RECYLED WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM, SOUTHWEST QUADRANT

Addendum #3 to the Tiered Mitigated Negative Declaration
State Clearinghouse Number 2014081078

Prepared for
City of Fresno

September 2020

ESA

[Draft phase here]

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2600 Capitol Avenue
Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
916.564.4500
esassoc.com

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Recycled Water Distribution System, Southwest Quadrant Addendum #3

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SECTION 1
Background and Purpose of the Addendum

1.1 Background

The City of Fresno (City) Recycled Water Distribution System, Southwest Quadrant Tiered Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH# 2014081078) analyzed impacts associated with conveying tertiary treated recycled water from the Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF) for urban reuse, groundwater recharge, and agricultural reuse as part of the City's Recycled Water Master Plan (Master Plan).

The City adopted a Master Plan in April 2013 that identified potential recycled water use opportunities within the City and its Sphere of Influence (SOI), including Fresno County lands located in or adjacent to the SOI. The Master Plan includes a plan for the installation and operation of treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure to serve the Master Plan area with recycled water. The Master Plan is being implemented in a phased manner based on technical, funding, partnering, and other factors through 2025. The Master Plan informs the City's decision process in selecting recycled water projects that include expansion of the City's recycled water system to reduce the use of percolation ponds that currently handle effluent discharge, to offset potable water use, and to enhance the sustainability of water supplies.

On December 18, 2014, the City Council adopted the Tiered MND and approved the Recycled Water Distribution System, Southwest Quadrant project and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD). Following adoption of the Tiered MND and project approval, refinements were made to the pump station location and segments of the pipeline routes. These refinements were evaluated in Addendum #1 to the Tiered MND which was approved by the City Council on August 31, 2017. Further refinements to the pipeline routes were made in Addendum #2, which was approved on June 13, 2019. Since the approval of Addendum #2, further refinements have been made to the pipeline alignments. See Section 2 for a description of proposed refinements. The Tiered MND, Addendum #1, and Addendum #2 are on file at the City's Planning Department, and can be found at the City of Fresno Development and Resource Management Department, 2600 Fresno Street, Room 3043, Fresno, California 93721-3604.

1.2 Purpose of this Addendum

The CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15162 and 15164) require that a lead agency prepare an addendum to a negative declaration if some changes or additions to the environmental evaluation of a project are necessary but none of the following occurs:

1. There are no substantial changes in the project which require major revisions to the mitigated negative declaration or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
2. There are no substantial changes with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which require major revisions to the negative declaration; or
3. No new information of substantial importance, which could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time of negative declaration adoption, shows any of the following:
   i. the project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the negative declaration,
   ii. the project will result in impacts substantially more severe than those disclosed in the negative declaration,
   iii. mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponent declines to adopt it, or
   iv. mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the negative declaration would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponent declines to adopt it.

The purpose of this document is to: (1) evaluate the refinements to the pipeline routes; and (2) to provide documentation to support that the proposed refinements would not result in effects that meet the criteria described in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164 and; therefore, an Addendum is appropriate.

SECTION 2
Description of Project Changes

2.1 Project Overview

The City proposed to install recycled water distribution pipelines and construct a pump station in the City of Fresno's Southwest Quadrant. The proposed distribution pipelines would convey tertiary treated recycled water from the RWRF for urban reuse, groundwater recharge, and agricultural reuse as proposed as part of the City's Master Plan. The pump station would be connected to the proposed recycled water distribution pipeline segment SW 1B located along West Belmont Avenue as shown in **Figure 1**.

2.2 Proposed Project Changes

The City is proposing to refine alignment by adding an additional 5,802 linear feet of pipe as shown in Figure 1.

The adopted Tiered MND analyzed approximately 22 miles of pipeline throughout the southwest portion of the City. The total miles of pipeline were reduced by approximately 1,600 feet (.30 miles) as part of the refinements analyzed and approved in Addendum #1. Addendum #2 evaluated the addition of approximately 4 miles of pipeline. As a result, a total of approximately 131,137 feet or 24.83miles of pipeline has been approved and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended.

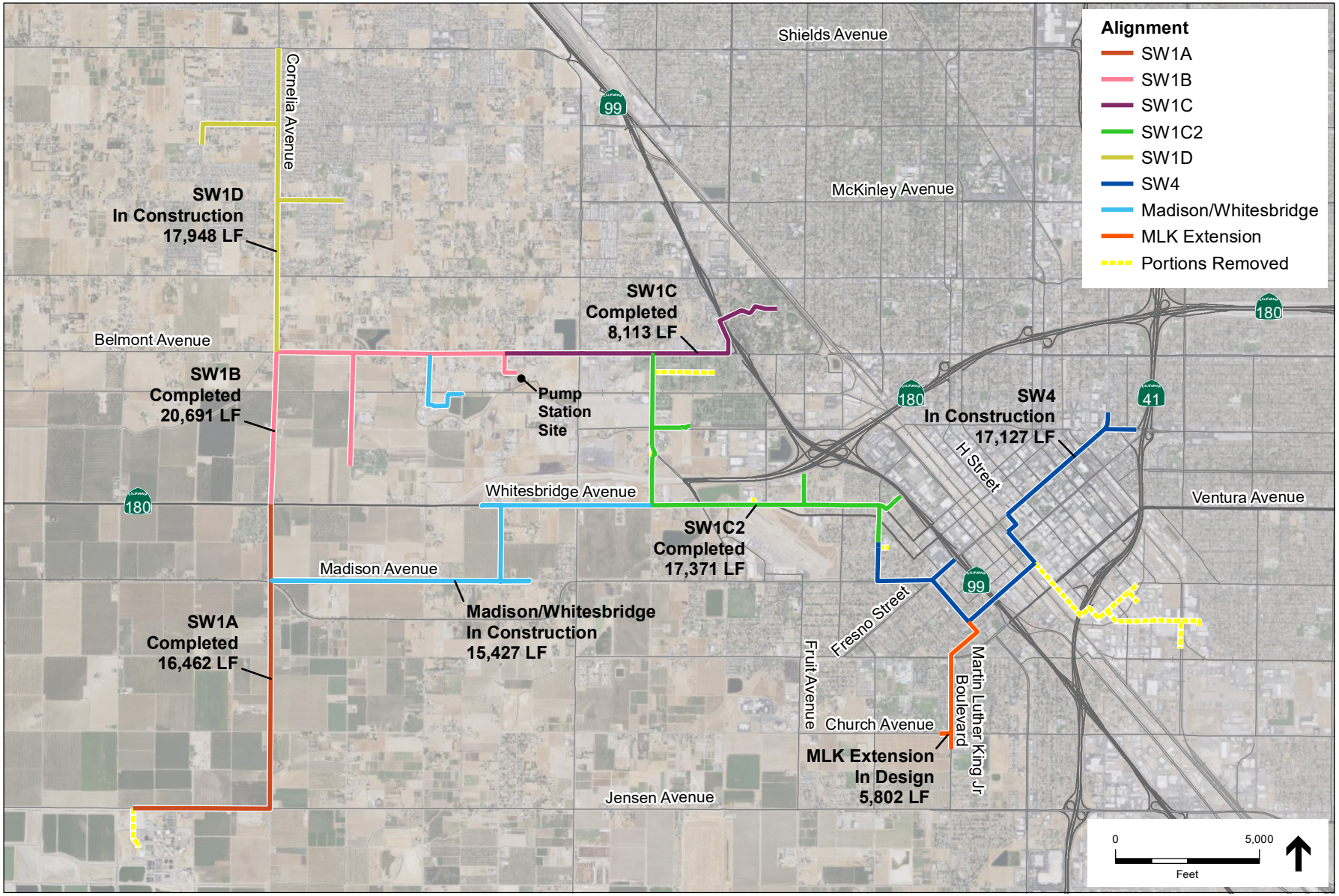
However, over the course of construction of the recycled water distribution pipelines, some planned portions of the segments were not constructed and refinements to the measurements of the constructed segments were made. As a result, the total length of constructed and proposed pipeline through Addendum #2 is 113,139 linear feet or 21.43 miles.

The proposed refinement would add approximately 5,802 linear feet (or 1.10 miles) of new pipeline for a total of 118,941 feet or 22.53 miles of pipeline, which is approximately a 9.3 percent decrease from the currently approved alignment.

The additional pipeline would connect to the previously approved alignment at the intersection of A Street and Inyo Street. From there it would run southeast along A Street for approximately 461 feet before turning southwest at the intersection of Mono Street and A Street. The alignment would run along Mono Street for approximately 1,194 feet before reaching the end of Mono Street. The alignment would then continue through the intersection of East California Avenue and Pottle Avenue, running south along Pottle Avenue which immediately turns into South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, for a total of approximately 3,465 feet. In addition, the alignment

would turn west along Church Avenue and extend for approximately 682 feet from the intersection of South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Church Avenue.

Installation of the pipelines along the refined alignments would be consistent with the construction considerations described in Chapter 1, Project Description, pages 1-8 through 1-11of the Tiered MND. This includes similar construction equipment, methods, and staging areas. The additional pipeline would be installed in existing street rights-of-way. As such, construction impacts would be sufficiently covered with the previously approved CEQA documents.



SOURCE: USDA, 2018; ESRI, 2012; Blair, Church, and Flynn, 2019; ESA, 2020

Fresno Recycled Water Project . 130412

Figure 1
Project Alignments

SECTION 3
Analysis of Potential Environmental Effects

Although the alignment of distribution pipelines would differ from the originally approved project, the project would continue to convey tertiary treated recycled water from the RWRF for urban reuse, groundwater recharge, and agricultural reuse as originally proposed as part of the City's Master Plan. Because project operations would remain unchanged, the focus of the analysis in this Addendum is on the proposed installation of the pipelines along the refined routes. Therefore, impacts related to project operations are not discussed further in this Addendum.

3.1 Aesthetics

Section 2.1 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to the aesthetics of the project area, and found that installation of the proposed pipelines and construction of the pump station could degrade the existing visual character or quality of the project area. Installation of the pipelines would require the use of heavy equipment, excavation and grading, and storage of materials on-site, which could result in temporary changes to the visual character of the surrounding areas. The Tiered MND concluded that implementation of Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Mitigation Measures 4.11.2a through c and Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.11.3 would reduce impacts from construction activities by requiring areas disturbed during construction to be restored to pre-existing conditions, landscaping to be appropriately applied and maintained, facility designs include non-glare exterior coatings that are colored in earth tone, and shielding of nighttime lighting.

The pipelines proposed as part of the refined alignment would be installed within existing road rights-of-way and would be located underground following installation. In addition, the proposed revisions would be required to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.11.2a-c and Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.11.3 to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, installation of the pipelines along the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.2 Agricultural and Forest Resources

Section 2.2 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to agricultural and forest resources, and concluded that installation of the proposed pipelines and construction of the pump station would not result in a significant conversion of farmland or forest resources because the pipelines would be installed underground in existing road rights-of-way, and the pump station would not be located on land designated for agricultural or forest use. Installation of the pipelines along the

refined alignment would also occur in existing road rights-of-way. Therefore, installation of the pipelines along the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.3 Air Quality

Section 2.3 of the Tiered MND analyzed air quality impacts and concluded that installation of the pipelines and construction of the pump station could result in significant impacts due to construction activities generating short-term emissions of criteria air pollutants. The Tiered MND concluded that implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.7.1a to 4.7.1c would minimize potential construction related air emissions to a less than significant level by requiring compliance with Regulation VIII Rule 8011 and San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District measures for dust control; Rule 9510 Indirect Source Review for reductions of 20% of the NOx construction emissions and 45% of the PM10 construction exhaust emissions or payment of mitigations fees; and off-road equipment used on site achieving fleet average emissions equal to or less than the Tier II emissions standard of 4.8 NOx grams per horsepower-hour (g/hp-hr). Proposed installation activities for the refined alignment would be the same as those identified in the Tiered MND, except that they would occur in different locations and along a slightly longer alignment. The refined alignment would add approximately 5,802 linear feet (or 1.10 miles) of new pipeline for a total of 22.53 miles of pipeline, which when considered with the portions of the alignment not constructed, is an approximate a 9.3 percent decrease from the currently approved alignment. Construction of the originally approved alignment began in December 2015. It had been estimated, and evaluated in the Tiered MND, to be completed within 22 months. However, because of project delays and refinements, construction has been dispersed over a longer timeline and is now anticipated to conclude at the end of 2020 or early 2021. The air quality calculations in this addendum consider both the additional pipeline length currently proposed and the extended construction timeline. As shown in **Table 1**, the additional pipeline length would not exceed the significance thresholds for criteria air pollutants when considered with the construction of the other segments that would be constructed within the same timeframe. In addition, installation of the refined alignment would be required to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.7.1a to 4.7.1c which would minimize potential construction related air emissions and ensure that potential emissions impacts contributed would be less-than-significant. Therefore, construction of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

TABLE 1
UNMITIGATED CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS (TONS PER YEAR)

Year	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_X	PM10	PM2.5
2017	0.1268	1.3299	0.6716	<0.5	0.4186	0.2556
2018	0.4657	4.8285	4.149	<0.5	0.4387	0.3275
2019	0.3431	3.4498	2.8285	<0.5	0.7889	0.4987
2020	0.8154	6.2331	6.4645	<0.5	0.9538	0.5664
Significance Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15

3.4 Biological Resources

Section 2.4 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to biological resources and concluded that installation of the pipelines and construction of the pump station could result in significant impacts to special-status species and their habitats, seasonal movement for migratory wildlife species, protected trees, and jurisdictional waters of the United States. As identified within the Tiered MND, these impacts would be reduced to less than significant with implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.5.2, 4.5.4a, 4.5.4b, 4.5.8, and 4.5.10, and Tiered MND Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2.

Installation of pipeline along the refined alignment had not been previously surveyed for biological resources. An Environmental Science Associates (ESA) biologist conducted a field reconnaissance survey of the refined alignment on September 27, 2019, which included the proposed new alignment sections along A Street, Mono Street, Pottie Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Church Avenue. The survey identified no additional sensitive biological resources within the refined alignment beyond those identified in the Tiered MND.

Based on observations made during the biologist's reconnaissance survey, the refined alignment mostly follows paved roads in residential and commercial areas. A limited number of ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) burrows and burrow complexes were observed at the edge of a ruderal grassland area along a fence line on the west side of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard south of Church Avenue. These burrows may potentially provide habitat for special-status burrowing animals including western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*). No western burrowing owl or San Joaquin kit fox individuals or signs of their presence were observed at or around the burrow entrances or in the grassland area. If the species or active dens or burrows are present in the ruderal grassland during pipeline installation, disturbance associated with these activities could temporarily result in elimination of areas essential for seasonal movement as well as harm to individuals if present during construction activities. Implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.5.2, 4.5.4a, and 4.5.4b would reduce potential impacts to burrowing owl and San Joaquin kit fox to a less than significant level by implementing preconstruction surveys, buffer zones around dens, worker education, and other measures as specified therein.

Birds, including raptors, and bats have the potential to nest or roost within the trees along the refined alignment. No nesting birds were observed during the survey because the survey was conducted outside of the nesting season. However, if passerine birds and raptors which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are nesting close to the project's vicinity during the nesting season, installation activities could cause nest abandonment or loss of reproductive potential. Other potential impacts to these species during project installation include the potential for harm to individual birds, if present, and the loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitat. Therefore, installation of pipelines along the refined alignment could have a potentially significant impact on nesting birds. Implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.5.2 would be required to reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less than significant level by completing preconstruction surveys, avoiding nesting birds, and establishing buffer zones as warranted; the buffer zone may vary depending on species and site specific conditions as approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Therefore, installation of the pipelines along the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Section 2.5 of the Tiered MND noted that potentially significant impacts to cultural resources during the construction phase would be limited to unidentified prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural resources. Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.12.2b and 4.12.2c include implementation of a construction worker training program and measures to protect the unexpected discovery of subsurface resources during construction. Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.12.4a and 4.12.4b provide for review of discovered paleontological resources by a qualified paleontologist, and implementation of a resource monitoring and mitigation program, as relevant. Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.12.3 would require contact with the County coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission as warranted. The Tiered MND concluded that implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce impacts to previously unidentified archeological resources to a less-than-significant level.

The refined pipeline alignment is located partially within the ½ mile buffer area considered in the records search performed for the Tiered MND (Figures 3a-c): ESA conducted a records search for this project at the San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield on October 21, 2013 (RS# 13-429), September 23, 2014 (RS# 14-333), and April 29, 2019 (RS#19-142). ESA also requested SSJVIC staff conducted a supplemental records search for the current addendum on October 4, 2019 (RS#19-372) to address the portions of the revised alignment outside of the previously conducted records searches. These records searches indicated no documented resources within or adjacent to the refined alignment. Additionally, an ESA archaeologist conducted a pedestrian field survey of the refined alignment on October 7, 2019. The field survey identified no prehistoric or historic period resources within the refined alignment.

Five historic resources were identified intersecting or adjacent to the approved alignment's area of potential effect (APE), although the refinements included in Addendum #1 resulted in two of these (P-10-6032, the Weber Avenue Overcrossing; and P-10-4513, Belmont Avenue Subway) no longer intersecting the APE. In addition, ESA's evaluation in Addendum #1 recommended Houghton Canal ineligible for listing in the California and National Registers due to a lack of significant associations. The refined alignment includes the remaining three historical resources identified in the original project as adjacent to the refined alignment, but no additional historical resources were identified during the current course of study.

ESA cultural resources specialists determined that the refined alignment would not result in direct or indirect impacts to these resources that would hinder their ability to convey their historic significance. Subsequently, installation of the refined alignment would result in no anticipated impacts to historical resources. Installation of the refined alignment is not anticipated to encounter subsurface resources, paleontological resources or human remains, but would be required to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.12.2b and 4.12.2c, Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.12.4a and 4.12.4b; and Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.12.3 to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. In the unlikely event resources are discovered during installation, implementation of these mitigation measures would ensure that the proper procedures are followed should the unexpected discovery of subsurface resources, paleontological resources, or human remains occur. Therefore, installation of the pipelines along the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.6 Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

Section 2.6 of the Tiered MND analyzed potential impacts to geology and soils and concluded that pipelines could be subject to damage resulting from a seismic event or unstable soil conditions. The Tiered MND concluded that implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.3.1a-c would reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level by requiring adherence to California Building Code standards and pipeline design guidelines provided by the American Water Works Association. Implementation of the refined alignment would be similar to the approved project except that potential geology, soils, and seismicity impacts would occur in different locations. The refined alignment would also result in the installation of buried pipelines. Although located in a different location than the approved project, the refined alignment would be required to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.3.1a-c to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels by requiring adherence to California Building Code standards and pipeline design guidelines provided by the American Water Works Association. Therefore, the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Section 2.7 of the Tiered MND analyzed greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts and concluded that there would be less-than-significant impacts due to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. The refined alignment would add approximately 5,802 linear feet (or 1.10 miles) of new pipeline for a total of 22.53 miles of pipeline, which when considered with the portions of the alignment not constructed, is an approximate 9.3 percent decrease over the currently approved alignment.

Installation activities along the refined alignment would be similar to those described for the alignment under the Tiered MND. Therefore, the additional pipeline length would result in only a small increase in construction time of 100 days, which would correlate to a small increase in the generation of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, when considering the portions of the alignment not constructed and refined segment measurements, even with the additional 5,802 feet there would be an approximate 9.3 percent decrease overall from the currently approved alignment The refined alignment would continue to comply with the State goals for reducing GHG emissions. The refined alignment would continue to comply with the California Air Resources Board's recommended actions, would remain under the 25,000 metric tons per year of CO_2 limit for smaller projects, and would continue to utilize the same construction methods and materials to retain the same energy efficiency as described in the Tiered MND. Greenhouse gas emissions of the approved project were not near any significance thresholds; therefore, small increases anticipated under the refined alignment would not result in a significant impact or require additional mitigation. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Section 2.8 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials, and concluded that the installation of the pipelines and construction of the pump station could result in an accidental discovery and/or release of hazardous materials, interference with emergency vehicle access, and wildfire. The Tiered MND concluded that implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.6.1a and 4.6.1b, and 4.9.1a-c, and Tiered MND Mitigation Measure HM-1 would reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level by requiring coordination with appropriate local governments and emergency providers, and ensuring implementation of fire risk reducing measures.

The refined alignment would be installed within existing road right-of-use and no hazardous materials sites were discovered along the refined alignment during an updated online search of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The refined alignment would result in similar impacts from accidental discovery and/or release of hazardous materials, interference with emergency vehicle access, and wildfire. Installation of the refined alignment would be required to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.6.1a and 4.6.1b, Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.9.1a-c, and Tiered MND Mitigation Measure

HM-1 to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. As further discussed under section 3.9 *Hydrology and Water Quality*, adherence to Best Management Practices (BMPs) as part of obtaining coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit would reduce impacts from waterborne pollutants (such as oils, gasoline, and heavy metals) entering natural waters to less-than-significant. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

Section 2.9 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to hydrology and water quality and concluded that installation of the pipelines and construction of the pump station could result in significant impacts to water quality. Adherence to BMPs as part of obtaining coverage under the NPDES General Construction Permit would reduce impacts from waterborne pollutants entering natural waters to less-than-significant. BMPs may include, but would not be limited to:

- Physical barriers to prevent erosion and sedimentation including setbacks and buffers, rooftop and impervious surface disconnection, rain gardens and cisterns, and other installations;
- Construction and maintenance of sedimentation basins;
- Limitations on construction work during storm events;
- Use of swales, mechanical, or chemical means of stormwater treatment during construction, including vegetated swales, bioretention cells, chemical treatments, and mechanical stormwater filters; and
- Implementation of spill control, sediment control, and pollution control plans and training.

The specific BMPs to be implemented would be determined prior to issuance of the NPDES General Permit, in coordination with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

The installation of the refined alignment would also be installed underground and would occur in existing road rights-of-way and constructed in the same manner as previously analyzed. During installation, the refined alignment would also be required to comply with the conditions of the NPDES General Construction Permit, including applicable BMPs, which would ensure that potential water quality impacts would be minimized. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.10 Land Use and Land Use Planning

Section 2.10 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to land use planning and concluded that installation of the pipelines and construction of the pump station could result in significant impacts to an applicable land use plan because the approved pump station site was included

within the solid waste disposal site boundary for inert wastes. The pipelines along the refined alignment would be buried underground following construction and would not result in a change to existing or planned land uses. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.11 Mineral Resources

Section 2.11 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to mineral resources and concluded that no impact to mineral resources would occur. Installation of the refined alignment would also occur in existing road rights-of-way and would not be located over any mineral resource area, preventing future resource excavation. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.12 Noise

Section 2.12 of the Tiered MND analyzed noise impacts and concluded that there would be significant temporary increases in noise and ground-borne vibration levels associated with installation of the pipelines and construction of the pump station. The Tiered MND concluded that implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.8.1 and 4.8.2 would reduce noise levels when activities occur adjacent to sensitive receptors to less-than-significant levels. Installation of the refined alignment would utilize the same typed of construction equipment and result in the same noise and vibration levels as those associated with the approved pipeline routes, but in different locations. Installation of the refined alignment would be required to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.8.1 and 4.8.2 to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.13 Population and Housing

Section 2.13 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to population and housing and concluded that there would be less-than-significant impacts to growth and no impact to displacement of housing or people. Implementation of the project would distribute recycled water to meet a small portion of the total demand from planned development that was evaluated in the adopted 2025 Fresno General Plan and General Plan Master EIR (MEIR). Recycled water distributed under the project would be used to offset demand that would otherwise be met using groundwater or imported surface water supplies. Installation of the refined alignment would also distribute recycled water and offset demand that would otherwise be met using groundwater or imported surface water and would not result in displacement of existing homes or substantial numbers of people above what was previously analyzed in the Tiered MND. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment

would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.14 Public Services

Section 2.14 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to public services and concluded that there would be no generation of new population growth, increase of staff to operate and maintain facilities or increase the demand for public services. Installation of the refined alignment would distribute recycled water that would be used to offset demand that would otherwise be met using groundwater or imported surface water supplies and therefore not generate new population growth above existing assumed levels. In addition, the operation and maintenance of the refined alignment would not require the City to hire additional staff to operate and maintain facilities because when considering the portions of the alignment not constructed and refined segment measurements, even with the additional 5,802 feet there would be an approximate 9.3 percent decrease overall from the currently approved alignment. As a result, installation of the refined alignment would not increase the demand for the kinds of public services that would support new residents, such as schools, parks, fire, police, or other public facilities. Therefore, installation of refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.15 Recreation

Section 2.15 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to recreation and concluded that there would be temporary interference with access to portions of the Rotary Storyland and Playland Park and Roeding Park. Access would be restored following completion of construction activities; and therefore, would not result in a significant impact. The refined alignment would not result in interference with access to these or other recreation facilities. Therefore, the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.16 Transportation and Traffic

Section 2.16 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to transportation and concluded that installation of the pipelines and pump station could result in significant impacts due to vehicle trips generated by construction workers and construction vehicles on area roadways and reduced travel lanes, potential traffic safety hazards, and impediments to emergency vehicle access. The Tiered MND concluded that implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.6.1a and 4.6.1b would reduce these impacts to less than significant by requiring development and implementation of a traffic management plan, obtaining necessary road encroachment permits, and coordination with local governments, agencies, and departments. Installation of the refined alignment would result in similar impacts to transportation as those associated with the approved pipeline routes, but in different locations. Installation of the refined alignment would be required

to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.6.1a and 4.6.1b to reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND, as amended and Master Plan EIR.

3.17 Utilities and Service Systems

Section 2.17 of the Tiered MND analyzed impacts to utilities and service systems and concluded that impacts would be less-than-significant. The quantity of solid waste is expected to be minimal and local landfills have adequate capacity. Installation of the refined alignment would be similar to the approved project except that the installation would occur in different locations. The proposed refinement would add approximately 5,802 linear feet (or 1.10 miles) of new pipeline for a total of 118,941 feet or 22.53 miles of pipeline, which is approximately a 9.3 percent decrease from the currently approved alignment when considering the portions of the alignment not constructed and the refinements made to the measurements of the constructed segments. Because the local landfills have adequate capacity and the refined alignment would only result in a minimal increase in waste, the project is not anticipated to affect the capacity of the local landfills. The refined alignment would be installed underground and would occur in existing road rights-of-way and would not result in an increased amount of impervious surfaces. Implementation of the project would distribute recycled water to meet a small portion of the total demand from planned development that was evaluated in the adopted 2025 Fresno General Plan and General Plan Master EIR (MEIR). Recycled water distributed under the project would be used to offset demand that would otherwise be met using groundwater or imported surface water supplies. The refined alignment would not involve development of new residential, commercial or industrial land uses; and therefore, would not directly or indirectly result in population growth or development that would require additional water supply, wastewater treatment, or demand for other utilities. Therefore, installation of the refined alignment would not result in new significant impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts over those identified and evaluated in the Tiered MND and Master Plan EIR.

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SECTION 4
Conclusion

On the basis of the evaluation presented in Section 3, the proposed refinements to the pipeline routes would not trigger any of the conditions listed in Section 1.2 of this Addendum requiring preparation of a subsequent or supplemental MND. All applicable mitigation measures from the Master Plan EIR and Tiered MND, as amended apply to the refined alignment, as described previously in Section 3, Analysis of Potential Environmental Effects. This Addendum satisfies the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164. Under CEQA, modifications that are not substantial, but represent minor changes or additions may be presented in an addendum and does not require circulation. This document will be made part of the administrative record and will be transmitted to the lead agency decision-making body along with the certified Master Plan EIR and Tiered MND, as amended to provide clarification regarding proposed refinements outlined above and to comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15164.

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APPENDIX A

Cultural Resources Technical Memo

2600 Capitol Avenue
Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
916.564.4500 phone
916.564.4501 fax

esassoc.com

memorandum

date	October 15, 2019
to	Todd Gordon, ESA Project Manager
cc	
from	Kathy Cleveland, ESA Architectural Historian; Mai Lee, ESA Archaeologist
subject	Fresno Recycled Water Distribution System, Southwest Quadrant Addendum #3 – Cultural Resources Analysis

The following cultural resources analysis was conducted as part of the Fresno Recycled Water Distribution System, Southwest Quadrant for the proposed revisions of the pipeline alignment from the September 2017 addendum Tiered MND.

Project Description and Location

The City proposed to install recycled water distribution pipelines and construct a pump station in the City of Fresno's Southwest Quadrant. The proposed distribution pipelines would convey tertiary treated recycled water from the RWRF for urban reuse, groundwater recharge, and agricultural reuse as proposed as part of the City's Master Plan.

An additional 5,802 linear feet of pipe would be added to the approved alignment as shown in **Figure 1**. The additional pipe would connect to the previously approved alignment at the intersection of A Street and Inyo Street. From there it would run southeast along A Street for approximately 461 feet before turning southwest at the intersection of Mono Street and A Street. The alignment would run along Mono Street for approximately 1,194 feet before reaching the end of Mono Street. The alignment would then continue through the intersection of East California Avenue and Pottle Avenue, running south along Pottle Avenue which immediately turns into South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, for a total of approximately 3,465 feet. In addition, the alignment would turn west along Church Avenue and extend for approximately 682 feet from the intersection of South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Church Avenue.

Archival Review

The refined pipeline routes are located partially within the ½ mile buffer area considered in the records search performed for the Tiered MND. ESA conducted records searches for the original project, as well as the analysis for previous project refinements, at the San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) of the California

Historical Resources Information System at California State University Bakersfield on October 21, 2013 (RS# 13-429) September 23, 2014 (RS# 14-333), and April 29, 2019 (RS#19-142). ESA also requested SSJVIC staff conduct a supplemental records search for the current addendum on October 4, 2019 (RS#19-372) to address the portions of the additional pipeline alignment outside of the previously conducted records searches. **Attachment A** includes the records search summary letter provided by the SSJVIC.

Records Search Results

The October 2019 records search identified two previously completed reports within the ½ mile buffer of the refined pipeline alignments not previously documented by earlier analysis. **Table 1** below describes and summarizes these reports. No reports intersecting the pipeline alignment were identified by the SSJVIC.

TABLE 1
REPORTS CONDUCTED WITHIN ½ MILE OF THE PROJECT SITE

Reports #	Author: Title	Intersecting Proposed new Alignment (y/n)
FR-02140	Livingstone, David: Historic Property Survey & Inventory Report - Hope VI - Yosemite Village Project Site Housing Authority Fresno, California	N
FR-02719	Brady, Jon L and Vallejo, Phillip: Historic Property Survey for the Proposed Multi-Family Housing Project Fresno Edison Apartments Phase I and II, Fresno, Fresno County, California	N

Source: SSJVIC, 2019

The April 2019 records search identified one previously recorded historic period resource just outside the ½ mile buffer of the refined pipeline alignment (P-10-006527, the Templo Bethel Property), but no resources within or adjacent to the current alignment.

Five historic resources were identified intersecting or adjacent to the approved alignment's area of potential effect (APE), although the refinements included in Addendum #1 resulted in two of these (P-10-6032, the Weber Avenue Overcrossing; and P-10-4513, Belmont Avenue Subway) no longer intersecting the APE. In addition, ESA's evaluation in Addendum #1 recommended Houghton Canal ineligible for listing in the California and National Registers due to a lack of significant associations.

Field Survey

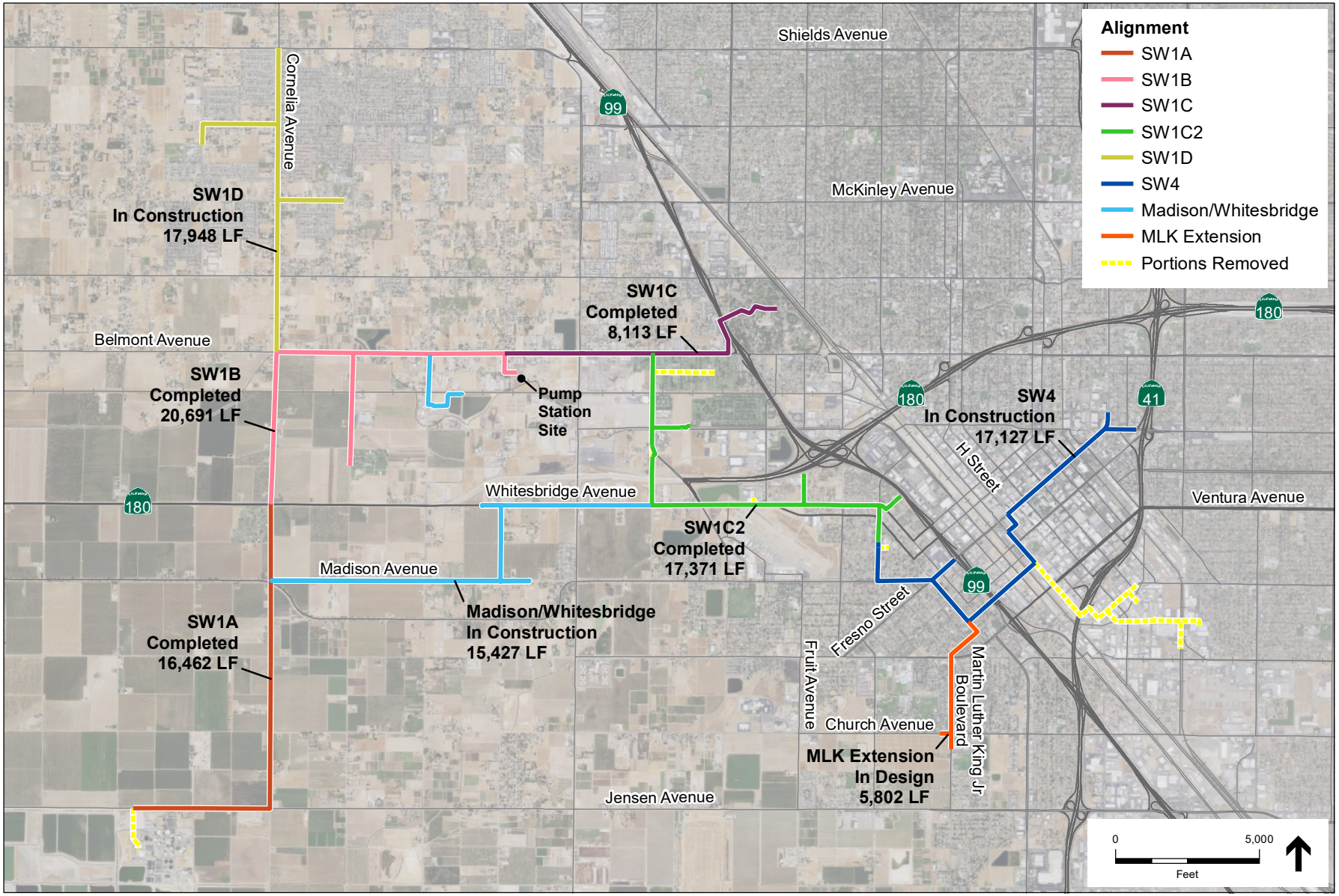
An ESA archaeologist conducted a pedestrian field survey of the refined pipeline alignments on April 17, 2019 and October 7, 2019. Attachment B includes the Cultural Resources Survey Form, including photographs and narrative description of conditions and survey methodology, completed by ESA archaeologist Mai Le.

Results and Recommendations

Neither archival review nor field survey identified any prehistoric or historic period resources within the additional pipeline alignment segments. Five historic resources were identified intersecting or adjacent to the approved alignment's area of potential effect (APE), although the refinements included in Addendum #1 resulted in two of these (P-10-6032, the Weber Avenue Overcrossing; and P-10-4513, Belmont Avenue Subway) no

longer intersecting the APE. In addition, ESA's evaluation in Addendum #1 recommended Houghton Canal ineligible for listing in the California and National Registers due to a lack of significant associations. The refined alignment includes the remaining three historical resources identified in the original project as adjacent to the refined alignment, but no additional historical resources were identified during the current course of study. **Figure 2** shows the locations of these remaining historical resources.

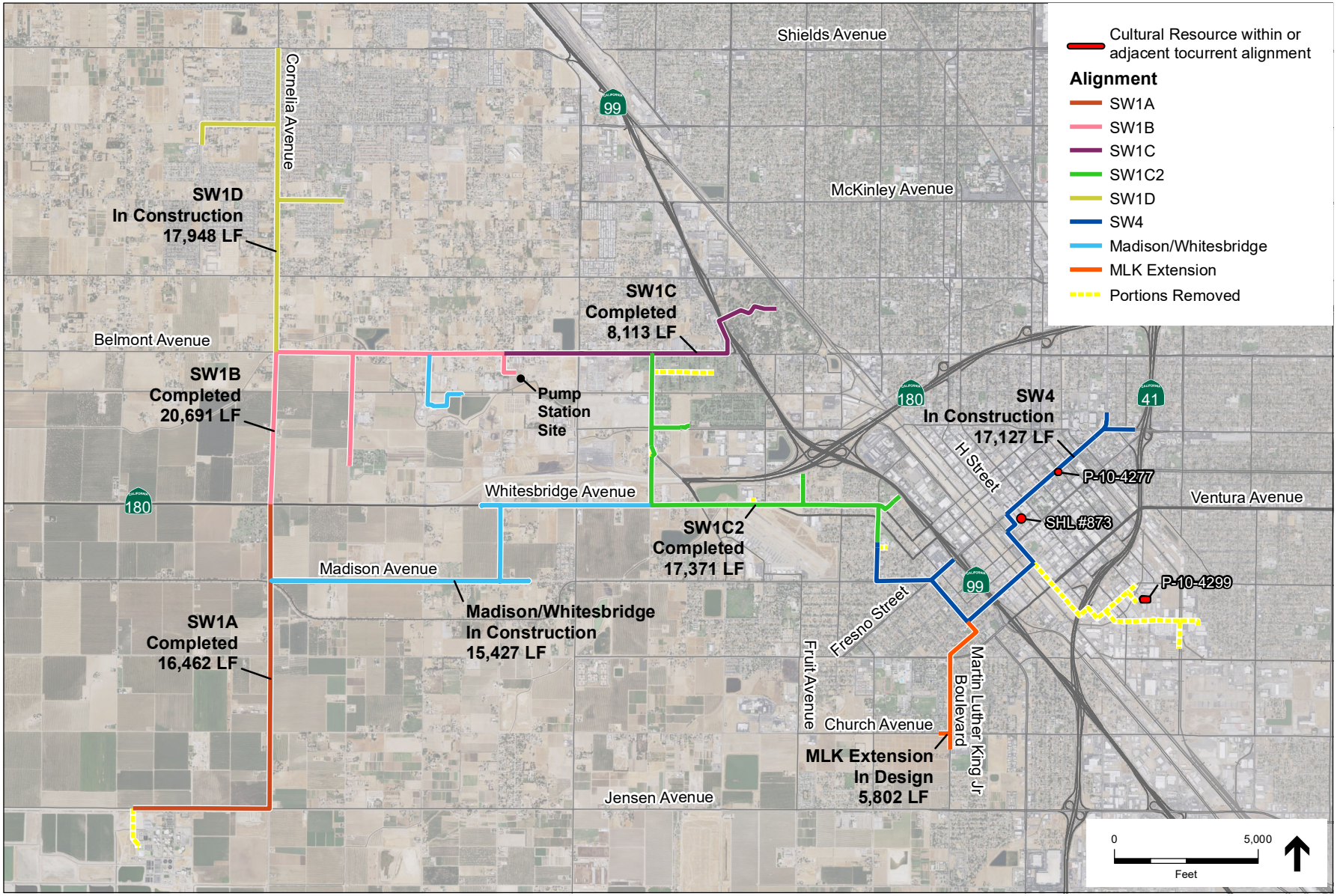
ESA cultural resources specialists determined that the refined pipeline alignments would not result in direct or indirect impacts to these resources that would hinder their ability to convey their historic significance. Subsequently, construction of the refined pipeline alignments would result in no anticipated impacts to historical resources. Construction of the refined pipeline alignments are not anticipated to encounter subsurface resources, paleontological resources or human remains, but would be required to comply with Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.12.2b and 4.12.2c, Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measures 4.12.4a and 4.12.4b; and Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.12.3. In the unlikely event resources are discovered during construction, implementation of these mitigation measures would ensure that the proper procedures are followed should the unexpected discovery of subsurface resources, paleontological resources, or human remains occur.



SOURCE: USDA, 2018; ESRI, 2012; Blair, Church, and Flynn, 2019; ESA, 2020

Fresno Recycled Water Project . 130412

Figure 1
Project Alignments



SOURCE: USDA, 2018; ESRI, 2012; Blair, Church, and Flynn, 2019; ESA, 2020

Fresno Recycled Water Project . 130412

Figure 2

Cultural Resources within the Original and Revised Alignments

Attachment A. SSJVIC Records Search Letter

California Historical Resources Information System

Fresno
Kern
Kings
Madera
Tulare

Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center
California State University, Bakersfield
Mail Stop: 72 DOB
9001 Stockdale Highway
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022
(661) 654-2289
E-mail: ssjvic@csub.edu
Website: www.csub.edu/ssjvic

10/4/2019

Katherine Cleveland
Environmental Science Associates
2600 Capitol Ave., Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: Fresno Recycled Water Addendum 130412.03
Records Search File No.: 19-372

The Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center received your record search request for the project area referenced above, located on the Fresno South USGS 7.5' quad. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project area and the 0.5 mile radius:

As indicated on the data request form, the locations of resources and reports are provided in the following format: ☒ custom GIS maps ☐ shapefiles

Resources within project area:	None
Resources within 0.5 mile radius:	P-10-006527
Reports within project area:	None
Reports within 0.5 mile radius:	FR-02140, 02719

Resource Database Printout (list):	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Database Printout (details):	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Digital Database Records:	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Database Printout (list):	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Database Printout (details):	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Digital Database Records:	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Record Copies:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Copies:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
OHP Historic Properties Directory:	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed
Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed
CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed

Caltrans Bridge Survey: Not available at SSJVIC; please see

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/structur/strmaint/historic.htm

Ethnographic Information: Not available at SSJVIC

Historical Literature: Not available at SSJVIC

Historical Maps: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

Local Inventories: Not available at SSJVIC

GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx#searchTabIndex=0&searchByTypeIndex=1 and/or
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/view?docId=hb8489p15p;developer=local;style=oac4;doc.view=items

Shipwreck Inventory: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
http://www.slc.ca.gov/Info/Shipwrecks.html

Soil Survey Maps: Not available at SSJVIC; please see
http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Invoices for Information Center services will be sent under separate cover from the California State University, Bakersfield Accounting Office.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Sincerely,

Celeste M. Thomson
Coordinator

Attachment B. Cultural Resources Survey Form

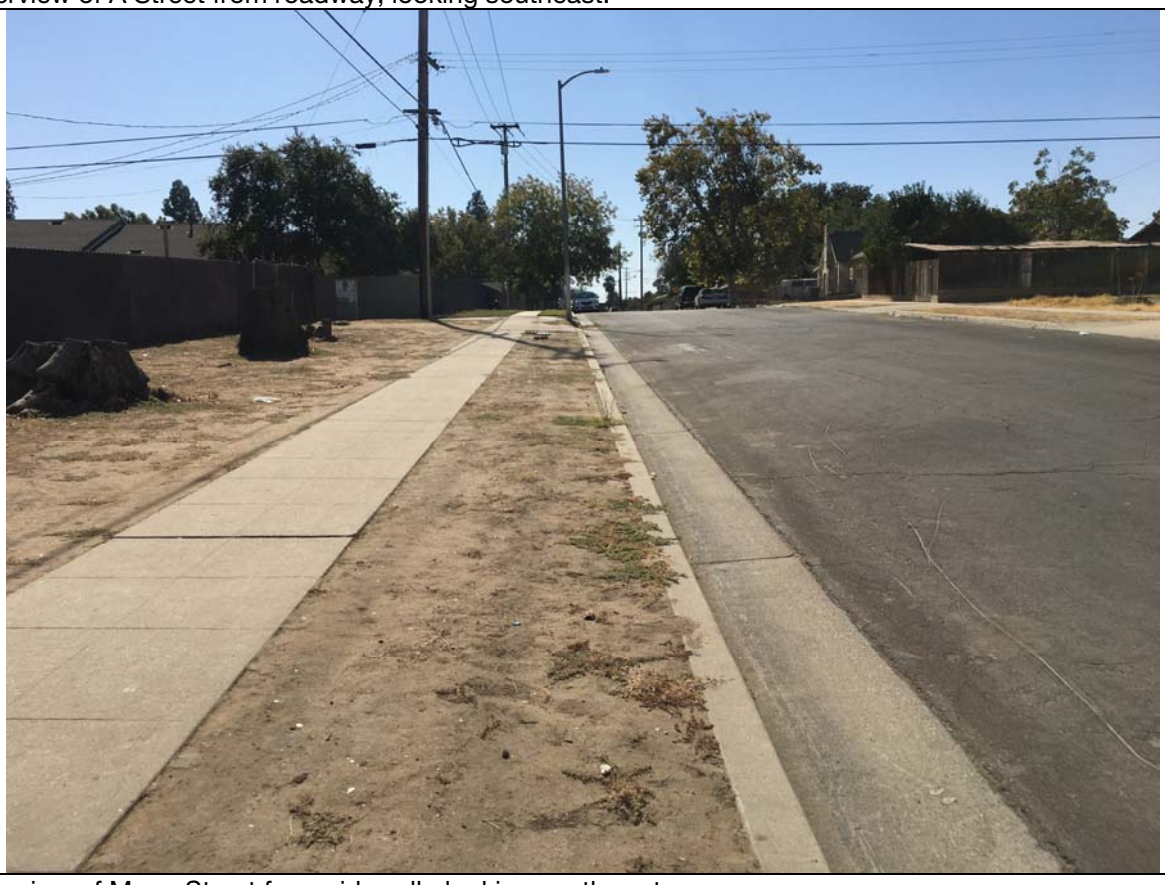
CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

10/07/2019 | D130412.00 Fresno City Recycled Water, Task 1 – Pedestrian Archaeological Survey

Mai Lee (Preparer) | Mai Lee (Surveyor(s)) | Heather Atherton (Supervisor)

Date of Permission For Entry	Location/ Parcel Number	Activities Observed	Resources Encountered	Comments
10/07/2019	A Street between Inyo and Mono Streets	Pedestrian Survey	No cultural resources were encountered.	Survey area consisted of roadways and sidewalks in a residential neighborhood. Survey was focused in areas of exposed ground surfaces. Where not paved, ground visibility was 75%.
10/07/2019	Mono Street between A Street and Ventura Street	Pedestrian Survey	No cultural resources were encountered.	Survey area consisted of roadway, sidewalks, and landscaped features in a residential area. Survey was focused on exposed ground surfaces. Ground visibility in landscaping features was good, varying between 50 to 100%.
10/07/2019	Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard between Ventura Street and Jensen Avenue	Pedestrian Survey	No cultural resources were encountered.	Survey area consisted of roadways, sidewalks, and landscaped features in a residential area. Survey focused on exposed ground surfaces. Visibility in some of the landscaped features was poor (nearly 0%), but in the remaining features it was more than 75% as there was little to no vegetation present.
10/07/2019	Church Avenue between Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Walnut Avenue	Pedestrian Survey	No cultural resources were encountered.	Survey area consisted of roadway, sidewalks, and road shoulders in a residential area. Survey was focused on areas where the ground surface was exposed. Paved and landscaped areas had no ground visibility, but visibility in the exposed areas was good at 90%.

Overview of A Street from roadway, looking southeast.



Overview of Mono Street from sidewalk, looking southwest.

Overview of Mono Street with Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in background, looking southwest.

Overview of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard from sidewalk, looking north.

Overview of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard from sidewalk, looking north.

Overview of Church Avenue from road shoulder, looking east.

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APPENDIX B

Biological Resources Technical Memo

2600 Capitol Avenue
Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95816
916.564.4500 phone
916.564.4501 fax

esassoc.com

memorandum

date	December 17, 2019
to	Todd Gordon, Environmental Science Associates Project Manager
cc	
from	Joseph Huang, Environmental Science Associates Senior Associate Biologist
subject	Biological Resources Document - Recycled Water Distribution System, Southwest Quadrant

This memorandum was prepared to document the background database research and analysis of biological resources for the City of Fresno (City) Department of Utilities Recycled Water Distribution System, Southwest Quadrant (proposed project). The following materials were prepared to support the analysis: a habitat and 250-foot buffer survey area map, followed by an analysis of the proposed project's potential to impact sensitive biological resources.

Proposed Project

The City proposed to install recycled water distribution pipelines and construct a pump station in the City of Fresno's Southwest Quadrant. The proposed distribution pipelines would convey tertiary treated recycled water from the RWRF for urban reuse, groundwater recharge, and agricultural reuse as proposed as part of the City's Master Plan.

Additional pipeline would connect to the previously approved alignment at the intersection of A Street and Inyo Street. From there it would run southeast along A Street for approximately 461 feet before turning southwest at the intersection of Mono Street and A Street. The alignment would run along Mono Street for approximately 1,194 feet before reaching the end of Mono Street. The alignment would then continue through the intersection of East California Avenue and Pottle Avenue, running south along Pottle Avenue which immediately turns into South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, for a total of approximately 3,465 feet. In addition, the alignment would turn west along Church Avenue and extend for approximately 682 feet from the intersection of South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Church Avenue.

Methods

Lists of special-status species with potential to occur in the project area region were reviewed. Sources consulted in the preparation of the list of target special-status species include the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

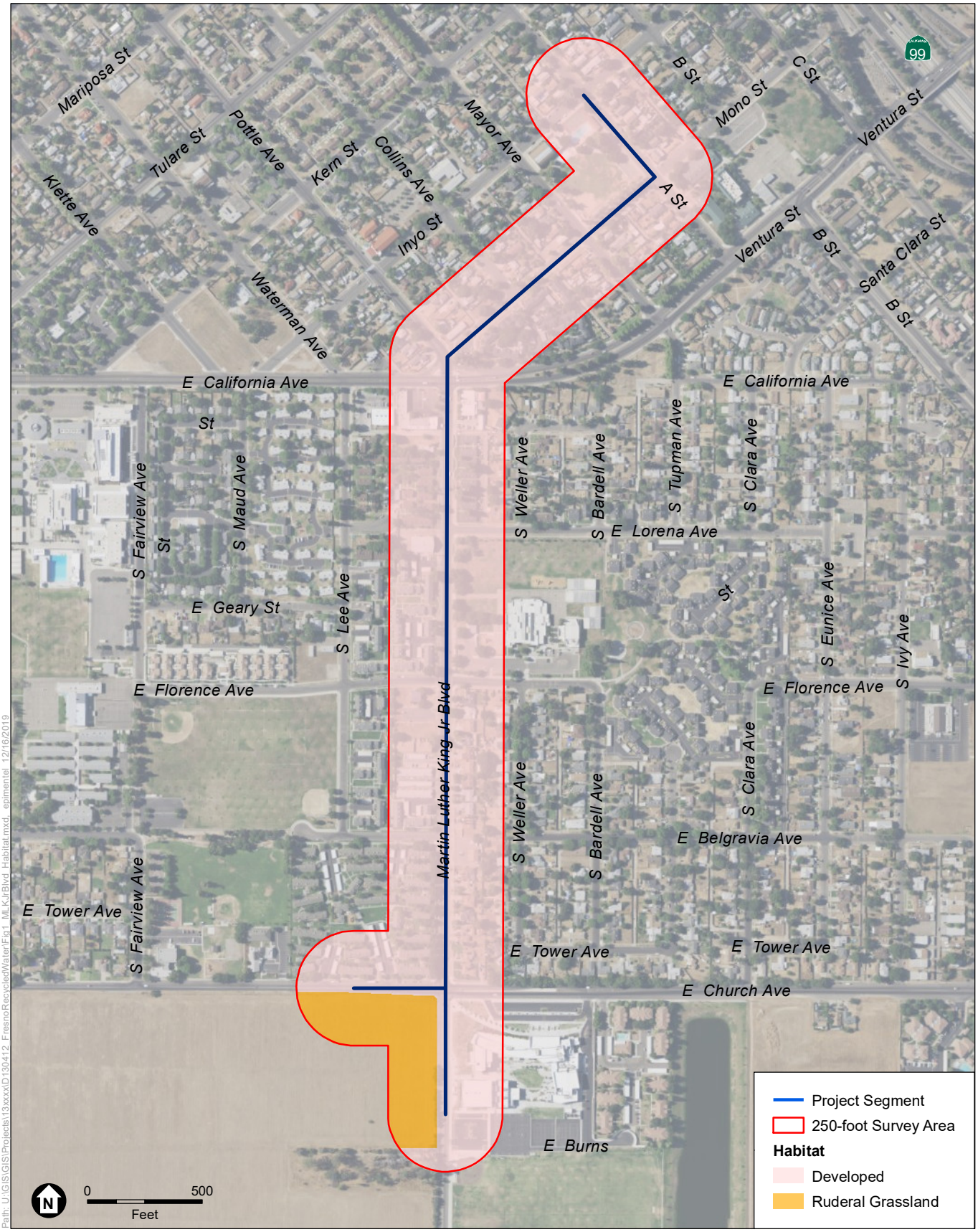
List of Federal Endangered and Threatened Species (USFWS, 2019), the CNDDB (CDFW, 2019), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS, 2019).

Installation of pipelines along the refined alignment had not been previously surveyed for biological resources. An Environmental Science Associates (ESA) biologist conducted a field reconnaissance survey of the refined alignment on September 27, 2019, which includes new sections of pipeline along A Street, Mono Street, South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and East Church Avenue. The survey identified no additional sensitive biological resources within the refined pipeline alignment.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during the biologist's reconnaissance survey, the refined pipeline alignments follow paved roads in an urban and rural residential area. A limited number of ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) burrows and burrow complexes were observed on the eastern edge of a ruderal grassland area across the street from Rutherford B. Gaston Middle School along South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. These burrows may potentially provide habitat for special-status burrowing animals including western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*). No western burrowing owl or San Joaquin kit fox individuals or signs of their presence were observed at or around the burrow entrances. If the species or active dens or burrows are observed in the ruderal grassland area during installation, disturbance associated with these activities could temporarily result in elimination of areas essential for seasonal movement as well as harm to individuals if present during construction activities. Implementation of the City's Recycled Water Master Plan Environmental Impact Report (Master Plan EIR) Mitigation Measures 4.5.2, 4.5.4a, and 4.5.4b would reduce potential impacts to burrowing owl and San Joaquin kit fox to a less than significant level by implementing preconstruction surveys, buffer zones around dens, worker education, and other measures as specified therein.

Birds, including raptors, and bats have the potential to nest or roost within some of the trees along the refined alignment. No sign of roosting bats was observed. A nesting bird survey was not conducted at the time of this survey because it was conducted outside of the nesting season. However, if passerine birds and raptors which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are observed nesting close to the project's vicinity during the nesting season, installation activities could cause nest abandonment or loss of reproductive potential. Other potential impacts to these species during project installation include the potential for harm to individual birds, if present, and the loss of suitable nesting and foraging habitat. Therefore, installation of pipelines along the refined alignments could have a potentially significant impact on nesting birds. Implementation of Master Plan EIR Mitigation Measure 4.5.2 would be required to reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less than significant level by completing preconstruction surveys, avoiding nesting birds, and establishing buffer zones as warranted; the buffer zone may vary depending on species and site specific conditions as approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Path: U:\GIS\GIS\Projects\13xxxx\D130412 FresnoRecycledWaterFig1 MLKJrBlvd Habitat.mxd epimentel 12/16/2019

Source: USDA, 2016; ESRI, 2012; Provost & Pritchard, 2019; ESA, 2019

Fresno Recycled Water Distribution System

Figure 1
MLK Activity Center Alignment
Habitat Map

ESA

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