INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

NP-2 Booster Station and Reservoir Project

Prepared for:

City of Banning
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Banning, CA 92220
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April 24, 2024

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ACRONYMS LIST

Acronym	Definition
AB52	Assembly Bill 52
ACBCI	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
AE	Applied Earthworks
ALUC	Airport Land Use Commission
APN	Assessor Parcel Number
AQ/GHG	Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Analysis
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BMC	Banning Municipal Code
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BTR	Biological Technical Report
BSA	Biological study area
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CGP	Construction General Stormwater Permit
CHSC	California Health and Safety Code
City	City of Banning
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRI	Cultural Resources Investigation
CRHR	California Register Historical Resources
dB	Decibels
dBA	A-Weighted Decibels
DBESP	Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIC	Eastern Information Center
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMMP	Farmland Mapping Management Program
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GP	City of Banning Comprehensive General Plan and Zoning Ordinance
GPA	General Plan Amendment

Acronym	Definition
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Ha	High A
Hb	High B
HDR-20	High Density Residential 20
I-MR	Industrial-Mineral Resources
IS/MND	Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration
ISO	Insurance Service Office
LDR	Low Density Residential
LST	Localized Significance Threshold
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LRTP	Long Range Transportation Plan
MBMI	Morongo Band of Mission Indians
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MDP	Master Drainage Plan
MDR	Medium Density Residential
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MRZ	Mineral Resources Zone
MSHCP	Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPSSA	Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historical Places
OS-P	Open Space – Parks
PM-2.5	Particulate Matter Less Than 2.5 Microns in Diameter
PM-10	Particulate Matter Less Than 10 Microns in Diameter
PQP	Public quasi-public lands
Qf	Pleistocene-age Alluvial fan of the San Gorgonio Pass
Qof	Older Alluvial fan
RCFD	Riverside County Fire Department
RCTC	Riverside County Transportation Commission
RTA	Riverside Transit Agency
RTP/SCS	Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB 743	Senate Bill 743
SF	Square Feet
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District

Acronym	Definition
SCE	Southern California Edison
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Severity Zone
VLDR	Very Low Density Residential
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
WEAP	Workers Environmental Awareness Program

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project title**
   NP-2 Booster Station and Reservoir

2. **Lead agency name and address**
   City of Banning
   99 E. Ramsey Street
   Banning, CA 92220
   (951) 922-3131

3. **Contact person email address and phone number**
   Arturo Vela, Director of Public Works
   Public Works Department
   avela@banningca.gov
   (951) 922-3130

4. **Project location:**
   The Project site is located on the south side of West Lincoln Street, within the City of Banning, California, in Riverside County, generally south of the Interstate 10 (I-10) freeway and east of 22nd Street, as shown in **Figure 1 – Vicinity Map, Figure 2 – Aerial Map** and **Figure 3 – USGS Topographic Map**. The Project site consists of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 538-280-001 and is approximately 7.51 acres. The Project site is located within Township 3S, Range, 1E, Section 8, San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address**
   Public Works Department
   City of Banning
   99 E. Ramsey Street
   Banning, CA 92220
   (951) 922-3130

6. **General Plan Land Use Designations:**
   The Project site has a City of Banning General Plan (GP) land use designation of Open Space – Parks (OS-PA). See **Figure 4 – General Plan Land Use and Zoning Designations**.

7. **Zoning:**
   The Project's zoning is the same as the City of Banning GP land use designation of OS-PA. The proposed Project's facilities are permitted uses under the OS-PA designation of the City of Banning Municipal Code (BMC) (BMC, 17.20.020). See **Figure 4 – General Plan Land Use and Zoning Designations**.

8. **Project Description:**
   Background
   The Project is a part of the City of Banning's ("the City") expansion of non-potable water system identified in the City's Integrated Master Plan (IMP) (BIMP, 2018). The City's existing customer of non-potable water (otherwise known as recycled water) is the Sun Lakes Country Club golf course. Future potential customers

may include: Lions Park, Banning High School, Dysart Park, a neighborhood park and the Rancho San Gorgonio development. The proposed Project was not specifically identified in the City's IMP; however, it is needed to provide non-potable water supplies to existing and potential customers on the west side of the City.

Project Location and Setting

The Project is located south of the I-10 freeway in the City as shown on **Figure 2**, and is more specifically located on vacant land south of Lincoln Street between South 22nd Street and South 16th Street within APN 538-280-001, which is approximately 7.51 acres. There is an existing wood and chain link fence along the western Project site boundary. The Project site receives routine weed abatement and sits at an elevation between 2,401 to 2,403 feet above mean sea level (amsl).

Description of Project

The Project entails the construction and operation of a new non-potable water storage reservoir with a capacity of approximately 61,000 gallons, associated appurtenances, on-site access road, and the construction and operation of a new booster pump station designed for the future ultimate flow of 2,500 gallons per minute (gpm). The proposed Project will only utilize a portion of the parcel it is located on. The total disturbance area during construction is approximately 1.39 acres, which includes construction staging. This is approximately 18.4 percent of the parcel. Once construction is complete, the proposed Project's disturbance area is approximately 0.48 acres, which represents approximately 6.4 percent of the total parcel acreage. The proposed Project characteristics are further described below and shown on **Figure 5 – Project Site Plan**.

Reservoir

The reservoir entails the construction of a circular above-ground, bolted steel tank measuring 24-feet in diameter with a shell height of 21 feet which will sit on an elevation of 2,404.20 amsl. The reservoir will have a capacity to store approximately 60,910 gallons of non-potable water. The reservoir will be designed in accordance with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) D103 standards, which sets guidelines for the construction of welded steel water tanks. The interior of the reservoir will be factory-coated in epoxy and the exterior will be coated with polyester powder coating that will blend in with the local surrounding environment. Interior support columns and foundations will be provided as needed. The reservoir will include standard tank appurtenances such as roof vent, roof hatch and platform, exterior stairway, ladder, minimum ring wall, valves, piping, inspection hatch, level gauge and transmitter, and conduits.

Reservoir design also includes an overflow catch basin located on the southeastern side of the reservoir that is 3-feet wide and 8-feet long. From the catch basin, approximately 160 linear feet of 18-inch diameter storm drain pipeline will be installed underground and will outlet through the proposed headwall at Lincoln Street.

The reservoir will connect to the existing 24-inch diameter non-potable water transmission pipeline in Lincoln Street. Non-potable water will be diverted to the reservoir, routed to the proposed booster pump station and ultimately pumped back into the existing pipeline.

Booster Station

The booster station building will be located at the north of the reservoir at an elevation of approximately 2,403 feet amsl, on a concrete slab on grade foundation with split face masonry exterior walls and tile roof. The building will be approximately 38-feet long. 24-feet wide and 12-feet tall. Roof hatches will be provided over each pump to facilitate pump removal. The building will be ventilated with a power exhaust fan and automatic air inlet wall louvers. Interior and exterior lights will be provided along with intrusion alarms and cameras.

The booster pumps will be vertical turbine pumps designed for an ultimate future flow of 2,500 gpm. Space for three electric pumps will be provided. Two 75 horsepower (hp) pumps will be constructed (one for standby) and space for a third pump will be provided. The two pumps will be sized for existing non-potable

water demand of 1,000 gpm each and both will have variable speed pump controls. The third pump will be sized for a capacity of 1,500 gpm. The ultimate future flow of 2,500 gpm assumes three (3) pumps at 1,250 gpm each. Two (2) firm pumps and one (1) standby pump. The booster pumps will connect to the existing non-portable water transmission main located in Lincoln Street. Appurtenances for the booster station will include a motor control center, flow meter, valves, pressure transmitter, and one portable diesel-fueled emergency generator that will only be used during emergencies and routine testing.

A new SCADA system will be installed on the Project site. The system will include a control panel process controller and software components to communicate with the City's SCADA system. The SCADA antennae will be mounted on the top of the reservoir and the antennae will not extend more than five feet above the top of the reservoir.

Site Access

Access to the Project site consists of a new asphalt driveway near the western Project site boundary that will transition to a 20-foot-wide asphalt access road leading to the reservoir and booster station. A cable railing fence will be installed near the driveway entrance, extending to the western property boundary from the northwest corner of a proposed perimeter wall that encloses the booster station building and reservoir. A 20-foot-wide swinging pipe gate will be installed across the access road, connecting to the cable railing fence. A new cable railing fence will also be installed between the western property boundary and the southwest corner of the perimeter wall; this fence will include a swinging gate for access to the rest of the parcel.

The booster station building and reservoir will be enclosed by an approximately 6-foot tall combination masonry block wall topped with a four-foot-tall tubular steel fence that is accessible on the western boundary via a 20-foot-wide sliding gate. Inside the perimeter wall, the 20-foot-wide access road is paved and bisects the two structures (the booster station building and reservoir). The area south of the access road surrounding the reservoir will be paved whereas the area north of the access road that surrounds the booster station building will include both concrete and gravel.

Lighting and Security

Light and camera poles will be installed within the perimeter wall surrounding the booster station building and reservoir. Lighting will be shielded or downward facing to avoid light pollution or light spillage and will be installed in accordance with Section 17.24.100 (Lighting) of the City Municipal Code.

Electrical

New electrical service will be required for the Project site and provided by the City of Banning from an existing adjacent electrical system source. The Project site is proposing to connect to an existing overhead electric pole on the north side of Lincoln Street, across from the proposed Project driveway. The Project will require a 480/240 volt electrical system sized for two booster pumps. The new electric line will be underground, and service will include a new electrical vault and transformer. Fiber optic service to the site is also proposed with the electrical.

Drainage

Currently, storm water generally sheet flows across the Project site in a southeasterly direction. The proposed Project improvements will increase impervious surfaces on the site and is expected to result in a negligible increase in storm water runoff that will maintain the existing drainage pattern. All on-site storm water will be captured on site in accordance with State and Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements. A concrete drainage swale will surround the reservoir and convey storm water to the proposed 18-inch diameter storm drain pipeline east of the perimeter wall. The runoff from the booster station area will be collected in a four-inch diameter pipeline and connect to the proposed 18-inch diameter storm drain pipeline east of the

perimeter wall. Storm water discharged to the 18-inch storm drain pipeline will be conveyed off-site where it would flow east to the municipal storm drain system at Lincoln Street.

Frontage Improvements

The Project proposes to widen the southern portion of Lincoln Street within existing right-of-way along the Project frontage and create a new paved driveway for access. Pavement width will vary from approximately two to eight feet wide. The existing pavement edge will be sawcut and the surface will be ground and overlaid with new pavement. An asphalt curb will be installed at the new edge of pavement.

Construction

Construction activities include removal of existing on-site vegetation, grading and excavation, paving, construction of the proposed facilities in addition to associated improvements and utility connections. The construction footprint is approximately 1.39 acres. Construction staging will occur on site within the construction footprint and south of the proposed reservoir as shown on **Figure 5 – Project Site Plan**. During remedial grading, on-site soils will be excavated and recompacted and are expected to require approximately 317 cubic yards of import. The maximum depth of excavation is approximately six feet. During Project construction, it is possible there would be temporary lane closures along Lincoln Street. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 12 months and will begin in August 2024.

Maintenance

During operations, routine maintenance will occur and may include, but is not limited to, daily maintenance vehicle trips to inspect the booster station and reservoir. Maintenance vehicles would visit the Project site during the City's normal business hours.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

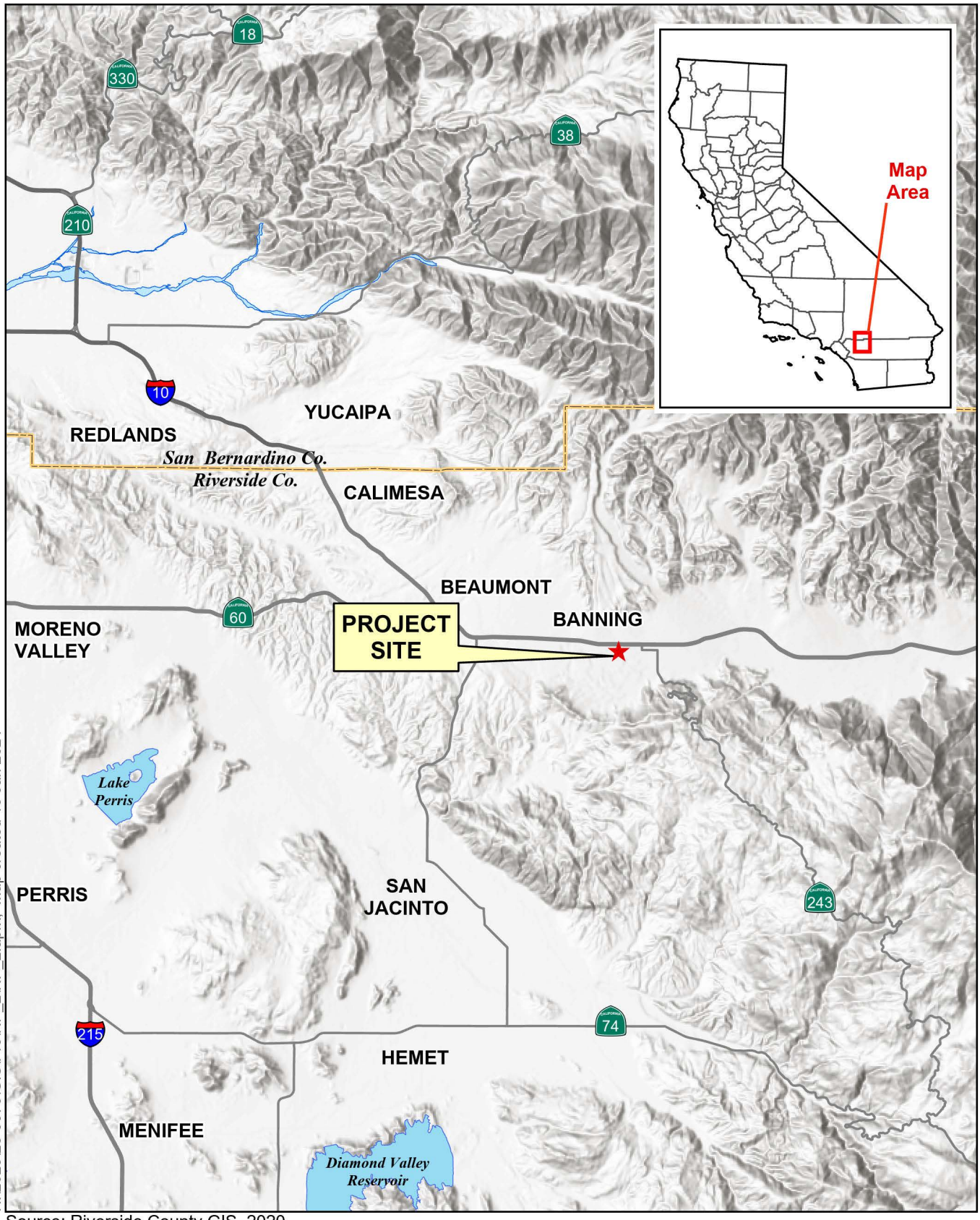
The area to the north, west and northwest includes residential homes; the adjacent area to the south is vacant and undeveloped land; the adjacent area to the east is Montgomery Creek followed by vacant and undeveloped area; the area to the northeast is industrial buildings.

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

- County of Riverside, American Resue Plan Act (ARPA) – funding allocation through the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Final Rule
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Colorado River Region – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District – permit for backup generator

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

The City of Banning provided Assembly Bill (AB 52) notification to Tribes that have previously requested such a notice. The consultation process is discussed under Threshold XVIII, Tribal Cultural Resources, of this Initial Study.



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Source: Riverside County GIS, 2020

Figure 1 - Vicinity Map

NP-2 Booster Pump Station and Reservoir Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

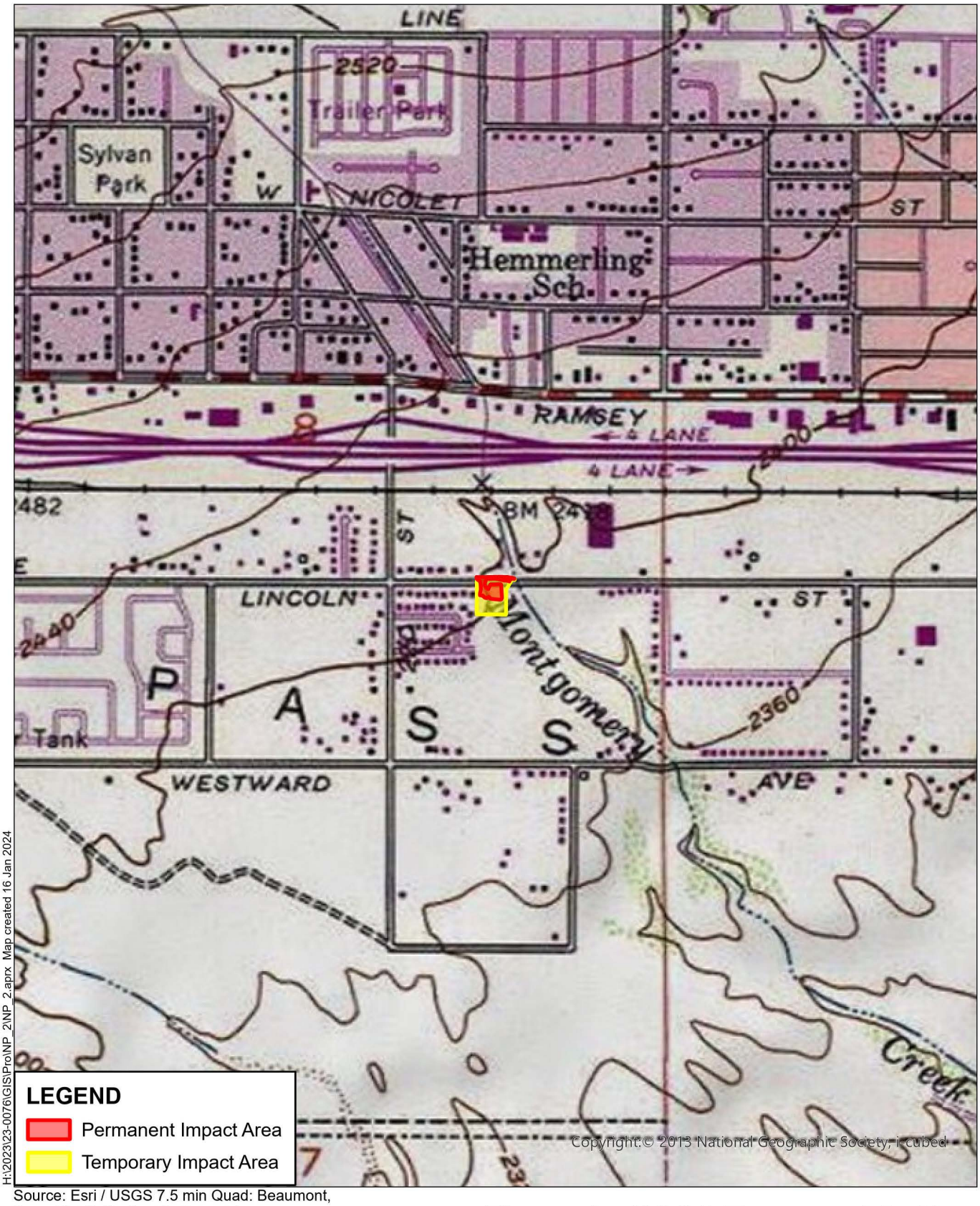
Source: Esri imagery, 2024.

0 100 200 300 Feet

Figure 2 - Aerial Map

NP-2 Booster Pump Station and Reservoir Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



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Source: Esri / USGS 7.5 min Quad: Beaumont,
Township: 3, Section: 8, Range: 1.

0 500 1,000 1,500 Feet

Figure 3 - USGS Topographic Map

NP-2 Booster Pump Station and Reservoir Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

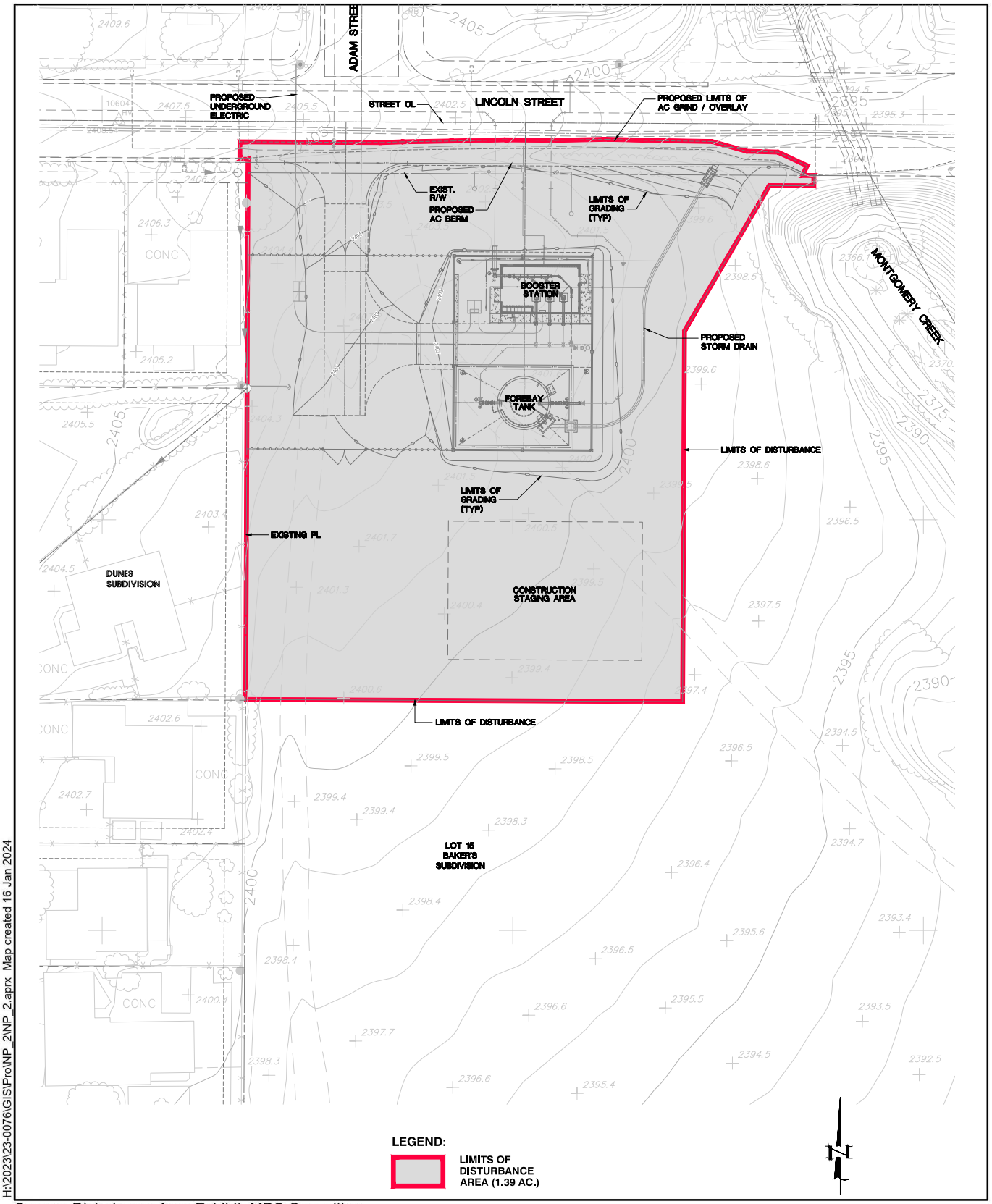
Source: City of Banning General Plan with Zoning Overlay, 2020; Esri imagery, 2024.

Figure 4 - General Plan Land Use and Zoning Designations

NP-2 Booster Pump Station and Reservoir Project

0 100 200 300 Feet

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



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Source: Disturbance Area Exhibit, MDS Consulting, Dec. 22, 2023.

Figure 5 - Project Site Plan

NP-2 Booster Pump Station and Reservoir Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture 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	☐ 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.

Signature  Date 4/25/24

Arturo Vela, Director of Public Works
Printed Name

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
I. AESTHETICS Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Aesthetics Discussion:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less than significant impact. The City of Banning (City) defines visual resources as those physical features that enhance the City's aesthetic and scenic character. The majority of the City is located within the narrow east-west trending valley of the San Gorgonio Pass, which is dominated by the San Bernardino Mountains along the northern end of the valley and the San Jacinto Mountains along the southern end of the valley. (GP DEIR, p. III-189.) These mountain ranges present impressive viewsheds and dramatic scenery, including frequently snow-covered mountain peaks and ranges with rugged slopes. The San Bernardino Mountains which can be seen from the Project site towards the northern horizon have a peak elevation of approximately 11,499 feet above sea level. The San Jacinto Mountains seen from the Project site towards the southern horizon have a peak at an approximate elevation of 10,804 feet above sea level. (GP DEIR, p. III-189.)

The Project site is located at an elevation of approximately 2,400 feet above sea level. The Project's largest structure would be the 21-foot-tall reservoir with the SCADA antenna that extends 5 feet above the reservoir. However, given the differences in elevation between the Project site and the mountains and the relative lack of massing of both the reservoir and SCADA antenna, the proposed Project would not obscure views of the San Bernardino Mountains or the San Jacinto Mountains. Construction equipment and related construction activity at the Project site may result in limited, short term, and undesirable visuals; however, this will be a temporary condition, which will cease after construction is completed. Therefore, impacts regarding a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista will be less than significant.

Sources: GP DEIR; Project Description

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No impact. A portion of State Highway 243 is designated as a state scenic highway where it occurs in the City's southern Sphere of Influence; however, the City's GP Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) determined that development pursuant to the City's GP would have a limited impact to viewsheds along this corridor. (GP DEIR, p. III-190.) Moreover, the portion of Highway 243 designated as a state scenic highway is approximately 1.5 miles east from the Project site. As such, the Project will not physically affect scenic resources within a state scenic highway. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Source: GP DEIR

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less than significant impact. CEQA Section 21071(a) defines an incorporated city as being an urbanized area if it meets either of the following criteria:

(1) Has a population of at least 100,000 persons.
(2) Has a population of less than 100,000 persons if the population of that city and not more than two contiguous incorporated cities combined equals at least 100,000 persons.

The City is not categorized as an urbanized area because (i) the City's population is not at least 100,000 persons and (ii) the combined population of both the City and the City of Beaumont (the only contiguous city) is less than 100,000 persons. Based on July 1, 2022 United States Census Bureau data Banning has a population of approximately 30,683 persons and Beaumont has a population of 56,349 persons, totaling to a population of approximately 85,553 persons. (USCB.) The January 1, 2023, California Department of Finance population estimate for Banning and Beaumont is approximately 31,250 and 56,590, respectively. (DOF.) Since the City is not an urbanized area, this analysis is based on whether Project implementation would substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the Project site and its surroundings.

Public views of the Project site are from (i) W. Lincoln Street (between S. 22nd Street and S. 16th Street, (ii) W. Westward Avenue (between S. 22nd and Lowell Street). The Project site may also be briefly visible from motorists traveling in the westbound lanes of I-10, which is approximately 0.20 of a mile north of the Project site.

Although the Project site will be visible from public access points and will change the view of the Project site from vacant land to water conveyance infrastructure, this will not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of public views of the site or its surroundings. Because above ground utilities are already present in proximity to the Project site and there are no unique items or visual interest present on the Project site. Additionally, existing commercial and industrial development that exceeds the height of the proposed Project facilities is located near the Project site. The proposed reservoir will not exceed 21 feet high and will be coated to blend in with the surrounding environment. The SCADA antenna will be mounted on top of the reservoir and will not extend more than five feet above the reservoir. The booster station will be about 12 feet tall and

will be a relatively small structure. Therefore, the Project does not include any above-grade features of significant mass that would alter or interfere with the dramatic and valuable viewsheds provided by the mountains. (GP, p. II-1.) For these reasons, Project implementation would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site or its surroundings and impacts would be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; UCSB; DOF; GP

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less than significant impact. Light pollution may result due to introduction of new artificial light sources. The International Dark-Sky Association defines light pollution as any adverse effect of artificial light including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night and energy waste. (IDA.) Night lighting and glare can effect human vision, navigation, and other activities; however, it can also affect nocturnal wildlife particularly nigh-hunting or foraging animals, such as owls, rodents, and others. Glare is typically associated with installation of windows and other reflective surfaces.

The existing light sources within proximity to the Project site include: streetlights within Lincoln Street; streetlights and residential lighting from the residential neighborhood west of the Project site; and lighting from the commercial/industrial development north of the Project site. The Project site and surrounding area are therefore not generally dark at night. The proposed Project will introduce a new source of light. Security lighting will be installed along the perimeter of the booster station and reservoir. However, on-site lighting will be shielded or downward facing to avoid light pollution or light spillage and will be installed in accordance with the City's standards. Project implementation will not introduce a source of substantial glare to the surrounding area. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; IDA

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

Agricultural Resources Discussion:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

No impact. The proposed Project site is not located within areas designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). According to the California Department of Conservation *Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program* (FMMP), the Project site consists of Urban and Built Up Land, and is adjacent to other vacant lands. Thus, implementation of the proposed Project will not convert any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Source: FMMP

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No impact. The proposed Project is not located within a Williamson Act contract. As of 2004, there were three Williamson Act contracts in effect over approximately 3,500 acres within the City's GP planning area. These include lands located in the City limits near the Banning Bench, in the northwest portion of the planning area between Highland Springs Avenue and Highland Home Road, and in the City's southerly sphere of influence south of Westward Avenue/Sun Lakes Boulevard. (GP, p. IV-22.) These lands are being phased out due to urbanization, although residential land uses that allow for agricultural and ranching activities are provided for under the GP. (GP DEIR, p. III-11.) Per **Figure 3 – General Plan Land Use and Zoning Designations**, the Project site is zoned as Open Space-Parks. The City zones the surrounding areas as General Commercial, Low-Density Residential, and Very Low Density Residential. Therefore, there are no agricultural zoning/land use designations adjacent to the Project site (see **Figure 3**). The Project will not encroach Williamson Act land or change a land use in the vicinity of a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impacts will occur**.**

Sources: GP; GP DEIR

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))?

Forest land, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) section 12220(g) is land that can support 10 percent of native tree cover of any species under natural conditions and that allows for the management of one or more forest resources. Timberland, as defined in PRC section 4526, means land other than land owned by the federal government and land designated as experimental forest land, which is capable of growing a crop of trees for any commercial species, including Christmas trees.

No impact. The Project does not propose or require rezoning. As shown on **Figure 3**, the proposed Project site is within the City of Banning. Banning does not have a zoning designation for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production within City limits. Therefore, there is no zoned forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production within the Project site and surrounding areas. Further, according to Table 17.08.020 of Banning's Municipal Code, farming uses are prohibited in the City's LDR, MDR, and HDR-20 zones. Community gardens are a permitted use in the City's OS-R, zone; however, a community garden would not allow commercial tree production as defined in PRC section 12220(g).

Given the location and City's zoning designations, the Project site does not traverse through or adjacent to areas zoned for forest land, or Timberland Production, no impacts would occur.

Sources: GP; PRC 12220; PRC 4526; BMC

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No impact. There is no forest land in proximity to the Project site. Implementation of the Project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land; thus, there would be no impact in this regard**.**

Sources: GP

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No impact. As discussed in Response IIa, there is no designated Farmland on or in proximity to the Project site. As stated in Response IId, there is no forest land within or adjacent to the Project site. As such, implementation of the proposed Project will not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use**.** Therefore, there will be no impacts.

Sources: FMMP; GP

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
III. AIR QUALITY Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Air Quality Discussion:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less than significant impact. The City of Banning is in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) prepares the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Basin. The AQMD sets forth a comprehensive program that will lead the Basin into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. (SCAQMD 2022, pp. ES-2 and 1-4.) The control measures and related emission reduction estimates included in the AQMP are based on emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment estimates defined in consultation with local governments. To do this, the AQMP utilizes the population and growth estimates compiled by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in their 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). (SCAQMD 2022, pp. 4-51 – 4-52.) SCAG's population and employment projections for the City are based on the City's growth projections (SCAG RTP/SCS, p. 70.), which are outlined in the GP. Accordingly, if a project demonstrates compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections, then the AQMP would have taken into account such uses when it was developed, and the project would not conflict with implementation of such a plan.

The proposed Project consists of the construction and operation of infrastructure to provide non potable water supplies in the City. The proposed Project would not alter population projections and is an allowable use under the OS-PA designation of the BMC (BMC, 17.20.020), and is consistent with the City's existing land use designations. As such, the proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: BMC; SCAG RTP/SCS; SCAQMD 2022

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality?

Less than significant impact. The portion of the Basin within which the proposed Project is located is designated as a non-attainment area for ozone, particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM-10), and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM-2.5) under the State standards and for ozone and PM-2.5 under Federal standards. (CARB 2024) The SCAQMD considers the thresholds for project-specific impacts and cumulative impacts to be the same. (SCAQMD 2003.) Therefore, projects that exceed project-specific significance thresholds are considered by SCAQMD to be cumulatively considerable. Based on SCAQMD's regulatory jurisdiction over regional air quality, it is reasonable to rely on its thresholds to determine whether there is a cumulative air quality impact.

Air quality impacts can be described in a short- and long-term perspective. Short-term impacts occur during site grading and Project construction and consist of fugitive dust and other particulate matter, as well as exhaust emissions generated by construction-related vehicles. Long-term impacts occur once the Project is in operation. Operational emissions sources are limited because the booster station pumps are electric. The primary source of operational emissions is the routine visits by vehicles driven by maintenance personnel and are considered negligible; therefore, only short-term impacts were quantified.

The Project will be required to comply with existing SCAQMD rules for the reduction of fugitive dust emissions. SCAQMD Rule 403 establishes these procedures. Compliance with this rule is achieved through application of standard best management practices in construction and operation activities, such as application of water or chemical stabilizers to disturbed soils, managing haul road dust by application of water, covering haul vehicles, restricting vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph, sweeping loose dirt from paved site access roadways, cessation of construction activity when winds exceed 25 mph and establishing a permanent, stabilizing ground cover on finished sites. In addition, projects that disturb 50 or more acres or more of soil or move 5,000 cubic yards of materials per day are required to submit a Fugitive Dust Control Plan or a Large Operation Notification Form to SCAQMD. Based on the size of this Project's footprint (approximately 0.48 acres) a Fugitive Dust Control Plan or a Large Operation Notification Form would not be required.

An Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas analysis (AQ/GHG Analysis) was prepared for the Project by Albert A. Webb Associates dated January 2, 2024 (WEBB(a)) and is included in Appendix A to this Initial Study. Short-term emissions from Project construction were evaluated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2022.1. The results of this analysis are summarized in **Table A –Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions**, below.

Table A – Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM-10	PM-2.5
SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**
2024	**1.60**	**14.70**	**15.90**	**0.03**	**2.39**	**1.43**
2025	1.50	13.70	15.80	0.03	0.84	0.55
Maximum[1]	**1.60**	**14.70**	**15.90**	**0.03**	**2.39**	**1.43**
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: WEBB(a), Table 2 – Unmitigated Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Emissions
Note: [1] See the detailed model output reports attached herewith. Numbers are the maximum of summer or winter emissions in a given year and may not match due to rounding within the model.

As shown in **Table A** above, the emissions from construction of the Project are below the SCAQMD daily construction thresholds for all criteria pollutants. As such, the Project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is in non-attainment and the impacts will be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Sources: CARB 2024; SCAQMD 2003; WEBB(a); Project Description

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than significant impact. A sensitive receptor is a person in the population who is particularly susceptible to health effects due to exposure to an air contaminant including children, the elderly, and persons with pre-existing respiratory and/or cardiovascular illness. SCAQMD defines a "sensitive receptor" as a land use or facility such as residences, schools, child care centers, athletic facilities, playgrounds, retirement homes, and convalescent homes where these persons are typically located. (SCAQMD 1993.)

The nearest sensitive receptors are residential properties adjacent to and west of the Project site. Residential uses are also located north and northwest of the Project site, across Lincoln Street. (WEBB(a), p. 5.)

According to the LST methodology, only on-site emissions need to be analyzed. Emissions associated with vendor and worker trips are mobile source emissions that occur off site. The emissions analyzed under the LST methodology are NO_2, CO, PM-10, and PM-2.5. SCAQMD has provided LST lookup tables to allow users to readily determine if the daily emissions for proposed construction or operational activities could result in significant localized air quality impacts for projects five acres or smaller. Based on SCAQMD guidance, the Project will disturb approximately one acre per day during grading. Therefore, the one-acre LST was used to compare the on-site emissions estimated by CalEEMod. (WEBB(a), pp. 4-5.)

The LST thresholds are estimated using the maximum daily disturbed area (in acres) and the distance of the Project to the nearest sensitive receptors (in meters). The closest receptor distance on the LST look-up tables is 25 meters. According to LST methodology, projects with boundaries closer than 25 meters to the nearest receptor should use the LSTs for receptors located at 25 meters. Therefore, a receptor distance of 25 meters (82 feet) was used to ensure a conservative analysis. (WEBB(a), p. 5.) The results are summarized below.

Table B – LST Results for Daily Construction Emissions

Activity	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)			
	NO_X	CO	PM-10	PM-2.5
LST for 1-acre at 25 meters	**103**	**1,000**	**6**	**4**
Grading-2024	12.80	12.30	**2.27**	**1.40**
Booster Station Construction-2024	**6.79**	**6.93**	0.26	0.24
Booster Station Construction -2025	6.31	6.88	0.23	0.21
Tank Construction-2024	**7.38**	**7.78**	0.31	0.28
Tank Construction-2025	6.84	7.72	0.27	0.25
Tank Coating-2025	3.04	2.81	0.11	0.11
Paving-2025	3.58	4.97	0.17	0.15
Maximum[1]	**14.17**	**14.71**	**2.27**	**1.40**
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: WEBB(a), Table 3 – LST Results for Daily Construction Emissions.
Note: [1]. Maximum emissions are the greater of either each activity along or the sum of Booster Station Construction and Tank Construction in 2024 or 2025 as these activities overlap. Maximum emissions are shown in bold.

Emissions from construction of the Project will be below the LST established by SCAQMD for the Project. Therefore, localized construction impacts will be less than significant.

Regarding the Project's long-term localized impacts, LSTs only apply to the operational phase if a project includes stationary sources or on-site mobile equipment generating on-site emissions. The proposed Project does not include such uses. The long-term emissions from the Project, as discussed previously in Response IIIb, are primarily from the pumps and in the form of mobile source emissions, with no stationary sources of emissions present. The new booster station pumps will be electric powered. The booster station will also have a diesel-powered emergency generator. Because the emergency generator will only be used during emergency power outages and routine testing, emissions would be negligible. The City of Banning will be required to obtain an SCAQMD permit to install and operate the emergency generator. The SCAQMD permitting process would ensure that the Project meets regulatory requirements through the application review process and by placing specific operating conditions on the permit such as operating hour limits. Therefore, no long-term LST analysis is needed and localized operational emissions would be less than significant.

Based on the preceding analysis, the proposed Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Sources: SCAQMD 1993; WEBB(a); Project Description

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) affecting a substantial number of people?

Less than significant impact. The Project presents the potential for generation of other emissions such as odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the Project site. Odors generated during construction will be short-term and will not result in a long-term odorous impact to the surrounding area. After completion of the proposed improvements, only infrequent maintenance will be required.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) has developed an Air Quality and Land Use Handbook to outline common sources of odor complaints, including: sewage treatment plants, landfills, recycling facilities, and petroleum refineries. (CARB 2005, p. 2-2.) The Project proposes a non-potable water reservoir and booster station which is not included on CARB's list of uses that are known to generate odors. No other emissions are anticipated to result from the Project that could adversely affect substantial numbers of people. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

Source: CARB 2005

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

Biological Resource Discussion:

The analysis this section is based on the findings in the *Biological Technical Report and MSHCP Consistency Analysis,* January 19, 2024 *(*hereinafter referred to as the *BTR)*, which was prepared by Albert A. Webb Associates (WEBB(b)). This document is included as Appendix B of this Initial Study. Webb conducted literature reviews and searches of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, U.S Geological Survey, Soil Survey data, Western Riverside MSHCP, U.S Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation, National Wetlands Inventory, and USGS National Hydrography Dataset. In addition to the literature review and database searches, a reconnaissance-level field assessment of the proposed Project footprint was conducted including a 100-foor survey buffer, herein defined as the biological study area (BSA). The BSA plus Project footprint totals 4.53 acres. (WEBB(b), pp. 6-7.)

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. According to the *BTR*, the Project site is currently characterized as disturbed and undeveloped, with no existing structures and is composed of the following four vegetation communities: Urban/Developed lands, Disturbed habitat, Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, and Unvegetated Channel. Implementation of the proposed Project will result in permanent and temporary impacts to two of these four communities, as shown below in **Table C – Vegetation Communities Present on the Project Site**. (WEBB(b), p. 15.)

Table C - Vegetation Communities Present on the Project Site

Vegetation Community	Description	Present within Project footprint	Total (acres)
Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)	Areas that have undergone construction or significant physical alterations, to an extent that native vegetation is no longer supported.	Present	1.88
Disturbed Habitat (DH)	Areas that have not been developed but have experienced physical disturbances caused by human activities. These areas still retain a soil substrate and are primarily covered by non-native species.	Present	2.56
Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS)	Usually occurs on alluvial fans in southern California, particularly in Riverside and San Diego counties. This variant of sage scrub is adapted to the unique conditions found on alluvial fans, which typically have well-drained, rocky soils.	Not present located in the Montgomery Creek	0.06
Unvegetated Channel (UVC)	Sandy, gravelly, or rocky area along waterways or flood channels where vegetation does not typically grow on a permanent basis	Not present located in the Montgomery Creek	0.03
Total			4.53

Permanent and temporary impacts to vegetation communities and land cover types as a result of Project implementation are quantified and summarized in **Table D**.

Table D - Summary of Impacts to Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Vegetation Community / Land Cover Type	Permanent (acre)	Temporary (acre)	Total
Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)	0.09	0.01	0.1
Disturbed Habitat (DH)	0.39	0.90	1.29
Total Project Footprint	0.48	0.91	1.39

Source: WEBB(b), Table 3

Neither of these vegetation habitat types are considered sensitive. Permanent impacts total 0.48 acre and temporary impacts total 0.91 acre within these land cover types. (WEBB(b), p. 19.)

Special Status Sensitive Vegetation Communities

RAFSS is classified as a sensitive vegetation community; therefore, any potential impacts to this community would necessitate mitigation measures. Although RAFSS are present in Montgomery Creek, which is within the BSA but not within the Project footprint, no impacts are anticipated on this community as a result of Project implementation. (WEBB(b), p. 18.) To ensure the RAFSS associated with Montgomery Creek are avoided during construction activities, mitigation measure **MM BIO-1**, which requires the installation of temporary exclusionary construction fencing, shall be implemented to minimize the risk of accidental impacts to the RAFSS within the BSA. (WEBB(b), p. 28.)

> **MM BIO-1 Temporary Exclusionary/Construction Fencing.** To protect Montgomery Creek sensitive habitats (RAFSS) and the riverine habitat which are adjacent to the Project footprint, within the BSA, temporary exclusionary construction fencing will be installed at the Project footprint boundary where they are adjacent to Montgomery Creek with the Project Biologist present to ensure the fencing is placed in the correct areas of the site (see Figure 6 – Exclusionary Fencing of Appendix B). The purpose of fencing shall be to prevent disturbances to adjacent sensitive habitats and to avoid the spread of debris from the construction zone into adjacent areas.

Special Status Plant Species

No special-status plant species were observed during the general habitat assessment. Most of the BSA and all of the impact footprint is composed of disturbed lands that lack suitable habitat for special-status plants. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO-1**, no direct or indirect impact to special-status plant species are expected. (WEBB(b), pp.18, 21.)

Special Status Wildlife Species

No special-status wildlife species were observed during the habitat assessment and no special-status wildlife species are expected to occur. Given the disturbed nature of the Project site and associated habitat types no direct or indirect impacts to special status wildlife species are expected. (WEBB(b), pp. 18, 21.)

The Project site does not contain suitable nesting habitat for bird species protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Fish and Game Code. Suitable habitat such as trees and bushes are

not present within the Project footprint. Ground nesters are unlikely due to the disturbed vegetation and frequency of mowing. Therefore, no impacts to nesting birds are anticipated to occur. (WEBB(b), pp. 18, 22.)

The BSA does not contain suitable habitat such as vernal pools for fairy shrimp or riparian birds. The BSA is not located within a survey area for Narrow Endemic Species. (WEBB(b), p. 24.)

The Project site is located within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The City of Banning is a permittee to the MSHCP and therefore the Project must not conflict with the plan. As discussed in Response IVf, the BSA is not located within MSHCP survey areas for Narrow Endemic Plant Species, Criteria Area Plant Species, amphibians, burrowing owl, or mammals. There are approximately 0.06 acres of RAFSS within Montgomery Creek, which is within the BSA but outside of the Project footprint. This is considered a riverine resource per the MSHCP. Project implementation would not result in any direct impacts to the RAFSS habitat. Indirect impacts to the RAFSS habitat in Montgomery Creek would be avoided through implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed in MSHCP Volume 1, Appendix C.

Thus, with implementation of **MM BIO-1** and compliance with MSHCP BMPs, the proposed Project will not have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant with mitigation.

Sources: WEBB(b)

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Riparian/riverine areas are lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent mosses and lichens, which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby fresh water source; or areas with fresh water flow during all or a portion of the year (WEBB(b), p. 23.)

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. According to the MSHCP Consistency Analysis of the *BTR,* the Project site does not support soils or plants suitable to support vernal pools, nor were vernal pools identified during site investigation. No vernal pools or other suitable fairy shrimp were found. Additionally, no suitable habitat for riparian bird species was found. Therefore, no direct or indirect impacts are expected to occur in relation to vernal pools or fairy shrimp.

Riparian/riverine areas are located within the Project's BSA. Montgomery Creek, an ephemeral channel exhibiting steeply incised banks, traverses the eastern portion of the BSA. This feature is considered an MSHCP riverine resource. Within this reach, Montgomery Creek exhibits eroded banks with vertical spans surpassing 25 feet, while active flood plain maintains an average width of approximately 4 feet. The Creek's southern ingress into the BSA is facilitated by two 3-foot corrugated steel culverts originating beneath West Lincoln Road. The Creek intersects the BSA, the Creek is absent from the Project footprint and therefore no direct impacts are anticipated to occur. (WEBB(b), p. 17.) With implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO-1**,

which requires the installation of exclusionary fencing and compliance with the BMPs listed in MSHCP Volume 1, Appendix C, indirect impacts to the riverine resource in Montgomery Creek will be less than significant with mitigation.

Sources: WEBB(b)

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. The site investigations conducted found no evidence of wetlands. Therefore, no fairy shrimp habitat, or riparian bird habitat is located within the Project footprint or the BSA. (WEBB(b), pp. 17, 24.)

As discussed in Response IVb., Project implementation will not have any direct impacts to wetland features. Montogomery Creek is located within the BSA but is not within the Project footprint. Therefore, indirect impacts may occur if construction activities stray outside of the Project footprint. In order to protect the sensitive habitat from accidental disturbance, implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO-1** and compliance with the BMPs listed in MSHCP Volume 1, Appendix C will reduce impacts regarding state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means to less than significant.

Source: WEBB(b)

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?

Wildlife corridors are linear features that join large spans of natural open space that enable the movement of animals throughout the landscape. Habitat linkages are areas that provide connectivity between habitat patches as well as opportunities for foraging, reproduction, and dispersal habitat for plants and animals. Habitat linkages help minimize the effects of habitat fragmentation as they function as steppingstones for wildlife dispersal. (WEBB(b), p. 19.)

No impact. The Project site is not located within designated wildlife corridors or habitat linkages identified in the South Coast Missing Linkages analysis conducted by South Coast Wildlands (2008). The proposed Project site does not have any adjacency or on-site connection to existing MSHCP Conservation Areas or lands designated for conservation purposes. There are no native wildlife nursery sites within proximity to the Project site. (WEBB(b), p. 22.)

Because the Project is not located in or adjacent to an MSHCP Conservation Area and no MSHCP linkages are identified in the Project area. There would be no impacts related to 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. (WEBB(b), p. 22.)

Source: WEBB(b)

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less than significant impact. City of Banning Municipal Code Section 17.32.060 addresses the removal or destruction of trees; however, this section of the municipal code is not applicable to capital projects. Further, according to the site investigation conducted by Webb, no tress or bushes were present within the Project footprint. Therefore, Project implementation would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance and impacts are less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; BMC; WEBB(b)

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. According to the MSHCP Consistency Analysis within the *BTR*, the Project site does not lie within and is not adjacent to any MSHCP Conservation Areas. Although the Project does not have a requirement to set aside land for an MSCHP Conservation Area, the City is a Permittee to the MSHCP and therefore must ensure that all projects comply with MSHCP Sections 6.1.2 (Protection of Species within Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools), 6.1.3 (Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species), 6.1.4 (Urban Wildlands Interface), 6.3.2 (Additional Survey Needs and Procedures), Appendix C (Standard Best Management Practices), and 7.5.3 (Construction Guidelines).

As discussed in Response IVb, Project implementation will not directly or indirectly impact riparian/riverine resources. Montgomery Creek is not within the Project footprint, but is within the BSA. Because no impacts are expected to Montgomery Creek, no Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) or specific mitigation is necessary. As discussed in Response IVa, no fairy shrimp habitat, vernal pools, or riparian bird habitat was identified on the Project site. Therefore, the proposed Project will not conflict with MSHCP Section 6.1.2. (WEBB(b), p. 24.)

Section 6.1.3 requires assessments of sites in a designated survey area for narrow endemic plants to be completed. As discussed in Response IVa, the Project footprint and BSA are not located within a Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area (NEPSSA). Therefore, the proposed Project will not conflict with MSHCP Section 6.1.3. (WEBB(b), p. 24.)

Section 6.1.4 outlines the minimization of indirect effects associated with locating development in proximity to a MSHCP Conservation Area. The Project site is not located in proximity to a MSHCP Conservation Area. As such, the Project is not in conflict with the MSHCP Section 6.1.4. (WEBB(b), p. 24.)

MSHCP Section 6.3.2 requires additional surveys for certain species depending upon the location of a given project. The Project site is not located within an MSHCP-designated criteria area species survey area for plants amphibians, burrowing owl, or mammals; therefore, no surveys are needed for these species. Therefore, the Project will not conflict with MSHCP Section 6.3.2. (WEBB(b), p. 24.)

The MSHCP lists standard best management practices (Appendix C) that will minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats in the vicinity of a project. The guidelines relate to water pollution and erosion control, equipment storage, fueling, and staging, dust control, exotic plant control and timing of construction. The Project applicant, in this case the City, is required to implement measures from Appendix C. The Project is not located in the Criteria Area or PQP Lands, so Section 7.5.3 guidelines are not applicable. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO-1** will address potential indirect construction impacts. Therefore, with mitigation the proposed Project is consistent with MSHCP Appendix C and Section 7.5.3.

For the reasons set forth above, implementation of the proposed Project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted conservation plan and impacts will be less than significant with mitigation.

Sources: WEBB(b)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Cultural Resource Discussion:

The analysis this section is based on the findings in the *Cultural Resource Investigation for the Banning NP-2 Booster Pump Sation and Reservoir Project, City of Banning, Riverside County*, which was prepared by Applied EarthWorks (AE) and is included as Appendix C of this Initial Study (hereinafter referred to as the *CRI*). As part of the *CRI*, AE conducted archaeological literature and records searches on August 9, 2023 at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resources Information Center (CHRIS), located at the University of California, Riverside. The EIC is the official cultural resource records repositories for Riverside County. AE reviewed maps and records on file at the EIC for previously identified cultural resources in or within a 0.5-mile radius around the Project site and existing cultural resources reports pertaining to the vicinity. The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted by AE on June 22, 2023, for a review of the Sacred Lands File (SLF). The SLF search was negative. AE archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project site to observe and note the condition of the Project site on August 23, 2023. The survey was completed in 15-meter transects oriented north-south, moving eastward through the Project site. Approximately 90 percent of the Project area was accessible during the survey. (AE(a), pp. 13, 18.)

The EIC records show that eight (8) previous cultural resource studies have been conducted and documented with the 0.5-mile search radius. Three of these studies specifically involved portions of the Project site, as such, 100 percent of the Project site has been previously studied. (AE(a), p. 13.)

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less than significant impact. Determination of National Register of Historic Property (NRHP) eligibility for cultural resources is made according to the following criteria of evaluation (36 CFR 60.4):

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of state and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack distinction; or

D. that has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

A property must meet one or more of these specific criteria to qualify as a good representative of a significant historical theme or pattern. It must be associated with important historical events or persons (Criteria A and B); convey important technical, aesthetic, or environmental values (Criterion C); or have potential to provide important scientific or scholarly information (Criterion D). Unless a site is of exceptional importance, it is not eligible for listing in the NRHP until it is 50 years of age. (36 CFR 60.4., AE(a), p. 4.)

For purposes of CEQA, a historical resource is any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript listed in, or eligible for listing in the CRHR (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21084.1). A resource is eligible for listing in the CRHR if it meets any of the following criteria:

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

The California Code of Regulations (CCR) further provides that cultural resources of local significance are CRHR-eligible. (Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) (AE(a), pp. 4–5.)

The previous cultural resources investigations conducted within the Project site identified a total of 46 cultural resources have been identified; five archaeological resources that date to the historic period and 41 built-environment resources. The five archaeological resources that date to the historic period include: one water diversion system, one concrete foundation, one refuse scatter, one rubble deposit, and one concrete well box. The 44 built environment resources consist of historical houses and commercial buildings. (AE(a), pp. 14-15.) None of the previously recorded cultural resources are documented within the Project site and are not listed as eligible on the NRHP or CRHR.

In addition to the EIC research, AE also reviewed historical maps. Specifically, AE consulted the USGS topographic quadrangle maps: San Jacinto 1901 30 minute, Southern California 1901 30 minute, Banning 1943 15 minute, Beaumont 1953 7.5 minute, Banning 1956 15 minute, and Sana Ana 1965 30 minute, to assess land use and development within the Project site. All of the maps after 1901 exhibit several buildings outside of the Project site north and south of modern-day Lincoln Street. The Southern Pacific Railroad appears north of the Project site on all of the examined maps. The same structures appear on aerial photographs as early as 1966. No structures, roads, or other features of historical interest are shown within, or in the vicinity of, the Project site on any of the reviewed historical maps. (AE(a), p. 15.) Moreover, the Project site is highly disturbed

and appears to have been previously plowed, and used as a staging area in the past, indicating that significant previous ground disturbance has previously occurred. (AE(a), p. 18.)

Because the only three historic cultural resources documented within the Project site were not found during the pedestrian survey and were previously evaluated and recommended as ineligible for listing on the NRHP and CRHR, it is concluded that no historic properties (NRHP-eligible) or historical resources (CRHR-eligible) are present. Because the Project site has been previously disturbed by dirt pathways, plowing, and staging activity, there is a low likelihood that intact significant historical resources are buried. Additionally, geological data indicates no Ab (buried) horizons which would be conducive to preserving archaeological deposits are present. (AE(a), pp. ii, 18-19.) Thus, implementation of the proposed Project will not cause any adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Sources: AE(a); GP

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As discussed above, none of the 46 historical/archaeological resources were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the Project site. AE contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on June 22, 2023 for a review of the SLF. The objective of the SLF search was to determine if the NAHC had any knowledge of Native American cultural resources within the immediate vicinity of the Project site. The NAHC responded on July 19, 2023, stating that the SLF was completed with negative results. The NAHC requested AE contact Native American individuals and organizations to elicit information regarding cultural resource issues related to the proposed Project, if any.

AE sent out Project scoping letters via email and U.S. Postal Service to 11 individuals and organizations traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic region of the Project area on September 8, 2023. As of November 20, 2023, AE received two responses from The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and The Morongo Band of Mission Indians requesting a copies of records and site searches, shapefiles, and cultural resources inventory of the Project area by a qualified archaeologist before any development activities commence and to be contact immediately if any resources are discovered.

Geologic data indicate two soil series within the Project site: Greenfield and Ramona soils. These soil types typically retain water for three months out of the year during warm seasons, and foster sufficient plant growth. None of the soil series mapped in the Project site include buried A (Ab) horizons which are conducive to buried archaeological deposits. All other archaeological sensitivity indicators reflect low potential for buried archaeological resources. Past disturbances from dirt pathways, plowing, and staging activities have disturbed the Project site. The records search conducted as part of the *CRI* did not identify any documented prehistoric resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project site. Finally, the field archaeologists that conducted the pedestrian surveys for the *CRI*, did not encounter any archaeological deposits or features within the Project site. (AE(a), pp. 5, 13, 20.)

The lack of reported prehistoric archaeological remains with the Project study area suggests that the property is not highly sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources. Therefore, the Project site contains a relatively low potential to encounter intact, subsurface archaeological deposits. (AE(a), p. 20.) Although the potential to encounter intact and significant buried archaeological deposits is unlikely, the Project shall implement mitigation measure **MM CR-1** to reduce impacts to unknown archaeological resources to a less than significant level. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

> **MM CR-1: Inadvertent Discovery**. In the event cultural resources are discovered during Project construction, all ground disturbance activities within 100 feet of the discovered cultural resource shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist (meeting the Secretary of the Interior Standards) can visit the site of discovery, assess the significance and integrity of the find, and determine the appropriate treatment (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) and disposition of the cultural resource. Further ground disturbance shall not resume within the area of the discovery until the appropriate treatment has been accomplished. Work on the other portions of the Project outside of the buffered area may continue. Any such discoveries and subsequent evaluation and treatment, shall be documented and submitted to the EIC for archival purposes.

Source: AE(a)

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project site is not located on any known cemetery and human remains are not expected to be disturbed during Project construction. However, if human remains are encountered during Project construction, the steps and procedures specified in the California Health and Safety Code § 7050.5, State CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5(d), and California Public Resource Code § 5097.98, in accordance with PRC § 5097.98, must be implemented. In accordance with PRC § 5097.98, the Riverside County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours of the discovery of potentially human remains. The Coroner must then determine within two working days of being notified if the remains are subject to his or her authority. If the Coroner recognizes the remains to be Native American, he or she must contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours, in accordance with PRC § 5097.98. The NAHC then designates a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) with respect to the human remains within 48 hours of notification. The MLD will then have the opportunity to recommend to the Project proponent, in this instance the City Public Works Department, means for treating or disposing of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and associated grave goods within 24 hours of notification. Therefore, through regulatory compliance impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: HSC 7050.5; PRC 5097.98

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

Energy Discussion:

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less than significant impact. As an infrastructure project, the majority of impacts will be short-term. As described in the AQ/GHG Analysis prepared (WEBB(a)) and included as Appendix A of this Initial Study, the Project's short-term construction would last approximately 12 months. Project construction would require the use of construction equipment for grading and paving, as well as construction workers and vendors traveling to and from the Project site. Construction equipment requires diesel as the fuel source and construction worker and vendor trips use both gasoline and diesel fuel. Project-related fuel consumption was estimated in Energy Tables (WEBB(c)), which are included as Appendix D to this Initial Study. Construction of the Project is estimated to use approximately 20,310 gallons of diesel fuel and 1,777 gallons of gasoline.

Fuel consumption from on-site heavy-duty construction equipment during construction would be temporary in nature and uses a limited number of equipment, which would represent a negligible demand on energy resources. Construction equipment is also required to comply with regulations limiting idling to five minutes or less (13 CCR § 2449(d)(3)). Furthermore, there are no unusual Project site characteristics that would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy-efficient than at comparable construction sites in other parts of the state. For comparison, the State of California consumed 14 billion gallons of gasoline and 3 billion gallons of diesel fuel in 2023, which is the most recent published data. (CAL-A.) Thus, the fuel usage during Project construction would account for a negligible percent of the existing gasoline and diesel fuel related energy consumption in the State of California. Furthermore, it is expected that construction-related fuel consumption associated with the Project would not be any more inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary than at other construction sites in the region.

Energy used during operation of the Project would primarily result from electricity usage from the proposed booster station pumps. Based on the estimated pump sizing, the estimated electricity consumption is approximately 11,332 megawatt-hours (MWh) per year (WEBB(a), p. 6). This represents a negligible demand on City of Banning Electric Utility, which produced approximately 151.55 gigawatt-hours (one gigawatt-hour is 1,000 MWh) in 2022 (CEC) and therefore would not operate in a manner that is wasteful or inefficient.

For these reasons, the Project would not result in a potentially significant impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy during Project construction or operation. Impacts will be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Sources: WEBB(a); WEBB(c); CAL-A; CEC; Project Description

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. As discussed above in Response VIa, implementation of the Project will not result in inefficient, unnecessary, or wasteful consumption. The proposed Project would be required to comply with state and federal energy conservation measures related to construction and operations, as noted above. As such, impacts to obstructing a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency during construction or operation will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

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

Geology and Soils Discussion:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

The discussion to this response is based on findings and recommendations from the *Supplemental Geotechnical Investigation* which was prepared by Geocon West, Inc. and is included as Appendix E.1 of this Initial Study (hereinafter referred to as the *SGI*). The *SGI* includes the results of subsurface investigation with borings to maximum depths of 50 ½ feet below the existing ground surface and laboratory tests; preliminary seismic evaluation and recommendations for new pavements, earthwork, utility trench backfill, lateral design, drainage and moisture protection, and additional field work and laboratory testing. (Geocon, Appendix A, pp. 3, 5–16.)

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.

Less than significant impact. The Project site is not located within a State of California Fault Hazard Zone or a Riverside County Fault Hazard Zone. The closest fault to the Project site is located along the San Gorgonio Pass, which is approximately 4,900 feet north of the booster pump station. The Project site is not located on any known active earthquake fault trace; therefore, the potential for ground rupture due to active faulting on the Project site is considered to be low. (Geocon, p. 4.)

Additionally, due to the nature of the proposed Project it does not pose a substantial risk of loss, injury, or death as it does not propose any habitable structures and will be designed and constructed in accordance with the City's standard specifications and the recommendations of the *SGI.* Therefore, potential substantial adverse impacts resulting from the rupture of a known earthquake fault are considered less than significant.

Sources: GP; GP DEIR; Geocon

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less than significant impact. Given its physical and geologic location, the Banning area, like most regions in Southern California, is susceptible to potential intense seismic ground shaking that could affect the safety and welfare of the general community. (GP DEIR, p. III-74.) A preliminary seismic evaluation was conducted as part of the Project's *SGI* using information from the San Andreas, San Gorgonio Pass, and San Jacinto faults. Based on the results of the preliminary seismic evaluation, field exploration, and laboratory testing, the *SGI* includes recommendations for design and construction of the proposed Project. As recommended by *SGI*, the booster station building will be a masonry block building supported by conventional shallow foundations with a slab-on grade floor. The reservoir tank will be a bolted steel tank with steel reinforcement bars constructed on a shallow perimeter ring and slab foundation system. Flexible couplings and seismic shut-off switches are amongst other design and construction elements that will be implemented. Since the Project will be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable City standards and incorporate the recommendations of the *SGI*, potential substantial adverse impacts resulting from strong seismic ground-shaking will be less than significant.

Source: GP DEIR, Geocon

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less than significant impact. Liquefaction occurs when shallow, fine to medium-grained sediments saturated with water are subjected to strong seismic ground shaking. It generally occurs when the underlying water table is 50 feet or less below the surface. According to the City's GP, the Project site is located in an area with moderate liquefaction susceptibility (GP, Exhibit V-4; GP DEIR, Exhibit III-14, Geocon, p. 6.).

According to the Project's *SGI*, the Project site is located within areas mapped as having a "moderate" potential for liquefaction. (Geocon, p. 6.) The subsurface investigation conducted as part of the Project's *SGI* did not encounter shallow groundwater during the investigation. Historical well data at the site of the pump station is reported to be 735 feet deep, screened from 460-680 feet and have a water depth of 425 feet. (Geocon, p. 4.) Due to the lack of shallow groundwater and the dense nature of alluvial soils, neither liquefaction nor seismic "dry-sand" settlement is a design consideration for the site. Moreover, the nature of the Project will not expose people to substantial risk from seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction, since there are no habitable structures proposed. Further, the Project will incorporate and implement the recommendations from the Project's *SGI* in addition to standard engineering and construction protocols to address ground failure/liquefaction. Therefore, Project impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Geocon; GP; GP DEIR

iv) Landslides?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project site is not located adjacent to any areas with low, moderate, or high risk of seismically induced settlement and slope instability and no known landslides have occurred in the Project vicinity. (GP, Exhibit V-2; GP DEIR, Exhibit III-15, Geocon, p. 7.) No topographical features that could potentially create landslides are located within the immediate vicinity of the Project site. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: GP; GP DEIR, Geocon

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than significant impact. Construction of the proposed Project will entail grading, excavation, and construction in unpaved areas, may lead to localized erosion as wind and water carry loose soils offsite. The proposed grading of the Project site is not expected to include the construction of significant cut or fill slopes. (Geocon, p. 7.) Compliance with current regulations and implementation of a State-required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that incorporates effective erosion and sediment control measures would reduce these impacts to less than significant.

Source: Project Description, GP, GP-DEIR, Geocon

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?

Less than significant impact. Impacts related to landslides are addressed in Response VIa.iv, above; impacts related to liquefaction are addressed in Response VIa.iii, above; both were found to have less than significant impacts. The following analysis addresses impacts related to unstable soils, as a result of lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse.

Lateral spreading refers to the lateral movement of gently to steeply sloping saturated soil deposits caused by earthquake-induced liquefaction. As discussed in Response VIa.iii, above, the Project site is mapped in an

area of moderate liquefaction susceptibility; however, due to the lack of shallow groundwater and the dense nature of alluvial soils, neither liquefaction nor seismic "dry-sand" settlement is a design consideration for the site. Nonetheless, during an earthquake lateral spreading could occur. Subsidence in the Banning area is closely associated with groundwater levels and the most populated part of the City occurs in an area with geologic conditions vulnerable to ground subsidence. In particular, the alluvial sediments within the groundwater basins from which the City's water is withdrawn are subject to subsidence if rapid groundwater extraction occurs in response to increased water demands as a result of population growth or prolonged drought. (GP DEIR, p. III-69.) Structures sensitive to slight changes in elevation, such as canals, sewers and drainage improvements are generally sensitive to the effects of subsidence and may be damaged if subsidence occurs. (GP DEIR, p III-80). As discussed in Response VIa.iii, the shallowest groundwater in the Project area is 243 to 271 feet below ground surface. (Geocon, p. 4.)

A substantial portion of the City's valley and canyon areas are underlain by potentially compressible and/or collapsible soils consisting of young sediments with low density that will settle under the added weight of fill embankments or buildings. (GP DEIR, p. III-81.) The Project will be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable City standards and incorporate the recommendations of the *SGI*, and will incorporate engineering and construction protocols to address, among other things, lateral spreading and collapse, Therefore, Project impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Geocon; GP DEIR

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?

Less than significant impact. Expansive soils are those that contain significant amount of clay particles that have a high shrink (dry) and swell (wet) potential. The upward pressures induced by the swelling of expansive soils under moist condition can have harmful effect upon structures. In the City, expansive soils are primarily associated with areas underlain by older fan deposits containing argillic (clay-rich) soil profiles, which are in the moderately expansive range. Since the low-lying areas of the City are underlain by alluvial fan sediments that are composed primarily of granular soils, the expansion potential ranges from very low to moderately low. (GP DEIR, p. III-69.)

The *SGI* found that the geologic material within the Project area consisted of Pleistocene-age Young Alluvial fan (Qf), and Older Alluvial fan (Qof) deposits. (Geocon, p. 3.) Laboratory testing of site soils indicated these soils are "non-expansive" with an Expansion Index of 7 and 11 which is classified as "very low". These are granular soils and, as indicated in the GP DEIR, the potential for expansion ranges from very low to moderately low. Since the Project will be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable City standards and incorporate the recommendations of the *SGI*, potential substantial direct or indirect risks from expansive soil will be less than significant.

Sources: Geocon; GP DEIR

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?

No impact. The Project does not include wastewater or tying into existing infrastructure for disposal of wastewater and no septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems will be required. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Source: Project Description

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The discussion to this response is based on findings and recommendations from the *Paleontological Resource Assessment for the Banning NP-2 Booster Pump Station and Reservoir Project City of Banning, Riverside County, California,* (hereinafter referred to as the Paleontological Assessment) prepared by Applied EarthWorks (AE), December 2023. The Paleontological Assessment is included as Appendix E.2 of this Initial Study. The Paleontological Assessment was prepared by AE paleontology staff who meet the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology qualification standards following guidelines developed by the County of Riverside to determine the likelihood of the presence of paleontological resources at the Project site.

Following the County's established process, baseline information is used to assign the paleontological sensitivity of a geologic unit(s) (or members thereof) to one of five categories - N/A, Low, Undetermined, High A (Ha), and High B (Hb) potential. Geologic units are "sensitive" for paleontological resources and have a High paleontological resource potential if they are known to contain significant fossils anywhere in their extent, even if outside the Project site. High A (Ha) sensitivity is based on the occurrence of fossils that may be present at the ground surface of the Project site, while High B (Hb) sensitivity is based on the occurrence of fossils at or below 4 feet of depth, which may be impacted during construction activities. (AE(b), p. 8.) AE found that the west and southwest portions of the Project area as well as in the center to southeast corner have a high potential of preserving significant paleontological resources. AE's desktop studies and field survey indicate the Project area has High A, High B, and Low sensitivity for paleontological resources (AE(b), pp. 19-20.)

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Geology at the Project site is characterized by middle to late Pleistocene old alluvial fan deposits, early to middle Holocene young alluvial fan deposits, and late Holocene alluvial wash deposits. Pleistocene-age alluvial deposits are mapped in the west to southwest and central to southeast portions of the Project area, and are known to be potentially fossiliferous. Early-middle age Holocene alluvial deposits are mapped from the northwest corner through the south-central portion, those less than 5,000 years old, are typically too young for the fossilization process to occur. Late Holocene-age alluvial deposits are mapped along the eastern boundary of the Project area within Montgomery Creek, these deposits are too young for fossilization but may overlie older Holocene- and Pleistocene-age alluvial deposits. The older deposits have yielded significant fossils throughout Southern California from the coastal areas to the inland valleys. (AE(b), pp. 11-13.)

AE conducted a record search of paleontological resources at Project site. No specimens or localities are listed on the Project site; however numerous localities are within 10 miles of the Project site which include subsurface geologic units likely found in the Project site at unknown depths. There is a high likelihood of fossil preservation underlying the Project site. This finding supports the Project site's mapping as High A (Ha) and

High B (Hb), as the surficial Holocene-age alluvial deposits overlie very shallow Pleistocene deposits with recorded vertebrate fossils throughout Southern California. (AE(b), pp. 11-13, 17-19.) Since the proposed Project will entail excavations to depths greater than three feet, there is a high likelihood to encounter paleontological resources. Therefore, in order to reduce potential direct or indirect impacts to unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features, mitigation measure **MM GEO-1,** which requires construction crews to receive Paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, mitigation measure **MM GEO-2**, which requires preparation of a paleontological resources monitoring plan, and mitigation measure **MM GEO-3**, which sets forth the process to follow in the event of a fossil discovery, shall be implemented. Therefore, the Project will have less than significant impacts with mitigation.

MM GEO-1: Paleontological Resources Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP). To educate construction crews about the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered at the NP-2 Booster Pump Station and Reservoir Project, prior to the start of the construction the City of Banning shall retain a professional paleontologist (the "Project Paleontologist") to prepare a Paleontological Resources Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP). The Paleontological Resources WEAP shall provide a description of the laws and ordinances protecting fossil resources, the types of fossil resources that may be encountered in the area, the role of the paleontological monitor, outline steps to follow in the event that a fossil discovery is made, and provide contact information for the Project Paleontologist. The Project Paleontologist or designee(s) shall present the Paleontological Resources WEAP to the construction contractor and each of the construction crews working on the Project during a preconstruction meeting. The Paleontological Resources WEAP shall be taped and presented to any construction crew members not present at the preconstruction meeting during which it was initially presented prior to such crew members working on the Project. This training may be conducted concurrent with other preconstruction training (e.g., biological resources, safety).

MM GEO-2: Paleontological Mitigation Monitoring. Prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the Project Paleontologist (retained under **MM GEO-1**) shall prepare and implement a Paleontological Resources Mitigation Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) for the Project. The PRMMP shall describe the monitoring required during excavations that extend into older Quaternary (Pleistocene) age sediments, and the location of areas deemed to have a high paleontological resource potential. Paleontological Monitoring shall entail the visual inspection of excavated or graded areas and trench sidewalls. If the Project Paleontologist determines full-time monitoring is no longer warranted, based on the geologic conditions at depth, the Project Paleontologist may recommend monitoring be reduced or ceased entirely.

MM GEO-3: Fossil Discoveries. In the event that a paleontological resource is discovered, the Project Paleontologist shall have the authority to temporarily divert the construction equipment around the find until it is assessed for scientific significance and, if appropriate, collected. If the resource is determined to be of scientific significance, the Project Paleontologist shall complete the following:

1. Salvage of Fossils. If fossils are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity should be halted to allow the paleontological monitor, and/or Project Paleontologist to evaluate the discovery and determine if the fossil may be considered significant. If the fossils are determined to be potentially significant, the Project Paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) should recover them following standard field procedures for collecting paleontological as outlined in the PRMMP prepared per **MM GEO-1**. Typically, fossils can be safely salvaged quickly by a single paleontologist and not disrupt construction activity. In some cases, larger fossils (such as complete skeletons or large mammal fossils) require more extensive excavation and longer salvage periods. In this case the Project Paleontologist shall have the authority to temporarily direct, divert or halt construction activity to ensure that the fossil(s) can be removed in a safe and timely manner.

2. Fossil Preparation and Curation. The PRMMP shall identify the museum that has agreed to accept fossils that may be discovered during project-related excavations. Upon completion of fieldwork, all significant fossils collected shall be prepared in a properly equipped laboratory to a point ready for curation. Preparation may include the removal of excess matrix from fossil materials and stabilizing or repairing specimens. During preparation and inventory, the fossil specimens will be identified to the lowest taxonomic level practical prior to curation at an accredited museum. The fossil specimens must be delivered to the accredited museum or repository no later than 90 days after all fieldwork is completed. The cost of curation will be assessed by the repository and will be the responsibility of the City of Banning.

3. Final Paleontological Mitigation Report. Upon completion of ground disturbing activity (and curation of fossils if necessary) for the Project, the Project Paleontologist shall prepare a final mitigation and monitoring report outlining the results of the mitigation and monitoring program. The report shall include discussion of the location, duration and methods of the monitoring, stratigraphic sections, any recovered fossils, and the scientific significance of those fossils, and where fossils were curated.

Source: AE(b)

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

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Discussion:

Greenhouse gases (GHG) are not presented in lbs/day like criteria pollutants; they are typically evaluated on an annual basis using the metric system. Additionally, unlike the criteria pollutants, GHG do not have adopted significance thresholds associated with them at this time. Several agencies, at various levels, have proposed draft GHG significance thresholds for use in CEQA documents. SCAQMD has been working on GHG thresholds for development projects. The most recent draft proposal was in September 2010 and included significance thresholds for residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects at 3,500, 1,400, and 3,000 metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MTCO_2E$/yr), respectively. Alternatively, a lead agency has the option to use 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr as a threshold for all non-industrial projects. Although both options are recommended by SCAQMD, a lead agency is advised to use only one option and to use it consistently. In December 2008, the SCAQMD adopted a threshold of 10,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr for stationary source projects where SCAQMD is the lead agency. The SCAQMD significance thresholds evaluate construction emissions by amortizing them over an expected project life of 30 years. The analysis herein uses the threshold of 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr.

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than significant impact. The AQ/GHG Analysis prepared for the Project (WEBB(a)) estimated GHG emissions from fuel usage by construction equipment and construction-related activities, such as construction worker trips, for the Project.

Table E - Project Construction Equipment GHG Emissions

Year	Metric Tons per year (MT/yr)				
	Total CO_2	Total CH_4	Total N_2O	Total R	Total CO_2E
2024	116	0.00	0.00	0.02	117
2025	114	0.00	0.00	0.03	115
Total	**230**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.05**	**232**
				Amortized[1]	**7.73**

Source: WEBB(a), Table 4 - Project Construction Equipment GHG Emissions

Note: [1] Construction emissions were amortized over a 30-year period, as recommended by SCAQMD.

Evaluation of the table above indicates that an estimated 232 $MTCO_2E$ will occur from Project construction equipment over the course of the estimated 12-month construction period. The draft SCAQMD GHG threshold guidance document released in October 2008 recommends that construction emissions be amortized for a project lifetime of 30 years to ensure that GHG reduction measures address construction GHG emissions as part of the operational reduction strategies. Therefore, the total GHG emissions from Project construction were amortized and are included above.

Operational GHG emissions would primarily result from the electric pump at the booster station and infrequent visits by vehicles driven by maintenance personnel. Two pumps will be constructed (one for standby) and space for a third pump will be provided. GHG emissions from the operation of the electric pumps were evaluated in the AQ/GHG Gas Analysis prepared for the Project (WEBB(a)) and calculated using the annual electricity consumption from the booster station and the City of Banning's carbon intensity data. The electricity consumption is estimated to be 11,332 MWh per year and the resulting GHG emissions will be approximately 2,340 $MTCO_2E$ per year. There will also be limited lighting on the Project site. However, the GHG emissions from electricity usage will be negligible.

The Project's GHG emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD recommended screening level of 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/year. Due to the estimated amount of emissions from Project construction and booster station pump electricity usage during operations we well as nominal emissions from routine maintenance, site lighting and electricity use, the proposed Project will not generate GHG emissions that exceed the draft screening thresholds.

Therefore, the Project will not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, and therefore the Project impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: WEBB(a); Project Description

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less than significant impact. As the proposed Project involves the construction of public utility improvements, it is not considered a significant source of operational GHG emissions. The Project will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns within the Project area and its construction does not generate significant amounts of GHG (refer to Response VIIIa). Further, the Project will not obstruct implementation of any applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the reduction in GHG emissions. Impacts are considered to be less than significant.

Source: WEBB(a)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Hazards and Hazardous Materials Discussion:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less than significant impact. Project construction will include the transport of fuels, lubricants, and various other liquids for operation of construction equipment. These materials will be transported to the Project site by equipment service trucks. In addition, workers will commute to the Project via private vehicles and will operate construction vehicles and equipment on the Project site and public streets. The booster station will be equipped with a portable diesel-fueled emergency generator that will only be used during emergencies and routine testing. A number of federal and state agencies prescribe strict regulations for the safe transportation of hazardous materials. Hazardous material transport, storage and response to upsets or accidents are primarily subject to federal regulation by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Hazardous Materials Safety in accordance with Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). California regulations applicable to hazardous material transport, storage, and response to upsets or accidents are codified in Title 13 (Motor Vehicles), Title 8 (Cal/OSHA), Title 22 (Management of Hazardous Waste), Title 26

(Toxics) of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code (Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory). These hazardous materials regulations were established at the state level to ensure compliance with federal regulations intended to reduce the risk to human health and the environment from the routine use of hazardous substances. Compliance with the measures is intended to significantly reduce a project's risk to the environment. To ensure that workers and others at the Project site and surrounding area are not exposed to unacceptable levels of risk associated with the use and handling of hazardous materials, the City and its construction contractor are required to implement existing hazardous materials regulations, with compliance monitored by state (e.g., OSHA in the workplace or DTSC for hazardous waste) and local jurisdictions. Compliance with existing safety standards related to the handling, use, and storage of hazardous materials, and compliance with the safety procedures mandated by applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations (as noted above) would be required for the proposed Project. Compliance with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the transportation, use, storage, and response to upsets or accidents that may involve hazardous materials would reduce the likelihood and severity of upsets and accidents during transit and storage. Therefore, potential impacts in this regard would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Sources: Project Description; CCR 8; CCR 13; CCR 22; CCR 26; CFR; CHSC 6.95, BMC

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less than significant impact. As discussed in Response IXa above, there is a potential for hazardous materials and chemicals to be stored at the site for short periods of time prior to transport and distribution, which could cause a release. However, the storage and transport of these products would be regulated by federal, state, and local policies regarding storage and transportation of hazardous waste. Post construction, only infrequent and routine maintenance activities would occur, which would also be required to be regulated by federal, state, and local policies. Nonetheless, the Department of Toxic Substances EnviroStor Database identified two hazards material cleanup sites located approximately within a mile to the east of the Project site: Banning High School Expansion site (ID: 60001998) and Banning USD Proposed School (ID: 600002517). As of February 24, 2015 and October 22, 2018, respectively, DTSC determined that there is no further action. (DTSC-A, DTSC-B.) Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Sources: Project Description; DTSC-A, DTSC-B

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less than significant impact. There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the Project site. As previously discussed in Response IXa, during Project construction hazardous materials and substances would be introduced to the Project site. Hazards materials and substances that could be found on the Project site would consist of; fuels, lubricants and other liquids required for operation of construction equipment. Nonetheless, these materials and substances would be limited to the Project site. Additionally, Project construction would comply with state and federal regulations governing the use and transport of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed Project will not expose nearby schools to hazardous materials, substances or waste and impacts would be than significant.

Source: GP

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No impact. The Project site, and adjacent areas are not listed on the Department of Toxic Substance Control's Cortese List, compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. (DTSC-C.) Thus, because the proposed Project site and its adjacent areas are not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Therefore, no impacts will occur.

Source: DTSC-C

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?

Less than significant impact. The Banning Municipal Airport is located approximately two miles to the east of the Project site. Land use designations within the City have been arranged to accommodate for continued safe operation of the Banning Municipal Airport. (GP DEIR, p. III-62.) The Project site is not within the Banning Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUC). Additionally, the proposed Project is a booster station and reservoir identified in the City's Integrated Master Plan (IMP) and does not propose housing or job centers. Thus, the proposed Project will not result in a safety hazard for people working or residing in the Project area. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: ALUC; GP DEIR

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than significant impact. The City adopted the Multi-Hazard Functional Planning Guidance document in 1996. The document is organized into three-parts, which include: 1) the Banning Emergency Plan; 2) twelve functional Annexes that describe the emergency response organization; and 3) a listing of operational data such as resources, key personnel, and essential facilities and contacts. (GP, p. VI-42.) According to the City's GP, the City does not have established evacuation routes, although depending on the location and extent of emergency, major surface streets could be utilized to route traffic through the City. (GP, p. VI-45.) The Project is not proposed to need lane closure, therefore any utilization of Lincoln Street in an emergency would not affect the community or construction. Further, as an infrastructure project, implementation would not interfere with an adopted response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, Project impacts will be less than significant.

Source: GP

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project site is located south of the City's Very High and High Fire Hazard Zones, within which relief is minimal and hardscape (concrete, asphalt, and structures) and landscaping vegetation predominate. (GP, Exhibit V-10.) The proposed Project is the construction and operation of a non-potable water storage reservoir and a booster pump station, which would not likely aid the spread of wildland fires. Further, since the Project does not include habitable structures, Project implementation would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Therefore, Project impacts would be less than significant impact.

Source: GP

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

Hydrology and Water Quality Discussion:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Less than significant impact. Construction of the Project may result in the discharge of sediment and other construction by-products to surface waters. The proposed Project will disturb more than one acre of land, therefore, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required to comply with the statewide Construction General Permit (CGP) issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) (Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002). The SWPPP must be developed by a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and implemented onsite for the duration of the Project by a Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP). The focus of a construction SWPPP is to minimize soil disturbance, non-stormwater discharges, construction materials, and construction wastes during the construction phase of the Project to prevent discharge of polluted runoff from the construction site. Coverage under the CGP requires submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI) and payment of fees and annual reporting to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Staff from the RWQCB may inspect the construction site periodically to ensure compliance with the SWPPP.

Development of the Project site will add impervious surfaces associated with the reservoir, booster station, driveways, and other site improvements. During Project operation, the Project has minimal potential to introduce sources of water pollution from the frequent maintenance vehicle trips.

The Project will maintain the existing drainage pattern. A concrete drainage swale will surround the reservoir and convey storm water to the proposed storm drain pipeline east of the perimeter wall. The runoff from the booster station area will be collected in a pipeline and connect to the proposed storm drain pipeline east of the perimeter wall. Storm water discharged to the storm drain pipeline will be conveyed off-site where it would flow east to the municipal storm drain system at Lincoln Street. These future improvements in and of themselves will not contribute to a violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Through Project design and compliance with existing regulations related to water quality standards and waste discharge requirements, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; CGP

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less than significant impact. Groundwater basins are naturally recharged through the percolation of runoff, direct precipitation, subsurface inflow, and artificial recharge. The Banning Canyon area receives water from percolation of canyon flows through the gravelly soils of the canyon bottom. In addition, a stone ditch running southerly though the Banning Canyon provides intake areas to distribute water to spreading ditches, which interconnect with spreading ponds to enhance percolation. The San Gorgonio Subbasin is also recharged naturally with runoff from the adjacent San Jacinto and San Bernardino Mountain. (GP, p. IV-2.)

The Project site is not a groundwater recharge site. The Project entails the construction of a non-potable water storage reservoir and a booster pump, and does not propose the extraction of groundwater. Because Project implementation will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge, impacts are less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; GP

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Less than significant impact. The Project site is generally flat and receives routine weed abatement. The Project will disturb no more than 1.39 acres, which includes frontage road improvements (widening, curb and gutter) along the existing ROW of the southern portion of Lincoln Street at the new edge of pavement. The area within the construction footprint will be graded, compacted, and paved around the proposed reservoir and booster station. The Project site will be generally flat after construction is complete and the onsite storm water runoff will collect in a drainage swale that will be conveyed to the proposed storm drain pipeline where it would flow to the municipal storm drain outlet at Lincoln Street. Through Project design, and compliance with existing regulations and policies for the control of erosion, the Project does

not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns already existing in the area and would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site?

Less than significant impact. The Project site is located within flood hazard zone "X" as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) No. 06065C0817G (Effective August 28, 2008). Flood hazard zone X includes "areas of 0.2 percent annual chance flood [500-year flood]; areas of 1 percent annual chance flood [100-year flood] with average depths of less than one foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile; and areas protected by levees from 1 percent annual chance flood [100-year flood]."

There are no watercourses or wetlands located on the Project site. Stormwater runoff on the Project site currently flows into existing drainages or percolates into the undeveloped dirt area. As discussed in Response Xc.i the overall drainage pattern of the site will remain unchanged. Through Project design, and compliance with existing regulations and policies for proper drainage, the Project does not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns already existing in the area and would not result in flooding on- or off-site. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; CGP, FEMA

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?

Less than significant impact. The proposed drainage system consists of a storm drain line located east of the Project site perimeter wall which will then convey storm water off-site flowing east to the municipal storm drain headwall at Lincoln Street. The proposed Project improvements will increase impervious surfaces on the site and is expected to result in a negligible increase in storm water runoff that will maintain the existing drainage pattern. All on-site storm water will be captured on site in accordance with State and Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements. A concrete drainage swale will surround the reservoir and convey storm water to the proposed storm drain pipeline. Runoff associated with the booster station will be collected in a four-inch pipeline and connect to the proposed storm drain line. Therefore, through Project design, the proposed Project would not 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. Project impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

Less than significant impact. The Project area is within Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 06065C0817G, which indicates that the Project site is not within the

100-year flood hazard area. (FEMA.) As such, in the unlikely event that flood flows pass through the site, there is little to impede or redirect flows by substantial structures. Thus, the Project will not place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area or impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; FEMA

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

Less than significant impact. As shown on FEMA Panel No. 06065C0817G, the proposed Project does not have any identified levees or dams within the Project boundary. Additionally, because the proposed Project is located within flood hazard zone X, as classified by FEMA, the Project is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area and the likelihood of flooding at the Project site is very limited. Regarding the release of pollutants, in the post-Project condition, pollutants that could be released from the Project in the event the roadway is inundated are gasoline, oil, grease, dirt, and trash/debris. Regarding flooding, as discussed in Response Xc)iv, the Project site is not within a 100-year flood hazard area. (FEMA.) Therefore, Project implementation would not result in an increased risk for the release of pollutants due to inundation.

Tsunamis are large waves that occur in coastal areas. The City is not located in a coastal area; therefore, there is no risk for the release of pollutants due to Project inundation by tsunami.

Seiches are seismically-induced oscillation or sloshing of water contained in enclosed bodies including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and swimming pools. This hazard is dependent upon the frequency of seismic waves, distance and direction from the epicenter, and site-specific design criteria of the enclosed body of water. The reservoir will be designed in accordance with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) D103 standards, which sets guidelines for the construction of welded steel water tanks. Project design will consist of interior support columns and foundations. As such, the risk for the release of pollutants due to Project inundation by seiche would be less than significant.

For the reasons set forth in the preceding paragraphs, Project impacts regarding the release of pollutants due to inundation would be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; GP, FEMA

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less than significant impact. The Project site is located within the boundaries of the water quality control plan (Basin Plan) for the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Basin Plan is the primary document supporting the RWQCB's regulatory efforts. As previously described, the Project will implement the requirements of an effective SWPPP during construction pursuant to the CGP. Through implementation of a SWPPP during construction and the proposed storm drain infrastructure, Project implementation is consistent with the requirements of the Basin Plan and will not conflict with or obstruct its implementation.

The Project site is located within the boundaries of the Banning Storage Unit. Pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), the San Gorgonio Pass Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) has formed and prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) dated January 2022 that includes the Banning Storage Unit. Because the GSP does not identify the Project site as part of future projects, compliance with existing regulations to protect water quality during construction and post-construction, the impacts to a sustainable groundwater plan are less than significant.

Sources: Project Description, SGMA, RWQCB GSP

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

Land Use and Planning Discussion:

a) Physically divide an established community?

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less than significant impact. The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a physical feature (such as a wall, interstate highway, or railroad tracks) or the removal of a means of access (such as a local road or bridge) that would impair mobility. The area to the north, west and northwest includes residential homes; the adjacent area to the south is vacant and undeveloped land; the adjacent area to the east is Montgomery Creek followed by vacant and undeveloped area; the area to the northeast is industrial buildings.

The Project is a part of the City's expansion of non-potable water systems identified in the City's Integrated Master Plan (IMP). The Project site is designated as OS-PA Open Space-Parks and as identified in BMC 17.20.020, Public Utility Facilities are a permitted use for this land use designation and zoning.

The Project will not physically divide an established community. Due to the Project being consistent with the General Plan Land Use Designations and the Project carrying out the implementation of a portion of the IMP. The Project will not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description, BMC

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

Mineral Resources Discussion:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Less than significant impact. Sand and gravel, collectively referred to as aggregate, is the primary mineral resource that is actively being developed in the eastern portion of the City. Weathering, erosion, and other geological processes have deposited materials from the surrounding mountains and hills, forming an alluvial fan with significant deposits of these mineral resources. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) was developed to assure the preservation of mineral resources while concurrently addressing the need for protecting the environment. Under the direction of SMARA, the State of California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, released a report identifying regionally significant mineral deposits in an effort to conserve and develop them; and to help in anticipating aggregate production needs of the region. (GP, p. IV-82.)

Although the Project site is located within Mineral Resource (MRZ) Zone 3, which is an area that contains mineral deposits; the significance of these deposits cannot be evaluated from available data. (GP, Exhibit IV-8 and p. IV-83.) The City has specific areas designated as Industrial-Mineral Resources (I-MR) land use in the City's GP to allow for surface mining operations on lands designated by the City or State as having significant potential for mineral resources. (GP DEIR, Table I-18.) As shown on **Figure 4**, the Project site is not within one of these zones, and is therefore not targeted for of mineral resources mining by either the City or the State. Additionally, due to the existing residential development to the west and east of the Project site, it is unlikely that a mining operation could operate at the Project site. Therefore, Project impacts regarding the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state will be less than significant.

Sources: GP; GP DEIR

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No impact. An approximately 6.5-acre area of MRZ 2, where adequate information indicates that significant mineral deposits are present or that a high likelihood for their presence exists, is located in the eastern portion of the City along the alluvial fan of the San Gorgonio River that lies southeast of the Banning Bench, north and

south of Interstate 10. (GP Exhibit IV-8 and p. IV-83.) The Banning Quarry, operated by Robertson's Ready Mix, was the only aggregate producer within the MRZ-2 designated area of the City. (GP, p. IV-83.)

The proposed Project is not located within or adjacent to the Banning Quarry or any other locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Further, as described in Response XIIa, above, the Project site is not within the Industrial-Mineral Resources land use designation in the City's GP. Therefore, Project implementation will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan and there will be no impact in this regard.

Source: GP

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XIII. NOISE Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Noise Discussion:

Temporary increases to ambient noise levels would occur during Project construction. Noise would derive from the use of various types of construction equipment such as compactors, cranes, excavators, generators and from a worker-related increase in traffic within the vicinity of the Project site. Sensitive receptors would include any residences, educational institutions and public parks located within 250 feet of the Project site. The nearest sensitive receptor (residence) to the Project site is located approximately 70 feet to the west.

Noise is generally defined as loud, unpleasant, unexpected or undesired sound typically associated with human activity and that interferes with or disrupts normal activities. Constant noise levels which varies with each area is called ambient noise. Human response to noise events is influenced by the type of noise, perceived importance of the noise and its appropriateness in the setting, time of day and type of activity during which the noise occurs and the sensitivity of the individual. The intensity of a sound's loudness is measured in decibels (dB). Studies have shown that the smallest perceptible change in sound level for a person with normal hearing sensitivity is approximately 3 dBA. A change of at least 5 dBA would be noticeable and would likely evoke a community reaction. A 10 dBA increase is subjectively heard as a doubling in loudness and would cause a community response. Since community noise fluctuates over a time, a single measure called Equivalent Sound Level (Leq) is used to describe time-varying character of community nose. The Leq is the energy-averaged A-weighted sound level during a measured time interval, and is equal to the level of a continuous steady sound containing the same total acoustical energy over the averaging time period as the actual time varying sound. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) is a descriptor representing a 24-hour, time-weighted annual average noise level based on the "A-weighted" decibel. (GP, p. V-40-41.)

Exterior noise standard for sensitive land uses, such as residences, schools, hotels, motels, churches, and hospitals is 65 dBA CNEL. (GP FEIR Noise p. 6.)

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?

Less than significant impact. During construction, temporary increases to ambient noise levels may occur as a result of the use of construction equipment such as cranes, tractors, loaders and from a worker-related increase in traffic within the vicinity of the Project site. During operation, the primary source of noise would be from the booster station pumps, which will be enclosed in a masonry block building that attenuates noise. Sensitive receptors that may be affected by Project generated noise during construction and operation include private residences near the proposed reservoir and booster station.

However, Title 8 (Health and Safety) of the BMC outlines regulations related to noise in Chapter 8.44 (Noise). According to Title 8, Chapter 8.44.085, sound emanating from capital improvement projects of a governmental agency is exempt from the provisions of Chapter 8.44. "Capital Improvement" is defined as major construction, acquisition, or maintenance/repair projects. Typical examples of major construction would include new street improvements, park development and construction of public buildings or structures, and treatment plants. Structures include lighting, sewer and water pipelines and other related utility structures including treatment plants, gas, electric and other infrastructure, landscaping and drainage facilities, and all other public infrastructure.

Since the proposed Project involves construction and operation of a non-potable water storage reservoir and booster pump station that is identified as a capital improvement project, the Project is exempt from any noise restrictions during construction. Any maintenance or repair of the reservoir and booster station once operational will also be exempt from noise restrictions. The Project will be required to comply with all applicable City noise standards and codes. Thus, the Project is not anticipated to be a significant new source of noise. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; GP; BMC; BOC; Ord. 847

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less than significant impact. Construction has the potential to generate ground-borne vibration. In general, demolition of structures preceding construction generates the highest vibrations. The proposed Project site is currently vacant and does not necessitate demolition of any existing structures. Construction equipment such as vibratory compactors or rollers, pile drivers and pavement breakers can generate perceptible vibration during construction activities. Heavy trucks can also generate ground-borne vibrations that vary depending on vehicle type, weight and pavement conditions. Other than the typical construction equipment and methods needed to construct the Project components, no significant ground-borne vibration or noise is expected. Further, development of the proposed facilities will not involve the use of highly vibratory equipment within 25 feet of the Project property line adjacent to a sensitive receptor.

Since the Project construction methods are not anticipated to generate any significant sources of ground-borne vibration or noise above those that would normally be associated with construction, and any noise generated during construction will adhere to the Banning Municipal Code standards. Thus, the Project will not expose persons to or generate excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Source: BMC

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No impact. The nearest airport to the Project site is the Banning Municipal Airport, which is located approximately two miles east of the Project site. The Project site is located outside of the Airport Influence Boundary and the Airport Compatibility Zones of the Banning Municipal Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. (ALUC.) The Project does not propose any habitable structures. Therefore, Project implementation will not result in the exposure of people to excessive noise levels sourced from airports and no impacts will occur in this regard.

Sources: ALUC; GP DEIR

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:				
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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Population and Housing Discussion:

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)?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project involves the construction and operation of a booster station and reservoir identified in the City's IMP to meet the current and planned future non-potable water demands. This Project is in response to the population growth planned for and envisioned in the GP. The Project does not include new homes, businesses, or other infrastructure, which would remove an impediment to growth. The Project will not substantially induce direct or indirect unplanned population growth that was not previously analyzed and disclosed in the City's GP EIR. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: Project Description, GP, GP DEIR

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No impact. The proposed Project site is a vacant undeveloped lot with no existing housing. Therefore, implementing the proposed Project will not displace existing people or housing, nor necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

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

Public Service Discussion:

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services?

i) Fire protection?

No impact. Fire protection services are provided to the City through a contractual agreement with the Riverside County Fire Department, which in turn contracts with CalFire. The contract provides various fire related services, including emergency medical services, fire prevention, disaster preparedness, fire safety inspections, hazardous materials business plan programs and plan reviews. When an emergency call is received, the station that is physically closest to the emergency will respond, even if the emergency is located outside the station's official "jurisdiction." (GP, p. VI-35.)

Per the Riverside County Fire Department, there are two fire stations that serve the City: Fire Station 63, located at 49575 Orchard Road, and Fire Station 89, located at 172 North Murray Road (RCFD). Fire Station 20, located in the City of Beaumont at 1550 E. 6th Street, also responds to fire emergencies that occur in the City. Fire Station 20 is approximately 3 miles to the northwest of the Project site. The closest fire station in the City is Fire Station 89, approximately 1.7 miles to the northeast of the Project and would likely provide emergency response services to the Project site. The Riverside County Fire Department is rated as Class 4 by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), a private company, which rates fire departments throughout the country based on a scale of 1 to 10, with Class 1 being the highest possible score. The City aims for a ratio of above 0.70 fire personnel per 1,000 residents, which would be 58 firefighters at GP buildout. (GP DEIR, p. III-202.)

As discussed in Response XIV, the Project will not increase population. As such, implementation of the Project will not necessitate additional fire services and would not adversely impact service ratios, response times, or performance objectives. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

Sources: GP; GP DEIR; RCFD

ii. Police protection?

No impact. Police protection services within City limits are provided by the Banning Police Department (GP, p. VI-32). The Banning Police Department has 35 sworn officers and maintains a ratio of 1.4 sworn officers for every 1,000 residents. (GP DEIR, p. III-200.) The City's police station is located at 125 East Ramsey Street, approximately 1.7 miles east of the Project site.

As discussed in Response XIV, the Project will not increase population. As such, implementation of the Project will not necessitate additional police services and would not adversely impact service ratios, response times, or performance objectives. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

Sources: GP; GP DEIR

iii. Schools?

No impact. Most of the City is served by the Banning Unified School District, with a small area in the western portion of the City served by the Beaumont Unified School District. (GP, pp. VI-24 – VI-25.)

As discussed in Response XIV, the Project will not increase population. As such, implementation of the Project will not necessitate additional school services and would not adversely affect performance objectives. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

Source: GP

iv. Parks?

No impact. Parks and recreation services within the City are provided by the City Community Services Department. The Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District also provides recreational facilities and services at County owned parks facilities within the City. (GP, p. III-83.)

As discussed in Response XIV, the Project will not increase population. As such, implementation of the Project will not necessitate additional park services. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

Source: GP

v. Other public facilities?

No impact. Other public facilities in the City include one U.S. Post Office, the Banning Municipal Airport, San Gorgonio Memorial Hospital, and several public utility facilities operated by the City Public Works Department.

As discussed in Response XIV, the Project will not increase population. As such, implementation of the Project will not necessitate other public facilities. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

Source: GP

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

Recreation Discussion:

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?

No impact. Parks and recreation services within the City are provided by the City Community Services Department. The Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District also provides recreational facilities and services at County owned parks facilities within the City. (GP, p. III-83.) The Project involves the construction and operation of a non-potable water storage reservoir and a booster pump station identified in the City's Integrated Master Plan (IMP). As discussed in Response XIV, the Project will not increase population. As such, the Project would not necessitate additional park facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Sources: GP; Project Description

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?

No impact. The proposed Project involves the construction of a non-potable water storage reservoir and a booster pump station. As discussed in Response XIV, the Project will not increase population. As such additional park facilities will not be required. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

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

Transportation and Traffic Discussion:

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

No impact. Each county in California is required to develop a Congestion Management Program (CMP) that analyzes the links between land use, transportation, and air quality. The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is the County of Riverside's Congestion Management Agency. The RCTC prepares and periodically updates the County's CMP to meet federal Congestion Management System guidelines and state CMP legislation. The most recent CMP is included within RCTC's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which was completed in December 2019. According to Appendix A of the LRTP, in the 2011 Riverside County Congestion Management Program, Interstate 10 and Highway 243 are the only roads in proximity to the Project site listed as part of the CMP System of Highways and Roadways. These roads are not directly adjacent to the Project site. Thus, the Project will not conflict with a CMP due to the distance between the Project site and these covered roadways have been accounted for in the GP. Construction of the Project may require temporary land closures along Lincoln Street. Road closure will not be required for maintenance or pedestrian facilities. No new traffic will be generated by the proposed Project.

The GP identifies that sidewalks, bike lanes, off-street trails and golf cart routes are especially important along major roadways in the community. There are currently no bikeways within the planning area. Several Class II and III bikeways have been proposed along City streets. However, development of a network of bikeways is constrained by the existing condition of street rights-of-way (GP, p II-65). The City of Banning provides transit service via operation of the Banning Connect transit system and has local routes in and serves Banning, Beaumont and Cabazon and is considered as part of the City's local transit network. Regional bus service is provided by the Riverside Transit Agency (RTA), with service to Hemet/San Jacinto (Route 31), Moreno Valley (Route 35), and Calimesa/Redlands (Route 36).

The Project site is not directly adjacent to Interstate 10 and Highway 243 or near any existing or future transit routes and would not conflict with CPM or transit plan. For these reasons implementation of the proposed Project will not conflict with any program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system,

including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities; therefore, there would be no impacts in this regard.

Sources: GP; LRTP; PASS; RTA

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(a) describes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts and states "Generally, vehicle miles traveled is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts." As stated in CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b)(2), "projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact."

Less than significant impact. Construction of the booster station and reservoir would temporarily increase traffic in the area as a result of construction-related vehicles. However, since water facilities are not trip generators and no new travel lanes are proposed with the street frontage improvements, there would be no net increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Therefore, Project implementation would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3. subdivision (b). Impacts would be less than significant.

Sources: SB 743;

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Less than significant impact. The Project proposes to widen the southern portion of Lincoln Street within existing right-of-way along the Project frontage and create a new paved driveway for access. Pavement width will vary from approximately two to eight feet wide. The existing pavement edge will be sawcut and the surface will be ground and overlaid with new pavement. A concrete curb will be installed at the new edge of pavement. All work will be performed consistent with City Public Works Standards. The Project does not include a substantially different land use to the area and will be compatible with adjacent uses. The Project will not increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible use. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project will result in less than significant impacts.

Sources: Project Description.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Less than significant impact. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would not impact emergency access. Potential temporary lane closures along Lincoln Street may occur during Project construction. The Project will be designed with a new asphalt driveway near the western Project site boundary that will transition to a 20-foot-wide asphalt access road leading to the reservoir and booster station. Moreover, the Project's design will be reviewed by City Planning, Police, and Fire Department staff to ensure that there is sufficient emergency access provided. As the Project will be required to comply with the recommendations of applicable reviewers, it will not result in inadequate emergency access. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; GP

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

Tribal Cultural Resources Discussion:

a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resource Code section 5020.1(k)

b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. On November 13, 2024, the City of Banning transmitted notices for AB 52 consultation opportunities to Tribes identified on the NAHC distribution list concerning the proposed project. The City of Banning received replies from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians on November 21, 2023, and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians on December 14, 2023, requesting review of documents, and that the review of documents does not conclude consultation. Documents were transmitted via email to the Agua Caliente Band and the Morongo Band on February 6, 2024. At the time this document was released for public review and comment, the City has not concluded the AB 52 consultation process with either Tribe and will accept and respond to any comments that may be submitted by either of the Tribes during the 30-Day public review and comment period.

As discussed in Response Va Cultural Resources, the *CRI* (included as Appendix C) concluded there are no CRHR-eligible resources present on the Project site and since the Project site has been previously disturbed by dirt pathways, plowing, and staging activities, there is a low likelihood that intact significant historical resources are buried. (AE(a), p. 20.) Regarding inclusion on a local register of historical resources, there are six (6) historical sites in the central core of the City that are designated as Riverside County Landmarks. (GP DEIR, p. III-137.) These historical resources are not within or in proximity to the Project site. As also discussed

in Response Va, the results of the NAHC SLF did not indicate the presence of any sacred sites or locations or religious or ceremonial importance within the Project's APE.

Although no tribal cultural resources have yet to be identified during the Project's AB 52 consultation process, the Project will implement, mitigation measure **MM CR-1**, which requires the construction in the vicinity of any find to be halted until a qualified archaeologist makes a determination as to the significance of the find. For these reasons, Project implementation would not result in a substantial adverse change to any tribal cultural resources and impacts would be reduced to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Sources: AE(a); GP DEIR

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:				
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, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Utilities and Service Systems Discussion:

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less than significant impact. The Project entails the construction of new non-potable water facilities, a new underground electrical line to connect to an existing an existing electrical pole, installation of an electric vault and transformer and fiber optic service on the Project site, and on-site drainage facilities. The impacts of which are evaluated in this IS. The proposed Project is expected to maintain the existing storm water drainage pattern. All on-site storm water will be captured on site in accordance with State and Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements. The Project will not require natural gas, water, or wastewater services. No new or expanded utilities are proposed or required to serve the Project. As indicated in the analysis in this IS, because Project implementation will not require relocation or construction of new or expanded utility facilities that cause significant environmental effects, impacts are less than significant.

Sources: Project Description; GP DEIR

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?

Less than significant impact. The City Public Works Department provides domestic water services to the City of Banning. The proposed Project is implementing a portion of the City's IMP, including a non-potable water

storage reservoir and booster station that will not create a demand for water. Water usage during construction activities will be only that which is necessary for construction. Therefore, impacts to water supplies will be less than significant.

Source: GP; UWMP

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No impact. The City of Banning Public Works Department provides sanitary wastewater services to the City of Banning, including the Project site. (GP, p. VI-2.) The Project consists of a non-potable water storage reservoir and booster station and there is no Project component that would produce wastewater requiring treatment. Therefore, the Project has no impact.

Source: Project Description; GP

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project is a non-potable water storage reservoir and booster station and after construction is complete would not generate solid waste. Solid waste would be generated during Project construction; however, since the Project site is vacant no structures are anticipated to be demolished and construction waste is expected to be minimal.

Solid waste collection and disposal services are provided by Waste Management Inland Empire and trash collected from the City is disposed at the Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill, El Sobrante Landfill, and the Badlands Landfill. (GP DEIR, p. III-211.) According to CalRecycle databases, the Badlands Landfill will remain operational until 2059, Lamb Canyon Landfill until 2032, and El Sobrante Landfill until 2051. (CAL-R.) Given the number of landfills to which the solid waste could be redirected and their estimated closure dates, sufficient capacity is expected for the temporary increase of solid waste produced during construction as a result of Project implementation.

Thus, since the Project will only produce minimal construction waste and there are three landfills that could potentially accept construction generated solid waste, the Project will have a less than significant impact.

Source: CAL-R; GP DEIR

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No impact. The collection and disposal of solid waste would conform to applicable federal, state, and local plans and regulations, including AB 939 (Integrated Waste Management Act) that require local jurisdictions divert at least 50% of all solid waste. Implementation of the Project would adhere to all federal, state and local regulations related to solid waste during construction and operation. Therefore, the proposed Project

would have no impact in terms of complying with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Source: AB 939

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
XX. WILDFIRE If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Wildfire Discussion:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than significant impact. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) adopted Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps for State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) in November 2007. According to CalFire's most recent FHSZ maps, the Project site is not located within a FHSZ SRA or LRA. The Project site is located within the City's High Fire Threat Zone, within which topographic relief is minimal and hardscape (concrete, asphalt, and structures) and landscaping vegetation predominate. (GP, Exhibit V-10.) The Project is not within or immediately adjacent to an SRA or LRA classified very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ). (CalFire.) As such, implementation of the proposed Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Impacts would be less than significant.

Sources: GP; CalFire

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

Less than significant impact. As discussed in the previous Response XXa, the Project site is not within or immediately adjacent to a SRA or LRA classified very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ). (CalFire.) The Project involves the construction and operation of a non-potable water storage reservoir and booster station. The Project site is generally flat and there are no slopes within surrounding areas. The proposed Project will not have habitable structures. The facility would only be visited by a few people for service and maintenance.

Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not expose Project occupants to pollutants from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, as the Project site is not within a very high fire hazard severity zone. Impacts would be less than significant.

Source: CalFire

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

Less than significant impact. As noted above in Response XXa, the Project site is not within or immediately adjacent to a SRA or LRA classified very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ). (CalFire.) The Project involves the construction and operation of a non-potable water storage reservoir and booster station, construction of underground electrical line on the Project site, and widening the portion of Lincoln Road in front of the Project site. The proposed Project would also comply with safety construction and operational regulations for all proposed infrastructure as required by OSHA and NESC. For these reasons, the implementation of the proposed Project would not exacerbate the level of fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

Source: CalFire

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

Less than significant impact. As noted above in Response XXa, the Project site is not within or immediately adjacent to a SRA or LRA classified very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ). (CalFire.) The proposed Project does not include habitable structures, nor would it substantially alter existing drainage patterns. This proposed Project would be constructed in a relatively flat area. Therefore, impacts to exposing people or structures to significant risk including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes, are less than significant.

Source: CalFire

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

Mandatory Findings of Significance Discussion:

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 an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Potential to Degrade Quality of Environment: Implementation of the proposed Project would not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. As indicated in the foregoing analysis, either no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated would occur with regard to each to the environmental issues analyzed in this Initial Study.

Potential to Impact Biological Resources: As discussed in Section IV Biological Resources, implementation of the proposed Project would not:

- substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species;
- cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; or
- threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community.

The results of the *BTR*, (included in Appendix B of this Initial Study), and the analysis in Section IV Biological Resources indicate that with implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO-1**impacts to biological resources would be less than significant.

Potential to Eliminate Important Examples of the Major Periods of California History or Prehistory: As discussed in the response to Section V Cultural Resources, according to the *CRI*, there are no historic period built-environment resources present on the Project site. Although the potential to encounter intact and significant buried archaeological deposits are unlikely, with implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR-1**, potential impacts regarding the elimination of important examples of California History or Prehistory would be less than significant.

Sources: Above Environmental Checklist; AE(a); WEBB(b)

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)?

Less than significant impact. The proposed Project is implementing the City's IMP and as such is consistent with local and regional plans. The Project's air quality emissions do not exceed established thresholds of significance. The Project adheres to all other City land use plans and policies, and would not increase VMT. The Project is not considered growth-inducing as defined by CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) and would not induce, either directly or indirectly, population and/or housing growth beyond what is envisioned by the Banning GP. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Source: Above Environmental Checklist; WEBB(a)

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than significant. Effects on human beings were evaluated as part of the aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources as it relates to human remains, geology and soils, GHGs, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, and utilities and service systems sections in this Initial Study. All impacts would be less than significant.

Source: Above Environmental Checklist; AE(a); AE(b) Geocon; WEBB(a)

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 210808(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino,* (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors,* (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; P*rotect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109*; San Francisco Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656

EARLIER ANALYSES

Earlier analysis may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration as per California Code of Regulations section 1503 (c) (3) (D).

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