal and State agencies determine driver-training requirements, load labeling procedures, and container specifications designed to minimize the risk of accidental release. Construction activities would also be required to comply with the California fire code to reduce the risk of potential fire hazards. Adherence to these requirements would ensure that potential impact would be minimized.

- c) **No Impact.** There are no schools located within one quarter miles of the project.
- d) **No Impact.** As noted in the Environmental Setting, there are no hazardous materials sites located within the project area / footprint.
- e) **No Impact.** The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of an applicable airport.



- f) **No Impact.** The project would involve only off-road construction, and no on-road activities during operations. Road crossings would utilize existing culverts or use tunneling or jack and bore to cross under roadways. Therefore the project would not physically interfere with any roadways, emergency response plans, or evacuation plans.
- g) **Less than Significant.** The project is not located in an area that is considered high risk for wildfire, and would result in installation of underground pipelines, which would not contribute to local risk of wildfire.

## 2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

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



## Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** Construction of the Project would include the use of heavy machinery, including but not limited to transport trucks, bulldozers, graders, backhoes, excavators, earth movers, and other construction equipment. Use of these and similar types of heavy machinery would cause disturbance to surface sediments, loosen soils, remove existing vegetation, and potentially result in increased erosion on site. During large storm events, eroded soils could become entrained in stormwater, and could cause sedimentation on site or downstream, including along Project area waterways. During storm events, the use of heavy equipment during construction could also result in the accidental release of fuels, oils, lubricants, antifreeze, and other construction-related fluids into the environment. However, the project would be required to acquire and adhere to the requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's NPDES General Construction Permit for stormwater. Adherence to best management practices (BMPs) would be required for compliance with this permit, and adherence to those BMPs would ensure that potential for water quality degradation would be minimized to less than significant.
- b) **No Impact.** The Project would not involve groundwater, would not pump groundwater, nor would it interfere with groundwater recharge related operations in the Project vicinity. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- c) **Less than Significant.** The project would involve trenching and minor earth moving to support installation of the proposed pipeline. As discussed in the Project Description, dirt spoils would be replaced into trenches following pipeline installation and surfaces would be prepared to be consistent with current / surrounding topography. Moreover, adherence to requirements of the General Construction Permit (see checklist item a above) would require post construction activities to ensure that erosion control measures are placed to minimize erosion and sedimentation, as well as disruption to existing drainage patterns. The project would not generate new impervious surfaces or other sources of stormwater runoff. With respect to flood flows, the project site is not located within a FEMA-defined 100-year flood zone.
- d) **No Impact.** The project is not located within a FEMA-defined 100-year flood zone, nor is it located in an area that is subject to risks associated with tsunamis, seiche, or the risk of pollutant release due to inundation.
- e) **Less than Significant.** The project would adhere to the requirements of a Construction General Permit for stormwater, and would not result in any new discharges. Moreover, it would not alter or affect groundwater.



## 2.10 Land Use and Planning

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### ***Discussion***

**a, b)** **No Impact.** The project would install buried pipeline in a rural area and therefore would not divide an established community. Furthermore, the installation of the proposed pipelines would be consistent with agricultural land and associated County planning requirements. No impact would occur.



2.11 Noise

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

a) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** Equipment noise during construction of the Project is the primary concern in evaluating short-term noise impacts. During operation, the proposed pipeline would not generate noise. Temporary impacts during construction would be considered significant if they would substantially interfere with affected land uses or sensitive receptors.

Substantial interference could result from a combination of factors including: the generation of noise levels substantially greater than existing ambient noise levels; construction efforts lasting over long periods of time; or construction activities that would affect noise-sensitive uses during the nighttime. For assessment of temporary construction noise impacts, "substantially greater" means more than 3 dBA (hourly Leq, DNL, or CNEL) resulting in noise levels above 60 dB, which are considered "normally acceptable" for unshielded residential development. Noise levels from 60 to 70 dB fall within the "conditionally unacceptable" range, and those in the 70 to 75 dB range are considered "normally unacceptable."

Construction activity would be located within 50 to 100 feet of sensitive receptors, including six single-family residences located in close proximity to the proposed alignment. Noise from construction activity generally attenuates (decreases) at a rate of 6 to 7.5 dBA per doubling of distance. Conservatively assuming an attenuation of 6 dBA per doubling of distance, construction noise would be 89 dBA at 50 feet, 83 dBA at 100 feet, 77 dBA at 200 feet, and so on. As shown in Table 6, construction noise levels at these sensitive receptors



(conservatively assuming a distance of 50 ft.) would intermittently reach levels up to 88 dBA. These predicted noise levels could exceed the noise standards in the San Joaquin County Noise Elements, resulting in a potentially significant impact during construction. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures NOI-1 and NOI-2 would require construction contractors to adhere to daytime noise reduction measures, and would also provide a framework for responding to and tracking complaints pertaining to construction noise, and would reduce potential noise related impacts to less than significant levels.

Construction Equipment	Noise Level (dBA, Leq, at 50 ft)
Dump Truck	88
Portable Air Compressor	81
Concrete Mixer (Truck)	85
Scraper	88
Jack Hammer	88
Dozer	87
Generator	78
Front Loader	79
Scraper	88
Grader	85
Backhoe	85

**Table 6.** Typical Noise Generated by Construction Equipment.  
Source: Cunniff (1977); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (1971)

### **Mitigation Measures**

#### **NOI-1: Construction Noise Reduction**

Construction contractors shall implement the following measures to reduce daytime noise impacts due to construction:

- Equipment and trucks used for Project construction shall utilize the best available noise control techniques (e.g., improved mufflers, equipment redesign, use of intake silencers, ducts, engine enclosures and acoustically-attenuating shields or shrouds, wherever feasible);
- Construction equipment noise shall be minimized during Project construction by muffling and shielding intakes and exhaust on construction equipment (per the manufacturer's specifications) and by shrouding or shielding impact tools; and
- Construction contractors shall locate fixed construction equipment (such as compressors and generators) and construction staging areas as far as feasible from nearby sensitive receptors.



**NOI-2: Noticing and Complaints**

WID shall implement the following measures to respond to and track complaints pertaining to construction noise:

- Residents and businesses fronting the proposed alignment shall be noticed by mail at least 2 weeks prior to the commencement of construction activity in their area.
- The designation of a construction complaint manager for the proposed Project; and
- A listing of telephone numbers to reach the construction complaint manager for the proposed Project (during regular construction hours and off-hours).

- b) **Less than Significant.** Based on standard vibration levels promulgated by the Federal Transit Authority (FTA), use of heavy equipment (e.g., a large bulldozer) generates vibration levels of 0.031 PPV or 81 RMS at a distance of 50 feet. Sensitive receptors would be located within 50 feet of construction of the proposed pipeline improvements. However, vibration levels at these receptors would not exceed the potential building damage threshold of 0.5 PPV. Therefore, this potential impact is considered less than significant.
- c) **No Impact.** The Project is not located within the indicated proximity to or within the planning area for an existing airport or airstrip.

2.12 Population and Housing

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Discussion**

- a) **Less than Significant.** The project would replace an existing surface canal based water conveyance with an underground pipeline. The pipeline would not facilitate





increased water volumes, and would only support delivery to agricultural use. These activities would not result in increased water supplies, significant new jobs, or other activities that would result in substantial planned or unplanned population growth.

- b) **No Impact.** The project would not interfere with residences, roadways, places of business, or other areas that could result in the displacement of people. Therefore, no impact would occur.



## 2.13 Public Services

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other Public Facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** The Project would involve installation and operation of a pipeline that would not induce growth (refer to the Population and Housing discussion above), and would not interfere with roadways or other facilities. It would be installed exclusively in agricultural areas. Moreover, the project would not introduce any increased potential for fire danger, would not increase or alter crime, and would not alter demand for schools or parks. Therefore, no impact would occur to fire protection, police protection, schools or parks. The project would provide a net positive impact to agricultural water supply provided by WID, by improving deliverability. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.



## 2.14 Recreation

Would the Project:	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

**a, b) No Impact.** The Project would install an underground pipeline, and would not cause neighborhood changes or other use patterns that would affect recreation or recreation access, or wear and tear / use of existing recreational facilities. Moreover, the project would not include or require the construction or expansion of such facilities; it would only require the construction of the proposed pipeline system.

## 2.15 Transportation

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



**Discussion**

a) **Less than Significant.** During construction, road crossing locations could include jack and bore, tunneling, or other near-road activities. Note that open trench methods would not be used for roadway crossings. Nonetheless, jack and bore, tunneling, and other near-road construction activities could result in the use of heavy equipment in close proximity to existing roadways. In some cases, temporary traffic control and signing including a County approved traffic control plan may be required. However, in accordance with San Joaquin County requirements, WID and its contractors would be required adhere to standard county and state practices to ensure adequate management of traffic flow during construction periods. No further mitigation would be required.

b-d) **No Impact.** The Project would result in the installation and operation of buried pipelines, which would provide water supply for agricultural use. The project would result in a temporary / negligible increases in vehicle use to access the project site, but would not otherwise alter traffic. Moreover, the project would not include construction within roadways, bicycle or pedestrian facilities, or other transportation features. It would not affect any public transportation routes, would not install new roadway elements or new aboveground design features, and would not include any on-road construction or other elements that would interfere with emergency access. Refer to checklist item a) regarding potential for impacts associated with construction period lane closures.



## 2.16 Utilities and Service Systems

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant.** The Project would replace an existing length of canal with a buried pipeline, having sufficient capacity to maintain existing and ongoing / planned agricultural water service. During operations, this would result in a net improvement to agricultural water management by WID. Project installation would otherwise avoid utility lines and infrastructure, and/or would adhere to standard state level requirements for subsurface construction in the vicinity of linear utilities. No mitigation would be required.
- b) **No Impact.** The project would not require water supplies and would not require or result in a change in water demand.
- c) **No Impact.** The project would not require or result in the generation of wastewater, requiring treatment.



- d, e) **Less than Significant.** The project would not generate solid waste during operation. During construction, it would generate negligible amounts of solid waste associated with packing / transport materials for the proposed pipeline and installation process. Disposal would occur at area landfills or be recycled, and would not result in a noticeable increase in solid waste disposal demand. Herein, the project would also comply with all statutes and regulations related to solid waste and its disposal.

## 2.17 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** As discussed, the Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; and Noise sections of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), the Project would result in potentially significant temporary impacts as a result of construction of the proposed pipeline, that would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. However, adoption and implementation of mitigation measures described in this IS/MND would reduce these individual impacts to less than significant levels.



- b) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** Cumulative environmental effects are multiple individual effects that, when considered together are considerable or compound or increase other environmental impacts. The individual effects may result from a single project or a number of separate projects and may occur at the same place and point in time or at different locations and over extended periods of time. Cumulative projects identified that are ongoing at present or anticipated in the reasonably foreseeable future include planned development surrounding the western side of the City of Lodi. Other pipeline or similar projects in rural areas west and northwest of Lodi were not identified. Such projects have either have already undergone separate environmental review, or are currently in the process of undergoing environmental review. Moreover, residual impacts associated with biological resources, cultural resources, and noise would be highly localized in space and in time, and would not meaningfully contribute to a regionally cumulatively considerable scenario. Cumulative air quality impacts are addressed on a basin wide basis under the direct impact discussions provided above, and therefore would not further combine or contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact scenario. Moreover, applicable mitigation measures identified for direct impacts would further reduce the Project's contribution to environmental impacts to less than cumulatively considerable.
- c) **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** Project impacts that could directly affect humans include the potential for temporary increases in noise, and potential impacts to as yet undiscovered cultural resources. However, with implementation of mitigation measures provided in the Noise and Cultural Resources sections, these temporary impacts would be less than significant.

