ITEM NO. 4.1.1

Castaic Lake Water Agency
Memorandum

December 6, 2017

To: CLWA Board of Directors

From: Brian Folsom BJF
Engineering and Operations Manager

Subject: Approve a Resolution Adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program Under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension (Phase 2A) Project

---

SUMMARY

On September 22, 2017, the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) released a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension (Phase 2A) Project (Project) for public review in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CLWA is the CEQA lead agency and must adopt the IS/MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) prior to approving the Project for design. Staff recommends that the Committee review the IS/MND and MMRP and recommend that the Board of Directors adopt the attached resolution approving the IS/MND and MMRP.

DISCUSSION

Background and Project Description: The Draft Recycled Water Master Plan (Draft RWMP) sets forth a plan to expand the recycled water system in the Santa Clarita Valley to offset potable water demands. The existing recycled water system is referred to as Phase 1 and provides approximately 450 acre-feet per year (afy) of recycled water to golf courses and median landscapes. Phase 2 includes four separate phases (2A, 2B, 2C and 2D) that will expand the recycled water system to the east, west and south portions of the Santa Clarita Valley. The Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension (Phase 2A) Project will provide recycled water to the service areas of Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD) and Valencia Water Company (VWC) by using recycled water from the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). It is estimated that up to 560 afy would be available to SCWD and VWC to serve nearby existing irrigation customers along the pipeline alignment.

As proposed, up to a 24-inch transmission pipeline would originate at the Valencia WRP at The Old Road and extend for approximately 5.25 miles, or up to 33,000 linear feet, along Rye Canyon Road and Newhall Ranch Road. At the Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon intersection, the proposed Project will continue in one of two directions to Central Park. The first alternate alignment would be north along Bouquet Canyon Road, while the second alternate direction would be east along Newhall Ranch Road to the River Village development and then north to Central Park. This pipeline would serve industrial and non-potable irrigation demands adjacent to the alignment. Anchor irrigation customers would be Valencia High School, Valencia Heritage Park, Bridgeport Park and Central Park.

CEQA Analysis: CLWA, with the assistance of Meridian Consultants, prepared a draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Project. The IS/MND analyzed the potential environmental impacts for the Project and concluded that with mitigation, there would be no significant impacts. Mitigation measures needed to mitigate or avoid potentially significant impacts are included in the IS/MND for the following environmental factors: Noise, aesthetic/visual, and tribal/cultural resources.

- CEQA Public Review Process: On September 22, 2017, CLWA circulated a Notice of Intent (NOI), provided notice in the *Santa Clarita Valley Signal*, and released the draft IS/MND in compliance with CEQA requirements for a 30-day review and comment period by the public and reviewing agencies. The review period ended on October 23, 2017. One comment was received from the public or reviewing agencies during the comment review period. CLWA received a letter from the California State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research, dated October 24, 2017 stating that the State Water Resources Control Board submitted comments by the closing date and acknowledged that CLWA has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to CEQA.

Final CEQA Documents for CLWA Board Approval: The State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations ("CCR") Section 15074, Public Resources Code Section 21092) require public agencies to review and consider the MND, the IS, and comments received during the public review period prior to the adoption of the MND. Adoption of the MND is dependent on the finding by the Board that, based on the whole record before it, there is no substantial evidence, with the mitigation measures required by the MND, that the proposed project will have a significant impact on the environment, and that the MND reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis. Exhibit A, an attachment to the resolution, contains the IS/MND and the letter received from the California State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research, dated October 24, 2017 after the close of the public review period.

Additionally, the State CEQA guidelines (CCR, sec 15097) require public agencies adopting an IS/MND to adopt a program for monitoring or reporting to ensure that mitigation measures in the IS/MND are implemented to mitigate or avoid potentially significant environmental impacts. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) is incorporated into the Final IS/MND in Exhibit A.

All of the above documentation, including other materials that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Lead Agency decision is based, has been and will be on file at the Castaic Lake Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350.

Final Design is the next step after completing CEQA in order to provide a near "shovel ready" project for pursuit of any available grant funding opportunities. CLWA, SCWD and VWC have agreed to share the final design costs.

On December 5, 2017, the Planning and Engineering Committee considered staff's recommendation to approve a Resolution adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension (Phase 2A) Project.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Engineering Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve the attached resolution adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Recycled Water Central Park (Phase 2A) Project

SB

Attachments

M65

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CASTAIC LAKE WATER AGENCY ADOPTING THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE CENTRAL PARK RECYCLED WATER MAIN EXTENSION (PHASE 2A) PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Castaic Lake Water Agency (Agency) determined that recycled water is an important component of future water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension (Phase 2A) Project is a component of the Draft 2016 Recycled Water Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension (Phase 2A) Project is a collaborative project between the Agency, Valencia Water Company (VWC) and the Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD); and

WHEREAS, the Agency, acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") circulated for public comment a proposed Initial Study and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (collectively, the "Draft MND") for the Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension Project (Phase 2A) ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15072(b), on September 22, 2017 Agency mailed a Notice of Intent to Adopt the Draft MND to all responsible and reviewing agencies, the Office of Planning and Research, and members of the public that have requested notice; the Agency also published the Notice of Intent to Adopt the Draft MND in the *Santa Clarita Valley Signal*, a newspaper of general circulation; and

WHEREAS, as required by State CEQA Guidelines section 15072(d), the Notice of Intent to Adopt the Draft MND was concurrently posted by the Clerk of the Board for the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines section 15073, the Draft MND was circulated for at least 30 days, from September 22, 2017 through October 23, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Agency received one written public comments during the comment period; and one letter from the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse after the close of the comment period indicating that only one state agency submitted comments by the closing date and that the Agency has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents pursuant to CEQA; and

WHEREAS, the Draft MND, the comments thereto and the Agency's responses to comments were incorporated into and together constitute the Final MND (hereinafter, the "MND"), and are attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, a notice of public meeting relating to the MND was duly given and posted in the manner and for the time frame prescribed by law, and the Planning and Engineering Committee held a public meeting on the Project at the Castaic Lake Water Agency located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350, in the Training Room on December 5, 2017, at 5:30 P.M., as part of its decision process concerning the Project, at which time no public comments were received; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Engineering Committee recommended that the Agency's Board of Directors ("Board") approve a resolution adopting the MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program ("MMRP"); and

WHEREAS, a notice of public meeting relating to the MND was duly given and posted in the manner and for the time frame prescribed by law, and the Agency's Board held a public meeting on the Project at its Boardroom, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350 on December 13, 2017, at 6:15 P.M., as part of its decision process concerning the Project, at which time all persons wishing to comment in connection the MND were heard; and

WHEREAS, only one comment was made during the public review period, and no additional information submitted to the Agency have produced substantial new information requiring recirculation of the MND or additional environmental review of the Project under State CEQA Guidelines section 15073.5; and

WHEREAS, all the requirements of the Public Resources Code and the State CEQA Guidelines have been satisfied in connection with the preparation of the MND, which is sufficiently detailed so that all of the potentially significant environmental effects of the Project, as well as feasible mitigation measures, have been adequately evaluated; and

WHEREAS, the Agency Board reviewed the MND and MMRP; and

WHEREAS, the Agency Board, acting as a Lead Agency, will need to adopt the IS/MND; and

WHEREAS, the Agency's Board has determined that the proposed Project can be approved because there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Agency and its Board have considered all of the information presented to it as set forth above and this Resolution and action taken hereby is a result of the Board's independent judgment and analysis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Agency Board does hereby find and determine as follows:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The Agency finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein as substantive findings of this Resolution.

SECTION 2. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT. As a decision-making body for the Project, the Agency has reviewed and considered the information contained in the MND, comments received, and other

documents contained in the administrative record for the Project. Based on the Agency's independent review and analysis, the Agency finds that the MND and administrative record contain a complete and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the Project, and that the MND has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

SECTION 3. FINDINGS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS. Based on the whole record before it, including the MND, the administrative record, and all other written and oral evidence presented to the Agency, the Agency finds that all environmental impacts of the Project are either less than significant or can be mitigated to a level of less than significant under the mitigation measures outlined in the MND and the MMRP. The Agency finds that substantial evidence fully supports the conclusion that no significant and unavoidable impacts will occur and that, alternatively, there is no substantial evidence in the administrative record supporting a fair argument that the Project may result in any significant environmental impacts. The Agency finds that the MND contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the Project and reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Agency.

SECTION 4. ADOPTION OF THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION. The Agency hereby approves and adopts the MND as the Lead Agency.

SECTION 5. ADOPTION OF THE MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM. In accordance with Public Resources Code section 21081.6, the Agency hereby adopts the MMRP, attached hereto as Exhibit "A". In the event of any inconsistencies between the Mitigation Measures as set forth in the MND and the MMRP, the MMRP shall control.

SECTION 6. LOCATION AND CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS. The documents and materials associated with the Project, the MND and MMRP that constitute the record of proceedings on which these findings are based are located at the offices of Castaic Lake Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91351. The Custodian of Record is the Board Secretary.

SECTION 7. NOTICE OF DETERMINATION. The Agency hereby directs staff to prepare, execute, and file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk's office and the Office of Planning and Research within five (5) working days of adoption of this Resolution.

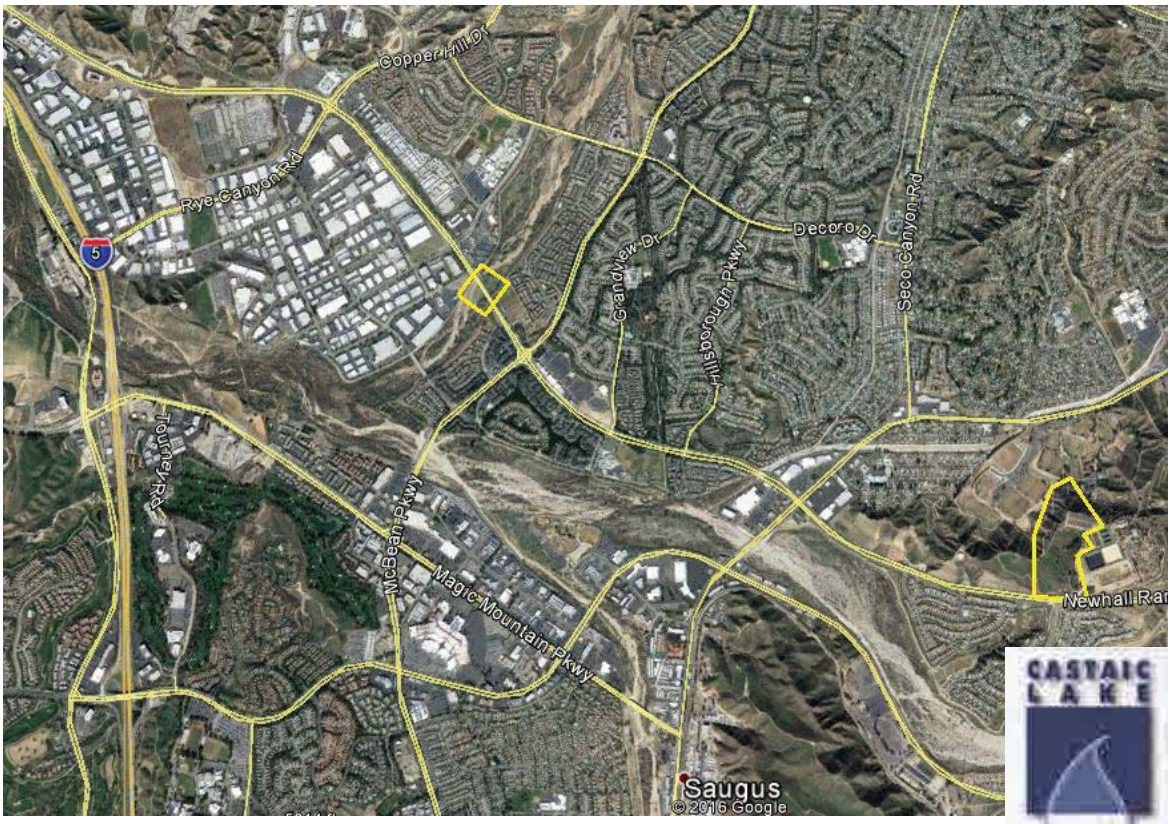
[This page intentionally left blank.]

EXHIBIT A

Castaic Lake Water Agency

Recycled Water Program, Phase 2A

Final Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared for

Castaic Lake Water Agency

Prepared by:

Meridian Consultants
910 Hampshire Road, Suite V
Westlake Village, CA 91361
(805) 367-5720 FAX (805) 367-5733

November 2017

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Phase 2A—Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension

Prepared for:

Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, California 91350

Prepared by:

Meridian Consultants LLC
910 Hampshire Road, Suite V
Westlake Village, CA 91361

November 2017

[This page intentionally left blank.]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[This page intentionally left blank.]

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

This Final Initial Study (IS) and Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND; together, IS/MND) has been prepared for the Phase 2A—Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension Project ("proposed Project") in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)[1] and the State CEQA Guidelines.[2] Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) is acting as the Lead Agency as defined by CEQA for the environmental review of the proposed Project.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Phase 2A—Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension was developed to offset nonpotable irrigation and residential demands from domestic drinking water to recycled water. The proposed Project will use recycled water from the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District's Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) to serve existing customers within CLWA's service area.

The proposed Project is a part of the Phase 2 expansion of the recycled water system described in the 2016 Draft Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) Update and 2016 Draft EIR (DEIR). Phase 2 is planned to expand recycled water use within Santa Clarita Valley and consists of four projects currently in various stages of design. All of the available recycled water in the peak summer months is anticipated to be used to meet demands that including existing Phase 1 projects, Phase 2 expansions currently in design, planned developments (including Newhall Ranch and Vista Canyon), and future nearby customers served by extending the Phase 2 system.

As proposed, the 24-inch transmission pipeline would originate at the Valencia WRP at The Old Road and extend for approximately 5.25 miles, or up to 33,000 linear feet, along Rye Canyon Road and Newhall Ranch Road**.** At the Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon intersection, the proposed Project will continue in one of two directions to Central Park. The pipeline would need to cross approximately 700 feet of the San Francisquito Creek. CLWA would either hang the transmission pipeline across bridge crossings or install the transmission pipeline within an open cell of the bridge.

The first alternate alignment would be north along Bouquet Canyon Road, while the second alternate direction would be east along Newhall Ranch Road to the River Village development and then north to Central Park. Industrial and nonpotable irrigation demands adjacent to the alignment would be served by

1 California Code of Regulations, sec. 21000 et seq.
2 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15070–15075, State CEQA Guidelines.

this pipeline. Anchor irrigation customers would be Valencia High School, Valencia Heritage Park, Bridgeport Park, and Central Park.

The 24-inch transmission pipeline would include isolation valves, air release valves, blow-off valves, recycled water service connections, and all other necessary appurtenances. All pipelines would be polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or ductile iron pipe (DIP), and would be installed using typical open-trench cut and cover method, with a minimum cover of approximately five (5) feet with roadway pavement and native soils above the pipeline. Bedding and backfill material would be utilized to fill around and below the proposed recycled water pipeline. In addition to the recycled water pipeline, a pressure-release valve and wharf heads would be installed aboveground along the proposed alignment. The main transmission line would consist of 24-inch pipeline, with smaller 16- and 12-inch transmission pipelines where needed. Distribution pipelines would be 6 to 8 inches.

1.3 PUBLIC REVIEW PROCESS

On September 22, 2017, CLWA circulated a Notice of Intent of the IS for a 30-day review and comment period by the public and by responsible and reviewing agencies. The review period ended on October 23, 2017. In addition, a notice was published in the *Santa Clarita Valley Signal* on September 22, 2017.

The Final IS/MND and Draft IS are available for review at:

Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

The Final IS/MND and Draft IS are also available online at:

http://www.clwa.org/docs/

The State CEQA Guidelines[3] require that the decision-making body of the Lead Agency consider the proposed IS together with any comments received during the public review process prior to approving a project.

Two comment letters were received regarding the Draft IS. One letter was from the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, on October 24, 2017. The comment notes that only one State agency, the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), submitted comments on the Draft IS, and that CLWA has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to CEQA.

3 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15074(b), State CEQA Guidelines.

SWRCB submitted a comment letter on October 23, 2017. The comment requests a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species list and to discuss potential impacts to any federally listed species, and also to clarify if the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) and marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) have the potential to occur within the Project area. The comment also states, "If [CLWA] decides to pursue [Clean Water State Revolving Fund] financing for the Project, please provide the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance a copy of the following documents: draft and final MND; resolution adopting the MND and making CEQA findings; all comments received during the review period and the Agency's response to those comments; adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; Notice of Determination file with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and notices of any hearings or meetings regarding environmental review for the Project."

The Final MND, when combined with the Draft IS, constitutes the complete environmental review document for the proposed Project to be considered by the CLWA Board of Directors, as the decision-making body, before it makes its decision on the proposed Project. State CEQA Guidelines[4] require that the Lead Agency consider the IS together with any comments received during the public review prior to approving a project. The decision-making body shall adopt the Final IS/MND only if it finds, on the basis of the whole record before it (including the IS and any comments received), that no substantial evidence exists that the proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Final IS/MND reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis.

Additionally, the State CEQA Guidelines[5] require that the Lead Agency adopt a mitigation monitoring program for reporting on or monitoring the physical changes of the Project site and mitigating significant environmental effects.

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE FINAL IS/MND

As required by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Final IS/MND consists of the following elements:

- Comments received from reviewing agencies and the public on the Draft IS during the public review process and responses to those comments (see **Section 2.0**).
- Changes and revisions made to the Draft IS/MND (see **Section 3.0**)
- A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), which provides a summary of impacts, mitigation measures, and implementation procedures (see **Appendix A**).
- The Draft IS (see **Appendix B**).

A disc containing these documents is also attached to the inside back cover of this Final IS/MND.

4 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15074(b), State CEQA Guidelines.
5 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15074(d), State CEQA Guidelines.

2.0 COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT IS

The State CEQA Guidelines[6] require that the decision-making body of the Lead Agency consider the proposed IS together with any comments received during the public review process prior to approving a project.

The following comment letters were received regarding the Draft IS:

- California State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research, dated October 24, 2017
- California State Water Resources Control Board, dated October 23, 2017

Response to California State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research

The comment notes that only one State agency, SWRCB, submitted comments on the Draft IS and that CLWA has complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to CEQA.

Response to California State Water Resources Control Board

The comment requests a USFWS species list and to discuss the potential impacts of the Project to any federally listed species in the biological section of the MND, including if the Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*) and marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*) have the potential to occur within the Project area. Appendix B.1, Table 1 of the Draft IS/MND contains a Biological Resources Survey Report and a Biological Resources Survey Update Memorandum that includes a list of federally endangered and threatened species. Since the completion of the survey, a review of the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation database was conducted to determine the potential for Riverside fairy shrimp or marsh sandwort to occur within the Project Area.[7] Both species were identified in the search; however, no critical habitat was identified as within the Project Area. It should be noted that a search of the CNDDB did not identify the potential for Riverside fairy shrimp nor the marsh sandwort (see Appendix B.1, Table 1) within nine quadrangles. Furthermore, the nearest potential location for Riverside fairy shrimp is within the County of Ventura, near the City of Moorpark, and the coastal area within Los Angeles County. The nearest potential location for marsh sandwort is located west of downtown Los Angeles.[8]

As identified in Section 5.4, Biological Resources, of the Draft IS/MND, growth in effluent would occur as development within CLWA service boundaries increases, which would also increase discharge effluent

6 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15074(b), State CEQA Guidelines.

7 United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Information for Planning and Consultation, https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/ZBHYUG2F4BC7BNDYAPK34MIJBE/resources. Accessed October 2017.

8 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, BIOS, CNDDB, https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios/?tool=cnddbQuick. Accessed October 2017.

into the river. The proposed Project would use a portion of the discharge (approximately 0.5 mgd) from the Valencia WRP for recycled water use as the primary designated source of all recycled water in the RWMP. Thus, a reduction in the annual average (using 2017 flow data) from 13.13 mgd to 12.63 mgd represents an approximately 3.6 percent reduction of current effluent levels from the Valencia WRP and an approximately 2.8 percent reduction of the total discharge from the Valencia WRP and Saugus WRP. Accordingly, total annual discharge flows as a result of the proposed Project would not significantly alter flows in the river, and indirect impacts to federally listed species would remain less than significant. In addition, disturbance for the proposed Project would occur within the public roadway right-of-way and would hang from a bridge crossing, as discussed in Section 5.4. Thus, potential direct impacts to the Riverside fairy shrimp and marsh sandwort would remain less than significant.

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Ken Alex
Director

October 24, 2017

Rick Viergutz
Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Subject: Phase 2A - Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension Project
SCH#: 2017091066

Dear Rick Viergutz:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on October 23, 2017, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

> "A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2017091066
Project Title Phase 2A - Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension Project
Lead Agency Castaic Lake Water Agency

Type MND Mitigated Negative Declaration

Description The proposed project would utilize recycled water from the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District's Valenciea WRP to service existing customers within CLWA's service area. The proposed project includes construction of up to 33,000 lf of new 24 in diameter pipeline and 16, and 12-in transmission pipeline and a reservoir within a 0.5-acre pad for storage of recycled water. The proposed project would convey an average annual demand of up to 560 acre-feet of recycled water from the Valencia WRP to customers along Newhall Ranch Rd and ultimately to Central Park. Two alignment options are proposed north and east of the Newhall Ranch Rd/Bouquet Canyon intersection. All pipelines would be polyvinyl chloride or ductile iron pipe, located beneath existing roadways, or hang from bridges.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Rick Viergutz
Agency Castaic Lake Water Agency
Phone 661-513-1281 **Fax**
email
Address 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
City Santa Clarita **State** CA **Zip** 91350

Project Location

County Los Angeles
City Santa Clarita
Region
Lat / Long 34° 25' 37.5" N / 118° 32' 14.5" W
Cross Streets The Old Road, Newhall Ranch Rd, Rye Canyon Rd, Bouquet Canyon
Parcel No.
Township 4N **Range** 16W **Section** **Base** SB

Proximity to:

Highways I-5
Airports
Railways
Waterways Santa Clara River
Schools Embiem ES
Land Use residential 5, public & semi public

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Cumulative Effects; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Landuse; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Tribal Cultural Resources

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5; Cal Fire; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 7; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, District 6; State Water Resources Control Board, Divison of Financial Assistance; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission; San Gabriel & Lower Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy

Date Received 09/22/2017 **Start of Review** 09/22/2017 **End of Review** 10/23/2017

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

State Water Resources Control Board

clear 10/23/17 E

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

OCT 23 2017

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 23 2017

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Rick Viergutz
Castic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Dear Mr. Rick Viergutz:

INITIAL STUDY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND); FOR CASTAIC LAKE WATER AGENCY (AGENCY); PHASE 2A – CENTRAL PARK RECYCLED WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT (PROJECT); LOS ANGELES COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2017091066

We understand that the Agency maybe pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project (CWSRF No. C-06-8216-140). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information on the MND to be prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state. The CWSRF Program provides low-interest funding equal to one-half of the most recent State General Obligation Bond Rates with a 30-year term. Applications are accepted and processed continuously. Please refer to the State Water Board's CWSRF website at:
www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml.

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and requires additional "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-Plus" environmental documentation and review. Three enclosures are included that further explain the CWSRF Program environmental review process and the additional federal requirements. For the complete environmental application package please visit:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml. The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to the State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli, at (916) 341-5855.

D. Protection of Wetlands: Identify any parts of the proposed Project area that should be evaluated for wetlands or waters of the United States delineation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), or requires a permit from the USACE, and identify the status of coordination with the USACE.

E. Compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act: Identify whether the Project will result in the conversion of farmland. State the status of farmland (Prime, Unique, or Local and Statewide Importance) in the Project area and determine if this area is under a Williamson Act Contract.

F. Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: List any birds protected under this act that may be impacted by the Project and identify conservation measures to minimize impacts.

G. Compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act: Identify whether or not the Project is in a Flood Management Zone and include a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone maps for the area.

H. Compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Identify whether or not any Wild and Scenic Rivers would be potentially impacted by the Project and include conservation measures to minimize such impacts.

Following are State Water Board's comments on the Agency's MND:

1. Please obtain a USFWS species list and discuss the potential impacts of the Project to any federally listed species in the biological section of the MND.
2. Please clarify in the biological section of the MND if the following federally listed species have the potential to occur within the Project area:
    - Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*); and
    - Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*).

If the Agency decides to pursue CWSRF financing for the Project, please provide the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance a copy of the following documents: draft and final MND; resolution adopting the MND and making CEQA findings; all comments received during the review period and the Agency's response to those comments; adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; Notice of Determination filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review for the Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Agency's draft MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 319 8574 or by email at Trevor.Cleak@waterboards.ca.gov, or contact Ahmad Kashkoli at (916) 341-5855, or by email at Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Trevor Cleak
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures list: see next page

OCT 2 3 2017

Rick Viergutz
Castic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Dear Mr. Rick Viergutz:

INITIAL STUDY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND); FOR CASTAIC LAKE WATER AGENCY (AGENCY); PHASE 2A – CENTRAL PARK RECYCLED WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT (PROJECT); LOS ANGELES COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2017091066

We understand that the Agency maybe pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project (CWSRF No. C-06-8216-140). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information on the MND to be prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state. The CWSRF Program provides low-interest funding equal to one-half of the most recent State General Obligation Bond Rates with a 30-year term. Applications are accepted and processed continuously. Please refer to the State Water Board's CWSRF website at:
www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml.

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and requires additional "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-Plus" environmental documentation and review. Three enclosures are included that further explain the CWSRF Program environmental review process and the additional federal requirements. For the complete environmental application package please visit:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml. The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to the State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli, at (916) 341-5855.

It is important to note that prior to a CWSRF financing commitment, projects that are subject to provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), must obtain Section 7 clearance from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special-status species.

Please be advised that the State Water Board will consult with the USFWS, and/or the NMFS regarding all federal special-status species that the Project has the potential to impact if the Project is to be financed by the CWSRF Program. The Agency will need to identify whether the Project will involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement, that may affect federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that are known, or have a potential to occur in the Project site, in the surrounding areas, or in the service area, and to identify applicable conservation measures to reduce such effects.

In addition, CWSRF projects must comply with federal laws pertaining to cultural resources, specifically Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106). The State Water Board has responsibility for ensuring compliance with Section 106, and must consult directly with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO consultation is initiated when sufficient information is provided by the CWSRF applicant. If the Agency decides to pursue CWSRF financing, please retain a consultant that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm) to prepare a Section 106 compliance report.

Note that the Agency will need to identify the Area of Potential Effects (APE), including construction and staging areas, and the depth of any excavation. The APE is three-dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the Project. The APE includes the surface area and extends below ground to the depth of any Project excavations. The records search request should extend to a ½-mile beyond project APE. The appropriate area varies for different projects but should be drawn large enough to provide information on what types of sites may exist in the vicinity.

Other federal environmental requirements pertinent to the Project under the CWSRF Program include the following (for a complete list of all federal requirements please visit: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/forms/application_environmental_package.pdf):

A. An alternative analysis discussing environmental impacts of the project in either the MND or Environmental Impact Report or in a separate report.

B. A public hearing or meeting for adoption/certification of MND.

C. Compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act: (a) Provide air quality studies that may have been done for the Project; and (b) if the Project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to a maintenance plan; (i) provide a summary of the estimated emissions (in tons per year) that are expected from both the construction and operation of the Project for each federal criteria pollutant in a nonattainment or maintenance area, and indicate if the nonattainment designation is moderate, serious, or severe (if applicable); (ii) if emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the Project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projections that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality, quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projections.

D. Protection of Wetlands: Identify any parts of the proposed Project area that should be evaluated for wetlands or waters of the United States delineation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), or requires a permit from the USACE, and identify the status of coordination with the USACE.

E. Compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act: Identify whether the Project will result in the conversion of farmland. State the status of farmland (Prime, Unique, or Local and Statewide Importance) in the Project area and determine if this area is under a Williamson Act Contract.

F. Compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act: List any birds protected under this act that may be impacted by the Project and identify conservation measures to minimize impacts.

G. Compliance with the Flood Plain Management Act: Identify whether or not the Project is in a Flood Management Zone and include a copy of the Federal Emergency Management Agency flood zone maps for the area.

H. Compliance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Identify whether or not any Wild and Scenic Rivers would be potentially impacted by the Project and include conservation measures to minimize such impacts.

Following are State Water Board's comments on the Agency's MND:

1. Please obtain a USFWS species list and discuss the potential impacts of the Project to any federally listed species in the biological section of the MND.
2. Please clarify in the biological section of the MND if the following federally listed species have the potential to occur within the Project area:
    - Riverside fairy shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*); and
    - Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*).

If the Agency decides to pursue CWSRF financing for the Project, please provide the State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance a copy of the following documents: draft and final MND; resolution adopting the MND and making CEQA findings; all comments received during the review period and the Agency's response to those comments; adopted Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; Notice of Determination filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research; and notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review for the Project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Agency's draft MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (916) 319 8574 or by email at Trevor.Cleak@waterboards.ca.gov, or contact Ahmad Kashkoli at (916) 341-5855, or by email at Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Trevor Cleak
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures list: see next page

Enclosures (3):

1. Clean Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Review Requirements
2. Quick Reference Guide to CEQA Requirements for State Revolving Fund Loans
3. Basic Criteria for Cultural Resources Reports

Cc: State Clearinghouse
(Re: SCH# 2017091066)
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

3.0 CHANGES TO THE IS/MND

Provided below are corrections and additions to the Draft IS. Changes are identified below by the corresponding Draft IS section and subsection, if applicable, and the page number. Additions are double underlined, and deletions are shown in strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~) format.

1.3.1 Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements and Expansions

Page 1.0-2 The following revisions have been made to address a minor and clarifying text edit.

Two WRPs, the Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP, currently treat wastewater generated by residents in the City of Santa Clarita ("City") and unincorporated Los Angeles County. The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD), a consolidation of Sanitation Districts No. 26 and No. 32, provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVSD operates the Saugus and the Valencia WRPs. The plants produce high-quality, tertiary-disinfected recycled water, which is distributed for nonpotable reuse or discharged into the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River (under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] Order Nos. R4-~~2005-0031~~2015-0071 and R4-~~2005-0032~~2015-0072). The Saugus and Valencia WRPs have a design capacity of 28.1 million gallons per day (mgd). As described in the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (errata), ~~in 2015~~ the ~~plants~~WRPs ~~and currently~~ processed an average flow of ~~19.3~~18.4 mgd (13.3~~8~~ mgd from Valencia WRP and 5.1~~5~~ mgd from Saugus WRP) in 2015. In 2017, the average flows from the Valencia and Saugus WRPs were 5.02 and 13.13 mgd, respectively. The current capacity is sufficient to treat influent flows until approximately 2036, at which time planned expansion at the Valencia WRP would bring the total system treatment capacity to 34.1 mgd (38,190 afy).[9] No expansion is planned at the Saugus WRP.

Page 1.0-3 The following revisions have been made to address a minor and clarifying text edit.

As identified in the 2016 Draft RWMP Update, the proposed Project will use approximately 560 afy. This ~~which~~ represents approximately 3.6~~8~~ percent of current effluent levels from the Valencia WRP and 2.6~~8~~ percent of the total from the Valencia WRP and Saugus WRP.

Page 1.0-3 The following deletion has been made to address a minor and clarifying text edit.

The existing contract (SCVSD Contract No. 3425 signed on July 24, 1996) is the basis for wholesaling recycled water in Santa Clarita Valley and makes 1,600 afy of recycled water from the Valencia WRP

9 Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA), *2015 Urban Water Management Plan for Santa Clarita Valley [2015 UWMP]*, errata sec. 4.2.1 (adopted June 8, 2016), p. ~~4-3~~7.

available to CLWA for purchase. ~~Contract No. 3118266 (signed on Oct 20, 2014) and Contract No. 3322936 (signed on July 23, 2015) served to temporarily increase the allotment for fiscal years 2014/15 and 2015/16, respectively, to 2,200 afy. This increase was attributed to the need for recycled water to be used for dust control for Newhall Ranch development construction activities.~~ CLWA will be required to comply with the eventual SCVSD baseline for required minimal flows discharged to the Santa Clara River as a result of the future studies and approved 1211 petition to divert discharges. A 1211 petition is required when a wastewater treatment plant makes changes to the discharge of treated wastewater. Future contracts, allotment increases, and/or amendments to the wholesaling contract with the SCVSD, including a new 1211 petition process, will need to be approved prior to the expansion of the recycled water system beyond 1,600 afy. The 1211 process will require the approval of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which would condition any reduction in the quantity of discharged effluent that does not impact habitat that might be dependent on those flows.

SECTION 5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Page 5.0-19 The following revisions have been made to address a minor and clarifying text edit.

As described in Section 1.3.1, ~~T~~the average treatment of wastewater and resultant discharge described in the 2015 UWMP at the Valencia WRP is 13.~~8~~3 mgd. In 2017, the average flow from the Valencia and Saugus WRPs was 5.02 mgd and 13.13 mgd, respectively. The proposed Project would use a portion of the discharge (approximately 0.5 mgd) from the Valencia WRP for recycled water use as the primary designated source of all recycled water in the RWMP. Thus, a reduction in the annual average (using 2017 flow data) from 13.13 mgd to 12.63 mgd ~~of discharge to 13.3 mgd~~ represents an approximately ~~4~~ 3.6 percent reduction of current effluent levels from the Valencia WRP and an approximately 2.8~~3~~ percent reduction of the total discharge from the Valencia WRP and Saugus WRP.

SECTION 5.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Page 5.0-47 The following revisions have been made to address a minor and clarifying text edit.

Depending on river flow and overall hydrologic conditions discharge reductions from the Valencia WRP would likely result in equivalent corresponding reductions in flow downstream. As described in Section 1.3.1, t~~T~~he ~~annual~~ average amount of effluent discharged described in the 2015 UWMP from the Valencia WRP is 13.~~8~~3 mgd. In 2017, the average discharge from the Valencia and Saugus WRPs were 5.02 mgd and 13.13 mgd, respectively. The proposed Project would use a portion of the discharge (approximately 0.5 mgd) from the Valencia WRP for recycled water use as the primary designated source of all recycled water in the RWMP. This represents an approximately 3.6 ~~4~~ percent reduction of current effluent levels from

the Valencia WRP and an approximately 2.8 ~~3~~ percent reduction of the total discharge from the Valencia ~~WRP~~ and Saugus WRPs. Thus, a reduction in the total annual average ~~of~~ discharge as a result of the proposed Project ~~to 13.3 mgd~~ would not reduce average annual discharges below ~~be above~~ the 13 mgd minimum discharge requirements to sustain biological resources within and along the Santa Clara River. Accordingly, the proposed Project would result in less than significant indirect impacts to alternating the course of the Santa Clara River.

SECTION 5.18 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Page 5.0-74 The following revisions have been made to address a minor and clarifying text edit.

The proposed Project would, upon approval by the SCVSD, request approximately 560 afy, or 0.5 mgd, of recycled water to CLWA service area which would be supplied by the SCVSD from Valencia WRP. As described in Section 1.3.1, ~~T~~the diversion of 0.5 mgd would represent an approximately 3.6 percent reduction of the ~~13.8 mgd of the~~ average daily effluent produced by the Valencia WRP. As a result, potential impacts would be less than significant.

APPENDIX A

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared, pursuant to the requirements of the State CEQA Guidelines,[1] identifying the monitoring of mitigation measures that would reduce potential significant impacts as stated in the Draft IS for the proposed Project.

The State CEQA Guidelines[2] require public agencies adopting an IS/MND to also adopt a program for monitoring or reporting to ensure that the mitigation measures it has imposed to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects are implemented.

Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) will be required to adopt the MMRP should the Board of Directors approve the proposed Project.

The MMRP is available at Castaic Lake Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350.

The MMRP may be modified by CLWA in response to changing conditions or circumstances. A summary table (**Table 1, Summary of Project Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Implementation Responsibility**) will guide CLWA in its evaluation and documentation of the implementation of mitigation measures. The MMRP is organized as follows:

- **Mitigation Measure:** Provides the text of the mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND.
- **Timing/Schedule:** Identifies the timeframe in which the mitigation will take place.
- **Implementation Responsibility:** Identifies the entity responsible for complying with mitigation measure requirements.
- **Action:** Describes the type of action taken to verify implementation.
- **Date Completed:** Provides for the acknowledgement of completion of each mitigation measure as it is implemented. Entries should be dated and initialed by CLWA personnel based on the documentation noted in the mitigation measure and provided by the individual or entity responsible for implementing the measure.

Unless otherwise specified herein, CLWA is responsible for taking all actions necessary to implement the mitigation measures according to the provided specifications and for demonstrating that each action has been successfully completed. CLWA, at its discretion, may delegate implementation responsibility or portions thereof to a licensed contractor.

1 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15074(b)(6), State CEQA Guidelines.
2 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15097, State CEQA Guidelines.

Table 1
Summary of Project Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Implementation Responsibility

Mitigation Measure		Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
Aesthetics					
AES-1	a) Following construction activities, CLWA shall attempt to restore disturbed areas ground surface areas to preexisting conditions to the maximum extent practicable by repaving roadways, replanting trees, and/or reseeding with a native seed mix typical of the immediate surrounding area.	Upon completion of construction activities	CLWA and/or construction contractor	1a. Restore disturbed areas to conditions prior to the start of construction activities. This includes repaving roadways and, if applicable, replanting trees and/or reseeding with a native mix typical of the surrounding area.	
AES-1	b) During facility design, CLWA shall prepare a landscape plan for the reservoir. The landscape plan shall include measures to restore disturbed areas by reestablishing existing topography, including replanting trees and/or reseeding with a native seed mix typical of the immediately surrounding area. The landscape plan shall include a required seed mix and plant palette. Vegetation screening shall be included in the landscape plan in order to shield proposed aboveground facilities from public view. Following construction, CLWA shall restore the vegetation removed as a result of construction activities. CLWA shall monitor the emergent vegetation to ensure that the restoration is successful. If the plants fail to recover within 2 years, CLWA shall	During final engineering design/plan check and prior to the start of construction	CLWA prior to construction; CLWA and/or construction contractor post construction	1b. Create a landscape plan for the reservoir prior to construction activities. The landscape plan will include native trees, shrubs, or other vegetation to provide screening. Ensure plantings survive 2 years post construction. If plantings fail within 2 years, then a restoration plan will be developed to ensure the area is fully restored.	

Mitigation Measure		Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
	develop and implement a restoration plan to ensure the area is fully restored.				
AES-2	Above-ground facilities exteriors, including the reservoir, shall be finished with a non-reflective material in an earth tone that blends in with the natural environment.	Upon completion of the reservoir tank	CLWA	2. Paint exterior aboveground facilities with a nonreflective material in an earth tone that blends in with the natural environment.	
AES-3	Any necessary security lighting during construction or operation of planned facilities shall be designed to be consistent with City and County zoning codes and applicable design guidelines and to minimize glare to adjacent areas. Construction activities shall be restricted to daytime hours on residential streets. If nighttime construction is required, temporary lighting must be directed onto the worksite and avoid any spill-over light or glare onto adjacent properties. Any construction activities near the Santa Clara River, temporary lighting must be directed onto the worksite and avoid any spill-over light or glare onto the riparian vegetation.	During final engineering plan design/plan check During construction	CLWA CLWA and/or construction contractor	3a. Create a lighting plan for the reservoir tank prior to construction activities that will be designed consistent with County zoning codes to minimize glare to adjacent areas. 3b. Limit construction activities to daytime hours on residential streets. If nighttime construction is required, temporary lighting must be directed onto the worksite and avoid spillover onto adjacent properties.	
Biological Resources					
BIO-1	If construction or vegetation removal is proposed between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey no more than 5 days prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities for breeding and nesting birds	Prior to construction activities or vegetation removal	CLWA	1a. A qualified biologist, who is also referred to as a Biological Monitor, will perform a preconstruction survey within 500 feet of construction limits no earlier than 5 days prior to initiation of ground or vegetation disturbance to determine the presence of	

Mitigation Measure		Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
	within 500 feet of the construction limits. The biologist shall locate and map the location of active nests or breeding territories that could be affected by the proposed plan. A 300-foot buffer shall be delineated around any active nest of any bird of the order *Passeriformes,* and a 500-foot buffer around an active nest of any raptor species. Buffer distances may be reduced at the qualified biologist's discretion, depending on the species' tolerance to human presence and the location of the nest. For example, a reduced buffer may be appropriate for a nest located near a high-use road. Buffers shall be delineated in the field with high-visibility fencing, such as orange-mesh snow drift fencing, and shall persist and be maintained until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival, as determined by a qualified biologist. The monitoring biologist or proposed plan compliance monitor shall inspect the integrity of the fence on a weekly basis. Any gaps in the fence shall be corrected within 24 hours following communication from the monitoring biologist or proposed plan compliance manager.	During construction activities if active nest has been determined by qualified biologist and/or proposed plan compliance monitor		an active bird nest between February 1 and August 31. 1b. If an active nest is identified, then a 300-foot buffer for any bird of the order *Passeriformes* and a 500-foot buffer around an active nest of any raptor species will be established at the discretion of the qualified biologist. Buffers will be delineated in the field with high-visibility fencing, which will be monitored by the biologist or proposed plan compliance monitor on a weekly basis to ensure any gaps in the fencing are corrected within 24 hours of its initial inspection.	
BIO-2	Excavated holes shall be covered or filled at the end of the workday. If an excavation exists at the end of the day, crews shall	During construction and excavation	CLWA and/or construction contractor	2. If excavated holes exist at the end of the day, the construction contractor will cover all holes and trenches with plywood/	

Mitigation Measure		Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
	cover all holes and trenches with plywood/metal covers and plastic sheeting prior to leaving the area to prevent wildlife from becoming trapped within the excavation. Prior to the start of work each day, covered holes and excavated areas shall be inspected to ensure that no wildlife has fallen in overnight. If wildlife has become trapped and the construction crew is unable to safely remove it, the Biological Monitor shall be contacted for assistance.			metal covers and plastic sheeting prior to leaving the area. Covered holes and excavated areas will be inspected to ensure that no wildlife has fallen in overnight.	
BIO-3	All trash shall be contained in covered containers each day. Containers shall be removed from the Project area and properly disposed of and/or recycled at an appropriate disposal facility. Special attention should be given to leaving no micro-trash (screws, nuts, bolts, pop-tops, washers, etc.) on site.	During construction	CLWA and/or construction contractor	3. Contain trash in covered containers throughout construction activities. Properly dispose of and/or recycle containers at an appropriate disposal facility.	
BIO-4	A qualified biologist shall conduct periodic surveys at least two weeks apart during construction of the reservoir and associated pipeline and during removal of vegetation to ensure that breeding wildlife and nesting birds species are not harmed. The biologist shall have the authority to redirect or temporarily stop work if threats to the species are identified during monitoring. If a bird species, in particular	During construction activities or vegetation removal	CLWA	4. A Biological Monitor will conduct periodic surveys at least 2 weeks apart during construction of the reservoir and associated pipelines. The biologist will have the authority to redirect or temporarily stop work. 5. If a bird species, in particular least Bell's vireo or southern California rufus crowned sparrow, is identified within the immediate habitat of the reservoir and	

Mitigation Measure		Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
	least Bell's vireo or southern California rufus crowned sparrow, is identified within the immediate habitat of the reservoir and pipeline path then construction of the reservoir and/or pipeline shall halt until a Biological Monitor determines absence of either species. The Biological Monitor shall establish recommended buffer areas between construction activities and observed nesting habitat shall be provided to the project engineer if the work is scheduled to occur near those locations while nesting is occurring (February 15 through August 31). The project engineer shall then consult with a California Department of Wildlife (CDFW) representative to determine appropriate protocols to avoid the immediate habitat of the bird.			pipeline path then construction of the reservoir and/or pipeline will halt until the Biological Monitor determines absence of either species. The Biological Monitor will establish recommended buffer areas between construction activities and observed nesting habitat if the work is scheduled to occur near those locations between February 15 through August 31.	
BIO-5	Coastal whiptails, western spadefoots, and other reptiles or amphibians potentially present within the Project impact areas will not be handled or touched, and rock outcrops and burrows will be avoided, as they may be habitat for sensitive species.	During construction activities or vegetation removal	CLWA and/or construction contractor	6. Construction contractor shall educate workers on the appearance and description of any reptiles or amphibians, particularly coastal whiptails and western spadefoots, potentially present within the Project impact areas. They will not be handled or touched, and rock outcrops and burrows will be avoided.	
BIO-6	Burrows large enough for coastal whiptails found within the Project area must be avoided during all proposed actions.	During construction activities or	CLWA and/or construction contractor	7. Construction contractor shall educate workers on the appearance and description of a burrow. Burrows large	

Mitigation Measure		Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
		vegetation removal		enough for coastal whiptails found within the Project area will be avoided.	
BIO-7	Ground and vegetation disturbance within the hillside area located in Central Park should be minimized. Crew(s) should drive and crush vegetation instead of removing, blading, grubbing, or cutting of vegetation. Crews should maximize the use of existing access roads or disturbed/developed areas to stage materials and equipment. Only construction equipment necessary for trenching, delivering, and installation of the reservoir and associated pipeline from the reservoir site to Central Park shall be used. • Crews will enter and exit the project site via the same trail/footpath. • Crews should avoid contact with any wildlife encountered and allow wildlife to escape the work area unharmed. All wildlife encounters and sightings shall be reported to the Biological Monitor.	During construction activities or vegetation removal within the hillside area	CLWA and/or construction contractor	8. Construction crews will use the same footpath/trail to each construction area. 9. Construction crews will minimize ground and vegetation disturbance within the hillside area located in Central Park by driving and crushing vegetation. 10. Limit the use of existing access roads or disturbed/developed areas for staging materials and equipment. 11. Construction crews will avoid contact with any wildlife encountered during construction and will report them to the Biological Monitor.	
Cultural Resources					
CUL-1a:	Prior to the start of ground disturbing activities, the CLWA project manager or their designee shall ensure that a qualified archaeologist or another mitigation program staff member has conducted cultural resources sensitivity training for all	Prior to excavation and construction activities	CLWA and/or construction contractor	1. The CLWA Project manager or their designee will ensure the qualified archaeologist has conducted cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction crew.	

Mitigation Measure	Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
construction workers involved in moving soil or working near soil disturbance.				
CUL-1b: Inadvertent Discoveries. During project-related construction and excavation activities, should subsurface archaeological resources be discovered, all activity in the vicinity of the find shall stop and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, the archaeologist shall determine, in consultation with CLWA and any local Native American groups (e.g., Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians) expressing interest for prehistoric resources, appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred means to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, rerouting or redesign, cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, such as data recovery or other	During excavation and construction activities	CLWA	2. The CLWA Project manager or their designee shall monitor excavations during construction. If subsurface archaeological resources are discovered, the CLWA Project manager or their designee will halt construction and contact a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. If find is determined to be significant, the archeologist will consult CLWA and any local Native American groups (e.g., Fenandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians) to determine appropriate avoidance measures or appropriate mitigation.	

Mitigation Measure		Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
	appropriate measures, in consultation with CLWA and Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians representatives expressing interest in prehistoric archaeological resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as a historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.				
CUL-2:	Prior to the start of any ground disturbing activities 5 feet below ground surface that involve native, undisturbed Holocene sediments in special areas as designated in an agreement with the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians or other Tribes as designated by NAHC, shall be notified of pending activities. A Native American monitor will be onsite during excavation activities in those special areas as indicated in the agreement.	Prior to excavation and during construction activities	CLWA and/or construction contractor	2. If excavation activities 5 feet below ground surface involve native, undisturbed Holocene sediments, the CLWA Project manager or their designee will notify the Fenandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. The CLWA Project manager or their designee will coordinate to ensure a Native American monitor will be onsite during excavation activities in those special areas.	
CUL-3:	If potential paleontological resources are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities for the pipeline or reservoir, work in that location shall be temporarily diverted and a qualified paleontologist shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. After the	During excavation and construction activities	CLWA and/or construction contractor	3. If subsurface paleontological resources are discovered, the CLWA Project manager or their designee will halt construction and contact the paleontologist or their designee to evaluate the find. Construction activities within the area may resume once the find is properly mitigated.	

Mitigation Measure	Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
find has been properly mitigated, work in the area may resume.				
Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
HAZ-1: Prior to commencement of construction activities within designated High Fire Hazard Zones, the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall be contacted regarding weed/brush removal in the project vicinity. All flammable weeds/brush within a radius specified by the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall be removed. During construction activities, the project site shall be equipped with fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to the satisfaction of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.	Prior to construction activities During construction activities	CLWA and construction contractor CLWA and construction contractor	1. The construction contractor will remove all flammable weeds/brush within a radius of the project vicinity, as specified by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. 2. The construction contractor will provide fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to the satisfaction of the Los Angeles Fire Department, and will provide instruction on possible fire risk and the use of fire extinguishers as part of required construction-related safety training.	
Transportation and Traffic				
TRAF-1: For proposed plan phases that may affect traffic, implementing agencies shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: • Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible. • To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of	Prior to issuance of construction permits	CLWA	1. Develop construction traffic control plan in consultation with the California Department of Transportation, Los Angeles County Fire Department and Los Angeles County Sherriff's Department.	

Mitigation Measure	Timing/ Schedule	Implementation Responsibility	Implementation and Verification Action	Date Completed
peak morning and evening commute hours. • Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones. • Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses, such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.				

Note: CLWA = Castaic Lake Water Agency.

APPENDIX B

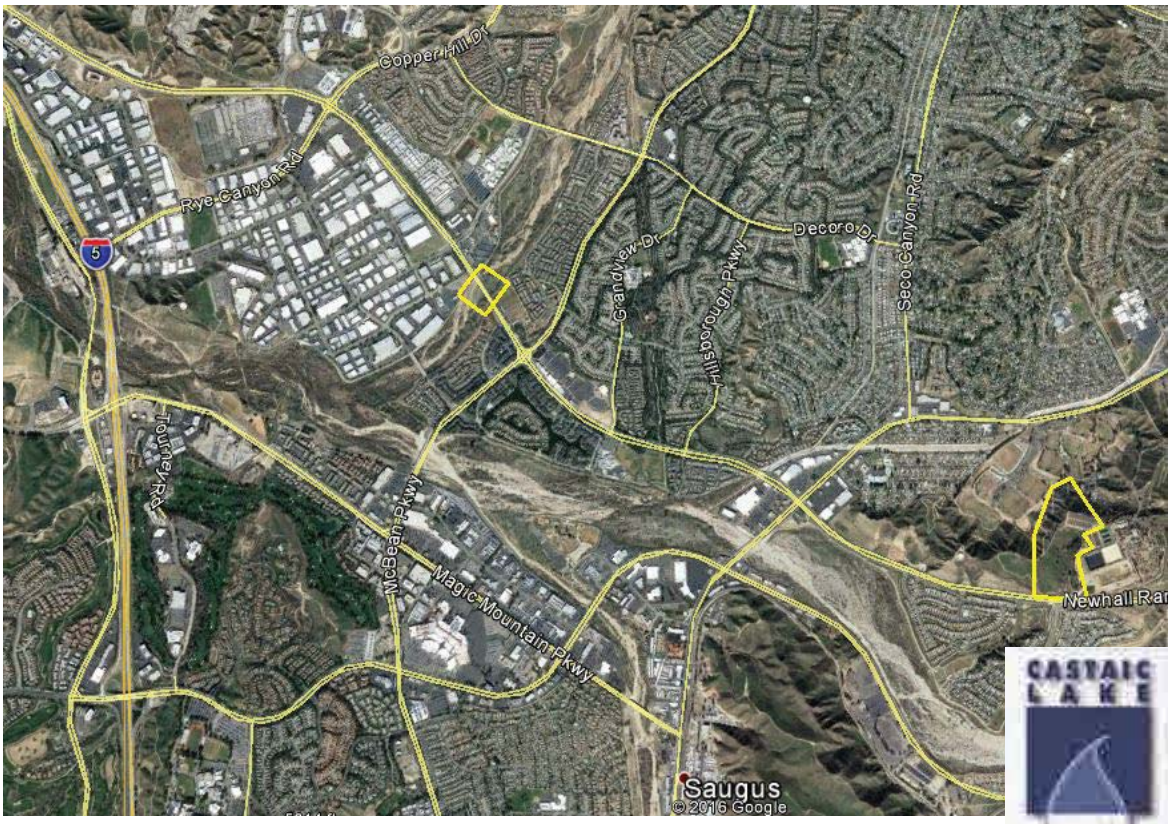
Castaic Lake Water Agency Recycled Water Program, Phase 2A - Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension Project Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Castaic Lake Water Agency

Recycled Water Program, Phase 2A

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared for

Castaic Lake Water Agency

Prepared by:

Meridian Consultants
910 Hampshire Road, Suite V
Westlake Village, CA 91361
(805) 367-5720 FAX (805) 367-5733

September 2017

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Phase 2A—Central Park

Recycled Water Main Extension

Prepared for:

Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, California 91350

Prepared by:

Meridian Consultants LLC
910 Hampshire Road, Suite V
Westlake Village, California 91361

September 2017

[This page intentionally left blank.]

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) has prepared this Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Phase 2A—Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension Project ("proposed Project").

In 2002, CLWA developed a Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) for the use of 17,400 acre-feet per year (afy) of recycled water from the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) system by 2030. CLWA previously completed the CEQA process and adopted the RWMP Program Environmental Impact Report ("2007 EIR") in March 2007.[1] The 2007 EIR analyzed potential environmental impacts from obtaining recycled water from the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). CLWA has prepared an updated Draft RWMP, which was released for public review in June 2016 ("2016 Draft RWMP Update"), followed by release for public review of the Draft Program EIR for the RWMP Update in October 2016 ("2016 DEIR").[2] All three documents have been incorporated by reference.

1.2 AUTHORITY

As part of the CLWA's approval process, the proposed Project is required to undergo an environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The preparation of an IS/MND is governed by CEQA[3] and, more specifically, by the State CEQA Guidelines,[4] which guide the process for the preparation of a Negative Declaration (ND) or MND. Where appropriate and supportive to an understanding of the issues, reference will be made to the statute, the State CEQA Guidelines, or the appropriate case law.

This IS, as required by CEQA, contains a project description; a description of the environmental setting; a discussion of potential environmental impacts; mitigation measures for any significant effects, an analysis of the proposed Project's consistency with plans and policies; and the names of preparers. CLWA is the lead agency for the proposed Project and, as such, is required to conduct an environmental review to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Project described in this IS. An MND is prepared for a project when the IS has identified mitigation measures to reduce

1 BonTerra Consulting, *Final Program Environmental Impact Report—Castaic Lake Water Agency Recycled Water Master Plan* (2007).

2 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants for the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA), *Draft Recycled Water Master Plan* (June 2016); CLWA, *Castaic Lake Water Agency Recycled Water Master Plan Update Draft Program* EIR (October 2016).

3 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15000, et seq., State CEQA Guidelines.

4 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15000, et seq.

potentially significant effects on the environment to less than significant. For those impacts that would not potentially affect the environment, the IS shows that no substantial evidence indicates the proposed Project would have significant environmental effects.

1.3 PROJECT HISTORY

1.3.1 Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements and Expansions

Two WRPs, the Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP, currently treat wastewater generated by residents in the City of Santa Clarita ("City") and unincorporated Los Angeles County. The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD), a consolidation of Sanitation Districts No. 26 and No. 32, provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVSD operates the Saugus and the Valencia WRPs. The plants produce high-quality, tertiary-disinfected recycled water, which is distributed for nonpotable reuse or discharged into the upper reaches of the Santa Clara River (under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System [NPDES] Order Nos. R4-~~2005-0031~~2015-0071 and R4-~~2005-0032~~2015-0072). The Saugus and Valencia WRPs have a design capacity of 28.1 million gallons per day (mgd). As described in the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (errata), ~~in 2015~~ the ~~plants~~WRPs ~~and currently~~ processed an average flow of ~~19.3~~18.4 mgd (13.3~~8~~ mgd from Valencia WRP and 5.1~~5~~ mgd from Saugus WRP) in 2015. In 2017, the average flows from the Valencia and Saugus WRPs were 5.02 and 13.13 mgd, respectively. The current capacity is sufficient to treat influent flows until approximately 2036, at which time planned expansion at the Valencia WRP would bring the total system treatment capacity to 34.1 mgd (38,190 afy).[5] No expansion is planned at the Saugus WRP.

Some of the planned future developments in the Santa Clarita Valley, such as the Westside Communities and Vista Canyon developments, intend to construct water reclamation facilities to produce tertiary-recycled water suitable for nonpotable reuse to offset potable demands. No excess recycled water from these water reclamation facilities is anticipated to be available to CLWA in the future. The Vista Canyon Water Factory is anticipated to come online in 2018 to treat flows from the planned Vista Canyon development[6] and would produce 0.39 mgd or 440 afy of disinfected tertiary-recycled water for use within the development, with excess supply available for nearby existing SCWD customers. The proposed Newhall Ranch WRP is anticipated to produce 3.75 mgd (4,200 afy)[7] of recycled water based

5 Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA), *2015 Urban Water Management Plan for Santa Clarita Valley [2015 UWMP]*, errata sec. 4.2.1 (adopted June 8, 2016), p. ~~4-3~~7.

6 CLWA, *2015 UWMP* (Adopted June 8, 2016), Table 4-2.

7 CLWA, *2015 UWMP* (Adopted June 8, 2016), Table 4-2.

on anticipated flows from the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan development at buildout (2034). Other Westside Communities would need recycled water supplies from the Valencia WRP.

Recycled Water Supply and Demand

As identified in the 2016 Draft RWMP Update, the proposed Project will use approximately 560 afy. This ~~which~~ represents approximately 3.~~6~~ 8 percent of current effluent levels from the Valencia WRP and 2.~~6~~8 percent of the total from the Valencia WRP and Saugus WRP.[8]

CLWA, Valencia Water Company (VWC), Newhall County Water District (NCWD), and CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD) are working together to accelerate expansion of the existing recycled water system (Phase 1A) to offset potable water demands and improve reliability. CLWA has constructed Phase IA of the 2002 RWMP, which is designed to deliver up to 1,600 afy of water to the VWC service area (Phase 1 as constructed currently delivers about 450-500 afy).[9] In 2015, recycled water deliveries were 450 af.

The existing contract (SCVSD Contract No. 3425 signed on July 24, 1996) is the basis for wholesaling recycled water in Santa Clarita Valley and makes 1,600 afy of recycled water from the Valencia WRP available to CLWA for purchase. ~~Contract No. 3118266 (signed on Oct 20, 2014) and Contract No. 3322936 (signed on July 23, 2015) served to temporarily increase the allotment for fiscal years 2014/15 and 2015/16, respectively, to 2,200 afy. This increase was attributed to the need for recycled water to be used for dust control for Newhall Ranch development construction activities.~~ CLWA will be required to comply with the eventual SCVSD baseline for required minimal flows discharged to the Santa Clara River as a result of the future studies and approved 1211 petition to divert discharges. A 1211 petition is required when a wastewater treatment plant makes changes to the discharge of treated wastewater. Future contracts, allotment increases, and/or amendments to the wholesaling contract with the SCVSD, including a new 1211 petition process, will need to be approved prior to the expansion of the recycled water system beyond 1,600 afy. The 1211 process will require the approval of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), which would condition any reduction in the quantity of discharged effluent that does not impact habitat that might be dependent on those flows.

SCVSD has prepared technical analyses showing that a minimum of 13 mgd (14,560 afy) of discharge to the Santa Clara River from the Valencia and Saugus WRP will be required to sustain biological

8 CLWA, *Draft 2016 RWMP Update* (June 2016), Table 6-3.

9 CLWA, *2015 UWMP* (adopted June 8, 2016), sec. 4.1, p. 4-1.

resources.[10] For the purpose of the 2016 Draft RWMP Update, that amount is assumed to be met by maintaining 8.5 mgd (9,520 afy) of discharge to the river at the Valencia WRP and 4.5 mgd (5,040 afy) of discharge at the Saugus WRP. Under the Facilities Plan and Final EIR, the SCVSD would be required to discharge at least 13 mgd of recycled water into the Santa Clara River, while some or all of the remaining supply would be made available to CLWA for reasonable and beneficial nonpotable use in accordance with State law and policy to maximize the use of recycled water.

The minimum discharge of 13 mgd to the Santa Clara River was previously determined to be an amount sufficient to avoid harm to biological resources in the Santa Clara River, including the unarmored three-spine stickleback, an endangered species (as designated under both the federal and State endangered species acts).[11]

Recycled water supplies can be affected by legal and regulatory factors as indicated in the recent March 9, 2016 Judgment entered by the Los Angeles Superior Court in *Affordable Clean Water Alliance v. Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District of Los Angeles* (Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BS145869). While the trial court decision affects the ability of the UWMP to specify how much recycled water will be available from the Valencia WRP, it appears reasonably likely that supplies will be available from that facility once a minimum discharge amount to the Santa Clara River is established according to further environmental and public review, as noted by the SCVSD.[12] This will be verified by the 1211 process.

From a long-term regional water supply planning perspective, recycled water supplies that are not obligated to be discharged to the river have been identified as supplies that could be available for nonpotable reuse within Santa Clarita Valley. Additional information regarding recent factors having the potential to affect the availability of recycled water supplies is provided below.

Recycled Water Program, Phase 2

The proposed Project is a part of the Phase 2 expansion of the recycled water system described in the 2016 Draft RWMP Update and 2016 DEIR. Phase 2 is planned to expand recycled water use within Santa Clarita Valley and consists of four projects currently in various stages of design. All of the available recycled water in the peak summer months is anticipated to be used to meet demands that including existing Phase 1 projects, Phase 2 expansions currently in design, planned developments (including Newhall Ranch and Vista Canyon) and future nearby customers served by extending the Phase 2 system.

---

10 Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, *Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report* (October 2013).

11 CLWA, *2015 UWMP,* p. 4-8.

12 CLWA, *2015 UWMP,* p. 4-8.

Four projects planned to expand recycled water use within Santa Clarita Valley, which are collectively known as Phase 2. Phase 2A, 2C and 2D would use recycled water from the Valencia WRP and Phase 2B would use recycled water produced at the Vista Canyon Water Factory, which is being constructed to treat flows from the planned Vista Canyon Development. Phase 2A would serve Central Park and customers along the path from the Valencia WRP to the park. Phase 2B would serve the proposed Vista Canyon Development and nearby irrigation customers. Phase 2C would serve Valencia Country Club, Vista Valencia Golf Course, College of the Canyons, California Institute of the Arts, Hart High School, and Newhall Elementary School. Phase 2D would serve West Ranch High School, Ranch Pico Junior High School and customers along the way. Anticipated annual demands, construction completion dates and purveyors for each phase are listed below:

- Existing Phase 1: 450 afy
- Phase 2A: 560 afy in 2024 (224 afy in SCWD and 336 afy in VWC)
- Phase 2B: 300 afy in 2018 (163 afy in SCWD and afy in Vista Canyon Development)
- Phase 2C: 1,374 afy in 2020 (208 afy in NCWD and 1,125 afy in VWC)
- Phase 2D: 186 afy in 2020 (186 afy in VWC)

In total, demand would be met by the Valencia WRP recycled water supply, less the 8.5 mgd discharge to the Santa Clara River, with a surplus of 3,230 afy in 2020 and 8,830 afy in 2050.[13]

1.4 ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The content and format of this IS/MND are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA. The IS/MND consists of the proposed findings that the project, as mitigated, would have no significant impacts. The IS/MND contains the following sections and supporting studies:

- **Section 1, *Introduction,*** identifies the purpose and scope of the IS/MND and the terminology used in the report.
- **Section 2, *Project Description,*** identifies the location, background, and planning objectives of the proposed Project and describes the proposed Project in detail.
- **Section 3, *Environmental Setting,*** describes the existing conditions, surrounding land use, general plan, and existing zoning in the proposed Project area.
- **Section 4, *Environmental Checklist,*** presents the checklist responses and evaluation for each resource topic.

13 CLWA, *Draft 2016 RWMP Update* (June 2016), Table 8-2.

- **Section 5, *Environmental Analysis,*** includes an analysis for each resource topic and identifies potential impacts of implementing the proposed Project. It also identifies mitigation measures, if applicable.
- **Section 6, *References,*** identifies all printed references and individuals citied in this IS/MND.
- **Section 7, *List of Preparers,*** identifies the individuals who prepared this report and their areas of technical specialty.
- Appendices present data supporting the analysis or contents of this IS/MND. These include:
  - **Appendix A**, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Modeling Data
  - **Appendix B.1**, Biological Resources Survey Report
  - **Appendix B.2**, Biological Resources Survey Update
  - **Appendix C**, Cultural Resource Report
  - **Appendix D**, Noise Measurement Data

1.5 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT IS/MND

CEQA requires that the lead agency provide the public and agencies the opportunity to review and comment on a Draft IS/MND. As outlined by CEQA, the CLWA is providing a 30-day period for review and comment on the Draft IS/MND. Upon completion of the public and agency review period, CLWA, as lead agency, will evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the Draft IS/MND and prepare written responses. CLWA will include these comments and responses in a Final MND, along with any changes that will be reviewed and considered for adoption by the CLWA Board of Directors.

Interested individuals, organizations, responsible agencies, and other agencies can provide written comments to:

Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
Contact: Rick Viergutz, Principal Water Resources Planner

Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (661) 705-7919 or by email to rviergutz@clwa.org. Please put “Phase 2A Recycled Water Project” in the subject line. Agency responses should include the name of a contact person within the commenting agency.

The Draft IS/MND is available for review at the following locations:

Castaic Lake Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, California 91350

County of Los Angeles Public Library, Valencia Branch
23743 Valencia Blvd.
Santa Clarita, California 91355

In addition, the Draft IS/MND is available on the CLWA's website at:

http://clwa.org/docs/

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROPOSED PROJECT

The Phase 2A—Central Park Recycled Water Main Extension was developed to offset nonpotable irrigation and residential demands from domestic drinking water to recycled water. The proposed Project will use recycled water from the Valencia WRP to serve existing customers within CLWA's service area.

A preliminary design report and an MND and environmental assessment (EA) were previously completed for Phase 2A from the Saugus WRP;[1] however, the project was delayed due to several obstacles, including permit requirements and dependences on other projects.

2.2.1 Water Demand and Availability Estimates

Water availability for the proposed Project has been determined based on the water available from the Valencia WRP. Water availability has taken into account demand requirements from the Valencia and Saugus WRPs for other uses, including a minimum 13 mgd discharge (8.5 mgd from Valencia and 4.5 mgd from Saugus WRPs) to the Santa Clara River to sustain biological resources, and identifies the water available for diversion to the proposed Project.

The proposed Project would convey up to an average annual demand of approximately 560 af of recycled water from the Valencia WRP to customers along Newhall Ranch Road and ultimately to Central Park. Details of the potential Phase 2A recycled water demands associated with landscape irrigation along each reach of the pipeline and major customers is presented in **Table 2.0-1, Potential Phase 2A Recycled Water Demands**.

1 CLWA, *Final Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment: Recycled Water Program, Phase 2A.* Prepared by Impact Sciences (June 2011).

Table 2.0-1
Potential Phase 2A Recycled Water Demands

Customer/Reach	Purveyor	Average Annual Demand (afy)
Rye Canyon Road Area	VWC	60.71
Valencia High School Area	VWC	66.95
Valencia Heritage Park Area	VWC	135.64
Bridgeport Park Area	VWC	68.27
River Village Area	VWC/SCWD	74.44
Central Park Area	SCWD	154.17
Total Demand		**560.19**

Notes: afy = acre-feet per year; gpm = gallons per minute. VWC = Valencia Water Company; SCWD = Santa Clarita Water, a Division of CLWA.

Two alignment options are proposed east of the Newhall Ranch Road/Bouquet Canyon intersection. Alignment Option 1 would supply recycled water along Bouquet Canyon Road, north of Newhall Ranch Road to Central Park; while Alignment Option 2 would supply recycled water east to River Village, which was approved with a recorded Parcel Tract/Map, and then north to Central Park.[2] The maximum daily recycled water demand would be 826 gallons per minute (gpm), including 144 gpm for River Village under the Alignment Option 2, and the maximum peak hourly demand would be 2,477 gpm. No developments are proposed along the proposed Project or two alignment options.

The average annual demand represents actual usage from 2013 meter data. The maximum day demand is calculated based on a peaking factor of 2.25. The peak hour demand, used to size conveyance facilities, is estimated based on the maximum day demand occurring over an 8-hour irrigation period per day. To appropriately meet the anticipated water demands associated with nonpotable water along each reach of the pipeline, the main transmission water pipeline would need have a minimum pipeline diameter of 24 inches.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project is located in the City of Santa Clarita, as shown in **Figure 2.0-1, Regional Location**. In addition, the proposed Project is located in the middle of the CLWA boundaries and service area. As shown in **Figure 2.0-2, CLWA Boundary and Service Area**, the CLWA service area encompasses approximately 195 square miles of land in incorporated and unincorporated areas in the Santa Clarita

2 Santa Clarita Valley Subdivision Activity Map (updated February 2014).

Valley area of Los Angeles County, as well as into eastern Ventura County. No components of the proposed Project would be located in Ventura County.

2.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As proposed, the 24-inch transmission pipeline would originate at the Valencia WRP at The Old Road and extend for approximately 5.25 miles, or up to 33,000 linear feet, along Rye Canyon Road and Newhall Ranch Road, as shown in **Figure 2.0-3, Project Site Alignment and Staging Areas.** At the Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon intersection, the proposed Project will continue in one of two directions to Central Park.

The first alternate direction would be north along Bouquet Canyon Road while the second alternate direction would be east along Newhall Ranch Road to the River Village development, then north to Central Park. Industrial and nonpotable irrigation demands adjacent to the alignment would be served by this pipeline. Anchor irrigation customers would be Valencia High School, Valencia Heritage Park, Bridgeport Park, and Central Park.

The 24-inch transmission pipeline would include isolation valves, air release valves, blow-off valves, recycled water service connections, and all other necessary appurtenances. All pipelines would be polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or ductile iron pipe (DIP), and would be installed using typical open trench cut and cover method, with a minimum cover of approximately five (5) feet with roadway pavement and native soils above the pipeline. Bedding and backfill material would be utilized to fill around and below the proposed recycled water pipeline. In addition to the recycled water pipeline, a pressure-release valve and wharf heads would be installed aboveground along the proposed alignment. The main transmission line would consist of 24-inch pipeline with smaller 16- and 12-inch transmission pipelines where needed. Distribution pipelines would be 6 to 8 inches.

The proposed Project would begin at the Valencia WRP where the 24-inch transmission pipeline would tee off the existing Phase 1A pipeline, and head approximately 100 feet southeast along The Old Road. At the intersection of The Old Road and Rye Canyon Road, the 24-inch transmission pipeline would turn 90 degrees to travel northeast along Rye Canyon Road. After approximately 300 feet, the 24-inch transmission pipeline would cross under Interstate 5 (I-5) Freeway within an open cell of the bridge for approximately 150 feet. Following the I-5 Freeway crossing, the transmission pipeline would continue along Rye Canyon Road for approximately 5,900 feet, or 1.12 miles, before reaching Newhall Ranch Road. Construction-staging areas 1 and 2 are located along Rye Canyon Road. At Newhall Ranch Road, the transmission pipeline would split and continue southeast along the right-hand side of Newhall Ranch Road and split north for 350 feet along Rye Canyon Road. There is an elevation gain of approximately 70 feet above mean sea level (amsl) from the Valencia WRP along Rye Canyon Road to Newhall Ranch Road.

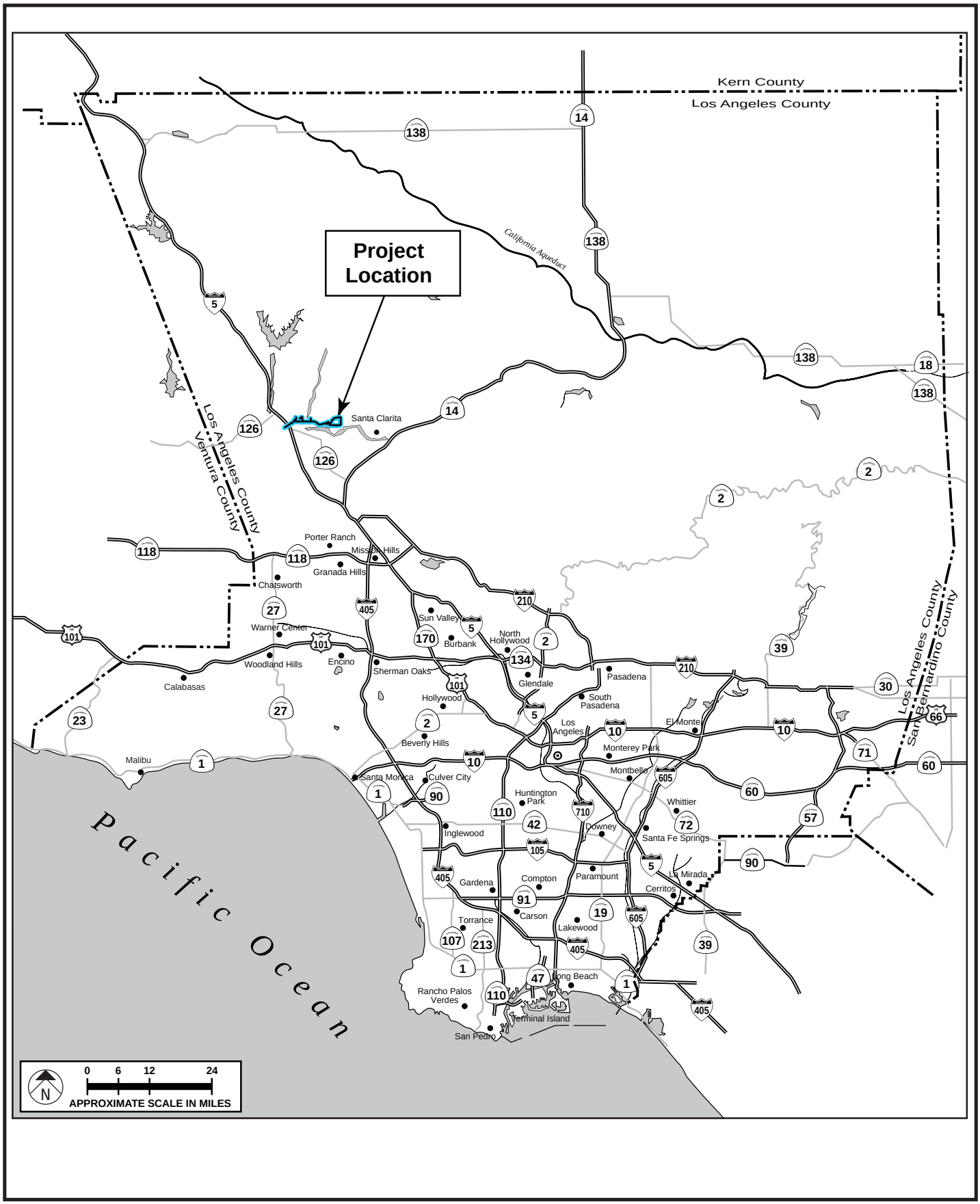
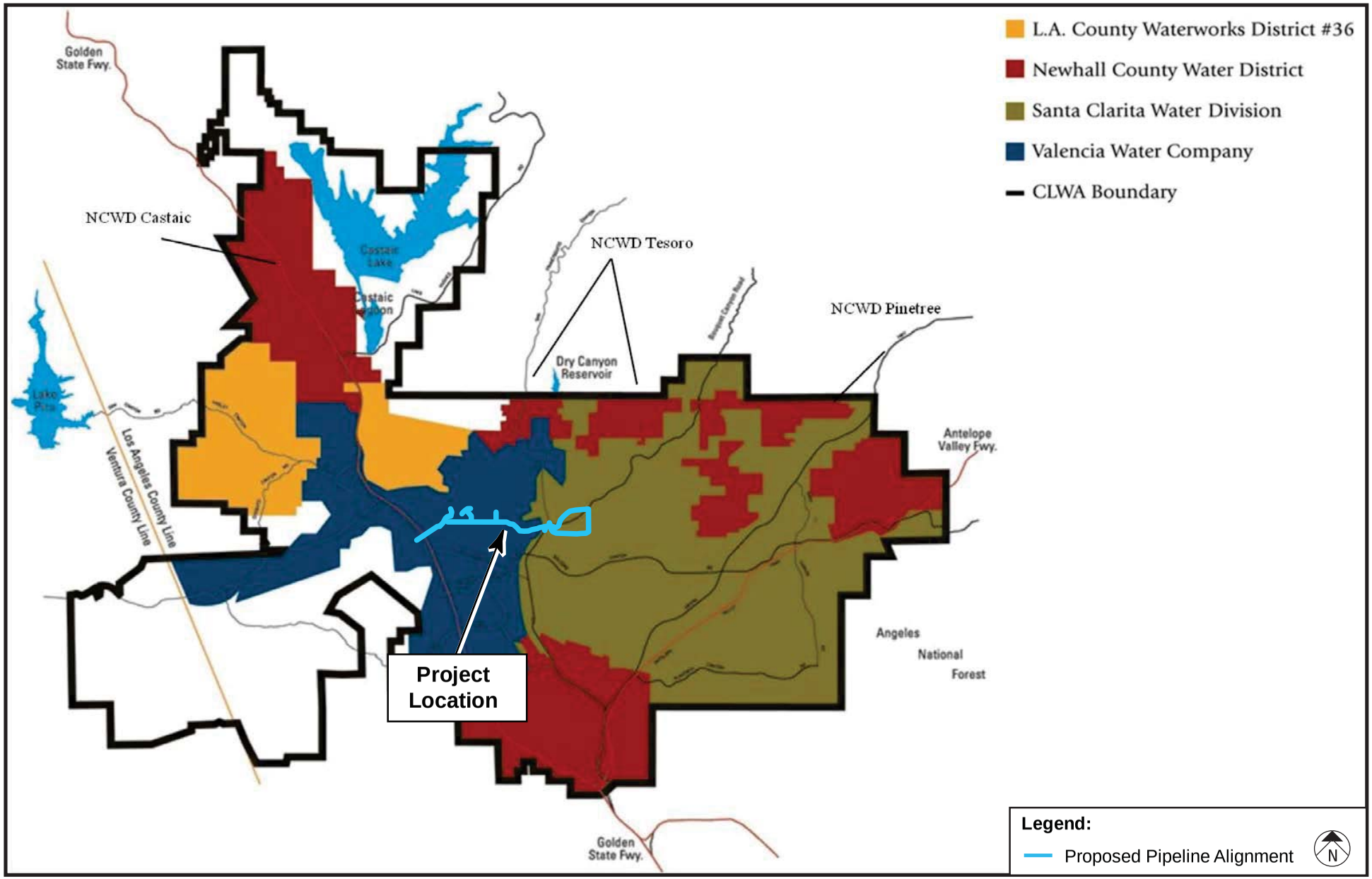


FIGURE **2.0-1**

Meridian Consultants

Regional Location

131-001-16



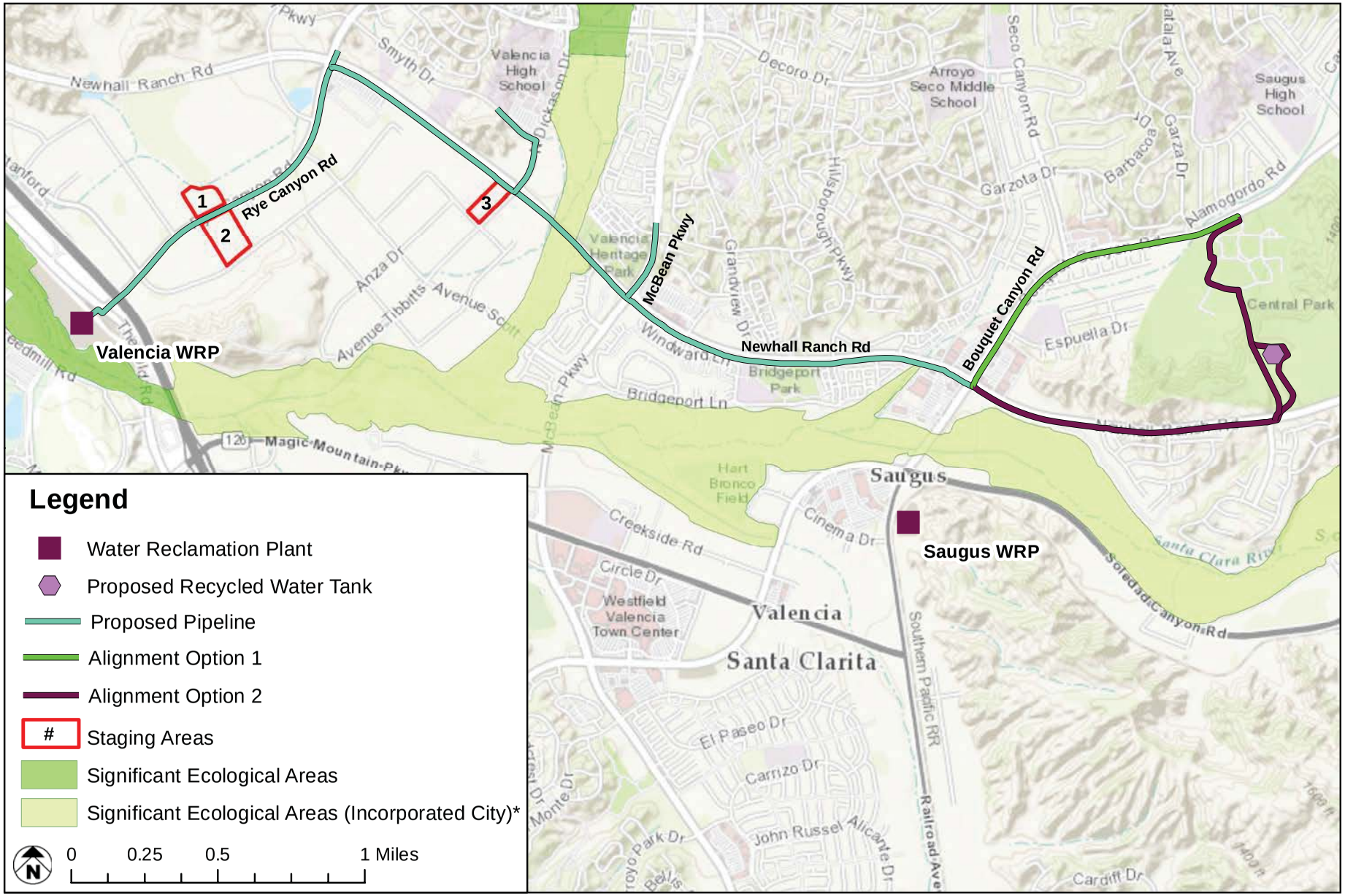
SOURCE: Source: Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2010 Urban Water Management Plan - Final, June 2011.

FIGURE **2.0-2**

Meridian Consultants

CLWA Boundary and Service Area

131-001-16



SOURCE: CLWA - June 2016

FIGURE **2.0-3**

Meridian Consultants

Project Site Alignment and Staging Areas

131-001-16

The transmission pipeline would continue for approximately 3,900 feet, or 0.75 miles, from Rye Canyon Road to the corner of Newhall Ranch Road and Avenue Tibbetts where the proposed staging area 3 is located (as discussed further below). From this point, the transmission pipeline would split and head north towards Valencia High School. The pipeline would continue approximately 1,000 feet northeast in the center of Dickason Drive before reaching the middle of the intersection at Smyth Drive, then turn west and travel approximately 900 feet through the center of Smyth Drive.

The main transmission pipeline would travel southeast from the split at the intersection of Avenue Tibbitts along the right-hand side of the Newhall Ranch Road for approximately 800 feet before reaching San Francisquito Creek. The pipeline would need to cross approximately 700 feet of the San Francisquito Creek. CLWA would either hang the transmission pipeline across Newhall Ranch Road Bridge or install the transmission pipeline within an open cell of the bridge.

Following the San Francisquito Creek crossing, the 24-inch transmission pipeline would travel approximately 1,200 feet to the intersection of McBean Parkway and Newhall Ranch Road. The 24-inch transmission pipeline would travel approximately 90 feet along the southern side of the intersection before another 16-inch transmission pipeline would split off and travel northeast along McBean Parkway. The 24-inch transmission line would cross through the intersection and then traverse to the northern side of Newhall Ranch Road.

The 24-inch transmission pipeline would continue along Newhall Ranch Road for approximately 1 mile before reaching the Bouquet Canyon Channel. The transmission pipeline would cross the approximate 200 feet of bridge by suspension.

From the east side of the channel, the 24-inch transmission pipeline would continue along Newhall Ranch Road for about 1,000 feet to the south corner of the intersection of Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon Road. From here, the proposed Project would utilize one of two alignments as described below.

Segment Alignment Option 1: Newhall Ranch Road at Bouquet Canyon Road North to Central Park. From the intersection of Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon Road, the 24-inch transmission pipeline would travel approximately 1,600 feet northeast along the eastern side of Bouquet Canyon Road before crossing the Bouquet Canyon Channel. The pipeline would be suspended for the entirety of the bridge for approximately 150 feet. It would then continue along Bouquet Canyon Road for approximately 3,300 feet, or 0.6 miles, prior to cross Bouquet Canyon Channel. The pipeline would also be suspended for the entirety of the bridge for approximately 170 feet. Following the bridge crossing, the pipeline would continue approximately 800 feet to Central Park.

There is an elevation gain along this alignment option of approximately 70 feet amsl, from approximately 1,170 feet amsl to approximately 1,240 feet amsl.

Segment Alignment Option 2: Newhall Ranch Road at Bouquet Canyon Road East to River Village, north to Central Park. The second alignment option would extend east along Newhall Ranch Road from the Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon Road intersection for approximately 1.5 miles. The transmission pipeline would ascend in elevation from approximately 1,350 feet amsl to 1,425 feet amsl. The alignment would follow the west boundary of the CLWA Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (WTP) for approximately 1,600 feet before descending approximately 500 feet downhill Central Park, as shown in **Figure 2.0-3**. The transmission pipeline would follow an existing roadway in the soccer fields for approximately 550 feet, follow the roundabout for approximately 500 feet northeast, then travel through the existing parking lot for approximately 1,000 feet to the entrance to Central Park.

This alignment option would serve River Village (south of Central Park) and would provide recycled water for landscape irrigation of local street medians and a portion of the River Village Homeowners Association irrigation demands.

2.3.1 Recycled Water Storage Tank

A recycled water storage tank would also be included for the Alignment Option 2 segment. The tank would be located at the Rio Vista WTP. The tank would include inlet and outlet piping; valves; storm drains; an access manway; a water level indicator; a paved access area; and all other necessary site improvements and appurtenances. If this option is not utilized, then a booster pump station along the pipeline route at the River Village connection point may be required to provide sufficient pressure to serve Central Park and the other users.

Construction

For all proposed pipeline construction, the pipelines would be constructed using traditional cut-and-cover methods over the entire length. The proposed pipeline would be installed with an excavator that would excavate a 5-foot-wide by 5-foot-deep trench and temporarily store the removed soils along the trench. Work crews would place the pipe in the trench, which would be backfilled by a loader or backhoe, and then compacted to match the existing grade. The temporary disturbance zone associated with pipe installation would be about 10 feet wide. The road would be restored to preconstruction conditions after pipe installation and trench backfill.

Construction would last approximately 9 months, with approximately 150 linear feet of pipeline constructed each day. Construction of the proposed Project is expected to begin in mid-2023.

Work would likely be coordinated with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works to ensure adequate traffic control measures along the main roadways west of I-5. Work within the City would be coordinated with the City of Santa Clarita Public Works Department. Pipeline construction would occur between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Pipeline installation operations would include two backhoes, one dump truck, two excavators, one crane, one welder, and one compaction machine. Operation-related trips would generate up to 2 vehicle trips per day for the proposed pipeline infrastructure.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction equipment would need to be stored at the end of each day. The proposed Project has proposed three (3) staging areas, as shown on **Figure 2.0-3**.

Staging Area 1

Staging area 1 is located on the north side of Rye Canyon Road, approximately 0.3 miles from the Valencia WRP. The area is approximately five (5) acres in size within Southern California Edison (SCE) property that would require easements prior to use. The area is composed of exposed soil; vegetation consisting of ornamental landscaping; and electric poles and wires. The site is fenced on all sides, except for an existing building along the western boundary of the site. A construction grate is located at the entrance to help prevent contamination and erosion. Additionally, there are four (4) electrical and/or telephone poles on the site.

Staging Area 2

The second staging area is approximately 11 acres in size and located directly south of staging area 1, south of Rye Canyon Road. This area also belongs to SCE and would require easements to gain access. The vegetation consists of soil and vegetation. There are seven (7) electric and/or telephone poles on the site and it is fenced on all four (4) sides.

Staging Area 3

Staging area 3 is located at the corner of Newhall Ranch Avenue and Avenue Tibbitts. It is approximately 5 acres in size and consists of a combination of soil and vegetation. There is a 4-foot-high, three-rail wooden fence separating the bike trail and the lot on the northeast side, and a chain-link fence along the southern side adjacent to Avenue Tibbitts. The other sides remain unfenced.

All construction staging areas would be located above the high-water mark for San Francisquito Creek and would include best management practice measures (hay bales) to ensure no fuels or oils enter into San Francisquito Creek.

2.4 OTHER PUBLIC AGENCY–REQUIRED APPROVALS

The proposed Project would occur in the public roadway right-of-way. An encroachment permit from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works would be required prior to construction of the pipeline. An encroachment permit from the City of Santa Clarita Department of Public Works would also be required. A recycled water project permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be required. Other permits that would be required for the proposed Project—that could be the contractor's responsibility—are a General Construction Storm Water Permit from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Trenching and Excavation Permit from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

The following approvals and actions are required:

- Adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Southern California Edison encroachment permits for the construction-staging areas

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Project Site is located in the Santa Clarita Valley in Los Angeles County, approximately 35 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The Santa Clarita Valley is surrounded by the Angeles National Forest to the north and west, the San Gabriel Mountains to the east, and the Santa Susana Mountains to the south. The Project Site crosses under the Interstate 5 Freeway (I-5) into unincorporated Los Angeles County along Rye Canyon Road and extends to the east.

The Project Site is located within existing easements in the public right-of-way and would extend for approximately five (5) miles, beginning at the Valencia WRP and heading east to end at Central Park. The pipeline would align along Old Road, Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, and Bouquet Canyon Road. Three construction staging areas would be included as part of the Project Site: one north and one south of Rye Canyon Road between I-5 and Newhall Ranch Road; and one south of Newhall Ranch Road adjacent to Avenue Tibbitts.

The Old Road is classified as a Major Highway from Hasley Canyon Road to Lyons Avenue, the entirety of Rye Canyon Road and Newhall Ranch Road is classified as Major Highways, and Bouquet Canyon Road from Plum Canyon Road to Magic Mountain Parkway is classified as a Major Highway.[1]

Currently, The Old Road between Hasley Canyon Road and Lyons Avenue is four lanes. However, at full build-out of the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (SCVAP), this section would be improved to a six-lane roadway. Rye Canyon Road is a six-lane roadway with no planned improvements. Newhall Ranch Road is four lanes from Rye Canyon Road to Avenue Tibbitts, six lanes to McBean Parkway, seven lanes to Bouquet Canyon Road, and four lanes to Santa Clarita Parkway. At full build-out of the SCVAP, Newhall Ranch Road from Rye Canyon Road to Bouquet Canyon Road would be expanded to eight lanes, including widening the bridge over the San Francisquito Creek, and it would be expanded to six lanes to Santa Clarita Parkway. Bouquet Canyon Road is five lanes from Santa Clarita Parkway and Seco Canyon Road, six lanes to Espuella Drive, and eight lanes to Newhall Ranch Road. At full build-out of the SCVAP, Bouquet Canyon Road from Santa Clarita Parkway to Seco Canyon Road would be expanded to six lanes, and to Espuella Drive would be expanded to eight lanes, including a bridge widening.[2]

All roadways are paved, and most sections include a landscaped median strip separating each direction of travel.

1 City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita General Plan*, Circulation Element, Table C-2, 2011.
2 City of Santa Clarita, *Santa Clarita General Plan,* Circulation Element, Table C-3, 2011.

3.1.1 Pipeline

The majority of the areas adjacent to the pipeline alignment are disturbed due to either commercial, residential, or public facilities development. Topography along the proposed Project pipeline alignment ranges from approximately 1,060 to 1,175 feet above mean sea level (amsl). Topography along Alignment Option 1 ranges from 1,175 to 1,270 feet amsl, and topography ranges from 1,175 to 1,400 feet amsl on Alignment Option 2.

Soils along the alignment consist primarily of compacted fill.[3] San Francisquito Creek and Bouquet Canyon Channel bisect the proposed Project once, and Bouquet Canyon Channel bisects Alignment Option 1 two additional times. Flow generally flows south as along San Francisquito Creek and Bouquet Canyon Channel and then west within the Santa Clara River. The Project Area is largely located in commercial and urban areas dominated by ornamental and ruderal vegetation communities. Areas of native vegetation communities are restricted to San Francisquito Creek and Central Park.

Land Uses

Commercial uses are located on either side of Rye Canyon Road and along the first approximately 1.25 miles of Newhall Ranch Road. For the next approximately 0.50 miles of Newhall Ranch Road, there is commercial development to the north and residential development to the south, which then transitions to mostly residential and park areas. Commercial development is located north and south of Newhall Ranch Road adjacent to Bouquet Canyon.

Alignment Option 1 has commercial uses along Bouquet Canyon north of Newhall Ranch Road, followed by residential uses and commercial uses, and gradually transitions into a mix of open space and residential.

Alignment Option 2 has commercial uses north of Newhall Ranch Road, then transitions to open space and residential uses before turning north to the Rio Vista Water Treatment Facility and open space adjacent to the east of Central Park, and finally terminating in Central Park.

Land Use Designations

The existing land use designations along the proposed Project alignment include Public/Institutional (PI), Business Park (BP), and Specific Plan (SP).[4]

3 US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm.

4 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Maps, Land Use Policy Map (2012), http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-land-use-map.pdf.

Alignment Option 1 land use designations are Community Commercial (CC), Urban Residential 2 (5.0 dwelling units/acre), and Open Space (OS).

Alignment Option 2 land use designations are Community Commercial (CC), Open Space (OS), and Urban Residential 3 (11.0 dwelling units/acre).[5]

The California Government Code exempts the development of water infrastructure projects initiated by water agencies from County and City building and zoning ordinances.[6]

3.1.2 Staging Area 1

Staging area 1 is located on the north side of Rye Canyon Road, approximately 0.50 miles from the beginning of the proposed pipeline alignment. The staging area is approximately 5 acres in size and is generally flat, with mostly dirt and little to no shrubbery. There are also four (4) electrical and/or telephone poles on the site.

The land use and zoning designation for this area is BP.[7]

3.1.3 Staging Area 2

Staging area 2 is located south of Rye Canyon Road and staging area 1, approximately 0.50 miles from the beginning of the proposed pipeline alignment. This staging area, which is owned by Southern California Edison, is approximately 11 acres in size and has little to no vegetation. There are seven (7) electric and/or telephone poles on the site, which is fenced on all four (4) sides.

The land use and zoning designation for this area is BP.[8]

3.1.4 Staging Area 3

Staging area 3 is located at the corner of Newhall Ranch Road and Avenue Tibbitts. It is approximately 5 acres and consists of patchy grass and dirt. There is a wooden fence separating the bike trail and the lot on the northeast side, and a wall or fence along the northwest side. The remaining sides are unfenced.

The land use and zoning designation for this area is BP.[9]

---

5 City of Santa Clarita, Zoning Map, http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=7458 (Adopted June 2011).
6 California Government Code. sec. 53091(d) and (e).
7 *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*, Maps, Land Use Policy Map (2012), http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-land-use-map.pdf.
8 *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan,* Maps, Land Use Policy Map (2012), http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-land-use-map.pdf.
9 *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan,* Maps, Land Use Policy Map (2012), http://planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/project/ovov_2012-land-use-map.pdf.

3.2 APPLICABLE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

3.2.1 City of Santa Clarita General Plan

The City's General Plan provides procedures for future growth within the City, emphasizing the preservation of natural resources. The General Plan Policies and goals serve as a basis for local decision making, and establishes a clear set of development guidelines for citizens, developers, neighboring jurisdictions and agencies, and provides the community with an opportunity to participate in the planning process. The General Plan and its various elements are required to function as an integrated, internally consistent, and compatible statement of policies regarding land use and development.

3.2.2 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan

The SCVAP is a is a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan and provides focused goals, policies, and maps to guide the regulation of development within the unincorporated portions of the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVAP is a long-term blueprint for development over the next 20-year planning period. The SCVAP is the culmination of a unique cooperative effort between the County of Los Angeles ("County") and the City of Santa Clarita ("City"), which worked together to create a unified vision for the Santa Clarita Valley. The Santa Clarita City Council and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors initiated this joint planning effort, called One Valley One Vision, in recognition of a mutual need to coordinate land uses and the pace of development with the provision of adequate infrastructure, conservation of natural resources, and common objectives for the Santa Clarita Valley. Major goals of the One Valley One Vision joint planning effort were to achieve greater cooperation between the County and the City; coordinate planning for roadways, infrastructure, and resource management; and enhance quality of life for all who live and work in the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVAP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 27, 2012. The SCVAP amendment and related zone changes took effect on December 27, 2012.[10]

3.2.3 Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is responsible for the management of air quality in the South Coast Air Basin ("Basin"). The 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) represents a regional blueprint for achieving healthful air on behalf of the 16 million residents of the South Coast Air Basin. The primary task of the 2016 AQMP was to bring the Basin into attainment with federal health-based standards for unhealthful fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 2014; however, the SCAQMD has a reasonable expectation of meeting the 2023 ozone deadline.

The 2016 AQMP addresses several State and federal planning requirements, incorporating new scientific information, primarily in the form of updated emissions inventories, ambient measurements, and new meteorological air quality models. It builds on the approaches taken in the 2012 AQMP for the Basin for

10 *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan* (2012).

attainment of federal particulate matter and ozone standards, and highlights the significant amount of reductions needed and the need to engage in interagency coordinated planning to identify additional strategies, especially in the area of mobile sources, to meet all federal criteria pollutant standards within the timeframes allowed under the federal Clean Air Act.[11]

3.2.4 CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan Update

In 2002, CLWA developed a Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) for the use of 17,400 acre-feet per year (afy) of recycled water from the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) system by 2030. The Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) Update expands upon and updates the prior RWMP to provide recycled water to customers within the boundaries of the CLWA service area. CLWA has prepared an updated Draft RWMP, which was released in June 2016, followed by release for public review of the 2016 DEIR. The RWMP aims at reducing the present and future demands on potable water supplies by integrating recycled water in the Santa Clarita Valley.

3.2.5 CLWA Urban Water Management Plan

An Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) guides the actions of water management agencies within the CLWA service area. The 2015 UWMP for the CLWA service area includes four retail water purveyors: the SCWD, Valencia Wastewater Company, Newhall County Water District, and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 36. Together, CLWA and the purveyors are the Santa Clarita Valley's "water suppliers." The 2015 UWMP was adopted by the CLWA Board of Directors on June 8, 2016. The 2015 UWMP includes estimations of potential supply and demand for 2020 through 2050 in 5-year increments. The projected water demand in 2050 for the CLWA service area is approximately 93,900 acre-feet per year.[12]

3.2.6 Natural River Management Plan

The Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) was approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and requires all projects to be in compliance with specific avoidance, minimization, mitigation, and monitoring measures to protect the water quality, aquatic and riparian natural habitats, and sensitive bird and wildlife specifies within the plan area along the Santa Clara River.[13]

11 South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan* (March 2017).

12 *2015 Santa Clarita Valley Urban Water Management Plan,* Public Draft (April 2016), http://clwa.org/docs/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/DRAFT-2015-Urban-Water-Management-Plan.pdf.

13 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and United States Army Corps of Engineers, *Natural River Management Plan* (1998).

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.1 SUMMARY

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines,[1] an Initial Study is a preliminary environmental analysis that is used by the lead agency as a basis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a Mitigated Negative Declaration, or a Negative Declaration is required for a project. The State CEQA Guidelines require that an Initial Study contain a project description; a location map; a description of the environmental setting; an identification of environmental effects by checklist or other similar form; an explanation of environmental effects; a discussion of mitigation for potentially significant environmental effects; an evaluation of the project's consistency with existing, applicable land use controls; and the names of persons who prepared the study. In addition, the Initial Study includes additional environmental requirements in compliance with federal environmental laws.

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

1 California Code of Regulations, tit. 14, sec. 15063.

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and is eligible for a Categorical Exemption.
☐	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 _____

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section provides an evaluation of the various topics considered for environmental review.

1. A brief explanation for the determination of significance is provided for all impact determinations except "No Impact" determinations that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Agency (Castaic Lake Water Agency) cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" determination is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the proposed project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" determination 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. Explanations 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 indicates 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.

4. "Mitigated 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.

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

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

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or

outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

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

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

9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

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

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

5.1 AESTHETICS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS – 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 the site and its surroundings?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d.	Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a. **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.**

Scenic resources typically include natural open spaces, topographic formations, and landscapes that contribute to a high level of visual quality. They also can include ridgelines, parks, trails, nature preserves, sculpture gardens, and similar features. Views of oak, willow, and rivers and streams are identified in the Santa Clarita General Plan (SCGP) as a scenic view to its residents and visitors of Santa Clarita.[1] The Project Site begins within unincorporated Los Angeles County and then traverses west to east through the center of the City of Santa Clarita. The proposed Project would traverse a portion of San Francisquito Creek and Bouquet Canyon Channel with two more crossings of Bouquet Canyon Channel under alignment option 1. Although currently dry, both San Francisquito Creek and Bouquet Canyon Channel flow into the Santa Clara River, which is considered a scenic water body.[2] Additionally, alignment option 2 would traverse through a ridgeline as identified on the Hillsides and Ridgelines map in the SCGP.

The Project Site is located within the Santa Clara Watershed, watershed number 18070102.[3] The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was created to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural,

1 *Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Conservation and Open Space Element" (2011), pp. CO-52–56.

2 *Santa Clarita General Plan,* "Conservation and Open Space Element" (2011), Figure CO-1: Hillsides and Ridgelines, p. CO-7.

3 US Geological Survey (USGS), *Science in your Watershed* (2014), https://water.usgs.gov/wsc/map_index.html. Accessed July 2017.

cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.[4] According to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System,[5] the proposed Project is approximately 19 miles from the closest wild and scenic river, which is a portion of Piru Creek.[6] Therefore, the proposed Project would not impact a designated Wild and Scenic River and impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed Project would involve the underground installation of a 24-inch water pipeline extension along Rye Canyon Road and Newhall Ranch Road, with the possibility of extending along Bouquet Canyon Road or through the hillside adjacent to the east of Central Park. The construction of the proposed pipeline would be short term in nature and the construction equipment would be stored at one of the staging areas overnight. The temporary use of the construction staging areas would also be short term in nature and would not block or obstruct views of the surrounding hillsides. The elevations of the surrounding mountains, as indicated in the SCGP and SCVAP, would remain to provide a scenic backdrop to the County and City residents without detriment from development of the proposed pipeline extension and along Alignment Option 1.[7]

Alignment Option 2 would extend the proposed transmission line along Newhall Ranch Road, east of Bouquet Canyon Road, and then north to the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (RVWTP) and would include the construction of a reservoir. The construction of the reservoir would be located at an elevation zone of 1,430 amsl. As a result, potential impacts to the existing character of the hillside would occur.

To minimize potentially significant impacts, Mitigation Measure **AES-1.a** would ensure that the roadways would be repaired and restored upon completion of the construction activities, consistent with the requirements of the encroachment permits from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and City of Santa Clarita Public Works Engineering Services division. Construction of the reservoir would be adjacent to existing reservoirs within the RVWTP, would be designed consistent with the existing reservoirs, and would utilize the existing graded area and access roads. Mitigation Measure **AES-1.b** would reduce potential impacts to scenic vistas with implementation of a landscape plan for the reservoir. Mitigation Measure **AES-2** would also reduce impacts by eliminating reflective surfaces to ensure a natural blend with the surrounding environment. Views of scenic vistas would remain largely unchanged. Additionally, the elevations of the surrounding mountains, as indicated in the SCGP and

4 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, About the WSR Act, https://www.rivers.gov/wsr-act.php. Accessed July 2017.
5 Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.
6 National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. https://www.rivers.gov. Accessed July 2017.
7 *Santa Clarita General Plan,* "Conservation and Open Space Element" (2011), Figure CO-1: Hillsides and Ridgelines, p. CO-7.

SCVAP, would remain to provide a scenic backdrop to the County and City residents without detriment from development of the proposed water pipeline extension and reservoir construction. Impacts from the proposed Project to scenic vistas would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures shall be implemented.

AES-1 a) Following construction activities, CLWA shall attempt to restore disturbed areas ground surface areas to preexisting conditions to the maximum extent practicable by repaving roadways, replanting trees, and/or reseeding with a native seed mix typical of the immediate surrounding area.

b) During facility design, CLWA shall prepare a landscape plan for the reservoir. The landscape plan shall include measures to restore disturbed areas by reestablishing existing topography, including replanting trees and/or reseeding with a native seed mix typical of the immediately surrounding area. The landscape plan shall include a required seed mix and plant palette. Vegetation screening shall be included in the landscape plan in order to shield proposed aboveground facilities from public view. Following construction, CLWA shall restore the vegetation removed as a result of construction activities. CLWA shall monitor the emergent vegetation to ensure that the restoration is successful. If the plants fail to recover within 2 years, CLWA shall develop and implement a restoration plan to ensure the area is fully restored.

AES-2 Above-ground facilities exteriors, including the reservoir, shall be finished with a non-reflective material in an earth tone that blends in with the natural environment.

b. No Impact.

The nearest eligible scenic highway is the Interstate 5 (I-5), which runs north-south, and is listed as "Eligible State Scenic Highways-Not Officially Designated" from the where Interstate 210 meets I-5 to where State Route 126 meets I-5. The proposed Project would be located underneath I-5 along Rye Canyon Road. Construction may be visible on either side of the I-5 Freeway; however, operation of the proposed Project would not be visible from the I-5 and, as such, would not impact trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway.[8] No significant impacts to scenic resources within a scenic highway would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

8 Department of Transportation, "California Scenic Highway Mapping System," http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm. Accessed July 2017.

c. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Trenching and pipeline connection activities would last for approximately 9 months, and as such, would be temporary and short-term in nature. Storage of construction equipment at the staging areas would include temporary fencing, as appropriate, for security. The short-term storage of equipment would not obstruct or block views of scenic resources including views of surrounding hillsides. As noted previously, Mitigation Measure **AES-1.a** would ensure the roadway would be repaired and restored upon completion of construction activities, similar to existing conditions, for both Alignment Option 1 and Alignment Option 2. Pipeline construction-related aesthetic impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Alignment Option 2 would include the construction of a reservoir on the hillside adjacent to the RVWTP. The construction of the reservoir tank has the potential to effect scenic resources, such as trees and vegetation in open space areas. Mitigation Measure **AES-1.b** would reduce potential impacts to scenic vistas with implementation of a landscape plan for the reservoir. With implementation of mitigation, impacts to the visual character or quality of the area would be less than significant.

The proposed 24-inch PVC or DIP water pipeline would connect to the existing Valencia WRP and would extend from northeast beneath Rye Canyon Road and Newhall Ranch Road with the possibility of Bouquet Canyon Road before reaching the end point at Central Park. The water line would be located below ground within the public roadway right-of-way and would not visible. The reservoir associated with Alignment Option 2 would be landscaped, painted with low reflective paint that blends with the surrounding environment as described in Mitigation Measure **AES-2**, and replaces any removed trees and/or vegetation. Therefore, impacts to the existing visual characteristic and quality of the site and surroundings would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure **AES-1.a**, **AES-1.b**, and **AES-2** shall be implemented.

d. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Glare is generated during the day from reflective surfaces. Light pollution occurs when nighttime views of the stars and sky are diminished by an over-abundance of light coming from the ground. Construction activities would take place during daylight hours, typically between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Potential glare generated during construction activities would be consistent with existing vehicle traffic traveling along the roadways. The proposed pipeline would be located within existing roadway right-of-way and would not generate glare during operation. Therefore, glare impacts related to the proposed pipeline would be less than significant.

Glare impacts associated with the reservoir could occur with implementation of Alignment Option 2. As previously discussed, Mitigation Measure **AES-1.b** requires a landscape plan around the proposed reservoir and Mitigation Measure **AES-2** requires the use of low-reflective and camouflaging paint colors. These measures would reduce impacts associated with glare to less than significant.

As previously discussed, no construction activities would occur during nighttime hours. There would be no permanent light or glare upon completion of the proposed Project from the pipeline as it would be located beneath the paved street. The reservoir tank may be equipped with motion-detection lighting for security in accordance with Mitigation Measure **AES-3**. These lights would be directed downward and would only be triggered upon movement around the reservoir. The effect of the lighting would be periodic. Therefore, nighttime lighting impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure **AES-1.b** and **AES-2** shall be implemented, in addition to the following.

AES-3 Any necessary security lighting during construction or operation of planned facilities shall be designed to be consistent with City and County zoning codes and applicable design guidelines and to minimize glare to adjacent areas. Construction activities shall be restricted to daytime hours on residential streets. If nighttime construction is required, temporary lighting must be directed onto the worksite and avoid any spill-over light or glare onto adjacent properties. Any construction activities near the Santa Clara River, temporary lighting must be directed onto the worksite and avoid any spill-over light or glare onto the riparian vegetation.

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – 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 nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c.	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e.	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. No Impact.

Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, and Bouquet Canyon Road are not currently used for agricultural operations. In addition, the three construction staging areas are primarily vacant areas with minimal vegetation. According to the California Department of Conservation "Los Angeles County Important Farmland 2014" map, the proposed staging areas, pipeline alignments, and reservoir under Alignment Option 2 are designated as "Grazing Land" or "Urban and Built-Up Land."[9] The Project Site is not designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance. Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

9 California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Land Resource Protection, "Los Angeles County Important Farmland 2014" (April 2016,) http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html. Accessed July 2017.

b. No impact.

As identified in **Figure 2.0-3, Project Site Alignment and Staging Areas**, none of the staging areas, proposed transmission pipeline, and reservoir site are zoned for agricultural uses. As discussed in **Section 3.0, Environmental Setting**, the Project Site is zoned for commercial, industrial, institutional, and open space uses and the proposed pipeline transmission and reservoir would not conflict with the existing zoning designations. The use of the property to store construction equipment would be temporary and would not result in a permanent conflict with the existing zoning designation. Therefore, no impact would occur.

The proposed Project is not subject to a Williamson Act contract.[10] Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. No Impact.

The Project area is not currently designated as, or located near land designated for, forest, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.[11] The land uses surrounding the Project Site include Public/Institutional (PI), Business Park (BP), and Specific Plan. The proposed Alignment Option 1 is surrounded by Community Commercial (CC), Urban Residential (UR), and Open Space (OS) uses. The proposed Alignment Option 2 is surrounded by CC, OS, and UR.[12] Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. No Impact.

As previously discussed, the Project Site is not located within a forest area. All construction activities would occur within the public roadway right-of-way and the storage of construction equipment would not result in the loss of existing trees. None of the proposed construction activities would result in the

10 DOC, Division of Land Resource Protection, "State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Statewide Map" (2012), ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/2012%20Statewide%20Map/WA_2012_11x17.pdf. Accessed July 2017.

11 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Zoning Map" (updated September 2015), http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6970.

12 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan,* "Land Use Policy Map" (adopted June 2011), http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=7458.

loss of forestland or in the conversion of forestland to nonforest use.[13] Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. No Impact.

As previously noted, the Project Site is not designated as either farmland or forestland and does not involve farming or forestry operations. Furthermore, there are no agriculture or forestry operations in the vicinity of the Project Site. Therefore, no such land would be converted and no impacts would occur.

Projects are subject to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency.[14] The proposed Project does not contain farmland within its boundaries and, as such, is not subject to the FPPA. Furthermore, according to the National Forest Locator Map, the closest National Forest is the Angeles National Forest to the north and west of the Project Site outside of City limits. Therefore, the proposed Project is not located within any designated National Forests.[15] Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

13 City of Santa Clarita General Plan, "Zoning Map" (updated September 2015), http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6970.

14 US Department of Agriculture, Farmland Protection Policy Act, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?cid=nrcs143_008275. Accessed July 2017.

15 US National Forest, Locator Map (2015), http://www.fs.fed.us/locatormap/. Accessed July 2017.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:					
a.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The SCAQMD is the regional agency that provides air quality guidance with jurisdiction over the entire County. The most recently adopted comprehensive plan applicable to the proposed Project is the 2016 AQMP.[16] Regional growth projections are used by SCAQMD to forecast future emission levels in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). The AQMP is implemented to meet the federal and State emission standards identified in both Clean Air Acts.

The proposed Project would utilize recycled water from the SCVSD Valencia WRP to serve Central Park and customers along the proposed transmission pipeline alignment. This water supply would not directly or indirectly induce population growth within the City because the proposed Project would serve existing communities and parks. As discussed in the analysis in Section 5.3(b), the emissions generated by the proposed Project would not exceed applicable emissions thresholds, and as such, would not conflict with the SCAQMD AQMP or the federal or State Clean Air Acts.

16 South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), *Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan* (March 2017).

Pursuant to the Clean Air Act, the General Conformity rule ensures that the actions taken by federal agencies do not interfere with a state's plans to attain and maintain national standards for air quality. The Basin is designated by the USEPA as nonattainment for ozone (O3), lead (Pb), and fine particulate matter (PM2.5). *De minimis* levels have been established by the USEPA to determine if a project is subject to a General Conformity determination. If a project is below the federal *de minimis* levels, then the project is not subject to General Conformity. To determine if the proposed Project would interfere with national air quality standards, the *de minimis* levels are identified in **Table 5.3-1, Federal De Minimis Pollutant Rates**. As indicated in **Table 5.3-1**, the proposed Project would not exceed the minimum federal *de minimis* pollutant rates for nonattainment or attainment areas. SCAQMD developed regional emissions thresholds, as shown in **Table 5.3-2** and **Table 5.3-3**, to determine whether a project would contribute to air pollutant violations. If a project exceeds the regional air pollutant thresholds, then it would significantly contribute to air quality violations in the Basin. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with the federal or state emission standards and would not conflict with population projections identified within the latest SCAQMD AQMP. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Table 5.3-1
Federal De Minimis Pollutant Rates

Pollutant	Federal Status	Nonattainment Rates	SCAQMD Threshold of Significance (tons/year)	Estimated Project Construction Emissions (tons/year)	Estimated Project Operation Emissions (tons/year)
Ozone (O3)	nonattainment	Extreme	n/a	n/a	n/a
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Unclassified/attainment	--	100	1.1	0.03
Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)	Unclassified/attainment	--	10	0.9	0.03
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)/Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	n/a	--	10	0.3	0.1
Lead (Pb)	nonattainment	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM10)	attainment	--	10	0.1	0.005
Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	nonattainment	moderate	27	0.1	0.003
Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)	attainment	--	27	0.01	0.002

*Air Emissions Model Results—Annual (Mitigated Operational) are presented in **Appendix A**.*
USEPA de minimis Rates from USEPA website: General Conformity De Minimis Tables, https://www.epa.gov/general-conformity/de-minimis-tables. Accessed July 2017. De minimis is defined in Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Chapter I, subchapter C, Part 93.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site is located in the Santa Clarita Valley (Source Receptor Area 13)[17] within the South Coast Air Basin, which is designated as nonattainment for ozone and fine particulate matter (PM2.5) under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS), as well as particulate matter (PM10) under the California Air Quality Standards.[18] The SCAQMD established maximum mass daily thresholds of criteria air pollutants and ozone precursors to prevent air quality violations during construction and operation of development projects under CEQA.[19] Maximum daily emissions of air pollutants that would be generated during construction and operation of the proposed Project were compared to the applicable thresholds to determine the likelihood of potential air quality impacts.

Construction Emissions

The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was used to prepare estimates of proposed Project emissions. The analysis assumes that approximately 33,000 linear feet of proposed pipeline within an approximately 5-foot-wide trench and a 21,800-square foot reservoir would be completed in approximately nine and a half months, with approximately 150 linear feet of pipeline constructed each working day. The construction equipment inventory for the proposed Project is anticipated to include four to eight pieces of equipment (eight assumed for CalEEMod) including the use of two back hoes, one dump truck, two excavators, two compaction machines, and one crane. All construction equipment was assumed to meet CARB Tier 3 fleet requirements, and fugitive dust control techniques compliant with SCAQMD Rule 403 were applied to construction activities (i.e., watering of storage piles and disturbed surfaces, maintaining vehicle speeds under 15 miles per hour).

The maximum daily emissions during proposed Project construction are presented in **Table 5.3-2, Maximum Daily Construction Emissions (pounds/day).** Maximum daily emissions of air pollutants that would result from construction activities were estimated to be 24.3 pounds per day of volatile organic compounds (ROG), 16.6 pounds per day of nitrous oxides (NOx), 20.8 pounds per day of carbon monoxide (CO), <0.1 pounds per day of sulfur dioxide (SO2), 5.4 pounds per day of PM10, and 3.1 pounds per day of PM2.5. Each of these estimates is compared to the applicable SCAQMD mass daily emission thresholds for construction activities in **Table 5.3-2**. Maximum daily estimated emissions would

17 SCAQMD, "General Forecast Areas and Air Monitoring Areas," http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/map-of-monitoring-areas.pdf. Accessed July 2017.

18 California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), Air Quality Standards and Area Designation (December 2015), http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm.

19 SCAQMD, "SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds" (rev. March 2015), http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=2.

be below the SCAQMD threshold for all modeled air pollutants. Accordingly, emissions of air pollutants during proposed Project construction would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing air quality violation. Impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-2
Maximum Daily Construction Emissions (pounds/day)

	ROG	NOx	CO	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum	24.3	16.6	20.8	<0.1	5.4	3.1
SCAQMD Threshold	*75*	*100*	*550*	*150*	*150*	*55*
Exceeds Threshold?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

*Air Emissions Model Results—Summer are presented in **Appendix A**.*
Note:
Abbreviations: CO = carbon monoxide; NOx,= nitrogen oxides; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; ROG = reactive organic gases; SOx = sulfur oxides.

Operational Emissions

Operational emissions would be generated by routine maintenance vehicle trips to service the reservoir (Alignment Option 2) and pipeline. The analysis of daily operational emissions has been prepared using the data, methodologies, and current motor vehicle emission factors in the CalEEMod model. For a conservative analysis, a total of a two vehicle trips were assumed to be generated each day during operation of the proposed Project. The proposed Project would also be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 1113 to limit VOC content of architectural coatings; SCAQMD Rule 201 which requires a Permit To Construct if a backup generator or engine would be installed that is greater than 50 brake horsepower; and SCAQMD Rule 402, which prohibits the discharge from a facility of air pollutants that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to the pubic or that damage business or property. **Table 5.3-3, Maximum Operational Emissions (pounds/day)**, provides the maximum daily operational emissions. As indicated in **Table 5.3-3**, the proposed Project would not exceed the SCAQMD operational emission thresholds. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-3
Maximum Operational Emissions (pounds/day)

Source	ROG	NOx	CO	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
Maximum	0.6	0.1	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
SBCAPCD Threshold	*55*	*55*	*550*	*150*	*150*	*55*
Exceeds Threshold?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

*Air Emissions Model Results—Summer are presented in **Appendix A**.*
Note:
Abbreviations: CO = carbon monoxide; NOx, = nitrogen oxides; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; ROG = reactive organic gases; SOx = sulfur oxides.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

Los Angeles County is in nonattainment for ozone, PM10, and PM2.5 at the State level. Projects that do not exceed the project-level emission thresholds would not contribute to cumulatively significant air quality impacts. As shown in **Table 5.3-1**, **Table 5.3-2** and **Table 5.3-3**, all emissions associated with the proposed Project would not exceed the USEPA and/or SCAMQD threshold values and would, therefore, not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase in ozone, PM10, or PM2.5. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

Sensitive receptors are defined as schools, residential homes, hospitals, resident care facilities, daycare centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. The proposed water pipeline would be constructed along Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, and potentially Bouquet Canyon Road to Central Park. There are numerous residences situated along Newhall Ranch Road within 50 feet of the proposed pipeline route. Approximately 150-foot segments of the pipeline alignment would be completed each day, and thus the proximity of construction equipment will not remain nearby a single residence for more than one week. As previously discussed, maximum daily emissions are substantially below applicable SCAQMD thresholds. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Less than Significant Impact.

According to the California Air Resources Board's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook,*[20] odors are the most common sources of air pollution complaints and as with other types of air pollution, a number of factors need to be considered when determining potential effects on land use. Land uses that are more

20 California Air Resources Board (CARB), *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook*: *A Community Health Perspective* (2005), 32.

likely to produce odors include agriculture, chemical plants, composting operations, dairies, fiberglass molding, landfills, refineries, rendering plants, rail yards, and wastewater treatment plants.

Construction activities associated with the proposed Project would generate odors from heavy-duty equipment exhaust including diesel and gasoline. Odors associated with diesel and gasoline fumes are transitory in nature and would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. The impacts from these odors would be short term and would cease upon the completion of the pipeline. Furthermore, the construction of the water pipeline would occur less than one week when near a sensitive receptor. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Special-status species include those listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA), species otherwise given certain designations by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and plant species listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

A biological assessment for the proposed Project was completed in order to determine the presence or absence of any sensitive biological resource (see **Appendix B.1**). Standard database searches were conducted prior to the survey of the Project area, including that of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). A reconnaissance survey was conducted in July 2016 as part of the biological assessment and covered the three potential staging areas, the proposed pipeline alignment, the hillside adjacent to the RVWTP, and the San Francisquito Creek area below the Newhall Ranch Road bridge. A follow up reconnaissance survey was performed at the end of a wet rainfall year to confirm the prior year's observations (see **Appendix B.2**). A review of the CNDDB indicated that 90 species have been reported in the area, and of these, 13 species have suitable habitat in proximity to the Project Site.

The Project Site is largely located in commercial and urban areas dominated by ornamental and ruderal vegetation communities. Areas of native vegetation communities are restricted to San Francisquito Creek and Central Park. Vegetation communities within San Francisquito Creek include Fremont cottonwood forest (*Populus fremontii*), located primarily on the edges of the creek. Vegetation within the creek includes big sagebrush scrub (*Artemisia tridentata*) and California buckwheat scrub (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) communities. The vegetation community within the Central Park site consists of California sagebrush–California buckwheat scrub (*Artemisia californica–Eriogonum fasciculatum*). This vegetation community, dominated by California buckwheat and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), is found along the perimeter of the Project site. Other vegetation observed within the Project site includes black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), red brome, white sage (*Salvia apiana*), California buckwheat, rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa* var. *hololeuca*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), ripgut brome, prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), and chapparal yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). The follow up survey indicated that the Fremont cottonwood forest and California buckwheat scrub vegetation previously identified, have since been removed from San Francisquito Creek.

Wildlife observed during the survey included red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), California towhee (*Melozone crissalis*), cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*), Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) within San Francisquito Creek, coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejneger*) south of Newhall Ranch Road bridge along the San Francisquito Creek trail; western scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) near Central Park, Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*), coyote (*Canis*

latrans), and desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*). The follow up survey indicated that no special-status species were observed along the proposed alignment.

The following species were identified as containing suitable habitat in proximity to the Project Site: slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*); Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*); southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*); western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*); coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvilli*); coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejneger*); Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*); white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*); California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*); yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechial*); southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*); least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*); and the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*). All of these species have the potential to occur within the Project Site proximity.

Developed areas represent the majority of the ROW along the proposed alignment. These areas consist of all paved areas including the road and paved shoulder, gutters, curbs, and sidewalks. Developed areas are entirely devoid of vegetation. The proposed pipeline and staging areas would be located within the ROW and were determined to have minimal to no potential impact on federally threatened or endangered species.

Critical habitat for arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*) is located 400 feet south of the Project area within San Francisquito Creek. No direct impacts would occur within the San Francisquito Creek as the transmission pipeline would either hang across Newhall Ranch Road Bridge or be installed within an open cell of the bridge. Due to the distance from the creek, construction noise and activities would not indirectly impact the arroyo toad. Potential indirect impacts from construction activities would be less than significant.

As discussed in the 2015 CLWA Draft PEIR, the unarmored three-spine stickleback (UTS) is known to occur within the Santa Clara River. The UTS is a State and federally endangered species and a Fully Protected California species. No direct impacts would occur to the UTS as the pipeline alignment is located along existing roadway ROW, the Project Site is located approximately 850 feet north of the Santa Clara River, and no construction activities would occur within the River or its tributaries. However, the proposed Project has the potential to reduce treated discharge flows from the Valencia WRP into the Santa Clara River, and thus, have a potential indirect impact on the UTS and its habitat.

As described in Section 1.3.1, ~~T~~the average treatment of wastewater and resultant discharge described in the 2015 UWMP at the Valencia WRP is 13.~~8~~3 mgd. In 2017, the average flow from the Valencia and Saugus WRPs was 5.02 mgd and 13.13 mgd, respectively. The proposed Project would use a portion of the discharge (approximately 0.5 mgd) from the Valencia WRP for recycled water use as the primary

designated source of all recycled water in the RWMP. Thus, a reduction in the annual average (using 2017 flow data) from 13.13 mgd to 12.63 mgd ~~of discharge to 13.3 mgd~~ represents an approximately 3.6 ~~4~~ percent reduction of current effluent levels from the Valencia WRP and an approximately 2.8~~3~~ percent reduction of the total discharge from the Valencia WRP and Saugus WRP. Growth in effluent would occur as development within CLWA service boundaries increases, which would also increase discharge effluent into the river. Accordingly, the proposed Project would result in less than significant indirect impacts to UTS. Suitable bird nesting habitat is present along the proposed pipeline route and near the construction staging areas. Nesting birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MTBA) and the California Department of Fish and Game Code and could be impacted by proposed Project activities when construction occurs near nesting areas during the nesting season (February through August). Due to the proximity of proposed Project construction activities in relation to the identified species above, the proposed Project would have the potential for a significant impact on bird species. Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-7** would be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts on wildlife species.

If construction activities occur outside of the breeding season (February through August), then potential impacts on sensitive bird species would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures shall be implemented.

BIO-1 If construction or vegetation removal is proposed between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey no more than 5 days prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities for breeding and nesting birds within 500 feet of the construction limits. The biologist shall locate and map the location of active nests or breeding territories that could be affected by the proposed plan. A 300-foot buffer shall be delineated around any active nest of any bird of the order *Passeriformes,* and a 500-foot buffer around an active nest of any raptor species. Buffer distances may be reduced at the qualified biologist's discretion, depending on the species' tolerance to human presence and the location of the nest. For example, a reduced buffer may be appropriate for a nest located near a high-use road. Buffers shall be delineated in the field with high-visibility fencing, such as orange-mesh snow drift fencing, and shall persist and be maintained until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site for survival, as determined by a qualified biologist. The monitoring biologist or proposed plan compliance monitor shall inspect the integrity of the fence on a weekly basis. Any gaps in the fence shall be corrected within 24 hours following communication from the monitoring biologist or proposed plan compliance manager.

BIO-2 Excavated holes shall be covered or filled at the end of the workday. If an excavation exists at the end of the day, crews shall cover all holes and trenches with plywood/metal covers and plastic sheeting prior to leaving the area to prevent wildlife from becoming trapped within the excavation. Prior to the start of work each day, covered holes and excavated areas shall be inspected to ensure that no wildlife has fallen in overnight. If wildlife has become trapped and the construction crew is unable to safely remove it, the Biological Monitor shall be contacted for assistance.

BIO-3 All trash shall be contained in covered containers each day. Containers shall be removed from the Project area and properly disposed of and/or recycled at an appropriate disposal facility. Special attention should be given to leaving no micro-trash (screws, nuts, bolts, pop-tops, washers, etc.) on site.

BIO-4 A qualified biologist shall conduct periodic surveys at least two weeks apart during construction of the reservoir and associated pipeline and during removal of vegetation to ensure that breeding wildlife and nesting birds species are not harmed. The biologist shall have the authority to redirect or temporarily stop work if threats to the species are identified during monitoring. If a bird species, in particular least Bell's vireo or southern California rufus crowned sparrow, is identified within the immediate habitat of the reservoir and pipeline path then construction of the reservoir and/or pipeline shall halt until a Biological Monitor determines absence of either species. The Biological Monitor shall establish recommended buffer areas between construction activities and observed nesting habitat shall be provided to the project engineer if the work is scheduled to occur near those locations while nesting is occurring (February 15 through August 31). The project engineer shall then consult with a California Department of Wildlife (CDFW) representative to determine appropriate protocols to avoid the immediate habitat of the bird.

BIO-5 Coastal whiptails, western spadefoots, and other reptiles or amphibians potentially present within the Project impact areas will not be handled or touched, and rock outcrops and burrows will be avoided, as they may be habitat for sensitive species.

BIO-6 Burrows large enough for coastal whiptails found within the Project area must be avoided during all proposed actions.

BIO-7 Ground and vegetation disturbance within the hillside area located in Central Park should be minimized. Crew(s) should drive and crush vegetation instead of removing, blading, grubbing, or cutting of vegetation. Crews should maximize the use of existing access roads or disturbed/developed areas to stage materials and equipment. Only construction equipment

necessary for trenching, delivering, and installation of the reservoir and associated pipeline from the reservoir site to Central Park shall be used.

- Crews will enter and exit the project site via the same trail/footpath.
- Crews should avoid contact with any wildlife encountered and allow wildlife to escape the work area unharmed. All wildlife encounters and sightings shall be reported to the Biological Monitor.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Riparian habitats line the banks of rivers, streams, creeks, and ponds and consist of a variety of vegetation types.[21] These habitats preserve water quality by filtering sediment and some pollutants from runoff before it enters the water body, protect stream banks from erosion, provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife, and preserve open space and aesthetic values.

The proposed Project would locate recycled water pipeline beneath existing streets and therefore would not have an impact on riparian areas. Pipeline will either be hanged across a bridge or be installed within an open cell of a bridge when crossing San Francisquito and Bouquet Creeks. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in significant direct or indirect impacts to riparian habitat within the San Francisquito and Bouquet Creeks. The proposed reservoir location would be located on a hillside within open space. The footprint would range between 0.25 to 0.75 acres in size and would not impact riparian habitat. As such, construction of the reservoir would result in less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. No Impact.

Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act authorizes the State of California to certify that Federal permits and licenses do not violate the State's water quality standards. Executive Order 11990, and amended in Executive Order 12608, aids in the protection of wetlands existing or under evaluation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.[22]

The National Wetlands Mapper does not indicate any seasonally wet areas, federally protected streams or wetlands, or other water bodies on or adjacent to the Project Site.[23] Additionally, the Project Site

21 *Santa Valley Clarita Area Plan,* "Biological Resources" (2012).

22 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Executive Order 11990, https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11990-protection-wetlands-1977. Accessed July 2017.

23 US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetlands Mapper, 2017, http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html. Accessed March 2017.

would not adversely affect federally protected wetlands because the area contains roadway and water infrastructure uses. The three construction staging areas are primarily vacant areas with minimal vegetation. Accordingly, no impacts to wetlands would occur, and the proposed Project would be consistent with Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act and Executive Order 11990.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is the primary law governing marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters. First passed in 1976, the Magnuson-Stevens Act fosters long-term biological and economic sustainability of our nation's marine fisheries out to 200 nautical miles from shore.[24] The proposed Project is located in an urban developed area of the County of Los Angeles and the City of Santa Clarita. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not impact marine fisheries as identified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Construction of the proposed Project would last approximately nine months. All activities would occur within existing paved roadway right-of-way. No trees would be removed as a result of construction activities. As stated above, the proposed Project would not be constructed within San Francisquito Creek or Bouquet Canyon Creek. At the completion of construction, the pipeline would be located belowground and would not interfere with the movement of wildlife.

This hillside location for the reservoir is immediately surrounded by urban development to the south, west, and north with urban development further east. As a result of the urban development, the hillside would be considered an isolated "island" in terms of allowing the potential for wildlife movement. Areas available as opportunities for wildlife movement would include the Santa Clara River located south of the River Village residential development. The South Coast Missing Linkages (SCML) project has developed a comprehensive plan for a regional network that would maintain and restore critical habitat linkages between existing open space reserves.[25] As described in the SCML project, the Santa Clarita Valley contains portions of three linkages identified in the Missing Linkages project: the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Mountains Connection, the Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection, and the San Gabriel-Castaic Connection. The proposed Project would not impinge on any of these linkages. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

---

24 NOAA, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/laws_policies/msa/, Accessed July 2017

25 South Coast Wildlands, *South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network for the South Coast Ecoregion* (2008), http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCMLRegionalReport.pdf.

As discussed in Impact 5.4a, the Project could have the potential to disturb native nesting bird species; however, implementation of Mitigation Measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-7** would ensure that impacts during construction on wildlife species, and the movement of wildlife species, to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure **BIO-1** through **BIO-7** shall be implemented.

e. Less than Significant Impact.

The City of Santa Clarita's Oak Tree Preservation ordinance requires the preservation of all healthy oak trees, including scrub oaks, within the City, unless compelling reasons justify the cutting, pruning, encroachment, and/or removal of such trees.[26] Additionally, the Ordinance states that no person shall cut, prune, remove, relocate, endanger, damage, or encroach into the protected zone of any oak on any public or private property within the City except in accordance with the conditions of a valid oak tree permit issued by the City. This generally applies to trees that are 6 inches or more in circumference (2 inches in diameter). In addition, the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) for the Santa Clara River was approved by the USACE to plan for the development and preservation of the natural resources and habitats along part of the main stem of the river to one-half mile east of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Aqueduct. The proposed Project is located outside and north of the Santa Clara River and would not impact any tributaries. Furthermore, the design and construction of the reservoir and proposed pipeline would avoid directly impacting the Southern California black walnut habitat under Alignment Option 2. Therefore, the proposed Project would not interfere or conflict with any local policies or ordinances including the City's Tree Preservation ordinance and the NRMP in protecting biological resources. Less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. No Impact.

The project site does not lie within the boundaries of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. No impacts would occur to the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

26 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, sec. 17.17.0.0, Oak Tree Preservation.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
CULTURAL RESOURCES – Would the project:					
a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

In July and August 2016, Meridian Consultants performed a cultural resources assessment of the Project staging areas and proposed pipeline alignment (see **Appendix C**), which constitute the proposed Project's area of potential effect (APE). This investigation is part of the environmental review process required under CEQA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, for the proposed Project.[27] The purpose of this study was to assess whether any cultural resources would be affected by the implementation of the proposed Project in accordance with CEQA and Section 106 of the NHPA.

A "historical resource" under CEQA, as defined by California Public Resources Code (PRC) Part 5020.1(j) is any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that is historically or archaeologically significant, or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California. Guidelines for CEQA further define a "historical resource" as any resource listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the Lead Agency. Additionally, a resource would be automatically listed in the California Register if it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places or formally determined eligible by an agency for listing in the National Register. Under Section 106 of the NHPA, a "historic property" is

27 National Park Service, National Historic Preservation Act of 1974, https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/fhpl_archhistpres.pdf. Accessed July 2017

defined as a resource that is listed in or determined by the lead federal agency to be eligible for listing in the National Register. The National Register recognizes properties that are historically significant at the local, state, and national level and uses criteria for evaluation that are similar to those of the California Register:

- Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (Criterion A)
- Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past (Criterion B)
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values (Criterion C)
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory (Criterion D)

A records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton was conducted to identify historic and archeological resources within the APE and within 1 mile of the proposed Project. This search included a review of the California Historical Resources Inventory System, National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Inventory for Historic Resources, and California Historical Landmarks. The search also located relevant reports of previous cultural resource investigations within the search area of the Project Site. The records search resulted in the identification of 89 previously recorded cultural resources within 1 mile of the APE. Of these, two previously recorded historic resources are located within 1 mile of the proposed Project APE, the I-5 Freeway and existing SCE transmission lines. The records search also identified a prehistoric or historic-period cultural resource within 0.25 miles of the western extent of the Project alignment (west of Bouquet Canyon Creek). No previously recorded archaeological or historic resources were observed within the APE during site reconnaissance. No features or objects greater than 50 years of age were identified within the APE during the investigation. Additionally, the field survey of the Project APE resulted in the identification of no additional historic resources. Therefore, no adverse impact to historic resources would occur and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment (see **Appendix C**) for the proposed Project APE was performed to determine the presence of archaeological resources that may be impacted as a result of project implementation. As part of the Cultural Resources Assessment, a records search was performed for the APE, a pedestrian survey was performed of the proposed staging areas, and a vehicular/windshield survey was conducted along Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, Bouquet Canyon Road, and the

hillside adjacent to the RVWTP facilities. No archaeological resources were identified within the APE during the pedestrian survey.

The construction of the proposed pipeline would occur within existing roadway right-of-way within artificial fill and the pipeline would hang across a bridge or within an open cell of the bridge when crossing a creek under Alignment Option 1. Pipeline construction would also occur within roadway right-of-way and within undisturbed native soil on the hillside adjacent to RVWTP under Alignment Option 2. As noted above, a pre-historic or historic cultural resource was identified within 0.25-miles of the western pipeline alignment (west of Bouquet Canyon Creek) running along Rye Canyon Road. Therefore, if ground disturbance associated with the proposed Project extends into intact native soils there is the potential for buried archaeological resources to be affected by implementation of the proposed Project. In addition, extant geoarchaeological data indicate that the Mollisols found along the base of the knolls and adjacent to the Santa Clara floodplain west of Bouquet Canyon Road also contain a moderate potential for containing buried cultural deposits. Given the presence of other archaeological resources in the area, impacts would be potentially significant. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **CUL-1** and **CUL-2**, which require identification and treatment of undiscovered archaeological resources, would reduce impacts to archaeological resources to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures shall be implemented.

CUL-1a: Prior to the start of ground disturbing activities, the CLWA project manager or their designee shall ensure that a qualified archaeologist or another mitigation program staff member has conducted cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction workers involved in moving soil or working near soil disturbance.

CUL-1b: Inadvertent Discoveries. During project-related construction and excavation activities, should subsurface archaeological resources be discovered, all activity in the vicinity of the find shall stop and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, the archaeologist shall determine, in consultation with CLWA and any local Native American groups (e.g., Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians) expressing interest for prehistoric resources, appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred means to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, rerouting or redesign, cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, such as data recovery or other

appropriate measures, in consultation with CLWA and Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians representatives expressing interest in prehistoric archaeological resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as a historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

CUL-2 Prior to the start of any ground disturbing activities 5 feet below ground surface that involve native, undisturbed Holocene sediments in special areas as designated in an agreement with the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians or other Tribes as designated by NAHC, shall be notified of pending activities. A Native American monitor will be onsite during excavation activities in those special areas as indicated in the agreement.

c. Less than Significant with Mitigation.

Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, Bouquet Canyon Road and the adjacent residential and community facility uses have been disturbed and graded for development. The trenching activities related to the construction of the proposed Project would occur in already-disturbed roadway right-of-way and would not go below 6 feet below grade. As such, the potential to affect a unique paleontological resource or geologic feature is considered low. Based upon the low probability of discovery of potential paleontological resources, construction could potentially encounter unknown resources. Therefore, potential impacts on paleontological resources could occur. Implementation of Mitigation Measure **CUL-3** would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

CUL-3 If potential paleontological resources are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities for the pipeline or reservoir, work in that location shall be temporarily diverted and a qualified paleontologist shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. After the find has been properly mitigated, work in the area may resume.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

The majority of ground disturbance resulting from the proposed Project would occur within the existing roadway right-of-way. Therefore, the potential to encounter human remains is low because this area has been disturbed by past roadway construction. Moreover, in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code and the Public Resources Code,[28] should human remains be discovered during trenching activities, trenching activities would immediately stop and the County Coroner would be

28 California Health and Safety Code, sec. 7050.5 and 5097.98.

contacted. The Coroner would have 2 working days to examine human remains after being notified by the responsible person. If the remains were found to be Native American, the Coroner would have 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage commission (NAHC). The NAHC would immediately notify the tribal representative it believes to be the most likely descendent of the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent would have 48 hours to make recommendations to the owner, or representative, for the treatment or disposition, with proper dignity, of the human remains and grave goods. Should the descendent not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner would reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance; or should the owner not accept the descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the NAHC. Therefore, potential impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

Discussion

a.i. Less Than Significant Impact.

The Santa Clarita Valley contains several known active and potentially active earthquake faults and fault zones. The San Andreas Fault Zone is located north of the Valley and extends through Frazier Park, Palmdale, Wrightwood, and San Bernardino.[29]

29 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan,* "Safety Element," S-3.

The nearest regional faults are the San Gabriel and Holser faults with numerous regional faults in the Valley that are capable of producing strong seismically induced ground shaking. The San Gabriel Fault travels from the northwest to the southeast through Santa Clarita and crosses the proposed Project through the northeast end of Rye Canyon Road.[30] The development of the proposed Project would involve trenching a recycled water pipeline approximately 5 feet below ground, and would not expose people to risks from earthquakes because there are no proposed habitable structures intended for human occupancy. Implementation of appropriate engineering design measures as required by the latest Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction "Greenbook" [31] and the California Building Code (CBC) would minimize potential structural failures caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. Compliance with the requirements of the latest Greenbook and CBC for structural safety during a seismic event would reduce hazards from fault rupture. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

a.ii. Less than Significant Impact.

The area is subject to ground shaking and potential damage in the event of earthquakes. As noted previously, the most likely source of strong ground shaking within the region would be a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault Zone or from the San Gabriel or Holser faults. Because the Project Site is located in a seismically active area, occasional seismic ground shaking is likely to occur within the lifetime of the proposed Project. One potential adverse effect on the Project from strong seismic ground shaking would be a fracture or rupture in the pipeline causing limited water flow or a reservoir rupture. Implementation of appropriate engineering design measures as required by the latest Greenbook [32] and the CBC would minimize potential structural failures caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. The proposed Project would be required to adhere to the provisions of the latest Greenbook and CBC. Compliance with the requirements of the latest Greenbook and CBC for structural safety during a seismic event would reduce hazards from strong seismic ground shaking. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

30 Southern California Earthquake Data Center, "Faults of Southern California: Los Angeles Region" (2013), http://scedc.caltech.edu/significant/losangeles.html. Accessed July 2017.

31 Public Works Standards, Inc. 2015. *Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction*. BNi Publications, Inc.

32 Public Works Standards, Inc. 2015. *Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction*. BNi Publications, Inc.

a.iii. Less than Significant Impact.

Liquefaction refers to loose, saturated sand or gravel deposits that lose their load-supporting capability when subjected to intense shaking. Liquefaction usually occurs during or shortly after a large earthquake. The movement of saturated soils during seismic events from ground shaking can result in soil instability and possible structural damage.[33] The Project Site is located within an identified liquefaction zone.[34] However, the proposed pipeline would be located beneath Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, and possibly Bouquet Canyon Road, and surrounded by certified base and fill and the design and construction of the proposed pipeline would be required to adhere to the latest Greenbook and CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other seismic-related ground failures. Furthermore, the potential reservoir proposed under Alignment Option 2 would be required to adhere to the latest Greenbook and CBC to minimize seismic-related ground failures. Accordingly, potential liquefaction impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

a.iv. Less than Significant Impact.

Landslides are the downslope movement of geologic materials that occur when the underlying geological support on a hillside can no longer maintain the load of material above it, causing a slope failure. The term "landslide" also commonly refers to a falling, sliding, or flowing mass of soil, rocks, water, and debris that may include mudslides and debris flows. The risks associated with landslides occur when buildings or structures are placed on slopes. The Project site is located within an area susceptible to landslides.[35] However, the proposed pipeline would be buried beneath Bouquet Canyon Road and would be designed and constructed to adhere to the latest Greenbook and CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from seismically-induced landslides. Furthermore, the potential reservoir proposed under Alignment Option 2 would be required to adhere to the latest Greenbook and CBC to minimize seismic-related ground failures. With adherence to the latest Greenbook and CBC, potential landslide impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

33 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan,* "Safety Element" (2011), S-9.
34 DOC, "Newhall Quadrangle Zones of Required Investigations GIS Data," newh_lq layer.
35 DOC, "Newhall Quadrangle Zones of Required Investigations GIS Data," newh_ls layer

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Erosion is the movement of rock fragments and soil from one place to another. Precipitation, running water, waves, and wind are all agents of erosion. Significant erosion typically occurs on steep slopes where storm water and high winds can carry topsoil down hillsides.

Construction of the proposed Project would result in the removal of soils from beneath Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, and possibly Bouquet Canyon Road. Any topsoil removed from the pipeline trench would be stockpiled on site and replaced after the pipeline is installed. Standard best management practices as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, amended by 2010-0014-DWQ & 2012-0006-DWQ) would require covering of exposed material to minimize erosion impacts. Any construction activities associated with the reservoir under Alignment Option 2 would implement best management practices as required under the NPDES permit. Construction impacts would be less than significant with compliance to regulatory requirements.

The proposed pipeline would be located within the roadway right-of-way. As this would not occur within open space areas, there would be no loss of topsoil or soil erosion. No impact would occur during operation of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed pipeline would be located within the roadway right-of-way. Where the pipeline would be installed beneath the paved road, the asphalt surface would be saw cut, and a backhoe would be used to excavate a trench for the pipe. The road would be restored to preconstruction conditions after installing the pipe and backfilling the trench. Construction for the reservoir under Alignment Option 2 would be required to adhere to best management practices identified in the NPDES permit. The proposed Project would not result in substantial hazards from unstable or expansive soils and would be required to adhere to the latest Greenbook and CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other unstable geologic features. With adherence to the latest Greenbook and CBC standards, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

Expansive soils contain significant amounts of clay particles that have the ability to give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). When these soils swell, the change in volume can exert pressures that are placed on them, and structural distress and damage to buildings could occur. The proposed pipeline would be constructed beneath the existing roadway and right-of-way, which are constructed on engineered fill. This fill material is not subject to significant expansion. Moreover, the impervious cover would minimize water infiltration, thereby minimizing soil expansion. The soils identified within the hillside area are known to have moderate infiltration rates and moderately well-drained or well-drained soils. As these soils drain water well, the potential from them to be designated as expansive would be minimal. Finally, proposed Project would be required to adhere to the latest Greenbook and CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from soil expansion. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. No Impact.

Development of the proposed Project would not require the installation of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The principal GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water vapor (H2O). CO2 is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant GHG emitted. To account for the varying warming potential of different GHGs, GHG emissions are often quantified and reported as CO2 equivalents (CO2e).

In September 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, also known as Assembly Bill (AB) 32, into law. AB 32 focuses on reducing GHG emissions in California, and requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the State agency charged with regulating statewide air quality, to adopt rules and regulations that would achieve GHG emissions equivalent to statewide levels in 1990 by 2020.

As a central requirement of AB 32, the CARB was assigned the task of developing a Scoping Plan that outlines the State's strategy to achieve the 2020 GHG emissions limit. The Scoping Plan, which was developed by CARB in coordination with the Cap-and-Trade program, was published in October 2008. The Scoping Plan proposed a comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall GHG emissions in California, improve the environment, reduce the State's dependence on oil, diversify the State's energy sources, save energy, create new jobs, and enhance public health. As required by AB 32, CARB must update its Scoping Plan every 5 years to ensure that California remains on the path toward a low-carbon future.

CARB updated the Scoping Plan in May 2014 through a Final Supplement to the AB 32 Scoping Plan Functional Equivalent Document (FED or 2014 Scoping Plan). CARB's updated projected "business as

usual" (BAU) emissions in the 2014 Scoping Plan are based on current economic forecasts (i.e., as influenced by the economic downturn) and certain GHG reduction measures already in place. The BAU projection for 2020 GHG emissions in California was originally estimated to be 596 MMTCO2e. The updated calculation of the 2014 Scoping Plan's estimates for projected emissions in 2020 totals 509 MMTCO2e. Considering the updated BAU estimate of 509 MMTCO2e by 2020, CARB estimates that the State would have to reduce GHG emissions by 21.6 percent from BAU without Pavley regulations which reduce GHG emissions in new passenger vehicles and the 33 percent renewable portfolio standard (RPS), or 15.7 percent from the adjusted baseline (i.e., with Pavley regulations and 33 percent RPS) to return to 1990 emission levels (i.e., 427 MMTCO2e) by 2020, instead of the 28.35 percent BAU reduction previously reported under the Scoping Plan.[36]

The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) supports the State's climate action goals to reduce GHG emissions through coordinated transportation and land use planning with the goal of more sustainable communities. To fulfill its commitments as an MPO under the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopted the 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) to reduce GHG emissions by 2040 and remain consistent with regional targets set by the ARB. The RTP/SCS focuses the majority of new regional housing and job growth in high-quality transit areas and other opportunity areas in existing main streets, downtowns, and commercial corridors, resulting in an improved jobs-housing balance and more opportunity for TOD.

There are no federal, State, or local adopted thresholds of significance for addressing an infrastructure project's GHG emissions. Furthermore, neither the SCAQMD nor the CEQA Guidelines Amendments adopted by the Natural Resources Agency on December 30, 2009, provide any adopted thresholds of significance for addressing a project's GHG emissions. Nonetheless, Section 15064.4 of the CEQA Guidelines Amendments serves to assist lead agencies in determining the significance of the impacts of GHGs. Because the CLWA does not have an adopted quantitative threshold of significance for a project's generation of GHG emissions, the following analysis is based on a combination of the requirements outlined in the *CEQA Guidelines*. As required in Section 15604.4 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, this analysis includes an impact determination based on the following: (1) an estimate of the amount of GHG emissions resulting from the proposed Project; (2) a qualitative analysis or performance-based standards; (3) a quantification of the extent to which the proposed Project increases GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting; and (4) the extent to which the proposed Project

36 CARB, *Final Supplement to the AB 32 Scoping Plan Functional Equivalent Document* (FED) (August 2011), Attachment D, p. 11.

complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a Statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions.

CalEEMod was utilized to prepare estimates of GHG emissions that would be generated by the construction of the proposed pipeline and reservoir. Construction would take place over approximately nine and a half months. Results of emissions modeling determined that construction of the proposed Project would result in approximately 8.9 MTCO2e (see **Appendix A**) per year averaged over a 30-year period. Operational emissions of GHGs would be limited to the maintenance of the pipeline extension and reservoir and energy costs, and were calculated to be less than 115.2[37] MTCO2e per year following the completion of construction. The GHG emissions that would result from Project implementation are substantially below the recommended CAPCOA screening threshold of 900 MTCO2e per year, the draft SCAQMD interim annual threshold of 3,000 MTCO2e, and the 40 percent below threshold of 1,800 MTCO2e. The proposed Project would reduce energy costs through utilizing less imported water and more locally sourced water, consistent with local and Statewide goals and policies, including the Southern California Association of Governments' 2016–2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, aimed at reducing the generation of GHGs. As such, GHG emissions impacts associated from the proposed Project would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

As noted in discussion 7a above, the proposed project would not generate emissions above any screening thresholds. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the purposes of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

37 Construction emissions of 8.9 MTCO2e per year + Operation emissions of 106.3 MTCO2e per year.

5.8 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f.	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g.	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
h.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

Hazardous materials include any substance or combination of substances that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in death or serious injury, or pose substantial hazards to humans and/or the environment.[38] The proposed pipeline would carry and delivery recycled water that has been chlorinated as part of the disinfection process and the reservoir would store recycled water for future demand. The recycled water would comply with Title 17 and Title 22 regulations of the California Water Code, which protects drinking water supplies through control of cross-connections with potential containments and establishes the quality and/or treatment processes required for an effluent to be used for a nonpotable application, respectively.[39] However, the concentration of chlorine in the distribution lines would not be at a level considered hazardous; therefore, no aspect of the proposed Project would involve the use of hazardous materials, and the proposed Project would not create a hazard-related to exposure to hazardous materials. Potential impacts would be less than significant with compliance to the applicable regulatory requirements.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

As discussed in 5.8.a, the recycled water would comply with Title 17 and Title 22 regulations and the design of the proposed pipeline and reservoir would be consistent with the latest Greenbook and CBC standards. In the event of a release of water from a burst pipeline or reservoir resulting from a seismic event, concentrations of chlorine within the distribution system would not be high enough to be considered hazardous. Therefore, impacts related to hazardous materials being released into the environment from the rupture of the pipeline would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

Albert Einstein Academy is located approximately 0.40 miles northwest from the northeast end of the pipeline along Rye Canyon Road. Legacy Christian Academy is located approximately 0.07 miles east of the proposed pipeline along Dickason Drive and approximately 0.20 miles from staging area 3. Bridgeport Elementary School is located approximately 0.06 miles south of the pipeline along Newhall

38 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan,* "Safety Element" (2011), S-25.

39 California Department of Public Health, Title 17 and Title 22, *Code of Regulations*, "Regulations Related to Recycled Water," June 18, 2014.

Ranch Road. Alignment Option 1 has Santa Clarita Elementary School located approximately 0.75 miles north and just west of that, Arroyo Seco Junior High School located approximately 0.70 miles away. Saugus High School is located approximately 0.40 miles northeast of the end of the proposed pipeline along Central Park (Road). The construction phase of the proposed pipeline could potentially expose the school to short-term hazardous emissions from diesel machinery and individual employee passenger vehicles. There would also be a potential for the handling of hazardous materials, such as oils, grease or fuels, utilized during the construction of the proposed pipeline or reservoir. Compliance with all regulations for the handling of hazardous materials would reduce the potentiality of release. No hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous materials would be conducted during the operational phase of the proposed pipeline. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

A geographical search for hazardous materials sites, as defined in Government Code Section 65962.5, utilizing the online environmental database GeoTracker, produced several locations of potential hazardous material within 1 mile of the Project Site. Within 1 mile of the proposed Project and along the pipeline, there are four open Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) cleanup sites, 29 closed LUST cleanup sites, two open Cleanup Program Sites, four closed Cleanup Program Sites, one closed Land Disposal Site, and 21 Water Discharge Report (WDR) sites of which two are active, two are in draft status, and the remainder are historical. Alignment Option 1 has no additional locations of potential hazardous material. However, Alignment Option 2 has one closed LUST cleanup site, and four WDR sites of which one is active and the remainder are historical.[40] Even though there are many locations of potential hazardous material, the Project Site is not located directly in an area with current hazardous materials sites and therefore would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. No Impact.

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Agua Dulce Airpark located approximately 12 miles to the northeast. Therefore, the proposed pipeline and reservoir would not be located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. No safety hazard impacts would occur to people residing or working in the area of the proposed Project.

40 State Water Resources Control Board, *GeoTracker,* http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/. Accessed July 2017.

The pipeline would be subsurface and would obstruct any airport operations. The reservoir tank would be of similar height to the existing reservoirs within the RVWTP which do not obstruct airport operations. Therefore, no safety hazards resulting from airport proximity are expected. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. No Impact.

The nearest airport, public or private, is the Agua Dulce Airpark located approximately 12 miles to the northeast. The Project Site would not be located near a private airstrip; therefore, the proposed Project would not create a safety hazard for those working within the project site. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

g. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The proposed Project will be constructed along Rye Canyon Road, a six-lane roadway that is designated as a secondary disaster route, Newhall Ranch Road, a six-lane roadway that is designated as a secondary disaster route up to the alignment options, McBean Parkway, a six-lane roadway that is designated as a secondary disaster route, and possibly for Alignment Option 1, Bouquet Canyon Road, a six-lane roadway that is designated as a secondary disaster route.[41] While the proposed Project would not cause permanent alterations to vehicular circulation routes and patterns and/or impede public access or travel on public rights-of-way, construction would require closure of one lane of the roadway at a time, potentially impeding emergency access. However, all roadways have adequate vehicle capacity for one lane to be closed and for traffic to continue around construction. Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** would reduce potential impacts to emergency access during an emergency event. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and the proposed Project would not conflict with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

The proposed pipeline would be located below ground with the reservoir located above ground. When installed, these components would not interfere with traffic flow or otherwise hamper emergency response or evacuation plans. Periodic maintenance of components would be performed by vehicles traveling on surface roads to the pipeline and reservoir. The size and number of maintenance vehicles

41 County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Disaster Route Maps: City of Santa Clarita (2010), http://dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/disasterroutes/map/Santa%20Clarita.pdf.

present at these components would not interfere with traffic flow. Operation-related impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

TRAF-1: For proposed plan phases that may affect traffic, implementing agencies shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.
- To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.
- Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.
- Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses, such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.

h. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The Project Site is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).[42] The construction activities (e.g., the use of welding torches or other tools) within these areas may increase fire danger. The use of flames/sparks in hillside brushy areas would likewise increase the risk of wildfire. As such, impacts would be potentially significant. Mitigation Measure **HAZ-1** would reduce potential wildfire events to less than significant.

Operation of the proposed Project would not exacerbate the potential for wildfires. There are no ignitable materials or processes that would have the potential to create a fire. Therefore, impacts related to exposing people or structures to adverse effects from wildfires would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

42 *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan,* Appendix II (2012), Figure S-6: Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

HAZ-1: Prior to commencement of construction activities within designated High Fire Hazard Zones, the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall be contacted regarding weed/brush removal in the project vicinity. All flammable weeds/brush within a radius specified by the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall be removed. During construction activities, the project site shall be equipped with fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to the satisfaction of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

5.9 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:					
a.	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of preexisting nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f.	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g.	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h.	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i.	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☒	☐
j.	Be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The Safe Drinking Water Act is the federal law that protects public drinking water supplies throughout the nation. Under the Act, the USEPA sets standards for drinking water quality and with its partners implements various technical and financial programs to ensure drinking water safety.[43] State water quality in surface and groundwater bodies is regulated by the State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs). The Los Angeles RWQCB is responsible for implementation of State and federal water quality protection guidelines near the Project Site.[44] The proposed Project is located within paved and urbanized areas within existing street right-of-way. Construction of the recycled water pipeline and reservoir would include excavation activities that would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Stormwater runoff from construction sites is regulated by the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, amended by 2010-0014-DWQ & 2012-0006-DWQ) issued by the SWQCB. According to the fact sheet for Order 2012-0006-DWQ, construction activities associated with small linear underground projects that result in land disturbances greater than 1 acre (referred to as linear utility projects [LUPs]), are not like traditional construction projects. Small LUPs have a lower potential to impact receiving waters because these projects are typically short in duration and are constructed within or around hard-paved surfaces that result in minimal disturbed land areas being exposed at the close of the construction day.[45] Therefore, Water Quality Order 2012-0006-DWQ, and the NPDES General Permit have been adopted statewide for storm water discharges associated with construction activity from small linear underground/overhead projects.

Construction of the recycled water system reservoir would be located within an elevated open space area. Grading activities for the construction of the reservoir would disturb the immediately surrounding vegetation and topsoil and would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. The footprint of the reservoir would be between 0.25 acre and 0.75 acres, including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways. Therefore, the reservoir construction would not be subject to the NPDES Construction General Permit.

43 EPA, Safe Drinking Water Act, https://www.epa.gov/sdwa. Accessed July 2017

44 CalEPA, State Water Control Board, "State and Regional Water Boards," http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml. Accessed July 2017.

45 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended by 2012-0006-DWQ.

Furthermore, the proposed Project would be required to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations including the California Water Code, CCR Title 22, CCR Title 17, California Department of Public Health Guidelines, and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Cross-Connection and Water Pollution Control Program. The proposed Project will also receive a recycled water project permit from the RWQCB prior to operation to ensure that the proposed Project will not degrade groundwater quality. For construction activities that are regulated by the NPDES permit, coverage under and compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit would ensure that the impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. No Impact.

The construction of the pipeline would occur under existing roadways and reservoir would not result in an increase in the amount of impervious surface that would interfere with groundwater recharge. The proposed Project is also not located within the boundaries of a sole source aquifer as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.[46] The proposed reservoir for Alignment Option 2 would be located west of the RVWTP facilities. The footprint of the reservoir would range from 0.25 to 0.75 acres in size. As described in Section 5.6, the soils of the hillside adjacent to the west of the RVWTP facilities are well drained. The proposed Project would not involve pumping of groundwater and would not otherwise have an impact on the depletion of groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide retail recycled water to users in the City of Santa Clarita that are using potable water for irrigation needs. As discussed in Section 5.4.a, the proposed Project would not substantially reduce the amount of discharge effluent from the Valencia WRP. Furthermore, as development occurs over time within CLWA boundaries, the discharge effluent from the Valencia WRP would also increase, which would contribute to the replenishment of downstream groundwater basins along the Santa Clara River. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no adverse impact on the groundwater basin.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

The construction of the proposed pipeline would occur within the existing roadways and the construction of the reservoir would occur adjacent to the RVWTP facilities. Storm water runoff from the Project Site during construction could contain soils and sediments from these activities. Spills or leaks

46 US Environmental Protection Agency, Sole Source Aquifers, 2015, http://www2.epa.gov/dwssa. Accessed July 2017.

from heavy equipment and machinery, construction staging areas, or building sites can also enter runoff, which typically include petroleum products such as fuel, oil and grease, and heavy metals. According to the requirements of the NPDES permit, appropriate BMPs would be applied during construction activities to minimize water quality impacts.

The BMPs most often used during construction activities include surrounding the construction site with sand bags and/or silt fencing (to minimize sediment-laden runoff entering the storm drain system or downstream waters) and timing the grading activities to avoid the rainy season. Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, the preparation and implementation of an SWPPP, and implementation of erosion and treatment control BMPs to ensure that any impacts to downstream waters resulting from construction activities associated with the proposed Project would be less than significant. Operation of the recycled water pipeline and reservoir would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the Project Site. Impacts would be less than significant.

Reduced Discharge Flows

As described in Section 5.4.a, the proposed Project would have the potential to affect the amount of surface flow within the Santa Clara River, which could potentially alter the course of the Santa Clara River. Depending on river flow and overall hydrologic conditions discharge reductions from the Valencia WRP would likely result in equivalent corresponding reductions in flow downstream. As described in Section 1.3.1, t~~T~~he ~~annual~~ average amount of effluent discharged described in the 2015 UWMP from the Valencia WRP is 13.~~8~~3 mgd. In 2017, the average discharge from the Valencia and Saugus WRPs were 5.02 mgd and 13.13 mgd, respectively. The proposed Project would use a portion of the discharge (approximately 0.5 mgd) from the Valencia WRP for recycled water use as the primary designated source of all recycled water in the RWMP. This represents an approximately 3.6 ~~4~~ percent reduction of current effluent levels from the Valencia WRP and an approximately 2.8 ~~3~~ percent reduction of the total discharge from the Valencia ~~WRP~~ and Saugus WRPs. Thus, a reduction in the total annual average ~~of~~ discharge as a result of the proposed Project ~~to 13.3 mgd~~ would not reduce average annual discharges below ~~be above~~ the 13 mgd minimum discharge requirements to sustain biological resources within and along the Santa Clara River. Accordingly, the proposed Project would result in less than significant indirect impacts to alternating the course of the Santa Clara River.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

As described in Section 5.9.c, the BMPs most often used during construction activities include surrounding the construction site with sand bags and/or silt fencing (to minimize sediment-laden runoff from entering the storm drain system or downstream waters) and timing the grading activities to avoid the rainy season. For all crossings along San Francisquito Creek and Bouquet Canyon Channel, the pipeline would be suspended for the entirety of the bridge crossings. Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, the preparation and implementation of an SWPPP, and implementation of erosion and treatment control BMPs would ensure that any impacts to downstream waters resulting from construction activities associated with the proposed Project would be less than significant.

The use of recycled water instead of potable water for irrigation purposes would not change existing irrigation application practices, and the application of recycled water for landscape irrigation would be managed to meet the transpiration demand. Therefore, the use of recycled water would not alter the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding.

The proposed reservoir location would be located adjacent to the RVWTP facilities. Additionally, the design of the proposed Project would allow post-construction water runoff to continue in existing directions. Therefore, the development of the reservoir would not alter the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding. As such, the proposed Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alternation of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site. Less than significant impacts would occur.

The design of the proposed Project would allow post-construction water runoff to continue in existing directions. As such, the proposed Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alternation of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site. Less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would construct a pipeline within roadway right-of-way and the reservoir would be located adjacent to existing reservoirs within the RVWTP. Large areas of impervious surfaces would not be created as a result of the proposed Project. Construction would be temporary and implementation of BMPs to during a rain event would minimize the amount of runoff entering the existing storm drain system. Construction impacts would be less than significant.

Large areas of impervious surfaces would not be created as a result of the proposed Project. The roadways would be restored to existing conditions to ensure that the existing surface water runoff is not altered. Impacts during operation would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Less than Significant Impact.

As previously discussed, construction activities would include BMPs such as hay bales to minimize erosion and surface water runoff from the site. The amount of impervious surface on site at project completion would be similar to that for existing conditions. The amount of runoff from the site would not be substantially changed to that of existing conditions because project development would not increase the amount of runoff or contribute to the degradation of water quality. Recycled water would meet applicable federal, state, and local regulations including the California Water Code, CCR Title 17, and CCR Title 22 water quality standards and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Cross-Connection and Water Pollution Control Program. Therefore, no new pollutants that would degrade water quality would be added to the Project Site. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

g.-h. Less than Significant Impact.

The Flood Plain Management – Executive Order 11988 requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of flood plains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.[47] According to the City of Santa Clarita Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Flood Zones, the proposed Project crosses two areas for High Risk flooding along Newhall Ranch Road; once at San Francisquito Creek and once at Bouquet Canyon Channel. Alignment Option 1 would also cross the High Risk Flood Zone of Bouquet Canyon Channel along Bouquet Canyon Road one more time.[48] The proposed pipeline would cross San Francisquito Creek and Bouquet Canyon channel through either an open bridge cell or would hang from the bridges. Accordingly, the proposed pipeline would not redirect flood flows. The reservoir would be located on a hillside outside of the identified flood zone along Santa Clarita River. Impacts would be less than significant.

47 FEMA, Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management, https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management. Accessed July 2017

48 City of Santa Clarita, "Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Flood Zones" (2013), http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6974.

Furthermore, the proposed Project would not construct any new homes and would not have any aboveground structures that would impede or redirect flood flows. The storage of construction equipment would not be within the 100-year floodplain. Due to the short-term, temporary construction of the proposed Project, potential impacts to the Project Site from flooding events would be low. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

i. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would construct a recycled water pipeline within the roadway right-of-way and a reservoir adjacent to RVWTP facilities under Alignment Option 2. The recycled water pipelines would be located beneath the street right-of-way. As a result, they would not expose people or structures to flooding. The proposed reservoir would be located on a hillside. There would be potential to expose the residential land uses to the south to flooding from structural failure. The proposed reservoir tank shall be located and designed in compliance with the latest Greenbook and CBC requirements to ensure that reservoir tank construction would be designed to withstand potential seismic activity. As a result, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to flooding.

The proposed Project would not involve the construction of any housing, or inhabitable structures. As such, it would not expose people or structures to flooding. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

j. No Impact.

Tsunamis are large-scale sea waves produced from tectonic activities along the ocean floor. Seiches are freestanding or oscillatory waves associated with large enclosed or semienclosed bodies of water. Given that the Project Site is not located near the ocean or any large enclosed or semienclosed bodies of water, the proposed Project would not be located within designated tsunami or seiche zones. Debris and mudflows are typically a hazard experienced in the floodplains of streams that drain very steep hillsides within the watershed. These types of hazards are not expected to impact the project because the Project Site would not place people or structures at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.10 LAND USE AND PLANNING

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:					
a.	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Conflict with applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site is located within existing roadway right-of-way and includes temporary staging areas on public and private property. The proposed pipeline would be located belowground, the reservoir would be located adjacent to the RVWTP, and existing transportation access would continue upon completion. The construction staging areas would be short term and temporary in nature. The proposed Project is considered a public infrastructure improvement project that would serve the existing community adjacent to the Project Site. Upon implementation, these recycled water facilities would support and enhance existing land uses by providing the opportunity for recycled water use. There are no facilities proposed by the proposed Project that could physically divide an established community. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Per Section 53091 of the California Government Code, state law does not apply specific local zoning, building, or permit requirements to this type of CLWA project.[49] Development of the proposed Project would serve locally approved development and would not conflict with local zoning, land use

49 California Government Code sec. 53091(d).

designations, plans, policies, or regulations. The Project area is located more than 50 miles from the Pacific Ocean and more than 300 miles from the San Francisco Bay; therefore, the Coastal Zone Management Act would not apply.[50] Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. No Impact.

According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, no Natural Community Conservation Plans or Habitat Conservation Plans exist within the project area or Ventura County. However, there are several other plans that help guide the protection of environmental resources including the NRMP for the Santa Clara River. As discussed in Section 5.4, potential impacts to biological resources in close proximity to the Project Site would be mitigated to less than significant. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not conflict with the NRMP.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

50 United States, Code, Title 16, Section 1453, Coast Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended through the Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1996.

5.11 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
MINERAL RESOURCES – Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. No Impact.

According to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, the Project area is located in an area where significant mineral deposits or oil or natural gas wells are present. A majority of the pipeline travels through Mineral Resource Zone 2 (Aggregate) and portions cross through abandoned oil and gas fields.[51] However, the proposed Project would be constructed within existing roadways and within the public right-of-way. Mineral resources conditions would remain unchanged from how they currently exist; and therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. No Impact.

As previously discussed, the proposed Project is located within important mineral resource or oil or gas production areas. However, the proposed Project would be constructed within the public right-of-way in existing roadways, and mineral resources conditions would remain unchanged from how they currently exist. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of locally important mineral resource recover sites delineated on the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

51 *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan,* Appendix II: Maps (2012), Figure CO-2: Mineral Resources.

5.12 NOISE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
NOISE – Would the project:					
a.	Result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d.	Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f.	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

Noise can have an adverse effect to humans, animals, and structural components. Noise exposure regulatory criteria are concerned largely with controlling location of new residences in existing environments. The noise element in the SCGP[52] includes guidelines to evaluate ambient noise and land use compatibility. For the average community, outdoor noise levels up to 65 A-weighted decibels (dBA) and indoor noise levels up to 45 dBA are considered acceptable.

Ambient noise measurements were taken along the Project Site to illustrate the local noise environment. Noise sources included vehicle travel and typical residential activities (i.e.,

52 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan,* "Noise Element" (2011).

landscaping/lawn mowing activities). **Table 5.12-1, Ambient Noise Levels**, identifies the existing short-term (15 minute) ambient noise levels at three different locations along the Project Site. **Figure 5.12-1, Noise Source Locations**, identifies the locations of the three measurements. Measured noise levels ranged from 67.3 to 73.9 dBA.

Table 5.12-1
Ambient Noise Levels

Location Description	Average Noise Levels (dBA)
1	73.9
2	67.3
3	72.9

*Note: For Noise Data, please refer to **Appendix D.***

The westernmost part of the Project Site would be located within unincorporated Los Angeles County. The County of Los Angeles has developed standards for construction noise. The maximum allowable level for construction-related noise during normal construction timeframes ranges from 85 dBA at semiresidential/commercial uses, as shown in **Table 5.12-2, County of Los Angeles Daily Construction Noise Limits (dBA)**.[53] Only commercial uses are located adjacent to the pipeline alignment in this area.

Table 5.12-2
County of Los Angeles Daily Construction Noise Limits (dBA)

Construction Time	Single-Family Residential	Multifamily Residential	Semiresidential/ Commercial
Mobile Equipment			
7:00 AM to 8:00 PM except Sundays and legal holidays	75	80	85
8:00 PM to 7:00 AM except Sundays and legal holidays	60	64	70
Stationary Equipment			
7:00 AM to 8:00 PM except Sundays and legal holidays	60	65	70
8:00 PM to 7:00 AM except Sundays and legal holidays	50	55	60

Source: Los Angeles County Code, Title 12 Environmental Protection, ch. 12.08 Noise Control, Section 12.08.440, Construction Noise.
Mobile Equipment: maximum noise levels for nonscheduled, intermittent, short-term operation (less than 10 days) or of mobile equipment.

53 Los Angeles County Municipal Code, ch. 12.08, Noise Control Ordinance of the County of Los Angeles, sec. 12.08.440.

Construction Time	Single-Family Residential	Multifamily Residential	Semiresidential/ Commercial

Stationary Equipment: maximum noise level for repetitively scheduled and relatively long-term operation (periods of 10 days or more) of stationary equipment.

The SCGP requires that construction noise is controlled adjacent to sensitive uses through hours of operation, noise reduction requirements on equipment, and other appropriate measures.[54] The City has developed standards for construction noise and limits construction work which requires a building permit from the City on sites within 300 feet of a residentially zoned property except between the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM (Monday through Friday), and 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday.[55]

Construction

It should be noted that the California Government Code exempts the development of water and wastewater infrastructure projects initiated by water agencies from County and City building and zoning ordinances.[56] However, for analysis purposes construction noise levels will be compared to City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code.

During construction of the proposed Project, adjacent sensitive receptors would be exposed to sporadic high noise levels and groundborne vibration.

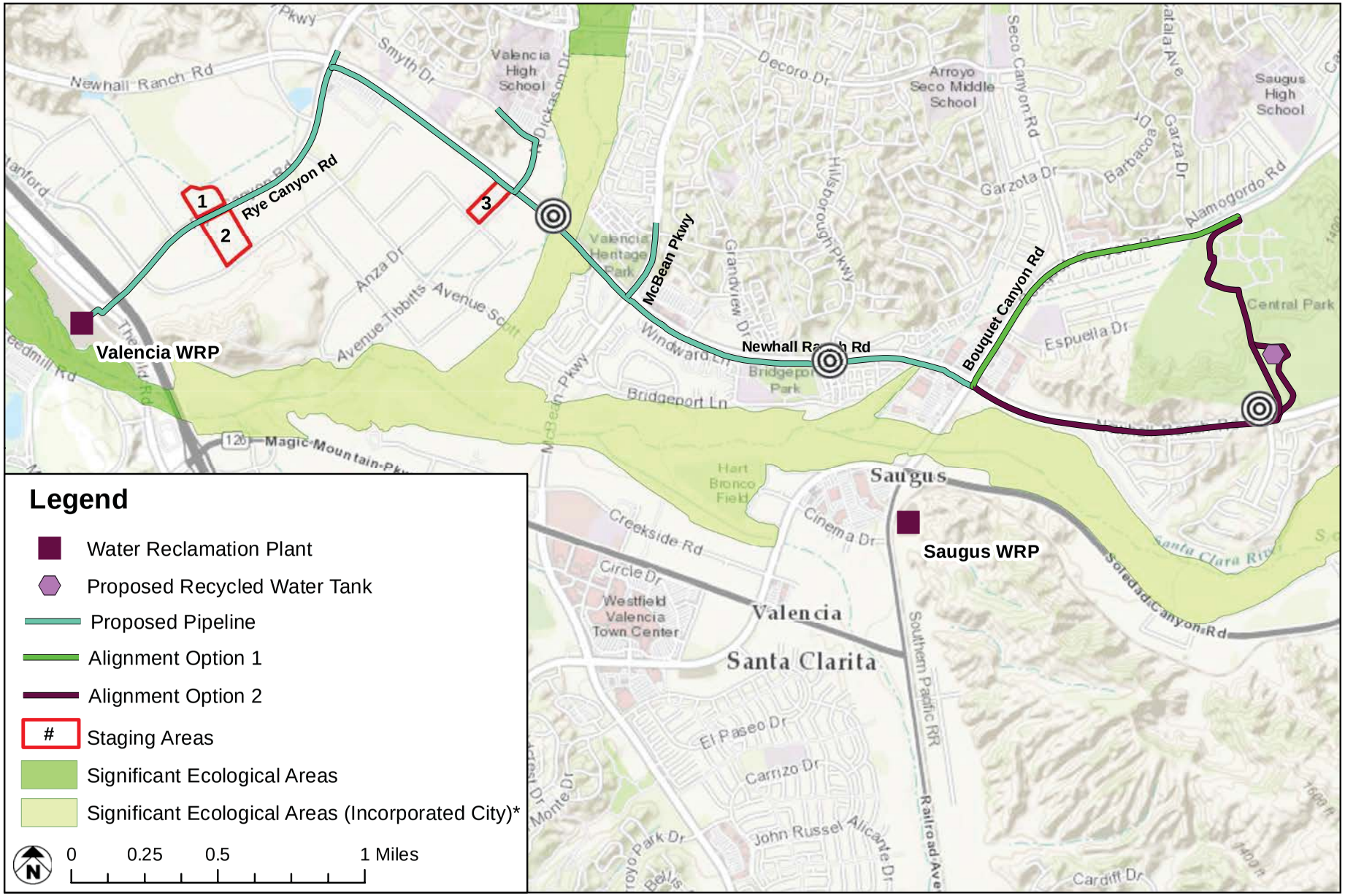
Estimated noise levels associated with the trenching activities are presented in **Table 5.12-3, Typical Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Equipment**. The average noise level for an off-highway truck is 85 dBA at 50 feet from source.

Table 5.12-3
Typical Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	Approximate Leq dBA			
	25 Feet	50 Feet	100 Feet	200 Feet
Grader	91	85	79	73
Truck	90	84	78	72
Backhoe	86	80	74	68

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Construction Noise Handbook, ch. 9.0, August 2006.
Note: Leq = equivalent sound level.

54 City of Santa Clarita General Plan, Noise Element, "Part 3: Implementation of the Noise Element, No. 6."
55 City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code, ch. 11.44.080, "Special Noise Sources—Construction and Building."
56 California Government Code, sec. 53091(d) and (e).



SOURCE: CLWA - June 2016

FIGURE **5.12-1**

Meridian Consultants

Noise Source Locations

131-001-16

Construction activities would occur during normal workday time frames between 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM. The County requires noise levels for mobile equipment not exceed 85 dBA at commercial uses. The nearest commercial use to the pipeline alignment would be approximately 125 feet. The trenching activities associated with pipeline construction would generate noise levels between 74 and 78 dBA at 100 feet. Accordingly, construction noise levels would fall below the County's construction noise threshold for commercial uses. Construction impacts would be less than significant.

As previously discussed, the City does not have specific construction noise limits, only construction timeframes. The nearest commercial use is located at the intersection of Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon Road along Alignment Option 1 and is located approximately 25 feet east of the pipeline alignment. Only a truck backhoe would be utilized in this location. Construction noise levels at these receptors would range from 86 to 90 dBA, respectively. The use of new muffler technology reduces sound levels from equipment approximately 2 dBA. Accordingly, noise levels at these sensitive receptors would experience approximately 84 to 88 dBA. Construction of the reservoir would occur over 1,000 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor. Noise levels would range from 56 to 60 dBA.

The nearest single family residential use is located approximately 50 feet to the south of the pipeline alignment along Newhall Ranch Road, east of Bouquet Canyon Road. Only a truck backhoe would be utilized in this location. Construction noise levels at these receptors would range from 80 to 84 dBA, respectively. The use of new muffler technology reduces sound levels from equipment approximately 2 dBA. Accordingly, noise levels at these sensitive receptors would experience approximately 78 to 82 dBA. It should be noted that construction-related, short-term noise levels would be higher than the existing ambient noise levels in the study area, but would cease once construction is complete. With adherence to the City's construction time frames identified in their Municipal Code and the temporary nature of the construction activities, the proposed Project construction phase would result in less than significant construction impacts.

Operation

Sound associated with pipeline maintenance would result in short-term, random incidences that would not result in an increase of ambient noise levels within the surrounding area. In addition, pipeline work would be limited to daylight hours to avoid disturbing any sensitive receptors. Therefore, operation-related impacts would be less than significant.

The operation activities associated with the reservoir would be located approximately 1,250 feet from any residence. Typical noise levels range from 73 to 80 dBA at 50 feet from a hydro pneumatic pump, depending on the size of the engine, and attenuate 4.5 dBA over soft surfaces. Based on the distance to

the nearest sensitive receptors, the proposed reservoir activities would be 65 dBA, below the standards established by the Santa Clarita Municipal Code for residences. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project-Related Traffic

As discussed in **Section 5.16, Transportation and Traffic**, the proposed Project would construct a recycled water pipeline beneath Rye Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, other local roadways, and potentially Bouquet Canyon Road and a reservoir which would generate additional construction-related trips. The increase in construction-related trips would be minimal and would not substantially increase the ambient roadway noise levels. Furthermore, vehicle trips generated during operation of the proposed Project would result in two daily trips. The increase in operation-related trips would result in a negligible increase in traffic volumes along the roadways. Therefore, overall traffic noise would remain similar to existing conditions and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Construction activities could generate varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the construction procedures, construction equipment used, and proximity to vibration-sensitive uses. Operation of construction equipment generates vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in amplitude with distance from the source. Ground vibrations from construction activities rarely reach levels that could damage structures, but can achieve the perceptible ranges in buildings close to a construction site.

The closest sensitive receptor to the proposed pipeline is approximately 25 feet east of the pipeline just after it turns onto Bouquet Canyon Road. It is assumed for the purpose of analysis that a loaded truck would generate the highest vibration levels at the sensitive receptor. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) threshold for architectural damage to nonengineered timber and masonry buildings is approximately 94 VdB (vibration decibels). Loaded trucks are capable of producing approximately 92 VdB at 15 feet. Vibration levels attenuate (decrease) 6 decibels every doubling of distance. Vibration levels would be approximately 88 VdB at the closest residence, which is below the FTA vibration threshold. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Less than Significant Impact.

As stated above, the construction phase of the proposed Project would be considered temporary and would not result in a substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise levels in the proposed

Project's vicinity. Operation of the proposed Project would occur belowground. As discussed in Section 5.12.a, the proposed operation-related activities at the reservoir would fall below 65 dBA at the nearest sensitive receptor property line. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in the permanent increase in ambient noise levels. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Less than Significant Impact.

As stated above in discussion 5.12.a, the proposed Project would generate temporary elevated noise levels due to the construction phase of the proposed Project. These levels were determined to be consistent with the Los Angeles County and Santa Clarita Noise Ordinances. Therefore, temporary or periodic noise impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. No Impact.

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Agua Dulce Airpark located approximately 12 miles to the northeast. Therefore, the proposed Project would not be located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. No Impact.

The proposed Project is located 12 miles to the southwest of the Agua Dulce Airpark. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.13 POPULATION AND HOUSING

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
POPULATION AND HOUSING – Would the project:					
a.	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c.	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would include the construction of a recycled water pipeline that would serve already established residential/public developments that are currently using potable water for nonpotable use. Alignment Option 2 would include the construction of a reservoir to store the recycled water when not in use. As previously discussed in the Project Description, there is a push towards use of recycled water to help alleviate use of potable water. The CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan Update[57] identified the need for a cost-effective recycled water system. As a result, the proposed Project has been appropriately placed and sized as a 24-inch-diameter water pipeline to provide recycled water service to existing and future developments in Santa Clarita.

As described in the 2015 UWMP, the 2015 UWMP includes population projections based on the City and County General Plan Land Use designations within CLWA service boundaries. The anticipated recycled water supply and demand is then calculated based on the increase in population, which is dependent on the local City and County land use plans and policies to determine growth of the City and County. With this growth, the use of potable water as irrigation would be supplemented with recycled water. . The proposed Project would supply 560 afy of recycled water to users within the project area. The proposed Project would contribute to achieving the goal of providing more recycled water to supplement potable water in the CLWA service area. Impacts would be less than significant.

Environmental Justice

57 CLWA, *Recycled Water Master Plan Update* (2002).

Environmental justice issues relate to a minority or low-income population that has or would be exposed to more than its fair share of pollution or environmental degradation if a project is implemented.[58] The proposed Project is located in the City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated Los Angeles County in the Santa Clarita Valley, where the existing population has a median income greater than $87,000.[59] Development in this area is primarily single-family residential, public, and institutional uses. Therefore, the Project Site is not located within a neighborhood that suffers from exposure to adverse human health or environmental conditions. The proposed Project is considered a benefit to the existing population because it would provide recycled water to existing users along the pipeline route. Therefore, no impacts were found with regard to federal regulation Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. No Impact.

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would occur within the roadway right-of-way, adjacent to the RVWTP, and would utilize three existing open areas for construction staging areas. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. No Impact.

As mentioned above, construction and operation of the proposed Project would occur within the roadway right-of-way, adjacent to the RVWTP, and would utilize three existing open areas for construction staging areas. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

58 Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (1994), http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf.

59 City of Santa Clarita, Economic Development Department, "Population" http://www.santa-clarita.com/city-hall/departments/community-development/demographics/population. Accessed March 2017.

5.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
PUBLIC SERVICES				
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:				
a. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a.–e. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would not result in direct population growth requiring additional public facilities, as the recycled water supply would not be used for potable residential purposes. The proposed Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of a new or physically alter an existing government building. The proposed Project could be subject to vandalism and theft during construction and require support of local law enforcement; however, no new facilities would be required. The construction staging areas would be fenced to discourage vandalism and theft. In addition, the proposed pipeline would be located below ground upon completion of construction and the reservoir would be located adjacent to the RVWTP, which is a secured water treatment facility.

Should the Project Site require emergency or fire services, the Los Angeles County Fire Department would be able to provide adequate response. In addition, Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 would require that the construction contractor provide fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to the satisfaction of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase demand on the existing Los Angeles County Fire Department services.

Indirect impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant if the local government implements the policies of the SCGP and/or the SCVAP as it contains adequate measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts to public services including Sherriff, Fire Department, schools, and libraries. Specific mechanisms for implementing these policies would be determined in the course of project specific environmental review, as required by CEQA. Implementation of the adopted policies would reduce indirect project impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.15 RECREATION

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
RECREATION – Would the project:					
a.	Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. No Impact.

Recreational resources in the CLWA Boundary area consist of state, county/regional, and local parks and designated regional and local recreational trails. The City of Santa Clarita provides local and regional parks within City boundaries. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation also provides local parks and recreation facilities for northwestern Los Angeles County residents and provides regional parks for all residents of the county. Regional recreation areas under the control of the federal government include the Angeles National Forest, the Los Padres National Forest, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation area.

The implementation of the proposed Project would not directly result in short-term growth in the Project area, and therefore would not directly increase the use of recreational facilities. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The implementation of the proposed Project would not directly result in growth in the Project area, and therefore would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Upon completion, the proposed Project, there would be approximately 560 afy of potable water available for use.

As described above, the proposed Project has been sized for the existing population along the pipeline to have use of recycled water while freeing up approximately 560 afy of potable water that could allow a growth in population. Therefore, significant growth-related impacts to recreational resources may

include increased demand for recreational resources, such as public parks and trails and other recreation areas. Indirect impacts to public services would be reduced to less than significant if the local government implements the policies of the SCGP and SCVAP as it contains adequate measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts to parks, trails and other recreation areas.[60] Specific mechanisms for implementing these policies would be determined in the course of project specific environmental review, as required by CEQA. Implementation of the adopted policies would reduce indirect project impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

60 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Conservation and Open Space Element" (2011).

5.16 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC – Would the project:					
a.	Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e.	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f.	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. Less than Significant Impact.

Construction-related traffic would be generated during construction of the proposed Project, including worker vehicles traveling to and from the work site. The proposed Project is anticipated to generate 1.25 construction workers per piece of equipment. The proposed Project would utilize four to eight pieces of construction equipment at any given time including backhoes (2), a dump truck, excavators (2), a crane, and compaction machines (2). This would equate to approximately 10 workers arriving prior to 7:00 AM and leaving prior to afternoon peak-hour traffic (4:00 PM), thereby minimizing trips during peak hours. Short-term traffic impacts would be less than significant. Once construction activities are complete, traffic would revert to the current conditions.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The 2010 Congestion Management Program (CMP) in effect in Los Angeles County was adopted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority on October 28, 2010.[61] The nearest CMP-designated roadway is the I-5 Freeway. The eastern portion of the Project Site crosses underneath the I-5 Freeway. The proposed Project would generate an incremental increase in additional construction-related trips during off-peak hours and would not affect intersections along I-5. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. No Impact.

The proposed Project is located approximately 12 miles to the southwest of Agua Dulce Airpark. The proposed Project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns. Airplane takeoffs and landing are at a sufficient distance from the locations not to pose as a safety risk. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Less than Significant with Mitigation.

The construction activities of the proposed pipeline would require excavations and trenching within existing roadways, which would require traffic to be re-routed around the construction site. The eastern portion of the Project Site crosses underneath the I-5 which is under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Any construction activities that could impact Caltrans jurisdiction must obtain an encroachment permit and prepare a Construction Management Plan if construction activities would result in land closures or detours. The Old Road, Rye Canyon, Newhall Ranch Road and Bouquet Canyon Road would include temporary closures during construction on the proposed pipeline alignment. Therefore, construction activities have the potential to temporarily increase roadway hazards. Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** shall be implemented to reduce potential impacts. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

No changes are proposed as part of the proposed Project to the surrounding road system upon completion of construction activities. Clear and uninterrupted access to the pipeline for emergency

61 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, *2010 Congestion Management Program* (adopted October 28, 2010).

response vehicles would continue to be provided. The proposed Project would be compatible with the surrounding zoning designations and the existing uses. No impacts would occur during operation.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** shall be implemented. For reference, the mitigation measure is also provided in the Hazards and Hazardous Waste impact analysis.

TRAF-1: For proposed plan phases that may affect traffic, implementing agencies shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan should include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Develop circulation and detour plans to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.
- To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.
- Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.
- Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses, such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.

e. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The construction of the proposed Project could temporarily impact emergency access from construction activities within the roadways and could impact normal traffic flow and create roadway conditions that may delay emergency response times. Additionally, a Traffic Control Plan must be prepared to minimize potential emergency vehicle conflicts and to avoid complete blockage of any roadway during construction, as identified in Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1**. Impacts to less than significant.

The operation of the proposed Project would not result in inadequate emergency access because the facilities would not alter roadway alignments. Operation related impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** shall be implemented.

f. No Impact.

As previously stated, the proposed Project would not result in the increase of people, thereby eliminating the need for additional public transit services, nor would it result in straining the current system. Because the proposed Project would not result in any changes to the roadway system, current bus routes would remain the same.

No changes to any of the roadway systems along the pipeline are proposed with respect to the proposed Project upon completion of construction. The proposed Project would not involve the alteration of or conflict with any policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit or other pedestrian facilities. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.17 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion

i. Less Than Significant Impact.

As previously discussed in Section 5.5a, two previously recorded historic resources are located within 1 mile of the proposed Project APE, the I-5 Freeway and existing SCE transmission lines. The records search also identified a prehistoric or historic-period cultural resource within 0.25 miles of the western extent of the Project alignment (west of Bouquet Canyon Creek) (see **Appendix C**). The proposed Project would be located below ground within existing roadway right-of-way and would not directly or indirectly impact I-5 or the existing SCE transmission lines. Refer to 5.17.a.ii below for a discussion on the potential impact tribal cultural resources. Therefore, less than significant impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

ii. Less Than Significant with Mitigation.

AB 52 establishes a formal consultation process for California Native American tribes to identify potential significant impacts to tribal cultural resources, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as part of CEQA. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted to conduct a Sacred Lands File search for the project APE. The NAHC responded that the Sacred Lands File search did not identify the presence of Native American traditional cultural places or resources within the immediate project vicinity. Pursuant to AB 52, CLWA provided notification to the following two tribes on May 24, 2016—Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. Additional notification was provided to the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians—Kizh Nation on August 22, 2017, which deferred consultation to Tribes in the Project area. CLWA received a response from the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians which requested consultation pursuant to AB 52. A telephone conversation occurred between CLWA representative and Kimia Fatehi, Director, Public Relations/Officer, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation for the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on July 10 ,2017, to discuss the proposed Project and to set up a consultation meeting. CLWA sent a follow up email to Kimia Fatehi describing the nature of the telephone conversation and to confirm a meeting on July 17, 2017. The Phase 1 ESA (see **Appendix C**) was provided to Kimia Fatehi prior to the meeting on July 17, 2017. The Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians identified high sensitivity of cultural resources within the Santa Clara River, its tributaries, and the surrounding area. CLWA reiterated that the proposed pipeline would either hang from bridge crossings or within open cells within the bridges. Both parties discussed potential mitigation efforts near these areas. Ms. Kimia Fatehi also requested to be kept informed of project developments. A follow-up letter dated September 12, 2017, from Ms. Kimia Fatehi stated that there are sensitive cultural areas in close proximity to the Project Site and requested that CLWA implement language from the letter into mitigation for the proposed Project. CLWA sent a follow up letter on August 3, 2017, from Mr. Rick Viergutz which wanted to clarify specific areas during construction for a Native American monitor. CLWA and Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians agreed to Mitigation Measure **CUL-2** to be implemented along specific areas during construction. Impacts to potential tribal cultural resources would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation Measure **CUL-2** shall be implemented.

5.18 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:					
a.	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new and expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e.	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f.	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g.	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a. No Impact.

The proposed Project would construct a recycled water pipeline and reservoir. The proposed Project would result in the delivery of recycled water to customers in the City of Santa Clarita and would not result in wastewater generation. The proposed Project would not generate industrial wastewater or new point sources of wastewater such as mining, animal feed lots, wastewater treatment facilities, etc., that would require an individual permit beyond the capabilities of the existing wastewater treatment facilities serving the City of Santa Clarita. Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would not result in the expansion of wastewater treatment facilities other than those proposed by the SCVSD in the 2015 Joint Facilities Plan. The proposed Project would construct a recycled water pipeline and reservoir to transport and supply the Project area with recycled water for use as irrigation. CLWA RWMP identifies the future need for recycled water within the CLWA service area. CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan utilized the potable water supply and demand projections in CLWA 2015 UWMP to anticipate the future infrastructure needs to switch potable water use to nonpotable water use. Therefore, proposed Project development would not require the construction or expansion of existing water treatment facilities other than those proposed in CLWA UWMP. No other additional facilities are required. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. No Impact.

The proposed Project would not produce substantial amounts of additional runoff to the existing storm water drainage facilities. There would not be a substantial increase in impervious surfaces from implementation of the proposed Project as the roadway would be restored to existing conditions. The proposed reservoir tank would be located on approximately 8,000-square-foot development pad, as discussed in **Section 5.9, Hydrology and Water Quality**. The increase in impervious area would not impact the offsite storm drain system as runoff would be collected and percolated onsite. Project development would not require the construction or expansion of storm water drainage facilities. The runoff from irrigation would not be increased by the use of recycled water as it would replace the use of potable water for irrigation. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. No Impact.

As previously mentioned, the proposed Project would construct a pipeline to transmit recycled water to offset potable water demands for the City of Santa Clarita and construct a reservoir under Alignment Option 2. The proposed Project would provide a source of long-term irrigation supply for the area, as projected in CLWA RWMP and CLWA UWMP. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Less than Significant Impact.

As previously mentioned, the proposed Project would not generate any potential wastewater. No direct impact to wastewater treatment capacity would occur.

The proposed Project would, upon approval by the SCVSD, request approximately 560 afy, or 0.5 mgd, of recycled water to CLWA service area which would be supplied by the SCVSD from Valencia WRP. As described in Section 1.3.1, ~~T~~the diversion of 0.5 mgd would represent an approximately 3.6 percent reduction of the ~~13.8 mgd of the~~ average daily effluent produced by the Valencia WRP. As a result, potential impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would generate small amounts of solid waste construction debris from the disposal of excess soils or other debris. However, demolition activities are not required. The nominal amount of construction debris generated by the proposed Project would not be expected to exceed the permitted capacity of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, the Antelope Valley Landfill, or the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Impacts would be less than significant.

Operation of the water pipeline would not generate solid waste. Project implementation would not require additional landfill capacity. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

g. Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project is not required to comply with local zoning and building permits and ordinances. However, in order to reduce potential impacts to solid waste facilities that could result from the disposal of construction debris, the proposed Project would comply with the Santa Clarita Municipal Code, Chapter 15.46—Construction and Demolition Materials Management. requiring recycling of at least 50 percent of the waste generated during construction and preparation of a Construction and Demolition Debris Materials Management Plan, or equivalent. The proposed Project would not affect the City's ability to continue to meet the required AB 939 waste diversion requirements. Impacts would be less than significant and would not conflict with federal, State, and local statues and regulations.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.19 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE – Does the project:					
a.	Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b.	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.	Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

a. Less than Significant with Mitigation.

The proposed Project would not be constructed within or immediately adjacent to San Francisquito Creek or Bouquet Canyon Creek. As described in Section 5.4, Biological Resources, a survey of the Project Site did identify sensitive wildlife species, as well as identify potential habitat for sensitive wildlife and plant species. A follow up survey indicated that no special-status species were observed along the proposed alignment. However, due to potential habitat for sensitive species, the proposed Project would have the potential to directly or indirectly impact sensitive species during the construction phase. Mitigation has been identified, including provisions for pre-construction field surveys to determine the presence or absence of sensitive wildlife plant and animal species and any subsequent field actions, to mitigate impacts to less than significant. As discussed in Section 5.5, Cultural Resources and Section 5.17, Tribal Cultural Resources, known archeological or Native American resources were identified within a 1-mile radius of the Project Site. As such, the construction of the proposed Project could have the potential to unearth unknown archeological or Native American resources not previously identified. Therefore, mitigation has been identified, including the provision to stop work in the event of a find and to coordinate mitigation efforts with a qualified archaeologist and to coordinate Native

American monitoring in special areas, to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not have any significant impacts on the quality of the natural environment or on evidence of California's history or prehistory.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures will reduce impacts to wildlife species and cultural resources to less-than-significant.

Biological Resources

All pipeline construction activities and associated staging areas shall abide by Mitigation Measure **BIO-1**, **BIO-2**, **BIO-3**, **BIO-4**, **BIO-5, BIO-6,** and **BIO-7** as identified in **Section 5.4, Biological Resources.**

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Cultural Resources

All pipeline construction activities and associated equipment shall abide by Mitigation Measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-3** as identified in **Section 5.5, Cultural Resources.**

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

b. Less than Significant Impact.

Development of the proposed Project would not result in impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project would be consistent with CLWA Recycled Water Master Plan Update, the CLWA UWMP, the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, and the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and help to supply water to individuals located within the City. Additionally, the issues relevant to the proposed Project are localized and confined to the immediate Project area.

The 2016 RWMP Update (Draft June 2016) represents the best available information to describe potential recycled water demand of future Phase 2 recycled water projects and the available recycled water supply (it anticipates that a minimum recycled water discharge to the Santa Clara River of 13 mgd will be required and water in addition to that will be available for reuse). The 2016 RWMP Update (Draft June 2016) describes that the available recycled water supply from the Valencia WRP in the near term (2020) would be 5,800 afy (5.2 mgd) after an instream flow requirement of 13 mgd. During high summer demand months, discharge from the WRPs to the Santa Clara River would be lowered to approximately 13 mgd, consistent with the Reduced Discharge Study. This would leave an annual river discharge from the WRPs of around 14.8 mgd. The reduction down to 13 mgd would be short term and would occur during the 3-month period of June through August. The remainder of the year, the recycled water demand would be far less, averaging 4.7 mgd annually. In addition, the annual flows of 14.8 mgd that

would be reached in 2025 would reflect the levels of flow that occurred in the early 2000s; that level of flow was protective of the habitat at that time and of the species dependent on that habitat.[62] The available recycled water supply in the long term (2050) would be 11,400 afy, with a peak summer monthly demand of 972 af.

Future expansions identified in the 2016 RWMP Update, including the proposed Project, would on average require approximately 4.7 mgd of future flows, which would leave an annual supply of effluent discharged from the WRPs at approximately 14.8 mgd to the Santa Clara River. The monthly recycled water demands would fluctuate between higher summer demands, and lower winter demands. The highest demand for recycled water would occur during July, which could require up to 6.5 mgd for recycled water reuse. This would lower the overall discharge from the WRPs to 13 mgd in the Santa Clara River, consistent with the Reduced Discharge Study.[63] As the year progresses each month, the demand on recycled water would lessen. The reduction down to 13 mgd would be short term and only occur during summer months. The remainder of the year the demand would be far less, averaging an annual demand of 4.7 mgd.[64] The amount of effluent is anticipated to increase as the population of the region grows; at the time of the completion of future expansions in 2025, the total discharge to the Santa Clara River is anticipated to be 17.8 mgd. After meeting the 13 mgd minimum discharge requirement to support aquatic species, the remaining amount of effluent available to meet future recycled water demands would be approximately 4.8 mgd in 2025. By 2050, there would approximately 15.3 mgd available for recycled water reuse after meeting the 13 mgd minimum discharge flows require to support aquatic species with the Santa Clara River. The current recycled water demand is 425 afy and the proposed Phase 2 projects could result in potentially significant impacts because they would require more than 1,600 afy recycled water, and would reduce some discharge of treated effluent to the river.

However, the amount of effluent available for recycled water reuse is based on the excess supply after the minimum discharge to the river is satisfied. CLWA will be required to comply with the eventual SCVSD baseline for required minimal flows discharged to the Santa Clara River as a result of the future studies and approved 1211 petition to divert discharges. A 1211 petition is required when a wastewater treatment plant makes changes to the discharge of treated wastewater. If changes are proposed, the owner of the wastewater treatment plant requires approval of the State Water Resources Control

62 CLWA, *2016 RWMP Update* (Draft June 2016), Table 8-2.

Board. If the proposed change could have an adverse impact to biological resources, the CDFW requires review and mitigation measures to ensure minimal impact to biological resources. Currently, SCVSD has gone through the 1211 petition process and has contract with CLWA for 1,600 AFY of recycled water. For the use of additional recycled water beyond the 1,600 AFY currently available to CLWA, SCVSD would need to go through a new 1211 petition process.

The use of recycled water has been accounted for in the 2015 UWMP, which is based on the City and County general plan land use designations at buildout. Therefore, any additional indirect growth resulting from the proposed Project has been accounted for within CLWA service area.

No significant cumulatively considerable impacts are anticipated to result from the proposed Project. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The proposed Project would supply the area with recycled water. It would consist of new recycled water pipelines and potentially a new recycled water reservoir. The implementation of the proposed Project would not directly impact human beings. The proposed Project would not adversely impact the surrounding economy of the City. It would bring temporary construction jobs to the local area.

Energy

The proposed Project would require a nominal amount of additional electricity to function; this amount of electricity would not require the construction or expansion of energy supply infrastructure. The proposed Project would incorporate energy-efficient equipment and lighting to minimize energy impacts when feasible. Further, importing water is energy intensive; the electricity use for conveying, treating, and distributing water is approximately 10,200 kWh/MG. The production and use of recycled water is more energy efficient than imported water, and thus the greater the use of recycled water to offset the need for imported water, the lower the potential impacts to local and regional energy supplies. The proposed Project is intended to accelerate expansion of the existing recycled water system to offset potable water demands. Therefore, impacts to local and regional energy supplies would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures shall be implemented to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Aesthetics

All construction activities and associated equipment shall abide by Mitigation Measures **AES-1**, **AES-2**, and **AES-3** as identified in **Section 5.1, Aesthetics**.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

All construction activities and associated equipment shall abide by Mitigation Measure **HAZ-1** as identified in **Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials,** and Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** in **Section 5.16, Transportation and Traffic**.

Transportation and Traffic

All construction activities and associated equipment shall abide by Mitigation Measure **TRAF-1** as identified in **Section 5.16.**

6.0 REFERENCES

The following documents and information were used in the preparation of this Initial Study:

BioResource Consultants Inc., Habitat Assessment Report for the Castaic Lake Pipeline Project (September 8, 2016).

BioResource Consultants Inc., Habitat Assessment Update for the Castaic Lake Pipeline Project (August 3, 2017).

California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, *CEQA & Climate Change* (January 2008).

California Air Resources Board (CARB), *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* (2005), 32.

California Air Resources Board, *Final Supplement to the AB 32 Scoping Plan Functional Equivalent Document (FED)* (August 2011), Attachment D.

California Code of Regulations, tit. 14, sec. 15063.

California Department of Conservation (DOC), *California Geological Survey, Regional Geological and Mapping Program* (2015), http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/WH/regulatorymaps.htm. Accessed July 2016.

California Department of Conservation, "Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation Newhall Quadrangle," http://gmw.consrv.ca.gov/SHP/EZRIM/Maps/NEWHALL_EZRIM.pdf.

California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection, "Los Angeles County Important Farmland 2014" (April 2016), http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html. Accessed July 2017.

California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, "State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Statewide Map" (2012), ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/2012%20Statewide%20Map/WA_2012_11x17.pdf. Accessed July 2017.

California Department of Public Health, Title 17 and Title 22, Code of Regulations, "Regulations Related to Recycled Water" (June 18, 2014).

California Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Standards and Area Designation (December 2015), http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm.

California Environmental Protection Agency, State Water Control Board, "State and Regional Water Boards," http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml. Accessed July 2017.

California Government Code, sec. 53091(d) and (e).

California Health and Safety Code, sec. 7050.5 and 5097.98.

City of Santa Clarita, "Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Flood Zones" (2013), http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6974.

City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan,* "Conservation and Open Space Element" (2011).

City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan,* "Land Use Policy Map" (adopted June 2011), http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=7458.

City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan,* "Noise Element" (2011).

City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan,* "Safety Element" (2011).

City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan,* "Zoning Map" (updated September 2015), http://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6970.

City of Santa Clarita, Economic Development Department, "Population" http://www.santa-clarita.com/city-hall/departments/community-development/demographics/population. Accessed March 2017.

City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code, ch. 11.44 Noise Limits, "Noise Limits" (May 24, 2016), 11.44.040.

City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, sec. 17.17.0.0, Oak Tree Preservation.

Castaic Lake Water Agency, Recycled Water Master Plan Update (2002).

CLWA, Draft Program Recycled Water Master Plan EIR, vol. I (2006).

CLWA, Draft Recycled Water Master Plan (June 2016).

CLWA, Castaic Lake Water Agency Recycled Water Master Plan Update Draft Program EIR (October 2016). https://clwa.org/docs/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CLWA-Recycled-Water-Master-Plan-April-2016-Administrative-Draft-6.pdf

County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, "Disaster Route Maps: City of Santa Clarita" (2010), http://dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/disasterroutes/map/Santa%20Clarita.pdf.

County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning, *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*, Exhibit S-1, Earthquake Faults (December 27, 2012).

Department of Transportation, "California Scenic Highway Mapping System," http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm. Accessed July 2017.

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations (1994), http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management, https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11988-floodplain-management. Accessed July 2017.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Executive Order 11990, https://www.fema.gov/executive-order-11990-protection-wetlands-1977. Accessed July 2017.

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Department, electronic communication with Principal Water Resources Planner for the Castaic Lake Water Agency (June 2, 2016).

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2010 Congestion Management Program (adopted October 28, 2010).

Los Angeles County Municipal Code, Chapter 12.08, Noise Control Ordinance of the County of Los Angeles, sec. 12.08.440.

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ, as amended by 2012-0006-DWQ.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminstration, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/laws_policies/msa/, Accessed July 2017.

National Park Service, National Historic Preservation Act of 1974, https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/fhpl_archhistpres.pdf. Accessed July 2017.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, About the WSR Act, https://www.rivers.gov/wsr-act.php. Accessed July 2017.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. https://www.rivers.gov. Accessed July 2017.

Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.

Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Appendix II (2012), Figure S-6: Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Appendix II: Maps (2012), Figure CO-2: Mineral Resources.

Santa Valley Clarita Area Plan, "Biological Resources" (2012).

South Coast Air Quality Management District, Final 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (February 2013).

South Coast Air Quality Management District, "General Forecast Areas and Air Monitoring Areas," http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/map-of-monitoring-areas.pdf. Accessed July 2017.

South Coast Air Quality Management District, "SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds" (rev. March 2015), http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=2.

South Coast Wildlands, *South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network for the South Coast Ecoregion* (2008), http://www.scwildlands.org/reports/SCMLRegionalReport.pdf.

State Water Resources Control Board, *GeoTracker,* http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/. Accessed July 2017.

United States, Code, tit. 16, sec. 1453, Coast Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended through the Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1996.

US Department of Agriculture, Farmland Protection Policy Act, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/?cid=nrcs143_008275. Accessed July 2017.

US Environmental Protection Agency, Sole Source Aquifers, 2015, http://www2.epa.gov/dwssa. Accessed July 2017.

US EPA, Safe Drinking Water Act, https://www.epa.gov/sdwa. Accessed July 2017.

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Wetlands Mapper, 2017, http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html. Accessed March 2017.

US Geological Survey (USGS), Science in your Watershed (2014), https://water.usgs.gov/wsc/map_index.html. Accessed July 2017.

US National Forest, Locator Map (2015), http://www.fs.fed.us/locatormap/. Accessed July 2017.

7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

LEAD AGENCY

Castaic Lake Water Agency

Rick Viergutz, Principal Water Resources Planner
Shadi Bader, Senior Engineer, P.E., PMP

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION PREPARATION

Meridian Consultants LLC

Joe Gibson, Principal
Chris Hampson, Senior Project Manager
Victoria Boyd, Staff Planner
Andrea Harsma, Publications Coordinator
Bryna Fischer, Editor
Matt Lechuga, Production Coordinator
Tom Brauer, Graphics Coordinator

BioResource Consultants Inc.

Brian Holly, Vice President, Senior Ecologist
Matt Schaap, Biologist

Applied EarthWorks Inc.

Vanessa Mirro, Vice President
Roberta Thomas, MA, RPA