



# DRAFT AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE TORRES MARTINEZ INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC REPLACEMENT PROJECT - VOLUME I



April 2019



Prepared for:  
**Indian Health Service**  
California Area Office

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**DRAFT  
AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**TORRES MARTINEZ INDIAN HEALTH CLINIC  
REPLACEMENT PROJECT  
THERMAL, CALIFORNIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE  
CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE**



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## **GLOSSARY, ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

### **Glossary**

Affected Environment – A description of the existing environment to be affected by the Proposed Action (40 CFR 1502.15).

Alternative – A reasonable way to fix the identified problem or satisfy the stated need. It is used to compare and present the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to alternatives to provide a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the public. (40 CFR 1502.14).

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – Established under Title II of NEPA to develop Federal agency-wide policy and regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, resolve interagency disagreements concerning proposed major Federal actions, and to ensure that Federal agency programs and procedures are in compliance with NEPA.

Cumulative Impact (Effect) – The incremental environmental impact or effect of the Proposed Action, together with impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Environmental Assessment (EA) – A concise public document, prepared in compliance with NEPA, that briefly discusses the purpose and need for an action, alternatives to such action, and provides sufficient evidence and analysis of impacts to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or finding of no significant impact (40 CFR 1508.9).

Environmental Consequences – Environmental effects of project alternatives, including the Proposed Action, any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided, the relationship between short-term uses of the human environment, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved if the proposal should be implemented (40 CFR 1502.16).

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) – A document prepared in compliance with NEPA, supported by an environmental assessment, that presents the reasons why a Federal action will have no significant effect on the quality of the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement, therefore, will not be prepared (40 CFR 1508.13).

Human Environment – Includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with the environment (40 CFR 1508.14).

Impact (Effect) – A direct result of an action which occurs at the same time and place; or an indirect result of an action which occurs later in time or in a different place and is reasonably foreseeable; or the cumulative results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions (40 CFR 1508.8).

Lead Agency – The agency or agencies responsible for preparing the environmental assessment (40 CFR 1508.16).

Major Federal Action – Actions with effects that may be major and which are potentially subject to Federal control and responsibility (40 CFR 1508.18).

Minor – Environmental effects are not detectable or are so minor that they will neither destabilize nor noticeably alter any important attribute of the resource.

Mitigation – Planning actions taken to: avoid an impact altogether; minimize the degree or magnitude of the impact; reduce or eliminate the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; or, compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20).

Moderate – Environmental effects are sufficient to alter noticeably, but not to destabilize, important attributes of the resource.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) – Requires all agencies to examine the environmental impacts of their actions, incorporate environmental information, and utilize public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions. Federal agencies must integrate NEPA with other planning requirements and prepare appropriate NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision making.

No Action Alternative – The alternative where current conditions and trends are projected into the future without another proposed action (40 CFR 1502.14(d)). The No Action alternative is not to take the action.

Proposed Action – The project, activity, or decision that a federal agency intends to implement or undertake.

Relationship of Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity – The balance or trade-off between short-term uses and long-term productivity need to be defined in relation to the proposed activity in question. Each resource, of necessity, has to be provided with its own definitions of short-term and long-term (40 CFR 1502.16).

Severe – Environmental effects are clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes of the resource.

Significantly – “Significantly” as used in in NEPA requires consideration of both context and intensity (40 CFR 1508.27). (a) Context. This means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality. (b) Intensity. This refers to the severity of impact.

Temporary Impacts – Impacts of project alternatives that may occur during project construction.

Unavoidable Adverse Effects – Unavoidable adverse effects caused by the Proposed Action and Action Alternatives that would remain after applying the proposed mitigation measures.

Undertaking – A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; and those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval (36 CFR 800.16 (y)).

## **Abbreviations and Acronyms**

ADT	average daily trips
AI/AN	American Indian/Alaska Native
APE	Area of Potential Effects
APN	Accessor’s Parcel Number
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ASM	ASM Affiliates, Inc.
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BSA	biological study area
CAA	California Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAIHS	California Area Indian Health Service
CalEEMod	California Emission Estimator Model
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBRA	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
CBC	California Building Code
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality

CESA	Cumulative Effects Study Area
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
cmbd	centimeters below datum
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
dba	A-Weighted Sound Level
DEH	Department of Environmental Health
DHHS	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDR	Environmental Data Resources
EIC	Eastern Information Center
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act, Federal
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
HKA	Hernandez, Kroone & Associates
HSC	Health and Safety Code
ICC	International Code Council
IHS	Indian Health Service
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
ITE	Institute of Transportation Engineers
km	kilometer
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
Leq	Equivalent Sound Pressure Level
Lmax	Maximum Sound Pressure Level

m	meter
M&A	Merkel & Associates, Inc.
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCLs	Maximum Contaminant Levels
mg/m <sup>3</sup>	milligrams per cubic meter
ML	sandy silt
MSL	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
Pb	lead
PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulate Matter (10 microns in diameter or less)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Particulate Matter (2.5 microns in diameter or less)
POLS	petroleum, oil, and lubricants
ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
RMS	root mean squared
RSBCIHI	Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc.
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAP	Small Ambulatory Grants Program
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SF	square feet
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office

SIP	State Implementation Plan
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SM	silty sand
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur Dioxide
SoCal Gas	Southern California Gas Company
SPCCP	Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan
SRL	Single reduction locale
SSA	Sole Source Aquifer
SSAB	Salton Sea Air Basin
STU	shovel test unit
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TEUs	Test Excavation Units
U.S.C.	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UWMP	Urban Water Management Plan
µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Micrograms Per Cubic Meter

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The California Area Indian Health Service (CAIHS) an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) proposes to provide financial assistance to the Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. (RSBCIHI), under the Small Ambulatory Grant Program, to construct a replacement health care facility on the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation in Thermal, California (Proposed Action).

The existing Torres-Martinez Health Clinic, located at 66-735 Martinez Road, provides non-emergency and community services to American Indian and Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and is operated pursuant to a health care services contract or compact entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638.

The Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project will be located on a 1.01 hectare (2.5 acre) parcel, approximately 0.45 kilometers (km) (0.28 miles) south of 66th Avenue and immediately west of Martinez Road, near the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Administration Complex. This site had previously supported a date palm orchard, which was destroyed in a fire more than 10 years ago. The replacement clinic will consist of a single building, 1,078.1 square meters (11,605 square feet) in size, parking for 62 vehicles, landscaping, parking lot lights and a pedestrian path to connect the new health clinic to the adjacent senior housing center.

The purpose of the project is to provide improved health care services for AI/AN people residing in Riverside and San Bernardino County and improve access to comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services. The Proposed Action will further the federal government's obligation to develop and administer comprehensive health care delivery systems that meets the needs of Indian people, promote healthy AI/AN communities and cultures, and honor and protect the inherent sovereign rights of Tribes.

In May 2017, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to secure a lease to RSBCIHI for the project site on which the replacement clinic would be located. Lease approval is a BIA federal action requiring environmental compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The May 2017 Draft EA has not been finalized and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has not been initiated. The IHS is preparing an amendment to the Draft EA to address the RSBCIHI's application for a small ambulatory grant to build a replacement health clinic on the Torres-Martinez Reservation (Proposed Action). Construction and operation of the replacement clinic constitute the proposed project. The IHS will use this Amended EA to determine if the Proposed Action and subsequent proposed project would result in adverse effects on the quality of the human environment.

This Amended Environmental Assessment was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 UCS 4321 et seq.) (Public Law 91-90), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508) for implementing NEPA, the DHHS General Administrative Manual, Part 30, and the current IHS Environmental Review Manual (IHS, 2007). The IHS is the lead federal agency for purposes of complying with NEPA and all other federal environmental laws, regulations and Executive Orders.

This amended EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts that would result from the Proposed Action and alternatives that were considered for the replacement of the Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic. The Proposed Action and the No Action alternative are the two reasonable alternatives considered for the proposed project. Under the No Action alternative, the new (replacement) Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic would not be constructed and medical services for eligible Native Americans and their families residing in Riverside or San Bernardino counties would continue to be provided at the existing facility in its current location.

## **Environmental Effects**

### **No Action**

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on topography, geology and soils; water resources; biological resources; invasive and noxious species; air quality; land use, important farmlands, historic properties, noise, hazardous materials management/hazardous waste or environmental justice. However, no beneficial social impacts from improving the healthcare facility and thereby the health of eligible Native Americans and their families, or beneficial economic impacts from additional wages spent in the local economy would be realized.

### **Proposed Action**

The thirteen resources analyzed indicate that the Proposed Action, as a whole, would have negligible to minor adverse impacts to geology and soils associated with the potential for increased run-off; to migratory birds if construction occurs within their breeding season; to sensitive receptors during construction, and to historic properties from the unanticipated discovery of artifacts during construction. Implementation of stormwater management practices, pre-construction nesting surveys, archaeological monitoring during construction, and construction noise management would minimize these impacts.

Beneficial impacts would include economic benefits for tribal members and the community due to increased employment opportunities.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The California Area Indian Health Service (CAIHS) an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) proposes to provide financial assistance (Proposed Action) to the RSBCIHI under the Small Ambulatory Grant Program to construct a replacement health care facility on the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation in Thermal, Riverside County. The existing Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic serves AI/AN and is operated pursuant to a health care services contract or compact entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638.

In May 2017, the BIA prepared a Draft EA to secure a lease to RSBCIHI for the site on which the replacement clinic would be located. Lease approval is a BIA federal action requiring environmental compliance with the NEPA. The May 2017 Draft EA has not been finalized and a FONSI has not been initiated. The IHS is preparing an amendment to the Draft EA to address the RSBCIHI's application for a small ambulatory grant to build a replacement health clinic on the Torres-Martinez Reservation (Proposed Action). Construction and operation of the replacement clinic constitute the proposed project. The IHS will use this Amended EA to determine if the Proposed Action and subsequent proposed project would result in adverse effects on the quality of the human environment.

This Amended EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 UCS 4321 et seq.) (Public Law 91-90), the CEQ regulations (40 CFRs 1500-1508) for implementing NEPA, the DHHS General Administrative Manual, Part 30, and the current IHS Environmental Review Manual (IHS, 2007). The IHS is the lead federal agency for purposes of complying with NEPA and all other federal environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.

Consistent with the requirements of NEPA, the IHS will review and analyze the environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action and Project Alternatives and either determine that a FONSI is appropriate, request additional analysis, or require that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared.

### **1.1. Program Authority**

The IHS, an agency within the DHHS, is responsible for providing federal health services to members of federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. The provision of these services grew out of the special government-to-government relationship between the federal government and Indian Tribes. This relationship, established in 1787, is based on Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, and has been given form and substance by numerous treaties, laws, Supreme Court decisions, and Executive Orders. The IHS is the principal federal health care

provider and health advocate for Indian people. Their overall mission is to raise the physical, mental, social and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska natives to the highest level and its main goal is to assure that comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services are available and accessible to AI/AN people.

### **1.1.1. Small Ambulatory Grants Program (SAP)**

Section 306 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Public Law 94-437, authorizes the IHS to award grants to Tribes and/or Tribal organizations for construction, expansion, or modernization of ambulatory health care facilities located apart from a hospital. Participants in this program are selected competitively from eligible applicants who meet the following criteria:

- Only federally recognized Tribes that operate non-IHS outpatient facilities under P.L. 93-638 contracts are eligible to apply for this program.
- Facilities for which construction is funded under Section 301 or Section 307 of P.L. 94-437 are not eligible for this type of grant.
- Priority will be given to Tribes that can demonstrate a need for increased ambulatory health care services and insufficient capacity to deliver such services.
- The completed facility will be available to eligible Indians without regard to ability to pay or source of payment.
- The applicant can demonstrate the ability to financially support services at the completed facility.
- The completed facility will:
  - Have sufficient capacity to provide the required services;
  - Serve at least 500 eligible AI/AN people annually; and,
  - Provide care for a service area with a population of at least 2,000 eligible persons

### **1.1.2. Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. (RSBCIHI)**

The Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc., is a Native American healthcare organization consisting of a consortium of nine tribes located throughout Riverside and San Bernardino Counties including Agua Caliente, Cahuilla, Morongo, Pechanga, Ramona, San Manuel, Santa Rosa, Soboba, and Torres-Martinez. RSBCIHI provides culturally sensitive healthcare to eligible Native Americans and their families residing in Riverside or San Bernardino counties. RSBCIHI's current facilities include five health clinics; two (2) Community Health Representative Program offices; an Outreach Office; and, a Commodity Warehouse. Formed in 1986, their mission is to provide culturally sensitive healthcare, respect, and abide by the traditional customs of the Indian Communities they serve; to promote wellness and provide

early intervention to achieve healthy lifestyles. In FY 2016, the RSBCIHI had a total of 33,817 Registered Patients<sup>1</sup> and 14,231 Active Indian Patients<sup>2</sup> (IHS, 2018).

## 1.2. Background

The Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians are a federally recognized tribe of Cahuilla and Chemehuevi Indians, located in Imperial and Riverside Counties. The Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation was established by Executive Order on May 15, 1876. It currently consists of 24,822 acres (in a checkerboard pattern), along California State Route 86. The Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian's vision is to create opportunities in education, economic development, social services and other aspects of life for its tribal members and employees to become productive citizens and neighbors, thus creating a more harmonious community.

### 1.2.1. Existing Torres-Martinez Health Clinic

The existing Torres-Martinez Health Clinic, located at 66-735 Martinez Road, serves American Indian and Alaska Natives and is operated pursuant to a health care services contract or compact entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638. Established in 1971, it offers a variety of non-emergency medical and community services within a single story 4,198 square foot (SF) structure.

- Alcohol/ Chemical Dependency
- Behavior Health/Mental Health Services
- Dental Hygiene
- Family Practice
- Immunizations Clinics
- Internal Medicine
- Nutrition
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Pain Management
- Pediatric Care
- Podiatry
- Preventive Medicine
- Women, Infants and Children Food and Nutrition Services (WIC)

These services are provided Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

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<sup>1</sup> An eligible Indian individual who has obtained health care services from an Indian health program at least once.

<sup>2</sup> An eligible Indian individual who resides in a designated community and who has obtained health care services from an Indian health program at least once during the past three years.

### **1.2.2. Location and Setting**

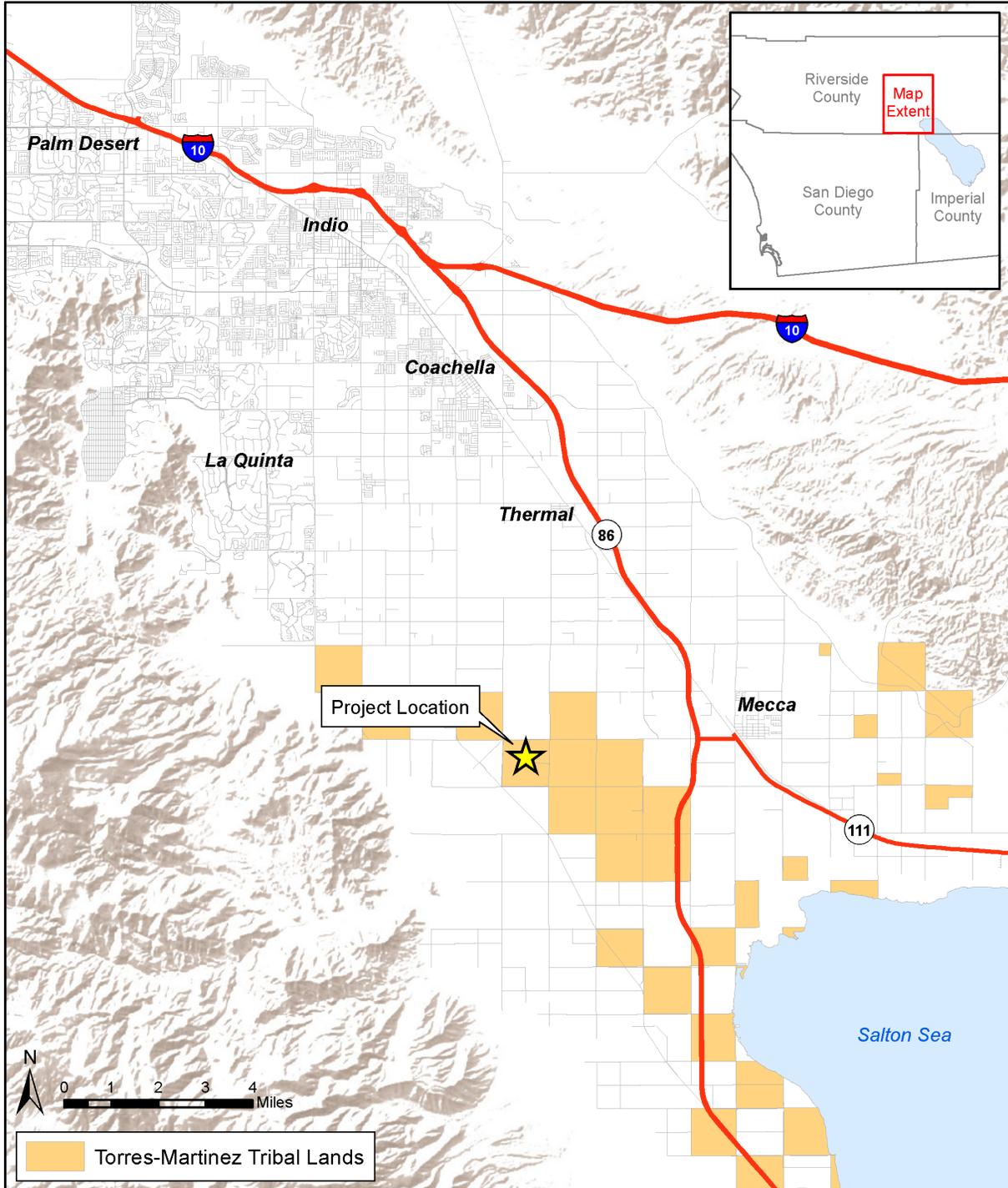
The project site is located within the unincorporated community of Thermal California, approximately 8 kilometers (7 miles) west of the Salton Sea, in Riverside County, California. The parcel is located at approximately 33°33'51.18" North Latitude and -116°09'19.34" West Longitude, within Sec. 16, T7S, R8E, Mount Diablo Meridian (Figure 1-1). The project site is located within the Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians Reservation in the northeast quarter of Section 16, Township 7 South, and Range 8 East on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle of Valerie (Figure 1-1). The site is bordered on the north by vacant land, and the south by the Torres-Martinez senior housing center, on the east by Martinez Road and residential development, and on the west by agricultural land under active cultivation (Figure 1-2). The project site had previously supported a date orchard that was destroyed in a fire over 10 years ago. Since that time, the project site has not been irrigated or cultivated.

Regional access is provided by State Route 111 or State Route 86, which are aligned in a general north-south direction and are located approximately 5.6 km (3.5 miles) and 8 km (5 miles) east of the project site, respectively. Local access to the project site is provided by Martinez Road. Martinez Road is a two-lane paved road that runs in a general north-south direction from 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue to its terminus approximately 0.04 km (0.25 miles) east of Polk Street. As shown on Figure 1-3, the project site itself is vacant of all structures and has been cleared of vegetation.

The project site is located within the Salton Trough within the Coachella Valley. The Coachella Valley is generally aligned from the northwest to the southeast and is bound by the San Jacinto Mountains to the west and the Little San Bernardino Mountains to the east. The climate of the Coachella Valley is a continental, desert-type, with hot summers, mild winters, and very little annual rainfall. Precipitation is less than six inches annually. Temperatures exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, on the average, with Summer daily highs near 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **1.3. Problem to Be Solved or Goal to be Accomplished**

Indian health care services are provided in over 883 IHS owned or leased and tribal health care facilities, located mostly in rural and isolated areas throughout the United States. For many American Indian and Alaska Native people, IHS-supported programs are their only source of health care. The average age of IHS health care facilities is greater than 37 years. Because of increasing user population and insufficient space, many facilities are severely overcrowded, which impedes American Indians/Alaska Natives access to health care. When a facility is replaced, the new one is typically larger than the old one and this expansion provides access to health care for the projected user population and space for additional staff and potentially new services.



SOURCE: Riverside County, 2016; Esri, 2016

10/23/18



Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project

Regional Location

FIGURE

1-1



SOURCE: Riverside County, 2017; Esri, 2017. Aerial Photo dated 4/3/17.

	<p>Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project</p> <p>Project Location</p>	<p>FIGURE</p> <p>1-2</p>
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Photo of Project site, looking north

Photo of Project site, looking south

Photo of Project site, looking east

Photo of Project site, looking west

SOURCE: BRG Consulting, Inc. Photos taken 11/8/18.

2/20/19



Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project

Project Site Photos

FIGURE

1-3

## **1.4. Objectives of Applicant’s Proposed Action and IHS’s subsequent Federal Action of providing financial assistance**

The RSBIHCI’s primary objectives for the Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project are as follows:

- Construct and operate a new health care facility on the Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Reservation;
- Provide access to a modern health care facility for American Indians/Alaska Natives that would improve the clinical quality of, and increase their access to health care services; and,
- Replace the existing health clinic with a larger facility that can accommodate increased patient loads.

The goal of the Proposed Action is to assure that comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services are available and accessible to AI/AN people. These services are necessary to maintain and promote the health status and overall quality of life for eligible Native Americans and their families living in Riverside or San Bernardino counties.

## **1.5. Overview of the Environmental Review Process**

This Amended EA will be released for a 30-day public comment period. All comments received will be considered by the CAIHS and RSBIHCI, and either a FONSI will be prepared, or additional environmental analysis will be conducted.

## **1.6. Environmental Issues Addressed**

In accordance with NEPA, this Amended EA evaluates the following environmental issue areas:

- |                                   |                       |   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| • Topography, Geology & Soils     | • Land Use            | • Transportation                                |
| • Water Resources                 | • Important Farmlands | • Hazardous Materials                           |
| • Threatened & Endangered Species | • Socioeconomics      | • Environmental Justice (EO 12898)              |
| • Invasive & Noxious Species      | • Historic Properties | • Earthquake Risk Management (EO 13717(2c)(3a)) |
| • Air Quality                     | • Noise               |   |

## **1.7. Regulatory Requirements and Approvals**

The following direct and indirect federal actions may occur as a result of the Proposed Action:

- Apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity in Compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);

## **2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED**

The RSBRIHCI proposes to construct and operate a replacement health clinic on the Torres-Martinez reservation. The replacement clinic would provide improved health care services to AI/AN throughout Riverside and San Bernardino County.

The replacement clinic would consist of a 1,078.1 square meter (11,605 SF) facility on a 1.01 hectare (2.5 acre) parcel, approximately 0.45 km (0.28 miles) south of 66th Avenue and immediately west of Martinez Road, near the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Administration Complex.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide improve health care services for AI/AN people residing in Riverside and San Bernardino County and improved access to comprehensive, culturally acceptable personal and public health services. The Proposed Action would further the federal government's obligation to develop and administer comprehensive health care delivery systems that meet the needs of Indian people, promote healthy AI/AN communities and cultures, and honor and protect the inherent sovereign rights of Tribes.

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## **3.0 ALTERNATIVES**

### **3.1 Description of Proposed Action and No Action Alternative**

#### **3.1.1. Proposed Action**

The California Area – Indian Health Service (IHS) proposes to provide financial assistance (Proposed Action) to the RSBCIHI under the Small Ambulatory Grant Program to construct a replacement health care facility on the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation in the unincorporated community of Thermal, Riverside County, California. The existing Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic serves AI/AN and is operated pursuant to a health care services contract or compact entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638.

The replacement Torres Martinez Health Clinic would provide space to support a modern and adequately staffed health care delivery program. The new clinic would ensure availability of the medical services needed to maintain and promote the health status and overall quality of life for the residents of the service area.

The replacement clinic would consist of a 1,078.1 square meter (11,605 square feet) facility on a 1.01 hectare (2.5 acre) parcel, approximately 0.45 kilometers (0.28 miles) south of 66th Avenue and immediately west of Martinez Road, near the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Administration Complex. The proposed project would also include 62 parking spaces, along with landscaping and lighting in the parking area. A pedestrian path is also proposed to connect the proposed health clinic to the adjacent senior housing center. Vehicle access to the site would be provided by a new driveway from Martinez Road. The Proposed Site Plan is provided on Figure 3-1. Non-emergency medical and community services, described in Section 1.2.1, would continue to be provided from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Thursday; and from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Friday.

Construction would include brush removal (as needed), site grading and paving, construction of a driveway entrance/exit from Martinez Road, installation of landscaping and lighting within the parking area. Construction would also include the extension of water and electrical lines to the site, and installation of a new septic system and a retention basin. Wooden fencing, approximately six-feet in height would be installed along the eastern project boundary. Site preparation would involve minor cuts and fills in order to achieve the desired building pad elevation and provide adequate gradients for site drainage. In accordance with IHS requirements, the replacement health clinic will incorporate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Design Standards, to use alternative energy sources such as solar, geothermic, and wood biomass, and to use eco-friendly building materials to the extent possible. In addition, the construction

would comply with Executive Order 13717, Section 3(a), Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard.

The new facilities would take approximately six (6) months to construct. Approximately 40 construction jobs will be provided in the short term. Employment at the replacement health clinic would be offered to California tribal members and then local community residents.

The horizontal area of disturbance is a 3.5 acre portion of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 751-210-008 and was determined through reviews of project plans, estimations of maximum potential for ground disturbance, topographic and geographical constraints, etc. The vertical area of disturbance would range between six-inches and 5-feet for construction of the new site access road, the building pad, utilities, septic system and retention basin.

### **3.1.2. No Action Alternative**

The No Action Alternative is considered as a baseline for comparison of environmental effects (including direct, indirect and cumulative effects) and demonstrates the consequences of not meeting the need for the action. Under the No Action Alternative, a replacement health clinic would not be constructed, and health care services would continue to be provided at the existing facility. As a result of the No Action Alternative, the clinic quality of health care services would not be improved and additional patient loads could not be accommodated.

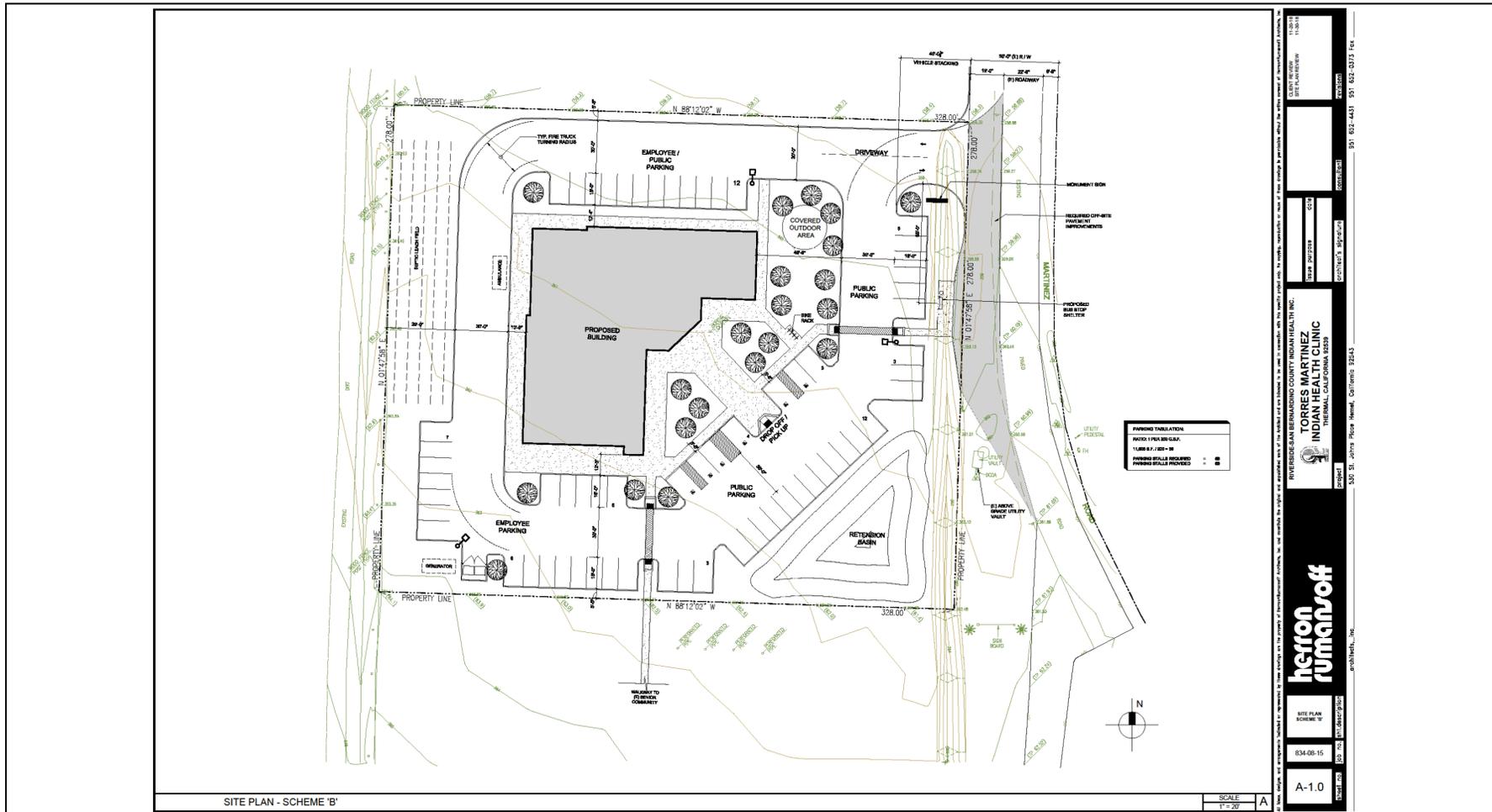
## **3.2. Alternatives Considered But Rejected**

CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA require that Federal agencies explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives to a Proposed Action, and to briefly discuss the rationale for eliminating any alternatives that were not considered in detail. Two alternatives were considered, in addition to the Proposed Action, but were dismissed from further analysis. The alternatives are discussed below.

### **3.2.1. Alternative 1 – Alternative Project Site**

Alternative 1, consists of development of the new health clinic on an approximately 1.01 ha (2.5 acre) site located immediately north of the proposed site, just east of Martinez Road (see Figure 1-2). Under this alternative, all other development and operation features of the Proposed Action would remain unchanged.

While this site met the minimum site requirements of approximately 1 ha, it was rejected due to its separation from the Torres-Martinez Administrative Complex and Senior residences and distance from existing utilities (i.e., increased costs to extend water service and provide electrical service to the site).



SOURCE: Herron+Rumansoff, 2018.



Torres-Martinez Reservation Health Clinic  
 Proposed Site Plan

12/13/18  
**FIGURE**  
**3-1**

### **3.2.2. Alternative 2 - Existing Health Clinic Site**

Alternative 2 consists of developing the new facility at the site of the existing health clinic (66-375 Martinez Road). This alternative was rejected because there is insufficient space at the current site to accommodate the new facility and parking. Additionally, health care services at the Reservation would be unavailable during construction.

Alternatives 1 and 2 are not evaluated fully in this EA because they are no longer under active consideration.

## **4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

### **4.1. General**

#### **4.1.1. Overview of Proposed Project Area and Environment**

The California Area – Indian Health Service (IHS) proposes to provide financial assistance to the Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health, Inc. (RSBCIHI), under the Small Ambulatory Grant Program, to construct a replacement health care facility on the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation in Thermal, California (Proposed Action).

The existing Torres-Martinez Health Clinic, located at 66-735 Martinez Road, provides non-emergency and community services to AI/AN and is operated pursuant to a health care services contract or compact entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, Public Law 93-638.

#### **4.1.2. Location Maps**

The project site is located within the unincorporated community of Thermal California, approximately 8 kilometers (7 miles) west of the Salton Sea, in Riverside County, California. The parcel is located at approximately 33°33'51.18" North Latitude and -116°09'19.34" West Longitude, within Sec. 16, T7S, R8E, Mount Diablo Meridian (Figure 1-1). The project site is located within the Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians Reservation in the northeast quarter of Section 16, Township 7 South, and Range 8 East on the USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle of Valerie (Figure 1-1). The site is bordered on the north by vacant land, and the south by the Torres-Martinez senior housing center, on the east by Martinez Road and residential development, and on the west by agricultural land under active cultivation (Figures 1-2 and 1-3). The project site had previously supported a date orchard that was destroyed in a fire over 10 years ago.

Regional access is provided by State Route 111 or State Route 86, which travel in a general north-south direction and are located approximately 3.5 miles east and 5 miles east of the project site, respectively. Local access to the project site is provided by Martinez Road. Martinez Road is a two-lane paved road that runs in a general north south direction from Avenue 66 to its terminus approximately 0.25 miles east of Polk Street. As shown on Figure 1-3, the project site itself is vacant of all structures and has been cleared of vegetation.

#### **4.1.3. Resource Categories Not Affected by Proposed Action**

The following issues and impact topics were dismissed from further analysis in this EA:

##### ***Coastal Resources***

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) encourages states to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore or enhance valuable natural coastal resources such as wetlands, floodplains, estuaries, beaches, dunes, barrier islands, and coral reefs, as well as the fish and wildlife using those habitats. The CZMA and its implementing regulations require federal agencies proposing

actions, whether within or outside of a State's coastal zone, to determine if the action is reasonably likely to affect any land or water use or natural resource within that coastal zone. The nearest coastal zone is located 114.3 km (71 miles) west of the project site and would not be affected by the Proposed Action. For this reason, this topic is dismissed from further analysis.

### ***Wild and Scenic Rivers***

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is administered by four federal agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. The Act protects selected rivers, and their immediate environments, which possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values. There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers within the vicinity of the project site. The nearest wild and scenic river is Palm Canyon Creek located within the San Bernardino National Forest. Palm Canyon Creek is located 32 km (20 miles) northwest of the project site and would not be affected by the Proposed Action. For this reason, this topic is dismissed from further analysis.

### ***Wetlands***

Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, requires federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agency's responsibilities. Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas, and are protected under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permit program. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) maps soils in the area as "It - Indio very fine sandy loam, 0 to 2% slopes" (NRCS, 2018a). This soil type is not identified as a hydric soils (NRCS, 2018b).

A biological survey of the project site was conducted by Merkel & Associates, Inc. (M&A) on November 8, 2018 (Merkel & Associates, Inc., 2018; Appendix B) which further concluded that there are no wetlands on or near the project site. Therefore, this topic is dismissed from further analysis.

### ***Coastal Barrier Resources***

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) restricts Federal expenditures and financial assistance which would have the effect of encouraging development of coastal barriers. The Act established a Coastal Barrier Resources System consisting of those undeveloped coastal barriers located on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. The coastal barriers provide habitat for migratory birds and wildlife, and contain resources of extraordinary scenic, scientific, natural, historic, and other importance. The project area is not in the vicinity of the Coastal Barrier Resources System; therefore, this topic is dismissed from further analysis.

## 4.2. Topography, Geology and Soils

### 4.2.1. Affected Environment

Sladden Engineering prepared a Geotechnical Investigation for the Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project in December 2015 (Sladden, 2015, Appendix A), which included a review of published and unpublished geotechnical and geological literature regarding seismicity at and near the project site, as well as an evaluation of engineering properties and characteristics of subsurface materials. This report is included as Appendix A of the EA. Subsurface conditions at the site were investigated by drilling seven (7) exploratory boreholes to depths of between approximately 1.5 and 15.24 m (5 and 50 feet) below the existing ground surface.

#### *Topography*

The project site is located within the Colorado Desert Physiographic Province (also referred to as the Salton Trough) that is characterized as a northwest-southeast trending structural depression extending from the Gulf of California to the Banning Pass. The Salton Trough is dominated by several northwest trending faults, most notably the San Andreas Fault system. The Salton Trough is bounded by the Santa Rosa - San Jacinto Mountains on the southwest, the San Bernardino Mountains on the north, the Little San Bernardino - Chocolate - Orocopia Mountains on the east and extends through the Imperial Valley into the Gulf of California on the south.



**Photo 4.2-1: Typical topography across Project Site**

The project site is located within a relatively flat area at an elevation of 39.6 m (130 feet) below mean sea level (MSL). Project Area elevations within 2.4 km (1.5 miles) of the site range from 30.5 to 54.9 m (100 feet to 180 feet below sea level).

#### *Soils*

There is one mapped soil series on the project site, namely It-Indio very fine sandy loam, wet. This soil, which is found on basin floors to 300 feet below mean sea level, consists of very fine sandy loam a depth of 60 inches (Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2018a). Its parent material is described as alluvium derived from sedimentary rock. It is found on slopes from 0 to 2 percent and is moderately well drained. It is considered prime farmland if irrigated and drained.



SOURCE: Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database, 2018

11/28/18

	<p>Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project</p> <p>Soil Types</p>	<p>FIGURE 4.2-1</p>
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According to borings conducted at the project site, fill/disturbed soil consisting of sandy silt (ML) was encountered to depths between approximately 0.3 and 0.6 m (1 and 2 feet) below grade surface. Underlying the fill soil and extending to maximum depths explored, silty sand (SM) and sandy silt (ML) soil types were encountered. The materials appeared grayish brown in in-situ color, moist to wet and fine-grained (low plasticity) and have a “low” expansion potential (Sladden, 2015, Appendix A).

No natural ponding of water or surface seeps were observed at or near the site during Sladden’s investigation. Groundwater was encountered at a depth of approximately 11.2 m (37 feet) below ground surface.

### ***Seismic Considerations***

#### *Faults*

The project site is located in the highly seismic Southern California region within the influence of several fault systems that are considered to be active or potentially active. An active fault is defined by the State of California as a "sufficiently active and well defined fault" that has exhibited surface displacement within the Holocene epoch (about the last 11,000 years). A potentially active fault is defined by the State as a fault with a history of movement within Pleistocene time (between 11,000 and 1.6 million years ago). The site is not located within a State of California Alquist-Priolo active fault zone. Alquist-Priolo zones are well-defined areas located within seismically active zones, typically along active fault zones susceptible to surface fault ruptures.

The nearest potential active faults are the San Andreas – Coachella and San Andreas-Southern, located 11.9 km (7.4 miles) away.

#### *Landslides and Liquefaction*

No signs of slope instability in the form of landslides, rock falls, earthflows or slumps were observed at or near the project site. However, according to the County of Riverside, the project site is situated within a “High” liquefaction potential zone (Sladden 2015).

#### *Tsunamis and Seiches*

Because the project site is situated at an inland location and is not immediately adjacent to any impounded bodies of water. For this this reason, the risk associated with tsunamis and seiches is considered negligible.

## **4.2.2. Regulatory Framework**

### ***Executive Order (EO) 13717***

Executive Order (EO) 13717, *Establishing a Federal Earthquake Risk Management Standard*, establishes minimum levels of seismic safety in buildings owned, leased, financed, or regulated by the Federal government, which is to be achieved by satisfying the requirements of referenced

building codes and standards, as outlined in Section 3 of the EO. Specifically, Section 3(a) requires each agency to ensure that every new building is in compliance with the earthquake-resistant design provisions of the 2015 editions of the International Building Code, nationally recognized building codes promulgated by the International Code Council (ICC), or equivalent codes. When determining the code requirements for new construction, major renovation, and/or replacement of real property, the IHS uses the latest published code at the design contract execution date.

### ***California Building Code (CBC)***

The CBC (California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 2) encompasses a number of requirements related to geologic issues. Specifically, these include general provisions (Chapter 1); structural design (Chapters 16/16A); structural tests and special inspections, including seismic resistance (Chapters 17/17A); soils and foundations (Chapters 18/18A); concrete (Chapters 19/19A); masonry (Chapters 21/21A); wood, including consideration of seismic design categories (Chapter 23); glass and glazing (Chapter 24); construction safeguards (Chapter 33); and grading, including excavation, fill, drainage, and erosion control criteria (Appendix J). All occupancies in California are subject to national model codes adopted into Title 24, and occupancies are further subject to amendments adopted by state agencies and ordinances implemented by local jurisdictions' governing bodies.

### **4.2.3. Environmental Consequences**

#### ***Proposed Action***

##### *Topography*

Under the Proposed Action, the entire project site, would be disturbed by site preparation activities in accordance with local grading permit requirements. However, because the site is flat, the Proposed Action would have negligible impacts on topography. The project site would be contoured to an even grade according to architectural and engineering design specifications. The portion of the site disturbed for the utilities would be returned to existing grade. This would have a permanent, negligible to minor, adverse impact on the topography of the area.

##### *Soils*

As most construction projects involving use of heavy equipment, there is a small risk of accidental fuel or chemical spills, and potential contamination of soils. To reduce the potential for soil contamination, fuels would be stored and maintained in a designated equipment staging area or equipment would be fueled offsite. A Spill Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCCP) would be included in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to identify the appropriate emergency response in case of a release of petroleum fluids into the environment. Emergency spill kits containing absorption pads, absorbent material, a shovel or rake, and other cleanup items, would be available on site in the event of an accidental spill. Following these precautions, the

potential for an accidental chemical or fuel spill to occur and result in adverse impacts on soils would be negligible.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under the CWA prohibits the discharge of any pollutant, including sediments, to waters of the United States. The discharge of stormwater runoff from construction sites is regulated under the NPDES program. The project will need to be permitted under an NPDES permit through the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The chief requirements of the NPDES general permit for construction sites are a construction Notice of Intent (NOI) and the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). SWPPPs contain measures to reduce soil erosion and prevent pollution from petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POLs) and other chemicals or hazardous/toxic materials at construction sites. Specifically, SWPPP plans assess the characteristics of the site such as nearby surface waters, topography, and storm water runoff patterns; identify potential sources of pollutants such as sediment from disturbed areas, and stored wastes or fuels; and identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) which will be used to minimize or eliminate the potential for these pollutants to reach surface waters through storm water runoff.

By utilizing standard construction BMPs, such as installing perimeter silt fences, spreading straw and mulch to protect exposed ground, and covering stockpiles of earth or soils, runoff, erosion and impacts to on-site and offsite soils would be minimized. Erosion control methods would also be in place to control the fugitive dust produced during construction activities. Dust control could be obtained through the use of water wagons on exposed earth or the application of calcium chloride on gravel surfaces. Overall impacts to soil resources would be negligible to minor and adverse.

#### *Seismic Considerations*

The main geotechnical concerns in the construction of the proposed project are the presence of artificial fill and loose and potentially compressible near surface native soil along with the potential for liquefaction related seismic settlements. Remedial grading including over-excavation and re-compaction of the artificial fill soil for the building and foundation areas would be required to mitigate this adverse effect.

Based upon the depth to groundwater encountered at 11.2 m (37 feet) below the existing ground surface, the potential for liquefaction and the related surficial effects of liquefaction impacting the site are considered high. In order to mitigate potential liquefaction related seismic settlements, the proposed structure should be supported upon unitized conventional shallow spread footings and reinforced slab-on-grade system or post-tensioned slab/foundation system.

In compliance with EO 13717 and the California Building Code, recommendations presented in Geotechnical Investigation would be incorporated into the project's design and carried out through construction.

## ***No Action***

Under the No Action alternative, grading and construction activities would not occur and there would be no direct, or indirect impacts to topography, geology or soils.

### **4.2.4. Mitigation Measures**

#### ***Mitigation Measure Soils-1: SWPPP***

The RSBCIHI would prepare a SWPPP to be administered during grading and project construction. The SWPPP must contain BMPs that meet the technical standards of the General Construction Permit to ensure that on- and off-site erosion during construction is minimized and that no water quality standards are violated. The SWPPP must address spill prevention and include a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) describing measures to ensure proper collection and disposal of all pollutants handled or produced on the site during construction. BMPs included in the SWPPP must be consistent with the California Stormwater Best Management Practices Handbook for Construction and typically consist of various erosion and sediment control measures. Regular inspections of the erosion and sediment control measures would be performed after any storm event by qualified personnel, and as required in the NPDES General Permit. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and revegetated with native plant vegetation following commencement of construction activities. Proper seed selection would result in native plants with deep root systems, which would increase local times of concentration and reduce site outflows. The potential to impact soils from sediment and contamination would be minimized through use of BMPs described above.

#### ***Mitigation Measure Soils-2: Seismic Mitigation Compliance***

In compliance with EO 13717, Section 3(a), mitigation for seismic considerations would follow the recommendations in the Geotechnical Investigation.

#### ***Earthwork and Grading***

Earthwork including excavation, backfill and preparation of the subgrade soil, should be performed in accordance with the geotechnical recommendations presented in Appendix A and applicable portions of the Riverside County grading requirements. All earthwork should be performed under the observation and testing of a qualified soil engineer.

- **Stripping.** Areas to be graded should be cleared of any existing, vegetation, associated root systems, and debris. All areas scheduled to receive fill should be cleared of any oversized or unsuitable material that should be removed off site. Voids left by obstructions should be properly backfilled in accordance with the compaction recommendations of this report.
- **Preparation of the Building Areas.** In order to provide firm and uniform foundation bearing conditions, over-excavation and recompaction of the surface soil should be conducted

throughout the building area. The primary foundation bearing soil should be removed to a minimum depth of at least 3 feet below existing grade or 3 feet below the bottom of the footings, whichever is deeper. Remedial grading should extend laterally, a minimum of five feet beyond the building perimeter. The exposed surface should then be scarified, moisture conditioned to within two percent of optimum moisture content, and compacted to at least 90 percent relative compaction. Testing of the native soil within the excavation bottoms should be performed during grading to verify adequacy. Once cleaned of unsuitable material, the previously removed soil may be used as engineered fill soil.

- Compaction. Soil to be used as engineered fill should be free of organic material, debris, and other deleterious substances, and should not contain irreducible matter greater than 12 inches in maximum dimension. All fill materials should be placed in thin lifts, not exceeding six inches in their loose state. If import fill is required, the material should be of a low to non-expansive nature and should meet the criteria identified in the Geotechnical Investigation. The subgrade and all fill material should be compacted with acceptable compaction equipment, to at least 90 percent relative compaction. The bottom of the exposed subgrade should be observed by a qualified soil engineer prior to fill placement. Compaction testing should be performed on all lifts in order to ensure proper placement of the fill materials.
- Remedial Grading. Over-excavation and re-compaction should occur within the building envelope and extending laterally for 5 feet beyond the building limits and to a minimum of 3 feet below existing grade or 3 feet below the bottom of the footings, whichever is deeper.
- Native/ Import Engineered Fill. Should be placed in thin lifts not exceeding 6 inches in a loose condition, compact to a minimum of 90 percent relative compaction within 2 percent of the optimum moisture content.
- Asphalt Concrete. Compact the top 12 inches to at least 95 percent compaction within 2 percent of optimum moisture content.
- Shrinkage and Subsidence. Volumetric shrinkage of the material that is excavated and replaced as controlled compacted fill should be anticipated (between 15 and 20 percent). Subsidence of the surfaces that are scarified and compacted should be between 1 and 2 tenths of a foot.

### *Liquefaction*

Unitized conventional shallow spread footings and post-tensioned slabs should be used for the proposed structure in order to mitigate potential liquefaction related differential settlements and should be designed to meet criteria identified in the Geotechnical Investigation.

### *Utility Trench Backfill*

All utility trench backfill should be compacted to a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent. Trench backfill materials should be placed in lifts no greater than six inches in their loose state, moisture conditioned (or air-dried) as necessary to achieve near optimum moisture conditions, and then mechanically compacted in place to a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent. A representative of the project soil engineer should test the backfill to verify adequate compaction.

### *Exterior Concrete Flatwork.*

To minimize cracking of concrete flatwork, the subgrade soil below concrete flatwork areas should first be compacted to a minimum relative compaction of 90 percent. A representative of the project geotechnical consultant should observe and verify the density and moisture content of the soil prior to concrete placement.

### *Drainage*

All final grades should be provided with positive gradients away from foundations to provide rapid removal of surface water runoff to an adequate discharge point. No water should be allowed to be pond on or immediately adjacent to foundation elements. In order to reduce water infiltration into the subgrade soil, surface water should be directed away from building foundations to an adequate discharge point. Subgrade drainage should be evaluated upon completion of the precise grading plans and in the field during grading.

## **4.3. Water Resources**

### **4.3.1. Affected Environment**

#### ***Groundwater***

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), originally passed by Congress in 1974, was enacted to protect the quality of drinking water in the United States. Primary drinking water regulations established legally enforceable levels for contaminants that can affect people's health. Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) were set to be as close as possible to the level that is known to have adverse health effects. Secondary drinking water regulations are non-enforceable guidelines regulating contaminants that can cause cosmetic or aesthetic effects.

Potable water service for the Torres-Martinez Reservation, including the existing health clinic, is provided by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD). CVWD provides water-related services for its customers in the areas of urban water supply, wastewater collection and treatment, recycled water, agricultural irrigation, drainage management, imported water supply, groundwater replenishment, stormwater management and flood control, and water conservation.

Groundwater is the principal source of municipal water supply in the Coachella Valley. As an urban water supplier, CVWD is required to prepare an Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years to ensure adequate water supplies are available to meet existing and future urban water demands. CVWD's 2015 UWMP identified adequate water supplies for existing and future demands, through the year 2040 (CVWD, 2015). According to CVWD's 2018 Domestic Water Quality Summary Report, their domestic water supply met all state and federal standards, with all constituents being below the MCLs (CVWD, 2018).

#### ***Sole Source Aquifer***

The EPA's Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) Program, established in 1977 under the Safe Drinking Water Act, requires evaluation of projects to determine if they have the potential to contaminate a sole source aquifer. The sole source aquifers nearest the project site namely Campo/Cottonwood Creek and Ocotillo-Coyote Wells, are located approximately 48 miles (77 kilometers) southeast and 50 miles (80 kilometers) due south of the project site, respectively (US EPA, 2018).

#### ***Stormwater***

CWA Section 402 regulates construction-related stormwater discharges to surface waters through the NPDES program. On tribal lands in California, the EPA retains authority for administering the NPDES program and has developed a General Permit for Discharges from Construction Activities, Permit No. CAR10I000 (US EPA 2017). Projects that disturb one or more acre of land or projects that disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that, in total, disturbs one or more acre, are required to obtain coverage under this general permit.

This process includes preparation of a SWPPP and submittal of a NOI to EPA at least 14 calendar days before commencing construction activities. During construction, the contractor would be responsible for preparing and implementing a SWPPP, installing stormwater controls, implementing erosion and sediment controls and maintaining stormwater BMPs to prevent the discharge of sediment from the site.

### ***Floodplains***

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and Protection (May 24, 1977), directs federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. A preliminary review of potential flooding on the project site was conducted utilizing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Map 06065C2910H and 06065C2925H indicates that the project site lies within Zone X, outside of the 100- year floodplain (Figure 4.3-1). Zone X is an area of minimal to no flooding.

## **4.3.2. Environmental Consequences**

### ***Proposed Action***

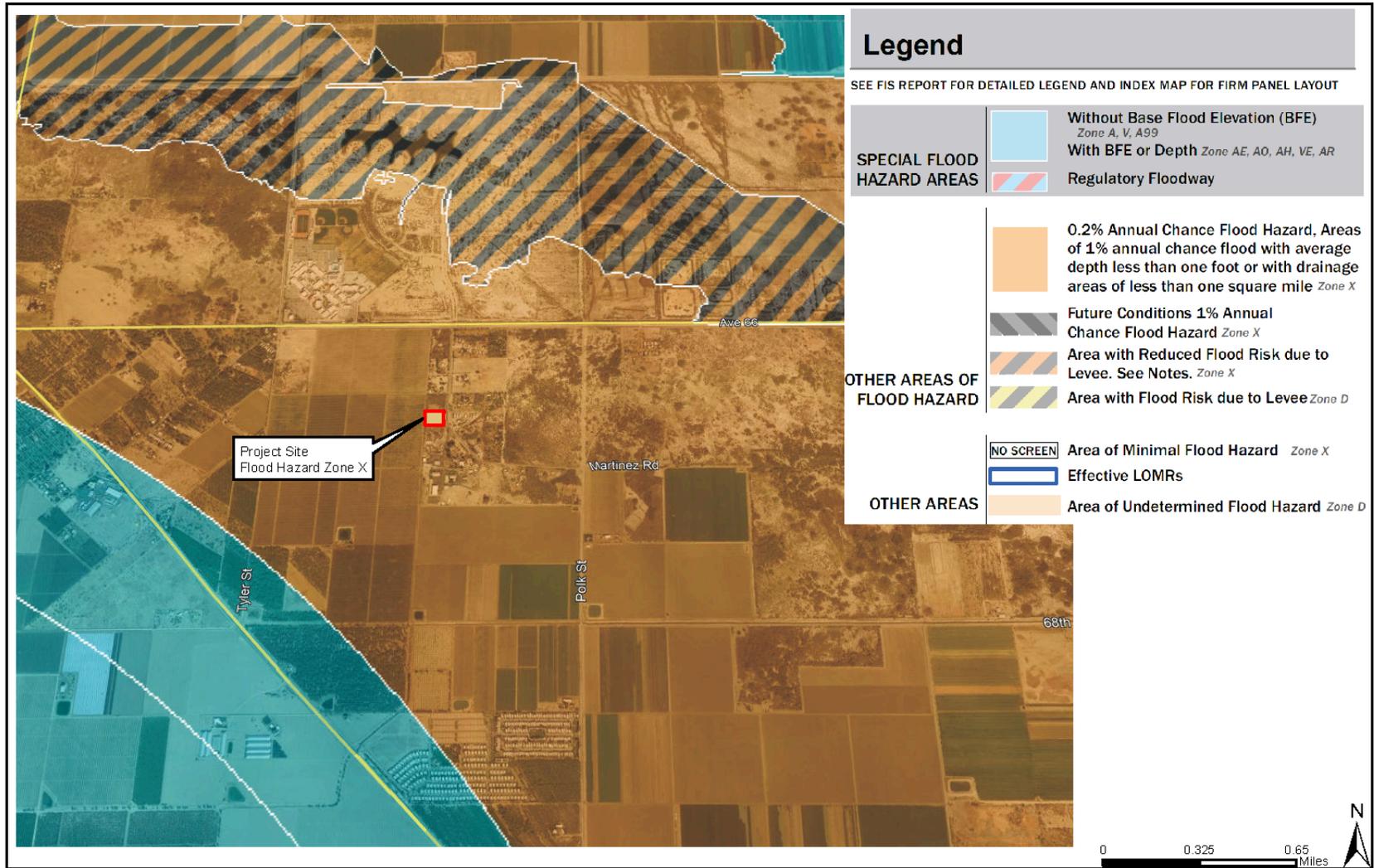
#### **Groundwater**

Operation of the replacement health clinic would result in a slight increase in water use, above current levels. Fire flows and water for fire storage would be provided in accordance with applicable fire insurance codes. The replacement health clinic would rely on the CVWD for potable water and fire flows, which has adequate water supplies through 2040.

The construction phase of the project would require coverage under EPA Region 9 NPDES CGP. This would require preparation and implementation of a SWPPP and inspection and maintenance of stormwater BMPs throughout the construction phase of the project. General construction impacts associated with the development of the project site could affect water resources by increased stormwater runoff from the site carrying sediment and contamination loads off-site during times of heavy rain, and by contamination from construction activities infiltrating area soils and percolating down into the groundwater.

The incorporation of the mitigation measures into the design phase of the proposed project would reduce impacts to water resources below the level of significance.

Development of the replacement health clinic would introduce impermeable or substantially less permeable surfaces than present groundcover. This could affect water infiltration at the project site. However, the project site would be graded to direct surface water run-off to a storm water retention basin, sized to retain precipitation from a 100-year storm event. Collected run-off would



SOURCE: Google Earth, FEMA Stay Dry V3.1, August 2017. Map Panels 06065C2910H and 06065C2925H.

	<p>Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project</p> <p>FEMA Flood Hazard Zones</p>	<p>FIGURE 4.3-1</p>
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be allowed to percolate back into the ground to recharge the groundwater table. The proposed increase in impermeable surfaces resulting from implementation of the proposed project would be minimal compared the groundwater recharge area of the East Coachella Valley. Therefore, project impacts with regard to groundwater depletion and groundwater interference would be adverse and minor.

### **Sole Source Aquifer**

The Proposed Action would not require the drilling of drinking water supply wells. Additionally, the nearest designated sole source aquifers are located 77 km (48 miles) southeast and 80 km (50 miles) due south of the project site, respectively and would not be affected.

Overall impacts to water resources would be negligible to minor.

### ***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, the replacement health clinic would not be constructed and no water resource impacts would result. The project site would continue in its present use or could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan. Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location and would result in no changes to water resources.

### **4.3.3. Mitigation Measures**

BMPs would be placed along portions of the site perimeter to control erosion during all construction activities. Driveways and parking areas would be designed to minimize both the volume and velocity of runoff. Pavement should be minimized; buffers of native vegetation should be maximized to prevent excessive velocity buildup of runoff. The project site would be graded to direct surface water run-off to a storm water retention basin to reduce runoff leaving the project site. The replacement health clinic would be LEED certified and would incorporate water-conserving fixtures in accordance with the certification requirements.

## 4.4. Biological Resources

### 4.4.1. Affected Environment

Merkel & Associates, Inc. prepared a Biological Resource Report for the proposed Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project to document existing biological conditions within the biological study area (BSA); and identify potential impacts to biological resources (Merkel & Associates, 2018). A copy of this report is included as Appendix B. Evaluation activities included conducting a general biological survey and a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) special status species records and critical habitat designations for the project vicinity (USFWS CFWO 2018 and 2016, respectively). A nest survey was also conducted during the general biological survey to determine the presence and location of any active nests (or previously active nests) of avian and/or raptor species.

During the general biological field survey, conducted in November 2017, four (4) vegetation types were identified within the biological study area (BSA), including desert saltbush scrub, disturbed habitat, active agriculture, and urban/developed land. The project site only supports disturbed habitat, while the other habitats mapped within the BSA are located off-site. Only a few individual plants were resprouting within the site at the time of the field survey. The only plant species identified within the project site consisted of resprouting big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*) and arrow weed (*Pluchea sericea*). Evidence of heavy equipment tracks was evident throughout the site during the field survey.

#### ***Wildlife***

Due to the lack of vegetation within the project site, a limited amount of faunal species were observed. The majority of the observed faunal species consisted of common avian species such as northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) and Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) within the desert saltbush scrub and/or California fan palm trees outside of the project action area but within the BSA. In addition, domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*) tracks were identified within the bare ground in the project action area.

#### ***Federally Threatened and Endangered Listed Species***

No federally threatened and/or endangered listed species and/or potentially suitable habitat for listed species were identified within the project action area during the biological survey. Further, no federally listed animal and/or plant species are expected to occur within the project action area primarily due to the lack of suitable habitat. The only known USFWS record in the project vicinity (i.e., within 3 miles of the project action area) is for western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a species that is not a federally listed species but is a part of the USFWS Geographic Information System (GIS) database presumably since this species was previously proposed for listing. No

western burrowing owls or potentially suitable habitat for this species occurs within the project action area.

No designated critical habitat for any federally listed species occurs within or directly adjacent to the project action area. The closest designated critical habitat is for the federally endangered peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelson*) approximately 3 miles to the west along the desert slopes of the Peninsular Mountain Range.

### ***Wildlife Corridors***

Wildlife corridors are important in preserving species diversity. Connections between areas of open space are integral to maintaining biological diversity and population viability. For the purposes of this EA, we have defined wildlife corridor as follows: a linear landscape feature utilized by resident or transient wildlife for movement between two blocks of habitat. The project site is completely surrounded by urban development or active agriculture and is not located within a landscape that typically facilitates wildlife movement such as a canyon, ridgeline, or riparian corridor. Therefore, the project action area is not a part of a regional or local wildlife corridor.

### ***Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act***

Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), it is unlawful, except as permitted by the USFWS, to “take, possess, transport, sell, purchase, barter, import, or export all species of birds protected by the MBTA, as well as their feathers, parts, nests, or eggs. Take means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect (50 CFR 10.12).” It is important to note that “take” as defined under the federal MBTA is not synonymous with “take” as defined under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The MBTA definition of “take” lacks a “harm and harassment” clause comparable to “take” under the ESA, thus, the MBTA authority does not extend to activities beyond the nests, eggs, feathers, or specific bird parts (i.e., activities or habitat modification in the vicinity of nesting birds that do not result in “take” as defined under the MBTA are not prohibited).

Due to the lack of vegetation within the project action area, the project site only has the potential to be utilized by a very limited amount of ground nesting regionally common migratory birds that are protected under the federal MBTA. Similarly, due to the lack of trees, the project site does not support potentially suitable nesting raptor habitat.

## **4.4.2. Environmental Consequences**

### ***Proposed Action***

Direct impacts were determined by overlaying the project action area boundary on the mapped vegetation communities/habitats in GIS ESRI software platforms. Indirect impacts were determined based on the design, intended use, and location of the project elements relative to biological resources.

### Habitats/Vegetation Communities

The Proposed Action would not result in direct impacts to any sensitive habitat/vegetation communities, but rather only disturbed habitat. Due to the lack of sensitivity, no habitat mitigation is required for this proposed impact.

Indirect impacts to the adjacent offsite desert saltbush scrub habitat from the proposed health clinic development such as an increase in noise, and/or night lighting may occur; however, the project site currently experiences edge effects due to the extent of surrounding development; therefore, it is not anticipated that the Proposed Action would result in a substantial increase in indirect impacts.

### Federally Threatened and Endangered Listed Species

No federally listed animal or plant species occur or are expected to occur onsite based on a lack of suitable habitat, conditions, and/or known records in the project area and thus no federally listed animal or plant species would be impacted by the Proposed Action.

No designated critical habitat for any federally listed species occurs within or directly adjacent to the project action area and thus no critical habitat would be affected by the Proposed Action.

### Wildlife Corridors

The project action area does not support a regional or local wildlife movement corridor and thus no wildlife corridors would be impacted by the Proposed Action.

### Impacts Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The project action area has the potential to be utilized by a limited amount of nesting regionally common migratory birds that are protected under the federal MBTA. Due to the lack of vegetation and specifically larger trees, the project site does not support potentially suitable nesting raptor habitat.

The Proposed Action could result in impacts to active bird nests for a limited amount of common species such as mourning dove or killdeer that may nest on the ground within the project site if construction-related activities were to occur during the avian breeding season (February 1 to September 15). No suitable raptor habitat (i.e., trees) occurs within the project site and thus no raptor species would be impacted.

Minor, adverse and temporary impacts to active birds' nests would be avoided or minimized with implementation of Mitigation Measure Bio-1.

### ***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action alternative, current vegetation and wildlife conditions would continue as they are. There would be no disturbance to the project site and no biological resources would be impacted.

### **4.4.3. Mitigation Measure**

#### ***Bio-1 (Pre-construction Nesting Bird Surveys)***

To avoid any direct impacts to migratory birds and/or raptors protected under the federal MBTA, removal of habitat that supports active nests in the proposed area of disturbance would occur outside of the general breeding season for these categories of birds (January 15 to August 31). If construction activities are to take place during the combined avian breeding season (i.e., February 15 through August 31 for most bird species; and January 1 through August 31 for raptors), a pre-construction survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist within 14 days of construction to identify any active migratory bird nests protected under MBTA. The Pre-Construction Survey would be conducted within a radius of 300 feet for non-listed raptors and 100 feet for non-listed passerines at the project site and include all areas where substantial ground disturbance or vegetation clearing is required

If occupied nests are present, an appropriate nest exclusion zone would be established and an appropriate buffer area around the nest would be established and maintained until the juvenile birds have fledged. The biologist would evaluate whether sufficient screening buffers (such as trees or intervening topography) exist so that work may proceed in the area and would determine what level of nest monitoring is needed.

To the extent practicable, no project vehicles, chain saws, or heavy equipment would be operated in this exclusion zone until the biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active and or the young have fledged. If it is not practicable to avoid work in an exclusion zone around an active nest, work activities would be modified to minimize disturbance of nesting birds but may proceed in these zones at the discretion of the biologist. The biologist would monitor all work activities in these zones daily when construction is occurring and assess their effect on the nesting birds. If the biologist determines that particular activities pose a high risk of disturbing an active nest, the biologist would recommend additional, feasible measures to minimize the risk of nest disturbance. If work cannot proceed without disturbing the nesting birds, or signs of disturbance are observed by the monitor, work may need to be halted or redirected to other areas until the nesting and fledging is completed or the nest has otherwise failed for non-construction-related reasons. The biologist would conduct periodic biological monitoring where needed and adjust buffers as appropriate.

The results of the pre-construction survey would be reviewed and approved by the IHS prior to initiating any construction activities. If nesting birds are detected, a letter report or mitigation plan would be prepared and include proposed measures to be implemented to ensure that disturbance of breeding activities is avoided.

## 4.5. Invasive and Noxious Species

### 4.5.1. Affected Environment

On February 3, 1999, President William J. Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 13112 requiring federal agencies to combat the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States. The order defines invasive species as “any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” Under E.O. 13112, federal agencies cannot authorize, fund, or carry out actions that it believes are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States or elsewhere unless the agency has determined that the benefits of the actions outweigh the potential harm caused by invasive species and that all reasonable measures to minimize risk of harm will be taken in conjunction with the actions. Any federal invasive animal species or noxious weed species found to be present must be considered as part of the NEPA analysis for the proposed project.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS Federal Noxious Weed List webpage (<https://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious>) provides the most current noxious weed list. The NRCS also maintains a list of invasive animal species.

As part of the Biological Resource Study (Appendix B), the NRCS Federal Noxious Weed List was cross-referenced with the flora observed within the project site to determine if any species were considered invasive/noxious weed species, as defined by the above referenced list/source. No invasive plant species as identified on the federal Noxious Weed List occur within the project site. However, an isolated patch of desert saltbush scrub that contains big saltbush, arrow weed and the non-native invasive salt cedar/tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.) was found in the area immediately north of the project site.

The biological field survey identified no invasive non-native animal species on the NRCS National Invasive Species Information Center webpage (<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial-invasives>) within the project site.

### 4.5.2. Environmental Consequences

#### *Proposed Action*

The Proposed Action would require site preparation activities including excavation, grading, soil import, and soil compaction. These activities would remove any on-site vegetation. During the process of excavation and grading, it is possible for seeds or reproducible parts of plants to attach to equipment and spread those plants to off-site areas. However, the Biological Resource Study (Appendix B) found no invasive plant species occurring within the project site. Therefore, the potential to spread invasive and noxious plants from the project site through soil exportation would be low.

Importation of soil for use as fill material also has the potential to introduce onto the project site seeds or reproducible parts of plants from invasive and noxious plants from other areas. This potential would be minimized through compliance with the earth work and excavation recommendations of the Geotechnical Investigation (Appendix A), which require that only soils certified as being free of organic materials, debris or other deleterious substances be used as engineered fill on the project site.

In addition, the proposed project includes the installation of landscaping in the parking area and around the replacement clinic. The use of native plants in the landscaping design and regular maintenance of landscaped areas would avoid the introduction or spread of invasive plant species.

Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious plants species. Overall impacts from invasive and noxious plants would be minor.

No invasive animal species, as identified on the federal NRCS Invasive Species List, were found to occur within the project site and thus it is not expected that the proposed project would cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive animal species. Therefore, impacts from invasive and noxious plants and from invasive animal species would be minor and no mitigation would be required.

### ***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, the replacement health clinic would not be constructed and there would be no disturbance at the Project site. The project site would remain in a vacant/barren and disturbed condition or it could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan. Until development occurs, the project site would be susceptible to the introduction of invasive and noxious plants, through wind-blown seed dispersal. This adverse impact would be minor to moderate.

## **4.6. Air Quality**

The Regulatory Context for Air Quality is included in Appendix C.

### **4.6.1. Affected Environment**

The project site is located in the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) in the Coachella Valley. Air quality conditions in the Coachella Valley are under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The climate of the SSAB is influenced by the mountain ranges that surround the greater Coachella Valley, which constrain the horizontal movement of air and also inhibit the dispersion of air pollutants out of the region. The climate of the Coachella Valley is a continental, desert-type, with hot summers, mild winters, and very little annual rainfall. Precipitation is less than six inches annually and occurs mostly in the winter months from active frontal systems, and in the late summer months from thunderstorms. Temperatures exceed 100 degrees Fahrenheit, on the average, for four months each year, with daily highs near 110 degrees Fahrenheit during July and August.

Air quality is defined by ambient air concentrations of specific pollutants identified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be of concern with respect to health and welfare of the general public. The EPA is responsible for enforcing the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970 and its 1977 and 1990 Amendments, which required the EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These standards identify concentrations of the ambient air pollutants below which no adverse effects on the public health and welfare are anticipated. In response, the EPA established primary and secondary standards for several pollutants (called “criteria” pollutants). “Primary standards” are designed to protect human health and “Secondary standards” are designed to protect property and the public welfare from air pollutants in the atmosphere. Criteria pollutants include ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), respirable particulate matter of 10 microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>), respirable particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and lead (Pb).

The CAA allows states to adopt ambient air quality standards and other regulations provided they are at least as stringent as federal standards. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) established the more stringent California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for the six original criteria pollutants through the California Clean Air Act of 1988, and as well as CAAQS for additional pollutants, including sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, vinyl chloride and visibility-reducing particles. The NAAQS and CAAQS are presented in Table 4.6-1.

**Table 4.6-1. Ambient Air Quality Standards**

POLLUTANT	AVERAGE TIME	CALIFORNIA STANDARDS <sup>1</sup>		NATIONAL STANDARDS <sup>2</sup>		
		Concentration <sup>3</sup>	Method <sup>4</sup>	Primary <sup>3, 5</sup>	Secondary <sup>3, 6</sup>	Method <sup>7</sup>
Ozone <sup>8</sup> (O <sub>3</sub> )	1 hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Ultraviolet Photometry	--	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet Photometry
	8 hours	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		0.070 ppm (137 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	8 hours	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Non-Dispersive Infrared Spectroscopy (NDIR)	9 ppm(10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	--	Non-Dispersive Infrared Spectroscopy (NDIR)
	1 hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )		35 ppm(40 mg/m <sup>3</sup> )		
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>10</sup>	Annual Average	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	0.053 ppm (100 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Same as Primary Standard	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence
	1 hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		100 ppb(188 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	--	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>11</sup>	Annual Average	--	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	0.03 ppm (80 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	--	Pararosaniline
	24 hours	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		0.14 ppm (365 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	--	
	3 hours	--		--	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	
	1 hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )		75 ppb (196 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	--	
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) <sup>9</sup>	24 hours	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m <sup>3</sup>		--	--	
Fine Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ) <sup>9</sup>	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	24 hours	--		35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Same as Primary Standard	
Sulfates	24 hours	25 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Ion Chromatography	--	--	--
Lead <sup>12, 13</sup> (Pb)	30-day Average	1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Atomic Absorption	--	--	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Calendar Quarter	--		1.5 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	Same as Primary Standard	
	3-month Rolling Average	--		0.15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>		
Hydrogen Sulfide (H <sub>2</sub> S)	1 hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	--	--	--
Vinyl Chloride <sup>12</sup>	24 hours	0.010 ppm (26 µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Gas Chromatography	--	--	--

**Notes:**

ppm = parts per million      µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter      mg/m<sup>3</sup> = milligrams per cubic meter

1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM<sub>10</sub>, the 24-hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is equal to or less than one. For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, the 24-hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.

**Table 4.6-1. Ambient Air Quality Standards**

**Notes Continued:**

3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.
4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the CARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.
5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.
6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.
7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.
8. On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.
9. On December 14, 2012, the national annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> primary standard was lowered from 15 µg/ m<sup>3</sup> to 12.0 µg/ m<sup>3</sup>. The existing national 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards (primary and secondary) were retained at 35 µg/ m<sup>3</sup>, as was the annual secondary standard of 15 µg/ m<sup>3</sup>. The existing 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standards (primary and secondary) of 150 µg/ m<sup>3</sup> also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.
10. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national 1-hour standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national 1-hour standard to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 100 ppb is identical to 0.100 ppm.
11. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO<sub>2</sub> standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO<sub>2</sub> national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved.  
  
Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.
12. The CARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.
13. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 µg/ m<sup>3</sup> as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.
14. In 1989, the CARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

Source: Birdseye Consulting Group, Inc. (Appendix C).

## ***Regional Air Quality***

### **National and California Ambient Air Quality Standard Designations**

As described above, the EPA regulates six air pollutants (criteria pollutants) for which standards for safe levels of exposure have been set under the Clean Air Act of 1990: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide and lead. Areas where air pollution levels persistently exceed either the National Ambient Air Quality Standard or the California Ambient Air Quality Standards may be designated “nonattainment.”

As shown on Table 4.6-2, Riverside County is classified as a federal non-attainment area for PM2.5. It is classified as a state nonattainment area for ozone (8 hour standard), PM10 and PM2.5, and as an extreme nonattainment area for ozone (1 hour standard).

**Table 4.6-2. Attainment Status – Coachella Valley**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Attainment Status South Coast Air Basin</b>	
	<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>
Ozone – 1 hour	N/A	Extreme Nonattainment
Ozone – 8 hour (2015 Standard)	Designation Pending	Nonattainment
CO	Attainment (Maintenance)	Attainment
NO <sub>2</sub>	Attainment	Attainment
SO <sub>2</sub>	Attainment	Attainment
PM10	Attainment (Maintenance)	Nonattainment
PM2.5	Nonattainment	Nonattainment

### ***General Conformity***

The EPA is responsible for ensuring that air quality protects public health and welfare. Under the EPA’s General Conformity Rule, any federal agency responsible for an action in a nonattainment area is required to determine that the action conforms to the applicable SIP or is exempt from the General Conformity Rule requirements. The General Conformity Rule applies only to emissions caused by federal actions that occur in a federal nonattainment or maintenance area (see Table 4.6-2 for more information on these designations). Further, only emissions that equal or exceed the General Conformity Rule’s de minimis thresholds would require the need for a General Conformity determination.

Because the project site is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and because the Torres-Martinez Tribe does not have an approved Tribal Implementation Plan (USEPA, 2019a), to conform with the SIP, the proposed project must comply with the SCAQMD’s 2016 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

## ***Sensitive Receptors***

Sensitive receptors are facilities that house or attract children, the elderly, and people with illnesses or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Hospitals, schools, convalescent facilities, and residential areas are examples of sensitive receptors. The nearest sensitive receptors are senior residences located adjacent to and south of the project site. Additional single-family rural residences are located immediately east of the project site, east of Martinez Road.

### **4.6.2. Environmental Consequences**

#### ***Proposed Action***

The effects on air quality were assessed by developing emission estimates associated with proposed construction and operational activities. Emission calculations were based on anticipated on-road vehicle use, off-road equipment use, and land disturbance.

#### **Construction**

The Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project would be constructed over a period of approximately six (6) months. During this time, criteria air pollutants would be emitted from the engine exhaust of diesel- and gasoline-fueled vehicles and construction equipment. Heavy-duty diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment and vehicles at the project site would include loaders, graders, backhoes, cranes, and trucks. Emissions of fugitive dust would be generated by grading activities and vehicle travel for construction of the Proposed Action. Construction-related traffic generation would include equipment delivery, on- and off-site vehicle and construction equipment, and automobile trips for construction workers in personal vehicles commuting to and from the project site.

Construction typically proceeds in distinct phases: construction is initiated with site preparation, and paving, which is then followed by erection of structures, and finally the finishing of those structures and infrastructure. Of these phases, site preparation can generate fugitive dust and diesel equipment emissions of PM10 and PM2.5. Construction and finishing of structures typically results in greater ROG and NOx emissions associated with diesel and gasoline combustion stationary equipment, mobile equipment, and worker vehicle trips.

The daily emissions presented in Table 4.6-3 represent the highest estimated emissions on a given day from all concurrent construction activities. Detailed emission calculations are presented in Appendix A (Air Emissions) of the Air Quality Technical Report (Appendix C) and were calculated using the California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod 2016.3.2) which is the latest version of the air quality model approved by the USEPA for use in California.

The results of the pollutant criteria analysis (Table 4.6-3) indicates the level of emissions from construction of the proposed project, including ROG, NOx, CO, SOx, PM10 and PM2.5, would

not exceed SCAQMD thresholds. Therefore, the adverse air quality impacts during construction would be temporary and minor. No mitigation would be required.

**Operations**

Operational emissions would be comprised primarily of mobile sources emissions associated with transporting patients, vendors and employees to/from the clinic as well as from operation of the clinic (energy, water and solid waste) and were calculated using the California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod 2016.3.2). Operational emissions are summarized on Table 4.6-3.

**Table 4.6-3. Construction and Operations Critical Pollutant Emissions**

<b>Emission Source</b>	<b>ROG</b>	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>SO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b>
<b>Total Construction Emissions, lbs./day</b>	58.6	10.3	8.0	0.01	1.3	0.9
SCAQMD Significance Thresholds	75	100	550	150	150	55
Above Significance Thresholds?	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Operational Emissions</b>	1.03	5.01	6.3	0.02	1.5	0.4
Above Significance Thresholds?	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Federal De Minimis Thresholds</b>	10	10	100	N/A	70	100
Above <i>De Minimis</i> Thresholds?	No	No	No	No	No	No

For detailed calculations, refer to Appendix C of this EA.

CO = Carbon Monoxide.

NO<sub>x</sub> = Oxides of Nitrogen.

ROG = Reactive Organic Gas.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> = Particulate Matter (2.5 microns in diameter or less).

PM<sub>10</sub> = Particulate Matter (10 microns in diameter or less).

SO<sub>x</sub> = Sulfur Oxides.

As shown on Table 4.6-3, the long term operational emissions of ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds. Adverse air quality impacts would be minor and no mitigation would be required.

The proposed project conforms with the SCAQMD’s 2016 AQMP because air emissions would not exceed the thresholds presented in Table 4.6-3. Additionally, emissions are below the SCAQMD and Federal De Minimis thresholds for ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. A less than significant impact would occur. Accordingly, a conformity determination is not required under 40 CFR Part 51, Subpart W.

***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, the replacement clinic would not be constructed. The Project site would continue in its present use or could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan. Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location. Emissions associated with travel to/from the existing clinic would continue, but construction related emissions would be avoided.

## **4.7. Land Use**

### **4.7.1. Affected Environment**

#### ***Land Use***

The project site is currently vacant of all structures and vegetation but had previously supported a date orchard. This use ceased, more than 10 years ago due to a fire. Photos of the project site are provided on Figure 1-3. Adjacent uses include rural residential uses to the east, across Martinez Road, Tribal administrative offices and senior residences to the south, and vacant/vegetated land to the north (Figure 4.7-1). Active agricultural uses are located to the west. The project site is in a rural setting, with only sparse residential development and the Tribal Administrative Complex (which includes the Torres Martinez Historical District) in the immediate area. The nearest metropolitan areas are the City of Coachella, approximately 14.4 km (9 miles) to the north, and the City of La Quinta, 19.3 km (12 miles) north west.

While located within the boundaries of the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan in the County of Riverside, land uses on the reservation are regulated by the Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians. The County of Riverside's General Plan designates the Reservation as "IND", in acknowledgment of the Tribe's sovereignty relative to state and local governments (County of Riverside, 2016, p. LU-79). The Torres Martinez Land Use Plan (1999) designates the site as "Central Business" (Figure 4.7-2).

#### ***Public Services and Utilities***

Public Services provided in the project area include fire protection services, police protection, schools and public parks. The following information is taken from the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan (County of Riverside, 2016).

#### **Fire Protection**

The Riverside County Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency services in unincorporated Riverside County areas, including the project site. The nearest fire station is Station 40 located approximately 8.5 km (5.29 miles) northeast at 91100 Fourth Street in Mecca. The project site is located within a 5-minute response time of this station.

#### **Police Protection**

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services in the project area. The police station nearest the project site is located approximately 8.3 km (5.16 miles) to the north at 86625 Airport Boulevard in Thermal. The County provides an officer-to-population ratio of approximately 1 per 1,000 population with a stated goal of reaching 1.2 officers per 1,000 population by 2018.

## **Schools**

The Coachella Valley Unified School District provides public school services in the project area. The nearest school to the project site is Desert Mirage High School located at 86150 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue, approximately 0.9 km (0.56 miles) northwest of the project site.

## **Public Parks**

Riverside County owns and maintains a wide range of parks and community facilities. The nearest park to the project site is Riverside County's Mecca Sports Complex with tennis courts, a large swimming pool and open space areas. The sports complex is located 7.37 km (4.58 miles) east of the project site.

No utility infrastructure is located on the project site.

## **Visual Resources**

Visual characteristics of the project site are typical of rural residential areas on the Reservation. The project site is vacant of all structures and vegetation, visual resources at the site include views of the existing property from Martinez Road and neighboring properties, including the Torres-Martinez Administrative Complex and senior residences. The Torres Martinez Historical District is partially located within the proposed area of disturbance and therefore would be considered a visual resource.



**Photo 4.7-1: View of property from Martinez Road**

See Section 4.10 of this EA (Historic Properties) for a detailed discussion of the Torres Martinez Historical District.

### **4.7.2. Environmental Consequences**

#### ***Proposed Action***

##### **Land Use**

The proposed project would develop a replacement medical clinic at the project site, which would be consistent with the Torres-Martinez Land Use Plan's Central Business designation. Because the project site is under the jurisdiction of the Torres-Martinez Tribe, it is not subject to local land use plans or zoning requirements. Additionally, the proposed project would be compatible with neighboring uses. Therefore, impacts to land use would be minor and beneficial.

## **Public Services and Utilities**

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Fire Department have sufficient manpower and resources to respond to emergencies at the replacement clinic. Impacts to police and fire services resulting from the proposed project would be negligible.

Impacts to schools and public parks are related to project-related population increases. The proposed project would not result in a population increase in American Indian and Alaska Natives, but would improve the quality of health care services for this demographic. Therefore, impacts to schools and public parks would be negligible.

Utilities required for the replacement health clinic include electricity; natural gas; communications lines and cellular service; stormwater management; wastewater treatment and potable water. The Imperial Irrigation District currently provides electrical gas services to the project area. There is an electrical distribution line on the west side of Martinez Road at the Torres-Martinez Administrative Complex near the southern property line. Natural gas service is provided by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas). Various companies provide telephone and communication service to the area.

During construction of the replacement clinic, anticipated to last six (6) months, there would likely be negligible to minor impacts on utilities. IID and/or SoCal Gas may need to extend existing service lines/pipelines to the new facility and possibly upgrade their services. See Section 4.3 of this EA for a discussion of stormwater management, wastewater treatment and potable water utilities.

An increase in the demand for energy is anticipated for the replacement clinic, however, this increase would be negligible and would not create the need for new or for additional energy supplies or generation.

## **Visual Resources**

Minor short-term visual impacts to neighboring residences are anticipated during the six (6) month construction of the replacement health clinic. The proposed project would introduce new visual elements of the clinic structure, hardscape, landscaping, and retention basin. However, long-term impacts resulting from the change in visual character of the project site would be mitigated by the replacement clinic's architectural design and landscaping that is in harmony with the scale, form, line, color, and texture of the Administrative Complex and senior residences.

Though the replacement clinic would be visible from the Torres-Martinez Historic District, there are no historic buildings located within the area of disturbance, and the District's historical eligibility would not be affected (See Section 4.10). Additionally, the new visual elements would not degrade the existing visual character of area. Long-term adverse visual impacts are considered to be minor.

## ***No Action Alternative***

### **Land Use**

Under the No Action Alternative, the replacement health clinic would not be constructed, and no land use impacts would result. The project site would continue in its present use or could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan. Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location.

### **Public Services and Utilities**

Since the replacement clinic would not be constructed under the No Action Alternative, no additional utility connections, constructions, or extensions would be necessary under this alternative. Use patterns and demands for public services and utilities would continue at current levels. Public emergency services would continue to operate under current conditions and demands. No impacts on public services or utilities are anticipated under the No Action Alternative.

### **Visual Resources**

Under the No Action Alternative, the replacement clinic not be constructed and there would be no impact to visual resources. The existing clinic would remain in operation.



Rural Residences

Torres Martinez Senior Housing Complex Site



Residences off of Martinez Road

Active Agriculture

SOURCE: BRG Consulting, Inc., 2018

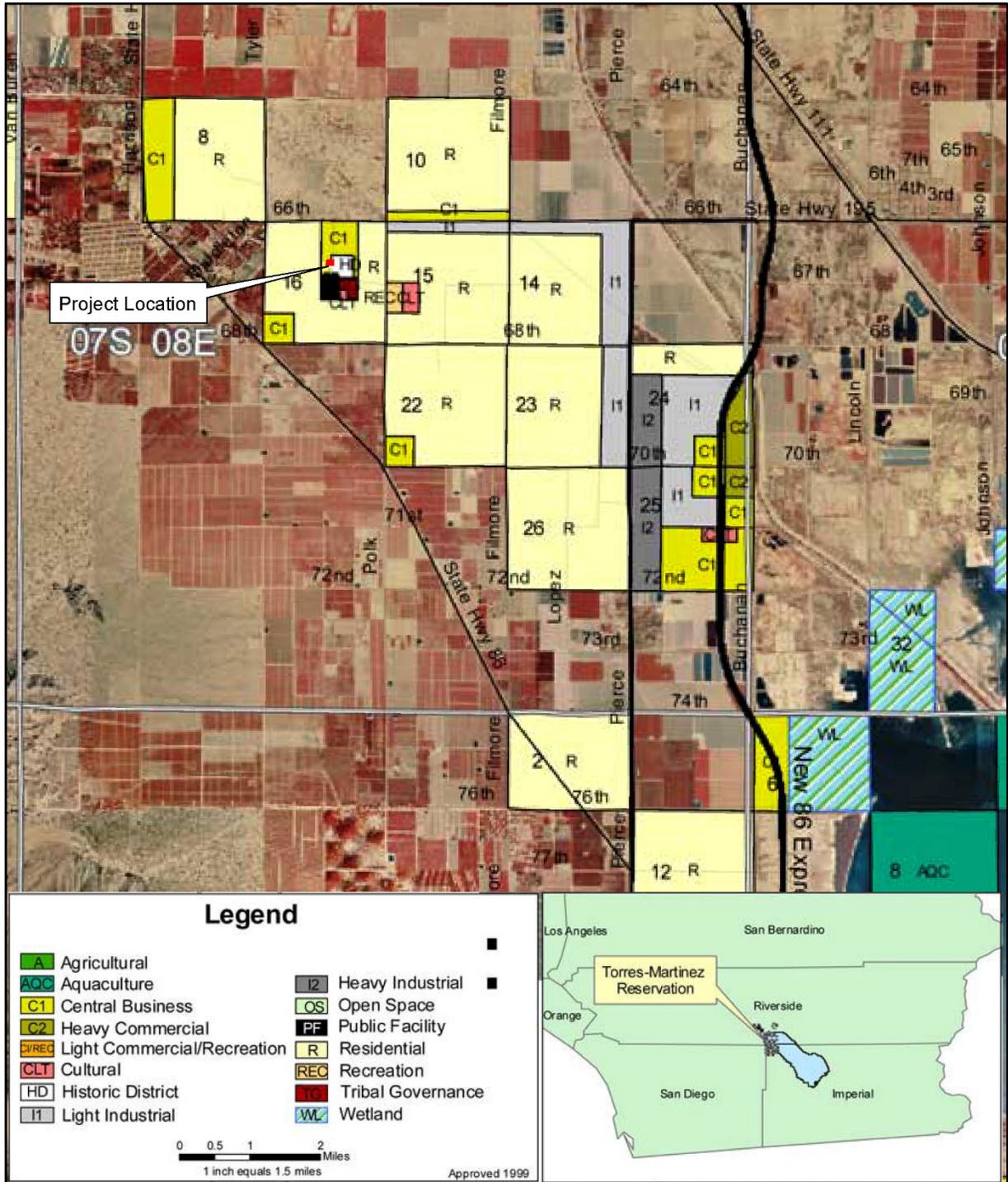
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Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project

Adjacent Land Use

FIGURE  
4.7-1



SOURCE: Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians Land Use Plan 1999

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	<p>Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project</p> <p>Torres-Martinez General Plan</p> <p>Land Use Map</p>	<p>FIGURE</p> <p>4.7-2</p>
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## 4.8. Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

### 4.8.1. Affected Environment

#### *Demographic and Economic Characteristics*

The project site is located in an unincorporated, and rural portion of Riverside County. The nearest population centers to the project site are the cities of Coachella and LaQuinta.

Table 4.8-1 shows 2000, 2010 and 2017 population estimates for the Torres-Martinez Reservation (Reservation), unincorporated areas of Riverside County, Riverside County as a whole, and for the state of California. Over the 17-year period from 2000 to 2017, population on the Reservation and within unincorporated areas of Riverside County declined at rates of 2.2 percent and 11.6 percent per year, respectively. Over the same period, population growth within Riverside County grew at a rate of 2.1 percent per year and population within the State grew at a rate of 0.8 percent per year.

**Table 4.8-1. Regional Population, 2000 to 2017**

Location	2000	2010	2017	Net Change	Trend <sup>(1)</sup>
Torres Martinez Reservation (a) (b) (c)	4,130	4,075	3,015	(1,115)	-2.2%
Unincorporated Riverside County (d) (e) (f)	1,124,666	504,392	379,252	(745,414)	-11.6%
Riverside County (d) (e) (f)	1,545,387	2,189,641	2,382,640	837,253	2.1%
California (d) (e) (f)	33,873,086	37,253,956	39,500,973	5,627,887	0.8%

Note:

(1) Denotes change per year

Source:

- (a) U.S. Census Bureau, Total Population, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3), (US Census Bureau, 2000a)
- (b) U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey (US Census Bureau 2011)
- (c) U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey (US Census Bureau 2017)
- (d) U.S. Census Bureau, Historic City, County and State Population Estimates, 1990-2000, with 1990 and 2000 Census Counts (US Census Bureau, 2000.)
- (e) California, 2018a. State of California, Department of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2001-2010, with 2000 & 2010 Census Counts. Sacramento, California, November 2012
- (f) California, 2018b. State of California Dept. of Finance, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State 2011 - 2018

A comparison of the ethnic makeup of the Reservation, Riverside County and the State of California in 2017/2018 is presented on Table 4.8-2. For the purposes of this analysis, a minority population consists of any geographic area in which minority representation is greater than the national average of 30.7 percent. Minorities include individuals classified by the U.S. Census Bureau as Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino, and those classified under “two or more races.” Hispanics may be of any race and are excluded from the totals for individual races to avoid double counting.

As shown on Table 4.8-2, ethnic minorities make up a majority of the Reservation’s population (73.17 percent). The ethnic makeup of Riverside County was 58.04 percent White and 41.96 percent minority. Although the population of the County is predominantly white, it reflects a similar level of diversity, when compared to the State.

**Table 4.8-2. Population By Race**

Population by Race	Torres Martinez Reservation <sup>(1)</sup>		Riverside County <sup>(2)</sup>		California <sup>(2)</sup>	
	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population	Persons	% of Population
White	809	26.83%	1,404,673	58.04%	21,823,906	54.98%
Black/African American	0	0.00%	157,088	6.49%	2,351,101	5.92%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	167	5.54%	26,596	1.10%	387,502	0.98%
Asian	8	0.27%	162,173	6.70%	5,815,524	14.65%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.00%	8,141	0.34%	161,148	0.41%
Some Other Race (Hispanic)	1,953	64.78%	534,521	22.09%	7,042,323	17.74%
2+ Races	78	2.59%	127,048	5.25%	2,114,249	5.33%
<b>TOTAL PERSONS</b>	<b>3,105</b>		<b>2,420,240</b>		<b>39,695,753</b>	
<b>TOTAL MINORITY</b>	<b>2,296</b>	<b>73.17%</b>	<b>1,015,567</b>	<b>41.96%</b>	<b>17,871,847</b>	<b>45.02%</b>

Source: (1) US Census Bureau 2017.  
(2) County of Riverside, 2018.

Riverside County’s Strategic Health Alliance reported that Riverside County had a 2018 population of 2,420,240. According to the US Census Bureau, in 2017/2018, the total population on the Reservation was estimated at 3,015 persons. Of this total, 65.8 percent of the population is over the age of 16; 45.2 percent are working in civilian jobs; and 20.6 percent are not in the labor force. Approximately 43.9 percent of families on the Reservation are below the poverty level, compared to 12.78 percent of families in Riverside County and 11.73 percent state-wide.

The 2017 median household income for persons residing on the Torres-Martinez Reservation was \$21,273, compared to \$61,994 for Riverside County and \$71,805 for the state of California.

#### **4.8.2. Environmental Consequences**

##### ***Proposed Action***

##### **Economic Impacts**

Approximately 40 workers would be required for construction of the replacement health clinic. In accordance with the Torres Martinez Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (Ordinance No. TMORD-001-09, as amended), construction contractors will be encouraged to give Tribal members living within or near the boundaries of the Torres Martinez Reservation preference in employment. The RSBCIHI is further encouraged to select Indian-owned companies for contracts and employ tribal members to the maximum extent possible. Benefits to the local economy would

be seen through increased wages, overhead expenses, materials costs, and profit. Local commercial and service entities in the community could expect to see some short-term, minor increase in activity related to expenditures by workers that are not from the area. Construction employment would be limited and temporary and does not represent a permanent change in local employment.

Currently, the Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic is staffed with 15 full-time employees with five (5) additional staff that rotate on-site weekly or twice monthly. No appreciable increase in staffing above current levels is anticipated. Overall, the impact on the local economy would be minor, beneficial and temporary.

### **Social Impacts**

The provision of a replacement health clinic would be beneficial toward improving the health and environment of eligible Native Americans and their families living in Riverside or San Bernardino counties which would enhance the long-term social vitality of these areas.

### **Environmental Justice**

Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, requires Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations in the United States. Even though minority and low-income populations are located near the project site, no high and adverse “human health impacts” are anticipated as a result of the construction or operational of the proposed project.

In terms of adverse “environmental impacts”, construction of the proposed project would subject neighboring properties to increased construction-related air quality emissions and noise levels. Section 4.6.2 (Air Quality) found that the construction emissions would be far below SCAQMD’s significance thresholds, such that adverse air quality impacts would be temporary and minor. No mitigation would be required.

As described in Section 4.11.2 (Noise), construction of the replacement health care facility could result in temporary noise levels that exceed 75 dBA at neighboring properties. This temporary adverse effect would fall disproportionately on the low income and minority population on the Reservation. However, construction noise impacts would be temporary and would be reduced through implementation of noise mitigation measures N-1, N-2, N-3 and N-4. These measures would require the use of electric powered construction equipment, limit the number of construction vehicles operating simultaneously near sensitive receptors, provide 24 hours advanced notice to neighbors when construction activities that could result in substantial noise levels are planned, and implement a noise control plan/noise control monitoring program to ensure construction noise levels do not exceed 75 decibels over a 12-hour period at the nearest sensitive receptors. No additional mitigation would be required.

### *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action alternative, the replacement health clinic would not be constructed. The project site would continue in its present use or could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan.

Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location. Therefore, no new construction-related employment opportunities would be created. No additional wages or benefits would be generated or spent in the local economy and no beneficial social impacts from improving the health of eligible Native Americans and their families would be realized.

## 4.9. Important Farmlands

### 4.9.1. Affected Environment

#### *Farmland Protection Policy Act*

Congress passed the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) in 1981 in response to a substantial decrease in the amount of open farmland (7 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4201 et seq.). Under the FPPA, the Secretary of Agriculture established criteria for use by federal agencies to consider effects to farmland. As stipulated by the FPPA, federal agencies are to: (1) use the criteria to identify and account for the adverse effects of their programs on the preservation of farmland; (2) consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could lessen adverse effects; and (3) ensure that their programs, to the extent practicable, are compatible with state, units of local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland (7 U.S.C. 658.1).

The FPPA applies to projects that would irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to non-agricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. Assistance includes the provision of financing or loans.

Federal agencies comply with the FPPA by completing a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (Form AD-1006) for submittal to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) NRCS.

#### *Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program*

Conservation of agricultural land in California is monitored on the state level through the Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection, and specifically through the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) and the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act.

The FMMP uses NRCS soils surveys and existing land use observations to determine the nature and quality of farmland in 10-acre-minimum units across the state. The NRCS's definition of Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance is similar to that in the FPPA with one exception—the NRCS' definition of Prime Farmland includes the availability of water. In general, Prime Farmland is defined as having an adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation

#### ***Farmland that is subject to the FPPA is:***

**Prime Farmland:** Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion.

**Unique Farmland:** Land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

**Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance:** Farmland, other than prime or unique farmland, that is of statewide or local importance for the production of food, feed, fiber, forage, or oilseed crops

or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, an acceptable level of acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable content of salt or sodium, and few or no rocks (NRCS 2018c). As described in 7 CFR Part 622.3, the term “Prime Farmland if Irrigated” refers to land with the soil characteristics to qualify as Prime Farmland but which lacks the irrigation or water supply necessary to qualify as Prime Farmland (NRCS 2018c).

The FMMP does not designate the project site as containing important farmlands. As shown on Figure 4.9-1, the FMMP designates the project site as “Other Lands”.

### ***NRSC Soil Types***

The soils on the project site have been mapped by the NRCS and the entire is mapped as “It - indio very fine sandy loam, wet”. It has a farmland classification of “prime farmland, if irrigated and drained.”

## **4.9.2. Environmental Consequences**

### ***Proposed Action***

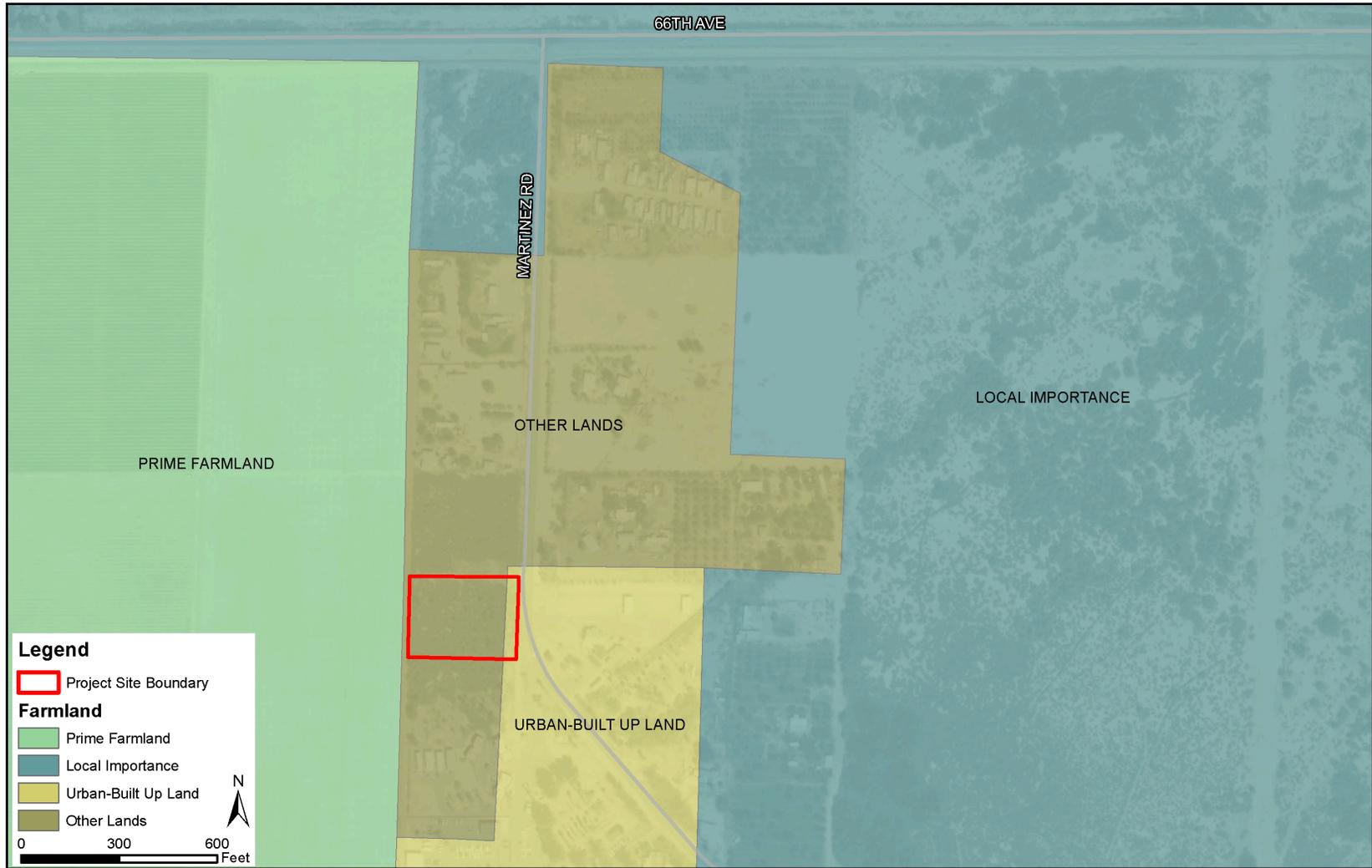
The project site consists of disturbed land that is vacant of development. The project site had previously supported a date palm orchard, which was destroyed in a fire more than 10 years ago and no agricultural uses have occurred since that time.

In compliance with the FPPA, IHS prepared a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form AD-1006 (Appendix D) which considered the amount of prime farmland on the project site compared to the amount of important farmland in the area and in the County; the impact converting the site’s farmland would have on local farm support services and continuance of local farms; and the compatibility of the proposed project with agricultural use. No further studies are necessary as the score is below the 160 points that would trigger further analysis.

Impact Rating Form, maps and project data were provided to the NRCS. As of the date of publication of the Draft EA, a response has not been received.

### ***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no development of the property for a replacement health clinic. No impacts farmlands would occur. The project site would continue in its present use or could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan. Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location.



SOURCE: ESRI; Riverside County Open GIS Data, 2016.

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	<p>Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project</p> <p>Important Farmland</p>	<p>FIGURE</p> <p>4.9-1</p>
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## 4.10 Historic Properties

The term “historic properties” refers to a wide array of resources that includes prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

### *Regulatory Framework*

According to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA – 36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties), a historic resource is listed or considered eligible for listing on the NRHP if it meets one of the following criteria:

- Criterion A:** the resource is associated with events that have made a contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- Criterion B:** the resource is associated with the lives of people significant in our past;
- Criterion C:** the resource embodies the distinct characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- Criterion D:** the resource has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Recommendations for site NRHP eligibility are presented in reports and site recordation forms. A site determined to be eligible for the NRHP is a site that would need to be mitigated if adversely affected by an undertaking <sup>(1)</sup>. A historic property found to be ineligible for the NRHP is not, by definition, a historic resource and would not require mitigation if affected by the undertaking. Eligibility determinations are only made for sites that have been through a formal evaluation and nomination process overseen by the National Parks Service. Comparatively few sites are formally nominated due to the lengthy and labor intensive nomination process. Typically, if a site is recommended by the cultural resources consultant to meet the eligibility criteria, and if the SHPO concurs with this recommendation, the site will be avoided, or impacts mitigated without going through the nomination process.

According to 36 CFR§ 800.5, a proposed action would have an adverse effect on a historic property if it would directly or indirectly alter any of the characteristics that renders it eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Adverse effects include:

- Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the property;

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<sup>1</sup> Undertaking means a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; and those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval (36 CFR 800.16).

- Alteration of a resource, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation, and provision of handicapped access, that is not consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR§ 68);
- Removal of the property from its historic location;
- Change of the character of the property's use or of physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historic significance
- Introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the resource's significant historic characteristics;
- Neglect of a property which causes its deterioration, except where such neglect and deterioration are recognized qualities of a resource of religious and cultural significance to an Indian Tribe; and
- Transfer, lease, or sale of the resource out of federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the resource's historic significance.

#### **4.10.1 Affected Environment**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for direct impacts resulting from the Proposed Action includes all areas of potential ground disturbing activities (Figure 1-2). The horizontal APE is a 1.4 ha (3.5 acre) portion of APN 751-210-008. The vertical APE will extend up to 5-feet below ground surface for site preparation activities and installation of the utilities, including the proposed septic system and retention basin.

##### ***Archival and Field Investigations***

ASM Affiliates, Inc. (ASM) conducted a Phase I cultural resources investigation and survey for the proposed Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project during January and February 2016, respectively (Appendix E-1, ASM 2016). A records search was conducted at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), which encompassed the APE and a one-mile radius around it.

A total of 25 previous cultural resources reports that address areas within a one-mile radius of the APE were identified during the records search. Additionally, the records search indicated a total of 28 previously recorded sites and isolates within one mile of the APE; two of which are located just outside the APE, namely CA-RIV-1292 and P-33-20028.

### CA-RIV-1292

The site designated as CA-RIV-1292, the Torres Martinez Historical District, is partially located within the proposed APE. The site was first recorded in 1972 by T. F. King and included historic buildings as well as a scattering of historic and prehistoric artifacts, including potsherds and projectile points. The Torres Martinez Historical District includes: P-33-05686 (Moravian Church and Indian School), P-33-05687 (former U.S. Indian agent quarters), P-33-05688 (former U.S. Indian agency office), P-33-05689 (shed), and P-33-05690 (Jean and Late Russel Force House). All of these historic structures are believed to be the oldest standing U.S. Indian Agency buildings in California. They were built around 1907 by the Martinez Agency, which was established in 1876. The district was declared a historical site by the Riverside Historical Commission in 1970. The district was also listed as a California Point of Historical Interest in 1971. The district was recommended eligible under Criteria C (historic building representing type and period (1907) and D (potential to yield archaeological data). It was listed on the NRHP in May 1973.



**Photo 4.10-1: Martinez Historical District**



**Photo 4.10-2: County of Riverside Historical Marker RIV-042 - Martinez Indian Agency**

### P-33-20028

Martinez Road (P-33-20028) runs along the eastern edge of the APE and consists of a two-lane paved road that runs through the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation from its intersection with Avenue 66 to its terminus at Polk Avenue, a distance of approximately 1,337 meters (4,388 feet). The present alignment appears on the 1941 Coachella 15' quadrangle, was presumed to be of historic age and was thus recorded by J. Eddy as a historic resource in 2011.

### ***NAHC Correspondence***

In January 2016, ASM requested the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) conduct a search of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) and provide a list of Native American contacts that may have additional information or concerns regarding the proposed replacement clinic. The response letter from NAHC indicated that a search of the SFL returned negative results. The list of tribal contacts provided included Mary Resvaloso, Chairperson of the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and Michael Mirelez, Cultural Resource Coordinator for the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. A copy of this information is provided in Appendix E-1.

### ***Archaeological Survey***

An archaeological survey of the project APE was conducted on January 25, 2016 by ASM Associate Archaeologist Tony Quach. The Torres Martinez Cultural Resources Coordinator, Michael Mirelez, was also present during the survey. The entire project area was heavily disturbed due to previous grading and agricultural activities associated with the date palm orchard. Lots of modern plastic debris, building materials, and modern trash were noted on the surface. There was some evidence of bulldozer push piles near some of the overturned date palms. Three (3) potsherds and one Physa shell were identified on the surface. The potsherds were small (less than 1 in.) brownware potsherds and the shell is most likely associated with freshwater snails that used to live in ancient Lake Cahuilla. While three isolated potsherds were identified on the surface, the integrity of the deposits within the project APE was found to be highly compromised by previous earth movement and disturbance in the area.

### ***Phase II Archaeological Testing***

Despite the high level of disturbance at the project site, and the relatively low density of surface artifacts, subsurface testing was conducted at the request of the Tribe due to the proximity of CA-RIV-1292 and to ensure that no cultural resources would be damaged or disturbed by construction of the Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project.

Initial subsurface testing was conducted by ASM in the fall of 2016 under Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) Permit # BIA/PRO-16-01-J54(577). The ASM testing plan included 12 one meter (m) square Test Excavation Units (TEUs) to be excavated by hand to a depth of 1.524 m (5 feet) across the APE to match the maximum depth of ground disturbance for the proposed project. The objective of the Phase II testing was to more accurately determine the artifact density and overall structure of the site and to ascertain the overall potential for obtaining significant scientific data from the resource.

ASM completed four 1 m<sup>2</sup> TEUs to 1.524 m (5 feet) in depth (TEUs 5, 6, 7 and 8). TEUs 2 and 4 were excavated to 0.5 m (1.64 feet) in depth; with a smaller shovel test unit (STU) excavated within the TEUs to 1.524 m (5 feet) in depth. TEUs 1 and 3 were excavated to 0.60 m (1.96 feet) in depth with a STU excavated within the TEUs to 5 feet (1.524 m) in depth. Four TEUs (9, 10, 11 and 12) were not excavated by ASM.

Four test units (1, 2, 5, and 6) were positive for cultural resources. One tertiary chert flake was recovered from TEU 1 and one deer bone fragment was recovered from TEU 2. One historic glass neck fragment, one historic white stoneware fragment, and four (4) buffware body sherds were recovered from TEU 5. From TEU 6, 1 historic plain white improved earthenware fragment was recovered at 0-20 cmbd, and 1 historic plain white improved earthenware fragment was recovered at 20-40 cmbd. TEUs 1 and 6 are within the boundaries of CA-RIV-1292. Four TEUs (9, 10, 11 and 12) were not excavated by ASM.

Cogstone completed the subsurface testing under ARPA Permit BIA/PRO-17-01-J54(577) between November 29, 2016 and December 10, 2016 (Appendix E-2, Cogstone, 2016). Cogstone personnel re-excavated the four previously incomplete (TEUs 1-4) and the four unexcavated TEUs (9-12) using a breaker bar, picks, and shovels to the proposed dimensions of 1 m<sup>2</sup> x 1.524 m in depth.



Photo 4.10-3: Lithic Material recovered from Unit 11.

Artifacts located through excavation were identified, described and quantified in the field with no further analysis. The artifacts were given to the Tribe’s Cultural Resource Coordinator at the end of each day and were not removed from the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation. A tribal member of Torres Martinez was present as a monitor during all excavations. The results of the testing are presented on Table 4.10-1.

**Table 4.10-1 – Phase II Archaeological Test Results**

TEU No.	Results	Source	Eligibility
1*	1 tertiary chert flake at 30-40 cmbd	ASM, 2016 Cogstone, 2016	NA
2	1 deer bone fragment at 0-20 cm	ASM, 2016 Cogstone, 2016	Recommended as not eligible for the NRHP
3	None	Cogstone, 2016	NA
4	None	Cogstone, 2016	NA
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1 historic glass neck fragment,</li> <li>– 1 historic white stoneware fragment,</li> <li>– 2 buffware body sherds at 20-30 cmbd</li> <li>– 2 buffware body sherds at 30-40 cmbd</li> </ul>	ASM, 2016	Recommended as not eligible for the NRHP
6 *	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 1 historic plain white improved earthenware fragment at 0-20 cmbd</li> <li>– 1 historic plain white improved earthenware fragment at 20-40 cmbd</li> </ul>	ASM, 2016	Recommended as not eligible for the NRHP
7	None	ASM, 2016	NA
8	None	ASM, 2016	NA
9	None	Cogstone, 2016	NA
10	None	Cogstone, 2016	NA
11	59 chalcedony flakes	Cogstone, 2016	Recommended as not eligible for the NRHP
12	None	Cogstone, 2016	NA

Notes:

- \* = TEU within the boundary of CA-RIV- 1292.
- cmbd = cm below datum.
- NA = Not Applicable.

Of the eight TEUs excavated by Cogstone, only one contained cultural resources. Fifty-nine chalcedony flakes were recovered from TEU 11; all of the same material and concentrated in a small area. The artifacts within TEU 11 are neither within the boundaries of site CA-RIV-1292 nor within the proposed Indian Health Clinic project footprint and represent a single reduction locale (SRL). This SRL represents a single tool manufacturing event.

None of the resources were found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As per Cogstone's agreement with the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, no further analysis was conducted, and the flakes were returned.

### ***Tribal Consultation and Coordination***

Branches of the Federal Government are required to offer government-to-government consultation with Native American tribes for federal undertakings. This requirement is stipulated under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the following Executive Orders:

- **Executive Memorandum, Government-to-Government Relationship with Tribal Governments (2004):** Recommitted the federal government to work with federally recognized Native American tribal governments and to respect and support tribal sovereignty.
- **Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments (2000):** Recognizes the right for tribal self-government and sovereignty. It also committed the federal government to work with tribal governments on a government-to-government basis.
- **Executive Order 13007 Indian Sacred Sites (1996):** Directs federal agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Native American sacred sites by the Native American communities, and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of sacred sites.
- **Executive Order 12898 Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority populations and Low-Income Populations (1994):** Section 6-606, "Native American Programs" requires that federal agencies responsibilities apply equally to Native American programs.
- **Memorandum, Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments (1994):** Establishes that the head of each agency is responsible for ensuring that that agency or department conducts government-to-government consultation prior to taking actions that may affect federally recognized tribal governments, and that consultations are to be open and candid so that the interested parties may evaluate for themselves the potential impact of the action.

As the lead federal agency for the NEPA process, IHS has extended an invitation for government-to-government consultation with the federally recognized Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla tribe to identify locations of traditional, religious, or cultural importance in the vicinity of the proposed action. The Cultural Resources Coordinator for the Torres Martinez tribe has reviewed the Phase I

Cultural Resources Report (Appendix E-1) as well as the Phase II Archaeological Testing Report (Appendix E-2) and concurs with their findings and recommendations (Appendix E-3).

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act also requires that federal agencies consult with the SHPO regarding the efforts taken to identify and mitigate impacts to cultural resources. The IHS sent a letter of consultation to the California SHPO on January 25, 2019 (Appendix E-3). SHPO sent a letter of concurrence on January 30, 2019 (Appendix E-4). The letter also noted that project activities at the locations of inadvertent finds of cultural resources in the APE should be redirected to other project areas until the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) has been consulted on their potential for being historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.13(b). This has been added to mitigation measure CR-1. The IHS also sent a letter to the Torres-Martinez Tribe on March 21, 2019 requesting their comments on the undertaking and advice on the identification and evaluation of any historic properties (Appendix E-5). As of the date of the publication of the Draft EA a response has not been received.

#### **4.10.2 Environmental Consequences**

##### ***Proposed Action***

No intact cultural deposits were observed within the project footprint and only isolated SRLs were observed during subsurface testing of the APE, thus the subsurface sensitivity for cultural resources is considered low and the area is not likely to yield any information important to the study of research questions within the region, state, or nation. The Torres Martinez Historical District (CA-RIV-1292) was listed on the NRHP in 1973 under Criteria C (historic building representing a specific type and period (1907)) and D (potential to yield archaeological data). There are no historic buildings located within the APE, thus the site's eligibility under Criteria C would not be affected.

However, because of the culturally sensitive nature of the area and the presence of prehistoric and historic resources in the immediate vicinity, the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians have requested full-time cultural resources monitoring by both a qualified archaeologist and Tribal Monitor during all ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction of the proposed project. Special attention should be given to excavations in the immediate vicinity of TEUs and 5 and 11.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure Cult-1 (Cultural Resource Monitoring) would reduce the possibility of adverse effects to historic properties. Therefore, construction of the Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project would result in no adverse effects on historic properties.

### *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, the IHS would not issue a grant for the proposed action. If the proposed action is not funded elsewhere, the replacement health clinic would not be constructed and no ground disturbance would occur; therefore, there would be no effects on historic properties.

#### **4.10.3 Mitigation Measure CR-1 (Cultural Resource Monitoring)**

Full-time cultural resources monitoring by both a qualified archaeologist and a Tribal Monitor would be conducted during all ground-disturbing activities associated with the construction of the proposed project. Special attention should be given to excavations in the immediate vicinity of TEUs and 5 and 11.

In the event of an unanticipated discovery, all work would be suspended within 50 feet of the find and directed to other project areas until a professionally qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interiors Standards evaluates it and the OHP has been consulted on their potential for being historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.13(b) for Post Review Discoveries. If cultural objects are identified by the Tribe as funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, compliance with the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Section 3(d), and implementing regulations 43 CFR Part 10, S10.4 would be initiated.

The Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians agree to serve as permanent repository for archaeological collections, as applicable, and records, data, photographs, and other documents generated and assumes permanent curatorial responsibility for such materials. All collected artifacts would remain on the Torres Martinez reservation, in possession of the Tribe's Cultural Resource Coordinator.

In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered during project development, all work would be suspended within 50 feet of the remains and the IHS and tribe would take steps to determine whether the burial remains are of Native American or non-Native American origin. The IHS would seek the advice and other services of the County Coroner. Work would remain diverted while the IHS and Tribe determines whether the remains are Native American and for any subsequent treatment. Protection of human burials while awaiting IHS and the Tribe's determination would include keeping the discovery confidential and securing the discovery location to prevent disturbance of the remains and associated materials. If the County Coroner, in cooperation with the IHS and the Tribe, determines that the remains are most likely of Native American origin, compliance of NAGPRA, Section 3(d), and implementing regulations 43 CFR Part 10, S10.4 would be initiated.

If the County Coroner, in cooperation with the IHS and the Tribe, determines the remains represent a historic non- Native American burial, the IHS and the Tribe would consult with the SHPO regarding their proposed treatment of these remains.

A report documenting the monitoring efforts shall be provided to IHS within 30 days of the completion of ground disturbing activities.

## 4.11. Noise

### Noise Definitions and Overview of Sound Measurement

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. The degree to which noise disturbs others can be subjective and depends upon its intensity. The loudness of a sound is measured in units called decibels (dB). “A-weighted” decibel (dB(A)) measurements are used to characterize sound levels that can be sensed by the human ear. “A-weighted” denotes the adjustment of the frequency content of a noise event to represent the way in which the average human ear responds to the noise event. The EPA identifies 24-hour exposure levels in excess of 45 dBA indoors and 55 dBA outdoors as interfering with activities and causing annoyance (US EPA, 1974). Levels below these noise thresholds permit spoken conversation and other activities such as sleeping, working, and recreation.

Noise levels typically attenuate (or drop off) at a rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance from the source. Noise from lightly traveled roads typically attenuates at a rate of about 4.5 dBA per doubling of distance. Noise from heavily traveled roads typically attenuates at about 3 dBA per doubling of distance. Noise levels may also be reduced by intervening structures; generally, a single row of buildings between the receptor and the noise source reduces the noise level by about 5 dBA, while a solid wall or berm reduces noise levels by 5 to 10 dBA.

In addition to the actual instantaneous measurement of sound levels, the duration of sound is important since sounds that occur over a long period of time are more likely to be an annoyance or cause direct physical damage or environmental stress. One of the most frequently used noise metrics that considers both duration and sound power level is the equivalent noise level (Leq). The Leq is defined as the single steady A-weighted level that is equivalent to the same amount of energy as that contained in the actual fluctuating levels over a period of time (essentially, the average noise level). Typically, Leq is summed over a one-hour period. Maximum Sound Pressure Level (Lmax) is the highest root mean squared (RMS) sound pressure level within the measuring period, and Lmin is the lowest RMS sound pressure level within the measuring period.

#### 4.11.1. Affected Environment

##### *Sensitive Receptors*

Sensitive receptors are facilities that house or attract children, the elderly, and people with illnesses or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of noise. Hospitals, schools, convalescent facilities, and residential areas are examples of sensitive receptors. The nearest sensitive receptors are senior residences located adjacent to and approximately 135 feet south of the project site. Additional single-family rural residences are located immediately east of the project site, east of Martinez Road.

***Existing Noise Sources***

The project site is in a rural setting, with only sparse residential development in the immediate area. Although there are no figures for ambient sound levels in the area, noise levels associated with neighboring activities and traffic in the vicinity of the project site can be assumed to be low.

**4.11.2. Environmental Consequences**

***Proposed Action***

**Operational Noise**

Operation of the replacement health clinic is anticipated to have a negligible impact on noise levels. The hours of operation would be 8:00 AM to 5:00PM Monday through Thursday, and 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Fridays. Additionally, the new health clinic would be set back from Martinez Road, and vehicle noise associated with the new facility would only contribute an insignificant amount over the background levels of traffic noise that exists in the area.

**Construction Noise**

The main sources of short-term noise impacts during construction activities would include heavy machinery used during site preparation at the project site, as well as equipment used for construction. Table 4.11-1 shows the typical noise levels associated with heavy construction equipment. As shown, average noise levels at construction sites can range from about 75 to 89 dBA at 50 feet from the source, depending upon the types of equipment in operation at any given time and phase of construction.

**Table 4.11-1. Typical Construction Equipment Noise Levels**

<b>Equipment Onsite</b>	<b>Typical Level (dBA) 25 Feet from the Source</b>	<b>Typical Level (dBA) 50 Feet from the Source</b>	<b>Typical Level (dBA) 100 Feet from the Source</b>
Air Compressor	84	78	64
Backhoe	84	78	64
Bobcat Tractor	84	78	64
Concrete Mixer	85	79	73
Bulldozer	88	82	76
Jack Hammer	95	89	83
Pavement Roller	86	80	74
Street Sweeper	88	82	76
Man Lift	81	75	69
Dump Truck	82	76	70

Based upon the Proposed Site Plan (Figure 3-1), construction operations would occur near the southern and eastern property lines (the location closest to sensitive receptors) while other

operations could occur as far as 270 to 320 feet from the same property lines along the northern and western property boundaries.

If during site preparation and grading several pieces of construction equipment were working simultaneously generally near the southern or eastern site boundaries over an 8-hour work day, the 8-hour Leq could exceed the 75-dBA average at the sensitive properties located east and south of the project site. Because it is difficult to predict what equipment would be used on the site, where it would be used and for how long each day, construction of the project could result in minor adverse short-term noise impacts. Noise mitigation noted in Section 4.11-3 would minimize temporary construction noise impacts.

### **4.11.3. Mitigation Measures**

#### ***N-1 Electric Powered - Construction Equipment***

Electrical power would be used to run air compressors and similar power tools. Internal combustion engines would be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by the manufacturer and in good repair. All diesel equipment would be operated with closed engine doors and would be equipped with factory-recommended mufflers. Stationary noise-generating equipment, such as generators and compressors, would be located as far as practically possible from the nearest residential property lines.

#### ***N-2 Limit Operations Adjacent to Receivers***

Limit the number of large pieces of equipment (i.e., bulldozers or concrete mixers) operating adjacent to receivers to one at any given time.

#### ***N-3 Neighbor Notification***

Provide notification to residences adjacent to the project site at least 24 hours prior to the start of construction activities that could result in substantial noise levels at outdoor or indoor living areas. This notification would include the anticipated hours and duration of construction; a description of noise reduction measures being implemented; and a telephone number for local residents to call to submit complaints associated with construction noise.

#### ***N-4 Noise Control Plan***

Construction contractors would develop and implement a noise control plan that includes a noise control monitoring program to ensure sustained construction noise levels do not exceed 75 decibels over a 12-hour period at the nearest sensitive receivers. The plan may include the following requirements:

- Turn off idling equipment.

- Perform noisier operations during the times least sensitive to receptors.
- All diesel equipment operated with closed engine doors and equipped with factory-recommended mufflers.
- Electrical power would be used to run air compressors and similar power tools and to power any temporary structures, such as construction trailers or security staff facilities.
- For all noise-generating construction activities, additional noise attenuation techniques would be employed as necessary to reduce noise levels. Such techniques could include, but are not limited to, the use of sound blankets, noise shrouds and temporary sound barriers between construction areas and nearby sensitive receptors as specified in the noise control plan.

### ***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action alternative, the replacement health care facility would not be built at the project site, and there would be no associated noise from new construction or operation. Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location.

## 4.12. Transportation

### 4.12.1. Affected Environment

Regional access to the project site is provided by State Route 111 or State Route 86, which are aligned in a general north-south direction and are located approximately 5.6 km (3.5 miles) and 8 km (5 miles) east of the project site, respectively.

Local access to the project site is provided by Martinez Road. Martinez Road is a two-lane paved road that runs in a general north-south direction from 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue to its terminus approximately 0.04 km (0.25 miles) east of Polk Street.

Transit service is provided to the area by the SunLine Transit Agency (Route 91). Route 91 operates seven days a week, with hourly service from 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM. A Route 91 bus stop is located along the west side of Martinez Road, near the Torres-Martinez Tribal Administrative Complex.

### 4.12.2. Environmental Consequences

#### *Proposed Action*

Hernandez, Kroone & Associates (HKA) prepared a *Trip Generation Memo for the Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic*, dated January 29, 2019, which is included as Appendix F. The memo compared vehicle trips that would be generated by the replacement clinic to those generated by the existing facility.

Vehicle trips generated by the existing clinic were estimated using staffing numbers, facility operation schedules and patient appointment data from 2018. Specifically, permanent on-site staff included 15 full-time employees in 2018. Because the clinic is closed on weekends and holidays, HKA assumed 253 working days in 2018. The 4,646 patient appointments recorded in 2018 were divided by the number of days the existing facility was open ( $4,646 \text{ patients} \div 253 \text{ days} = 18.4 \text{ patients per day}$ , rounded to 19). Each patient and each staff person were assumed to make two round vehicle trips resulting in 68 average daily trips (ADT) [ $(15 \text{ staff vehicle trips/day} + 19 \text{ patient vehicle trips/day}) \times 2 = 68 \text{ vehicle trips/day}$ ].



Photo 4.12-1: Martinez Road, east of Project Site



Photo 4.12-2: Route 91 Bus Stop near Tribal Administrative Complex

To calculate trips that would be generated by the replacement clinic, HKA increased the volumes from the existing clinic by a factor of 3 because the replacement clinic would be larger than the existing clinic by a factor of 2.8, (11,605 SF ÷ 4,200 SF ≈ 2.8). After applying a “credit” for trips generated by the existing health clinic, the replacement health clinic is estimated to generate an additional 136 average daily trips (ADT), with 10 of those trips occurring during the AM peak hour, and 14 occurring during the PM peak hour (Table 4.12-1).

**Table 4.12-1. Project Trip Generation**

Land Use	Size	ADT	AM Peak Hour (1)			PM Peak Hour (1)		
	(SF)		IN	OUT	TOTAL	IN	OUT	TOTAL
Replacement Health Clinic	11,650	204	12	3	15	6	15	21
Credit for Existing Clinic	(4,200)	(68)	4	1	5	2	5	7
<b>NET INCREASE</b>	<b>7,450</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>

Note: (1) Rates based on ITE Trip Generation, 10th Edition  
 Source: Hernandez, Kroone & Associates, 2019.

Impacts on traffic patterns and circulation on Martinez Road would be minimal. The driveway entrance to the replacement clinic would be located approximately 0.1 km (350 feet) north of the entrance to the Tribal Administrative Center. Appropriate signage would also be installed along Martinez Road and the entrance to the project site. Potential impacts on local transportation and circulation patterns near the project site would be negligible.

***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, the Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project would not be constructed, and no transportation impacts would result. The project site would continue in its present use or could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan. Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location.

## 4.13. Hazardous Materials

### 4.13.1. Affected Environment

Solid waste generated from the existing Torres-Martinez Health Clinic is subject to all applicable state and federal environmental protection laws governing waste. Burrtec, a local commercial refuse hauler, provides commercial refuse service to the project area. Garbage collection, cardboard, office paper, green waste, and mixed recycling are also available. In 2017, the County of Riverside' Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Annual report indicated that with projections of current and future disposal, it estimates landfills within the region have 20+ years of disposal capacity (County of Riverside, 2017).

Based upon review of the following data resources that provide information regarding the facilities or sites identified as meeting the "Cortese List" requirements the project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not located near known hazardous waste sites or non-contaminated permitted facilities including gas stations, underground storage tanks, or land disposal sites:

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database  
([https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search.asp?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site\\_type=CSITES,OPEN,FUDS,CLOSE&status=ACT,BKLG,COM&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search.asp?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site_type=CSITES,OPEN,FUDS,CLOSE&status=ACT,BKLG,COM&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST))
- List of Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites by County and Fiscal Water Board Year from State Water Resource Control Boards GeoTracker database  
(<https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=66-375+Martinez+Road%2C+Thermal+California>)
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by Water Board with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit (<https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2016/10/SiteCleanup-CorteseList-CurrentList.pdf>)
- List of "active" Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders from California State Water Board (<https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2016/10/SiteCleanup-CorteseList-CDOCAOList.xlsx>)

No recognized environmental conditions have been identified within 1 mile of the proposed project site.

## ***Medical Waste***

Virtually every medical facility, including health clinics, generate medical wastes to one degree or another. Pursuant to the State of California’s Medical Waste Management Act of 2017 (Sections 117600-118360 of the California Health and Safety Code [HSC]), a “large quantity generator” is defined as a “medical waste generator, other than a trauma scene waste management practitioner, that generates 200 or more pounds of medical waste in any month.” Small-quantity generators fall under 200 pounds per month (California Department of Health, 2017).

Pursuant to HSC Section 117960, medical generators are required to file a “medical waste management plan” with the County of Riverside Department of Environmental Health (DEH). This plan serves to disclose the types and amounts of medical waste generated by a site; how the waste will be handled, stored or shipped; as well as specify the onsite waste treatment methods used to render the waste non-hazardous prior to disposal (if applicable), for example through steam sterilization, incineration, etc. The plan must also address the storage and disposal of sharps, biohazardous substances, radioactive waste, chemotherapeutics, human tissues, etc., as well as mixed wastes (containing both medical and non-medical waste types). The existing Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic has a Medical Waste Management Plan (MWMP) on file with DEH, which identifies the facility as a “small quantity generator”. Types of waste generated include laboratory wastes, blood or bodily fluids wastes, sharps waste and pharmaceutical wastes. The estimated quantity generated is 20 pounds per month. The MWMP describes the methods used in the handling, segregation, containment, and storage of medical wastes. It also identifies the labeling, containment, and disinfection procedures used, as well as the emergency action plan to be implemented in the event of treatment system breakdowns, spills, etc. Hazardous waste is hauled, treated and disposed by Stericycle, Inc.

### **4.13.2. Environmental Consequences**

#### ***Proposed Action***

##### **Construction**

The construction of the Proposed Action would generate construction debris waste, which would require proper disposal or reuse. The project site is vacant of structures and therefore, demolition activities are not required. Construction of the facility is estimated to take approximately six months, and would begin with site preparation, foundations, and utilities installation.

Any hazardous waste generated during construction (e.g. motor oil, cleaning chemicals, solvents, paints, glues, degreasers, and caulking compounds, etc.) would be collected in hazardous waste accumulation containers near the point of generation and moved daily to the general contractor’s 90-day hazardous waste storage area located onsite. The accumulated waste would be transported by an authorized waste transporter to an off-site waste management facility authorized to accept

the waste. Hazardous waste would be recycled or managed and disposed of properly in a licensed Class I waste disposal facility authorized to accept the waste.

Any non-hazardous construction debris that cannot be reused or recycled will be disposed of by Burrtec or another licensed solid waste hauler. The construction contractor would be responsible for ensuring that the waste material generated is properly disposed. Portable restrooms for employee use during the construction period would be provided and maintained by a private contractor.

### **Operations**

Solid waste generated from operation activities would be disposed of by Burrtec or another licensed solid waste hauler. Hazardous waste would consist of flashlight batteries and fluorescent lamp bulbs, which can be recycled through a local recycling program.

The Torres-Martinez Indian Health Clinic has an existing Medical Waste Management Plan on file with the Riverside County DEH. This Plan would be updated and modified, as necessary to reflect operations at the replacement health clinic and provided to DEH for review and approval.

The overall impacts of hazardous materials and waste management from the Proposed Action would be localized and negligible.

### ***No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, the Torres Martinez Indian Health Clinic Replacement Project would not be constructed and no hazardous materials impacts would result. The existing clinic would continue to operate under its existing Medical Waste Management Plan. The project site would continue in its present use or could be developed with other uses allowed within the Central Business designation per the Torres-Martinez General Plan. Health care services would continue to be provided at the existing clinic location.

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## 5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.7) require the assessment of cumulative impacts in the decision-making process for Federal projects. A cumulative impact is an impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of one action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of which agency (Federal or non-Federal), organization, or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

The analysis of cumulative effects considers a number of variables including geographic (spatial) limits, time (temporal) limits, and the characteristics of the resource being evaluated. The area within which a cumulative effect can occur varies by resource. For example, traffic and noise impacts tend to be localized, while air and biology impacts are typically dispersed over larger areas. The geographic scope of each analysis, the cumulative effects study area (CESA) is based on the topography surrounding the Proposed Action and the natural boundaries of the resource affected, rather than jurisdictional boundaries.

A list of existing, approved, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable projects used in this cumulative analysis is provided in Table 5-1. These cumulative actions were evaluated in conjunction with the impacts of the proposed project to determine if they would have any additive effects on the resources impacted by the proposed project.

Table 5-2 identifies the cumulative effects study area for each resource and summarizes potential cumulative impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed project. As shown on Table 5-2, there would be no significant adverse cumulative impacts from the Proposed Action.

**Table 5-1. Potential Cumulative Projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Owner/Applicant</b>	<b>Summary Project Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Approximate Distance from Project</b>
Thousand Palms Flood Control Project <sup>(a)</sup>	Located along southern boundary of Thousand Palms Conservation Area of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Coachella Valley Preserve	Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	A series of levees and channels to convey flood waters away from developed and planned development areas in Thousand Palms. Also includes a series of conservation easements to mitigate for 550 acres of floodways created on the Coachella Valley Preserve.	Planning/ Permitting Stage	16.6 miles northwest
CV Link Project <sup>(b)</sup>	Northwest from Palm Springs, extending through and ended at the eastern terminus in Thermal.	Coachella Valley Association of Governments	A transportation project to construct, operate and maintain a valley-wide, multimodal facility in Coachella Valley between the cities of Palms Springs and the City of Coachella. CV Link route in extending 49± miles across eight (8) municipalities, unincorporated county lands, and reservation land of three (3) Native American Tribes.	Construction complete on first 2.3 miles (Feb. 2018)	Eastern terminus located 5.5 miles northeast
Non-Potable Water Connections Project <sup>(c)</sup>	Located in central Riverside County, within the West Valley portion of Coachella Valley. Majority of project alignment situated in City of Palm Desert, with a segment extending into the unincorporated community of Bermuda Dunes	Coachella Valley Water District	Construction and operation of 9.5 miles of non-potable water pipeline segments and connections and replacement of an existing pump station.	Under Environmental Review	14.5 miles northwest

**Table 5-1. Potential Cumulative Projects**

Project Name	Project Location	Owner/Applicant	Summary Project Description	Status	Approximate Distance from Project
Highway 86 Pipeline Domestic Water Transmission Main Phase 2 and Pump Station <sup>(d)</sup>	Along existing State Highway 86 and State Highway 86S between Avenue 74 and Avenue 86 in the eastern Coachella Valley.	Coachella Valley Water District	Construction of 30-inch diameter pipeline 7.2 miles long and construction of a pump station on CVWD owned parcel.	Under Environmental Review	1.2 miles west
Eastern Coachella Valley Stormwater Master Plan <sup>(e)</sup>	Master Plan Area located in eastern portion of Coachella Valley within communities of Mecca, North Shore, Thermal, Oasis and Vista Santa Rosa as well as in Coachella, La Quinta, and northwest Imperial County.	Coachella Valley Water District	Long-term, comprehensive stormwater master plan that identifies conceptual locations, alignments, and sizes for primary stormwater facilities within the approx. 97,000 Study Area.	Final Recirculated Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Published July 2018	Torres Martinez Reservation is located within project study area
Ivey Palms Specific Plan <sup>(f)</sup>	The Ivey Palms Specific Plan No. 392 (SP 392) is located in the “Western Coachella Valley” area of unincorporated Riverside County.	Joseph Rivani	Planned development of 215 acres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 600 single-family units,</li> <li>– 900 multiple-family units,</li> <li>– Electrical substation site,</li> <li>– Community &amp; pocket parks and open space,</li> <li>– Retail space (378,970 SF)</li> <li>– 14.5-acre site for a K-5 school</li> </ul>	Under Environmental Review	19 miles northwest
Paradise Valley Specific Plan <sup>(g)</sup>	Located within the Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan in Shavers Valley, on either side of I-10; 8 miles east of the City of Coachella and 10 miles west of Chiriaco Summit.	Glorious Land Company, LLC	A 5,000 acre master-planned community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 8,490 residential units;</li> <li>– Commercial, retail, light industrial, and public facilities (1.38 million SF)</li> <li>– Recreational trails and parks (140 acres)</li> <li>– Habitat pres. (3,100 acres)</li> </ul>	Under Environmental Review	15 miles northeast

**Table 5-1. Potential Cumulative Projects**

Project Name	Project Location	Owner/Applicant	Summary Project Description	Status	Approximate Distance from Project
Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project <sup>(h)</sup>	Located on and adjacent to CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant No. 10. Project would also occur within portion of Whitewater River Stormwater Channel, and within the stormwater channel to the existing Mid-Valley Pipeline Pump Station the City of Indio.	Coachella Valley Water District	Re-purpose existing ponds, extend water pipeline, install a Colorado River water pump station, relocate existing WRP1 operations parking area, install new pumps and tank, construct berms, extend existing channels, expand /reconfigure existing effluent storage ponds, construct new effluent pump station.	Under Construction (May 2018)	15.8 miles north west
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians - Native Revegetation and Tamarisk Removal Project <sup>(i)</sup>	Torres Martinez Reservation, East and adjacent to Johnson Street, south of State Highway 111 in the Community of Mecca, Riverside County, California (APN 729-110-024-8)	Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	Non-native tamarisk will be eradicated and planted with native trees on six (6) acre site	Under Environmental Review	6 miles southeast
Vista Soleada Specific Plan <sup>(j)</sup>	Located south of 60 <sup>th</sup> Ave., west of Orchid Court, north of 61 <sup>st</sup> Ave., and east of the City of La Quinta boundary (APN 764-290-003)	Cal Thermal Real Estate, LLC	Development of a rural residential community consisting of 198 homes.	Under Environmental Review	5.2 miles northwest
Ave 64 Sewer Collection System (CA12-E28 & CA14-E36) <sup>(k)</sup>	Ave 64 Subdivision, Ave 64 & Monroe Street	IHS	Construction of a gravity sewer collection system for 33 existing homes in the Ave 64 subdivision.	Under Construction	4.75 miles northwest
Ave 64 Water System Upgrades (CA13-M91) <sup>(k)</sup>	Ave 64 Subdivision, Ave 64 & Monroe Street	IHS	Water system upgrades of pumps and controls for the Ave 64 community water system	Complete	4.75 miles northwest
Ave 64 Water Meters (CA18-E74) <sup>(k)</sup>	Ave 64 Subdivision, Ave 64 & Monroe Street	IHS	Construction of water meters for 33 existing homes in the Ave 64 subdivision.	Backlogged	4.75 miles northwest

**Table 5-1. Potential Cumulative Projects**

Project Name	Project Location	Owner/Applicant	Summary Project Description	Status	Approximate Distance from Project
Ave 64 Sewer Design State IRWMP (CA18-Y12) <sup>(k)</sup>	Ave 64 & Monroe Street	IHS	Planning for and design of gravity sewer transmission main connecting Ave 64 facilities to existing CVWD sewer facilities.	Underway	4.75 miles northwest
Water Main Interconnection (CA08-084) <sup>(k)</sup>	Martinez Road, Tribal Administrative Offices	IHS	Extension of the CVWD water system with master meter to serve the Tribal Administrative Offices.	Complete	0 miles

Notes:

MW = Megawatt      I-10 = Interstate 10      PV = photovoltaic      EIR = Environmental Impact Report      CVWD = Coachella Valley Water District      IHS = Indian Health Services

Sources:

- (a) Notice of Preparation /Notice of Intent/ Notice of Public Scoping Meeting for Thousand Palms Flood Control Project, 2016.
- (b) Environmental Assessment for CV Link Project, December 2017.
- (c) Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for 2017/18 Non-Potable Water Connections Project, August 2018.
- (d) Addendum No. 1 to Final MND, Highway 86 Pipeline Domestic Water Transmission Main Phase 2 and Pump Station.
- (e) Eastern Coachella Valley Stormwater Master Plan Final Programmatic EIR, July 2018.
- (f) Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for Ivey Palms Specific Plan, May 2018.
- (g) Final EIR for the Paradise Valley Specific Plan, October 2018.
- (h) Final Environmental Impact Report for Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project, January 2018
- (i) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for TMDCI T-1003 Native Re-Vegetation Project, May 2018
- (j) Final Supplemental EIR for Vista Soleada Specific Plan, January 2018.
- (k) IHS, February 2019.

**Table 5-2. Cumulative Impacts.**

Resource	Cumulative Effect Study Area CESA	Cumulative Impacts
Topography and Soils	The CESA for topography and soils is confined to the project site and the areas immediately adjacent. This is because geologic resources, and soils occur at specific locales and are generally unaffected by activities not acting on them directly or immediately adjacent to them.	Construction and operation of the replacement health clinic would have negligible to minor impacts on topographic, geologic and soil resources. Components of the Eastern Coachella Valley Stormwater Master Plan and the Tribal Administrative Offices Water Main Interconnection would be constructed in the immediate project vicinity. Through the incorporation of site-specific design and construction recommendations, cumulative impacts to topography and soils should be negligible to minor.
Water Resources and Stormwater Water Quality	Areas within service area of the Coachella Valley Water District	<p>There would be negligible to minor cumulative impacts on water resources from the treatment of wastewater in the on-site septic systems and a leach field.</p> <p>The project site contains no wetlands or waters of the United States. There will be no cumulative impacts to wetlands or waters of the United States.</p>
Threatened, Endangered, and State Special Status Species	Eastern Coachella Valley and surrounding areas in Riverside County	<p>The project Site does not provide important habitat for any fish or wildlife species, plant or plant community. The proposed project would not degrade the environment or substantially reduce the habitat of fish, wildlife or plant species at the project site and would have no direct or indirect impact on listed species.</p> <p>No projects are currently in the planning or design stages for the vicinity of the project area. There would be no cumulative impacts to listed species.</p>
Invasive and Noxious Species	Includes the eastern Coachella Valley and surrounding areas in Riverside County	Construction of the proposed project, with implementation of the earthwork and excavation mitigation which requires all soil import materials to be free from organic materials, would not be expected to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive and noxious plant species or invasive animals. Cumulative impacts to invasive and noxious species would be negligible to minor.

**Table 5-2. Cumulative Impacts.**

Resource	Cumulative Effect Study Area CESA	Cumulative Impacts
Air Quality	Eastern Coachella Valley portion of Salton Sea Air Basins	The project area is in non-attainment for Ozone and PM10 and partial non-attainment for PM2.5-24hr. Any additional construction projects in the vicinity might incrementally contribute particulate matter from dust and wind erosion that could further impair air quality in the area. Any proposed construction activities would be required to follow County guidelines for minimizing impacts to air quality. Cumulative impacts on air quality would be negligible to minimal.
Land Use	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation	Implementation of the proposed project would result in negligible to minor impacts to land use, public utilities and services and visual resources. Components of the Eastern Coachella Valley Stormwater Master Plan and the Tribal Administrative Offices Water Main Interconnection would be constructed in the immediate project vicinity. The cumulative projects would be below ground, have no long-term adverse effects on land use or visual resources and would improve public utilities. Cumulative land use, visual, public utility and service impacts would be negligible to minor.
Important Farmlands	Consists of the approximately 420,000 acres of important farmland mapped by the California Dept. of Conservation’s Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program in Riverside County in 2016.	Construction of the replacement health clinic would have no direct or indirect impacts on important farmlands and would not contribute to cumulative impacts.
Socioeconomics	Riverside County	The construction and operation of the replacement clinic is expected to create a small amount of short-term (construction) and long-term (facility operation) employment. Therefore, minor to moderate beneficial cumulative impacts could result from the Proposed Action.
Historic Properties	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Reservation, the Coachella Valley and the northern end of Imperial Valley (Desert Cahuilla). It’s likely that resources similar to those in the Project APE are present throughout this area and potential cumulative projects’ ground disturbance could have impacted or could impact similar resources	No “historic properties” would be adversely affected by the proposed project. If unexpected finds were discovered during construction, appropriate mitigation would be undertaken. Cumulative impacts to historic properties are anticipated to be negligible.

**Table 5-2. Cumulative Impacts.**

Resource	Cumulative Effect Study Area CESA	Cumulative Impacts
Noise	Because noise impacts are generally localized, the geographic extent for the analysis of cumulative noise impacts was limited to areas within approximately one mile of the project site.	Noise levels would be temporarily increased in the project vicinity as a result of construction of the replacement health clinic. No potential cumulative projects were identified within one mile of the project site that might also incrementally increase noise levels. Cumulative noise impacts are anticipated to be negligible.
Hazardous Materials	Riverside County	<p>The construction of the replacement health clinic would generate construction debris that would have to be disposed of. Any and all other construction projects in the area would also generate and dispose of construction debris.</p> <p>Operation of the replacement clinic would have a negligible impact on waste and hazardous materials management. The cumulative impacts on waste and hazardous materials management from the construction and operation of the project would be minor.</p>
Geologic, Seismic Considerations	Riverside County	Due to modern construction techniques, which address seismic concerns, there would be no impacts to geologic or seismic issues with construction of the replacement health clinic. Any potential cumulative projects in the area would likewise utilize seismically safe construction and design. There would be no cumulative impacts to geologic and seismic issues.
Transportation	The local roadway network considered for analysis of direct impacts (66th Avenue, Martinez Road).	The Proposed Action would have no change in access for residents near the replacement health clinic. Traffic in the area would increase and result in negligible to minor impacts. Construction of components of the Eastern Coachella Valley Stormwater Master Plan could contribute construction traffic to 66 <sup>th</sup> Avenue; however, this impact would be temporary and concurrent construction with the health clinic is unlikely. Minor cumulative impacts to transportation and access issues are expected.
Floodplain	Whitewater (Indio) Subbasin of East Salton Sea Hydrologic Unit	The project site is not located within a 100-year floodplain area. Thus, there would be no significant cumulative impacts to the floodplain by the proposed project.

## **6.0 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONGTERM PRODUCTIVITY**

The proposed project would result in adverse, short-term impacts due to construction-related activities. Short-term impacts are those that would occur only during the period of construction, and would then cease at the end, or shortly after the end, of construction. Long-term impacts are those that would occur throughout the operational life of the new/replacement health clinic.

Adverse short-term impacts to air quality would occur as a result of emissions from construction vehicles, commuting for construction workers, fugitive dust emissions from active grading and wind erosion of exposed soils. Most of these impacts would cease at the end of construction. Fugitive dust emissions from erosion of exposed soils would continue for a short period after construction ceases, but decrease as revegetation of temporarily disturbed areas takes place. Following construction, minor adverse air quality impacts associated with operations would continue, but at a level reduced from that associated with construction. Both construction and operation-related emissions would be reduced through compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. None of the air quality resource impacts would occur with the No Action Alternative.

Socioeconomic impacts associated with the proposed project are expected to be beneficial, due to short term increases in construction employment and the possible increase in long-term employment opportunities at the new/larger health clinic. These beneficial impacts would be greatest during project construction, when employment levels are highest, and would then continue at a reduced level during project operations. There would be no beneficial socioeconomic impacts associated with the No Action Alternative.

The magnitude and type of adverse impacts to traffic from the proposed project would also change through time. The level of these adverse impacts would be at their highest during project construction, due to the highest levels of employment and equipment deliveries during this time. Once the proposed project became operational, adverse traffic impacts associated with increased vehicle trips from higher patient loads, but at a reduced level. No traffic impacts would occur with implementation of the No Action Alternative.

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## **7.0 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES**

Section 40 CFR 1502.16 of the NEPA regulations requires a discussion of any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources which would be involved in the proposed project.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the consumption of energy as it relates to the fuel needed for construction-related activities. Given the limited size of the new/replacement health clinic facilities, and the limited duration of construction, large amounts of gasoline and diesel fuel would not be required for project construction. Additionally, construction would require the manufacture of new materials, some of which would not be recyclable. The raw materials and energy required for the production of these materials would result in an irretrievable commitment of natural resources. Operation of the proposed project would not cause a substantial increase in the consumption or use of non-renewable resources.

The No Action Alternative would not require any non-renewable resources to be consumed.

Construction and operation of the proposed project would require the use of a limited amount of hazardous materials such as fuel, lubricants, and cleaning solvents. All hazardous materials would be stored, handled, and used in accordance with Best Management Practices, and by compliance with applicable, federal, state, and local regulations, including a construction-phase SWPPP. Assuming appropriate implementation of these plans and practices, potential degradation of the environment due to accidental spills associated with the proposed project's use of hazardous materials would be minimized to the extent practicable.

The No Action Alternative would involve no irreversible use or irretrievable commitment of resources.

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## **8.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY CONSULTATION**

### **8.1 Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted**

Mr. Michael Mirelez, Cultural Resource Coordinator,  
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, 2015, 2018.

Ms. Gayle Totton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst,  
Native American Heritage Commission, 2015.

Mr. Matthew J. Cohrt, Principal Geologist, Sladden Engineering, 2015.

Mr. Michael Garcia, Assistant Regional Archaeologist,  
Bureau of Indian Affairs, 2017.

Mr. Robert Powell, GIS Analysis  
Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, 2018.

### **8.2 Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted**

The following agencies, organizations, and individuals received a copy of the Draft Amended Environmental Assessment on April 11, 2019 and were invited to comment on its accuracy and adequacy during a 30-day public review period which ends on May 11, 2019. Copies of the Amended Draft Environmental Assessment and any technical appendices may be reviewed in the offices of Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, RSBCIHI, CAIHS, and at the Mecca Public Library.

Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians

#### **State of California**

California State Clearinghouse

#### **Local**

Mecca Public Library (91260 66th Ave, Mecca, CA 92254)

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## **9.0 RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL OFFICIAL AND LIST OF PREPARERS**

### **Indian Health Service California Area Office**

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### **ASM Affiliates (Cultural Resource Survey)**

James T. Daniels, Jr., Sr. Archaeologist

### **Cogstone (Archaeological Testing)**

Desiree Martinez, Principal Investigator

Sherri Gust, Faunal Analyst

Andre-Justin C. Simmons, Archaeological Field Director

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### **Birdseye Consulting Group (Air Quality)**

Ryan Birdseye, Principal

### **Merkel & Associates (Biological Resources)**

Gina Krantz, Sr. Biologist

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