



# Judson Potable Water Storage Tank and Transmission Pipeline Project

Draft Initial Study/  
Mitigated Negative Declaration

September 2019

*Prepared for:*

**Eastern Municipal Water District**

2270 Trumble Road

Perris, CA 92570

*Prepared by:*

**HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.**

7578 El Cajon Boulevard

La Mesa, CA 91942

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7578 El Cajon Boulevard  
La Mesa, CA 91942

September 2019 | EMW-17.03

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# DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

1. Project Name: Judson Potable Water Storage Tank and Transmission Pipeline Project.
2. Project Description: The project involves the construction and operation of a 2.2-million-gallon (MG) potable water storage tank, a paved access road, a detention basin with approximately 0.26-MG capacity, and other appurtenances to support tank operations. The project also includes approximately 2,300 linear feet of 18-inch-diameter transmission pipeline within the right-of-way of Judson Street (Old Perris Boulevard) from the project site south to Robin Lane.
3. Project Location: The project site is located east of Interstate 215 (I-215) and north of State Route (SR) 60 in the northeast portion of the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County. The project site is located northeast of the terminus of Judson Street.
4. Project Applicant: Eastern Municipal Water District  
2270 Trumble Road  
Perris, California 92570

The Lead Agency, having reviewed the Initial Study of this project does hereby find and declare that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A brief statement of the reasons supporting the Lead Agency's findings are as follows:

An Initial Study was conducted to evaluate the potential effects of this project upon the environment. Based upon the findings contained in the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that this project would have a less-than-significant impact on the environment. The Initial Study concluded that potentially significant construction-related impacts would occur with respect to biological resources (coastal California gnatcatcher and Riversidean sage scrub), cultural and tribal cultural resources (potential for subsurface cultural resources to be encountered), geology and soils (potential for fossils to be encountered), and noise (potential vibration effects resulting from blasting); however, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. Potential impacts associated with biological resources would be mitigated by implementing a pre-construction nesting bird survey; establishing a buffer zone, if necessary; and paying the appropriate (Western Riverside County MSHCP) mitigation impact fee. Potential impacts to cultural and tribal cultural resources would be mitigated by retaining the services of a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor to evaluate, recover, and report on resources that may be uncovered during ground-disturbing activities. Potential impacts to geology and soils would be mitigated by paleontological monitoring in areas known for high sensitivity. If blasting is required for the project, potential vibration impacts would be mitigated through preparation of blasting plans, notification to nearby property owners, and monitoring of blasting activities. The project would result in less-than-significant or no impacts to the following environmental issues areas: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities and services systems, and wildfire. Accordingly, a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared.

The Lead Agency hereby finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects its independent judgment. A copy of the Initial Study is attached.

The location and custodian of the documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Lead Agency based its decision to adopt this Mitigated Negative Declaration are as follows:

Eastern Municipal Water District  
2270 Trumble Road  
Perris, California 92572  
<https://www.emwd.org/public-notice>

Date

9-5-19

Staff Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line, ending in a diagonal stroke.



## INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### BACKGROUND DATA

1. Project Title: Judson Potable Water Storage Tank and Transmission Pipeline Project
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Eastern Municipal Water District  
2270 Trumble Road  
Perris, California 92570
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Joseph Broadhead  
951-928-3777 extension 4545
4. Project Location: The project site is located east of Interstate 215 (I-215) and north of State Route 60 (SR 60) in the northeast portion of the City of Moreno Valley, Riverside County. The project site is located northeast of the terminus of Judson Street.
5. Project Sponsor's Name/Address: Same as Lead Agency
6. General Plan Designation: OS (Open Space)
7. Zoning: OS (Open Space)

# **I. INTRODUCTION**

The following Initial Study addresses the environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of Eastern Municipal Water District's (herein referred to as the "District") Judson Potable Water Storage Tank and Transmission Pipeline Project (herein referred to as "proposed project" or "project"). The purpose of the proposed project is to address an identified storage capacity deficit in the potable water system. This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the *California Environmental Quality Act of 1970*, as amended (CEQA), the *State CEQA Guidelines*, and the District's Administrative Code Resolution 5111, as amended. The District is the Lead Agency for the purposes of CEQA for this project.

## **II. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION**

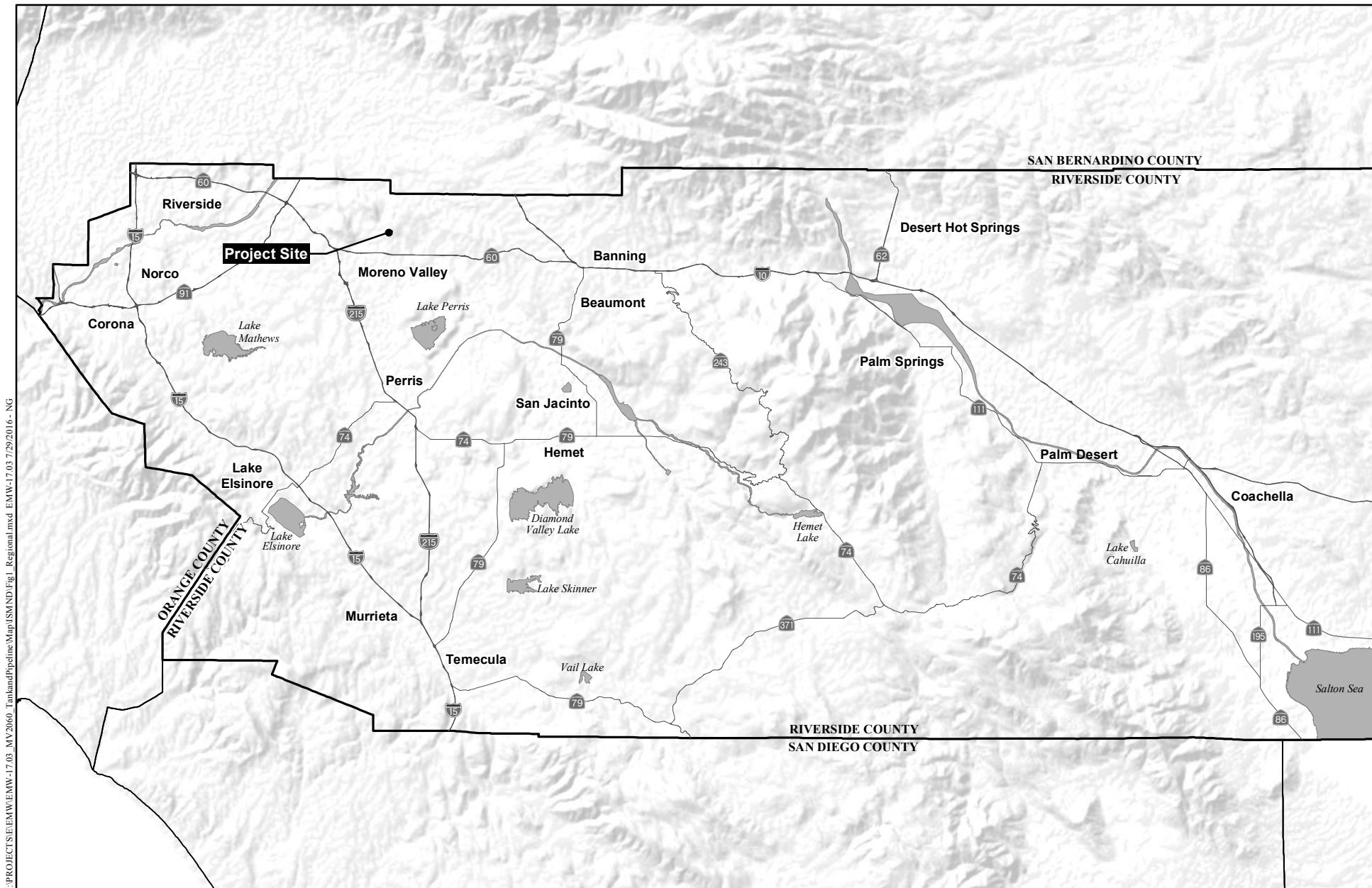
### **Project Location**

The approximately 8.3-acre project site is located east of I-215 and north of SR 60 in the City of Moreno Valley (City), Riverside County (County; Figure 1, *Regional Location*). The project site is situated in the southwest corner of a larger, 137.7-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 474-040-034), just south of the San Bernardino County line. The parcel is located in Section 29, Township 2 South, Range 3 West, as shown on the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map (Figure 2, *Project Vicinity [USGS Topography]*). The District acquired the 8.3-acre project site in October 2016. The project site is located northeast of the northernmost end of Judson Street (also known as Old Perris Boulevard). Access to the project site would be provided via Judson Street. A small easement is proposed on a 7.3-acre parcel adjacent to the project site (APN 474-490-019) to connect to the existing Judson Street right-of-way.

### **Environmental Setting**

The parcel is undeveloped land with an elevation range of 1,965 to 2,070 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). An existing water tank is located a quarter mile east of the project site in the southeastern portion of the parcel beyond a gated, paved access road from Pico Vista Way. Single-family residences occur to the west and south of the site, and there is an approximately 3.5-acre citrus grove adjacent to the western property boundary (Figure 3, *Project Vicinity [Aerial Photograph]*). The area to the north and east is mostly undeveloped; a single-family residential development is currently being constructed to the north of the project site. Various existing dirt paths cross the project site.

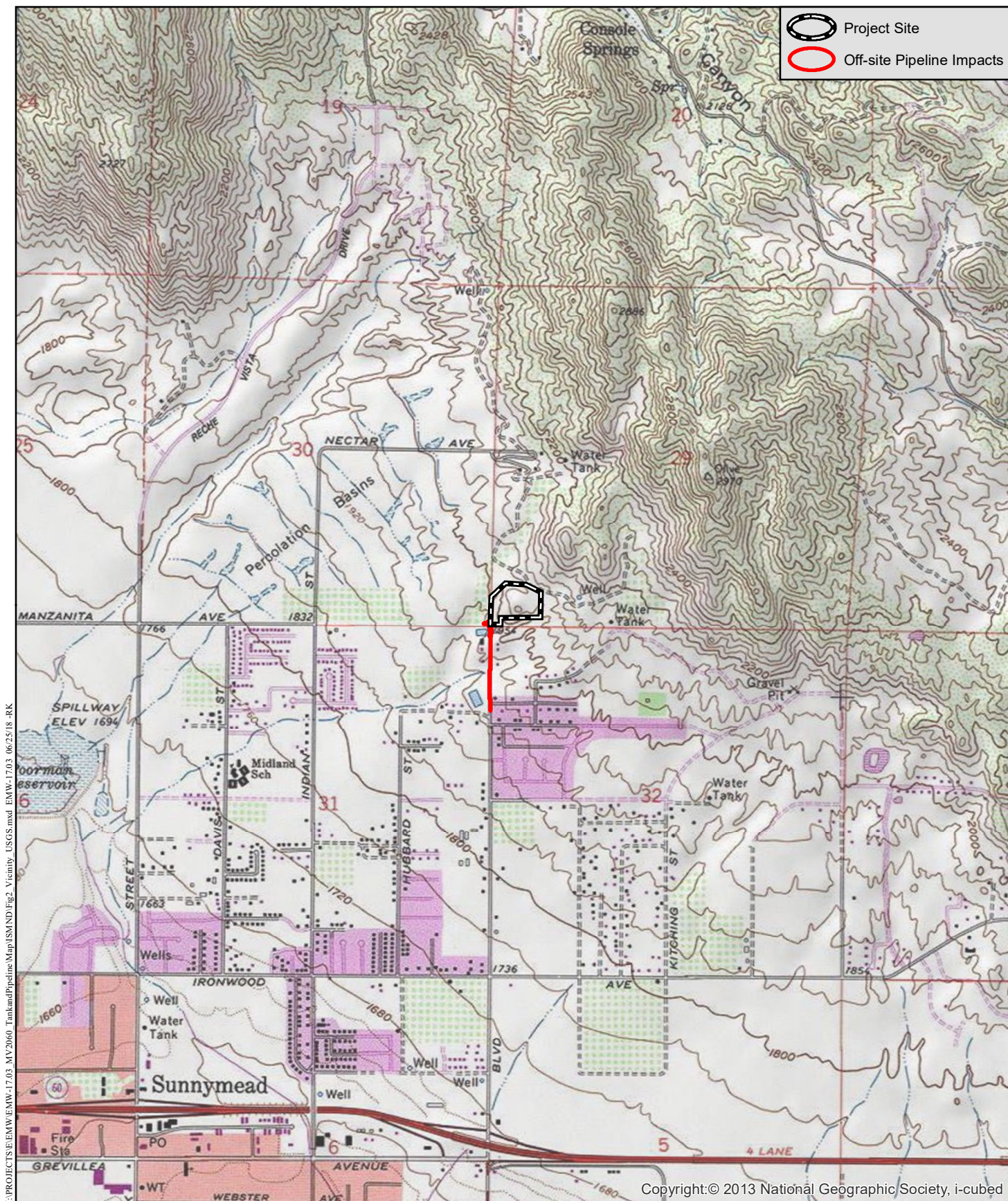
The project is located on the southwest slope of a small hill in the northeastern portion of the City. The project site and surrounding areas are within a portion of the southern California batholith near the northern end of the Peninsular Ranges province of southern California. This area is characterized by three major northwest-trending mountainous regions comprised of the San Jacinto Mountains, the Perris Block, and the Santa Ana Mountains. The project is located on the Perris Block, which is a large mass of granitic bedrock bounded by the San Jacinto and Elsinore fault zones. The relatively arid climate is partly the result of rain shadow cast by the Santa Ana Mountains. The soil on the project site consists primarily of Cienba rocky sandy loam, 15 to 50 percent slopes, eroded.



## Regional Location

JUDSON POTABLE WATER STORAGE TANK AND TRANSMISSION PIPELINE PROJECT





### Project Vicinity (USGS Topography)





## Project Vicinity (Aerial Photograph)

JUDSON POTABLE WATER STORAGE TANK AND TRANSMISSION PIPELINE PROJECT



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## **Project Characteristics**

### **Overview**

The project proposes the construction and operation of a steel, 2.2-million-gallon (MG) potable water storage tank, approximately 2,300 linear feet of 18-inch-diameter transmission pipeline, a paved access road, a detention basin with approximately 0.26 MG capacity, and other appurtenances to support tank operations (e.g., valving structure, electrical service, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition [SCADA] system components; Figure 4a, *Site Plan*). The access road and water line would connect to Judson Street (Old Perris Boulevard). The project is anticipated to require 37,000 cubic yards of cut and 29,800 cubic yards of fill, for a total export of 7,200 cubic yards; however, design efforts are being made to reduce or eliminate this export material.

### **Potable Water Storage Tank and Transmission Pipeline**

The proposed potable water storage tank would be constructed with its base at an elevation of 2,029 feet AMSL and would measure approximately 34 feet in height with an internal diameter of approximately 110 feet. Piping to the inlet and outlet of the tank would connect to a nearby valve enclosure. The proposed transmission pipeline would extend from the valve enclosure to the property line approximately 1,000 linear feet south. From the southerly property line, the transmission pipeline would continue 700 linear feet along Judson Street to the centerline of Pico Vista Way, and then 600 linear feet further along the Old Perris Boulevard right of way from Pico Vista Way to Robin Lane, near the Covey Booster Station where it would connect to an existing 16-inch-diameter transmission line at the intersection of Perris Boulevard and Robin Lane (Figure 4b, *Site Plan*).

### **Detention Basin**

The detention basin would be located southwest of the proposed tank (Figure 4a). The maximum depth of the basin would be approximately 6 feet. A sump pit would be installed at the low point of the basin. A concrete-lined, 12-foot-wide emergency spillway would be constructed on the northwestern side of the detention basin. A rip-rap energy dissipater is proposed at the downstream end of the spillway. A 12-foot-wide access road would be constructed around the perimeter of the detention basin for operation and maintenance activities.

### **Access Driveway**

The project also proposes to construct a paved access driveway measuring approximately 24 feet in width that would provide access to the storage tank and would connect to Judson Street. The access driveway would have standard curb and gutter on the downslope side. Additionally, the project proposes to construct concrete-lined swales and u-ditches to collect on-site runoff and runoff entering the site through small tributaries. Runoff would be directed down the access driveway on the upslope side of the road, through a proposed culvert under the access driveway at the southwest corner of the site, and into the proposed detention basin.

### **Restrictive Covenant**

As part of the project, a Restrictive Covenant would be established over two on-site ephemeral drainages that occur along the northern and southern boundaries of the project site to protect these features in perpetuity. The Restrictive Covenant would be reviewed and approved by the Western

Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) prior to the initiation of ground-disturbance activities (e.g., vegetation clearing and grubbing, equipment staging, etc.). Fencing and signage would be placed along the perimeter of the Restrictive Covenant to avoid unauthorized access (refer to Figure 4a).

## Construction

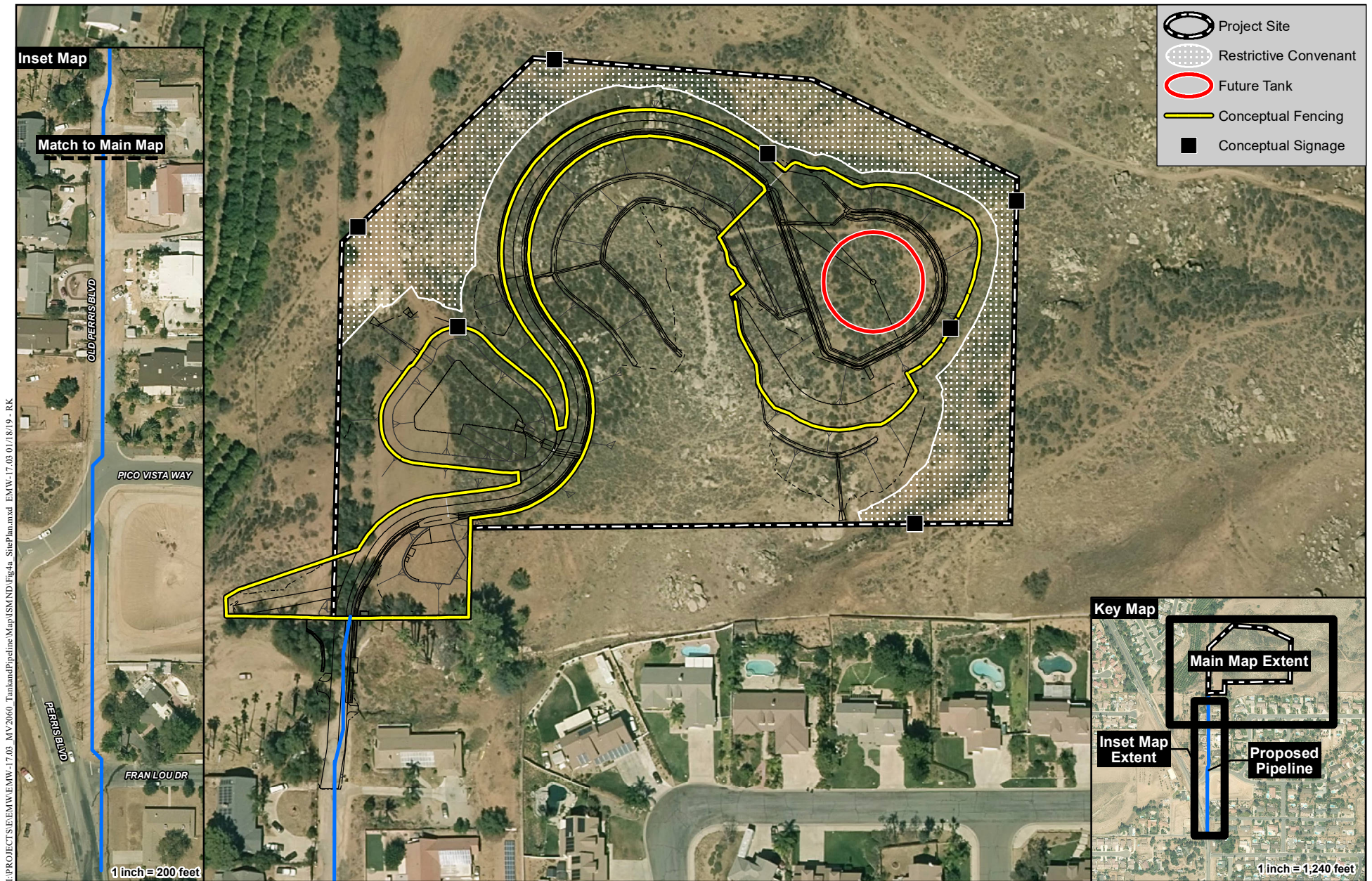
The proposed project footprint is anticipated to be cleared and graded during the summer of 2020. The site would then be maintained until the remaining construction activities are initiated at a later date. Construction activities are anticipated to last a total of approximately one and a half years, not including the potential period of relative inactivity between grading and facility construction. Construction activities would include grading, steel fabrication and priming, tank erection, coating, on-site pipeline installation, connections, testing and disinfection, final paving, and project cleanup. Construction equipment would be staged and stored within the on-site disturbed area. Construction activities would be limited to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and as necessary to comply with local ordinances. Long-term activities at the project site would include periodic maintenance and routine security checks.

## Project Approval

The District is both the project proponent and the Lead Agency under CEQA. In its role as Lead Agency, the District is responsible for ensuring the adequacy of this Initial Study. Permits and approvals from other agencies also would be required for the proposed project. Table 1 below summarizes these required permits and approvals.

<b>Table 1 REQUIRED PERMITS AND APPROVALS</b>		
<b>Permit/Approval</b>	<b>Permitting/Approving Agency</b>	<b>Permit/Approval Trigger</b>
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit, Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ (As amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ)	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region	Required prior to construction activity, upon completion of Notice of Intent and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP)
Encroachment Permit	City of Moreno Valley	Required prior to advertising project, upon completion of Notice of Intent
Permit Amendment	Department of Drinking Water	Prior to tank operation
Certificate of Inclusion as a Participating Special Entity under the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority	Required prior to construction activity

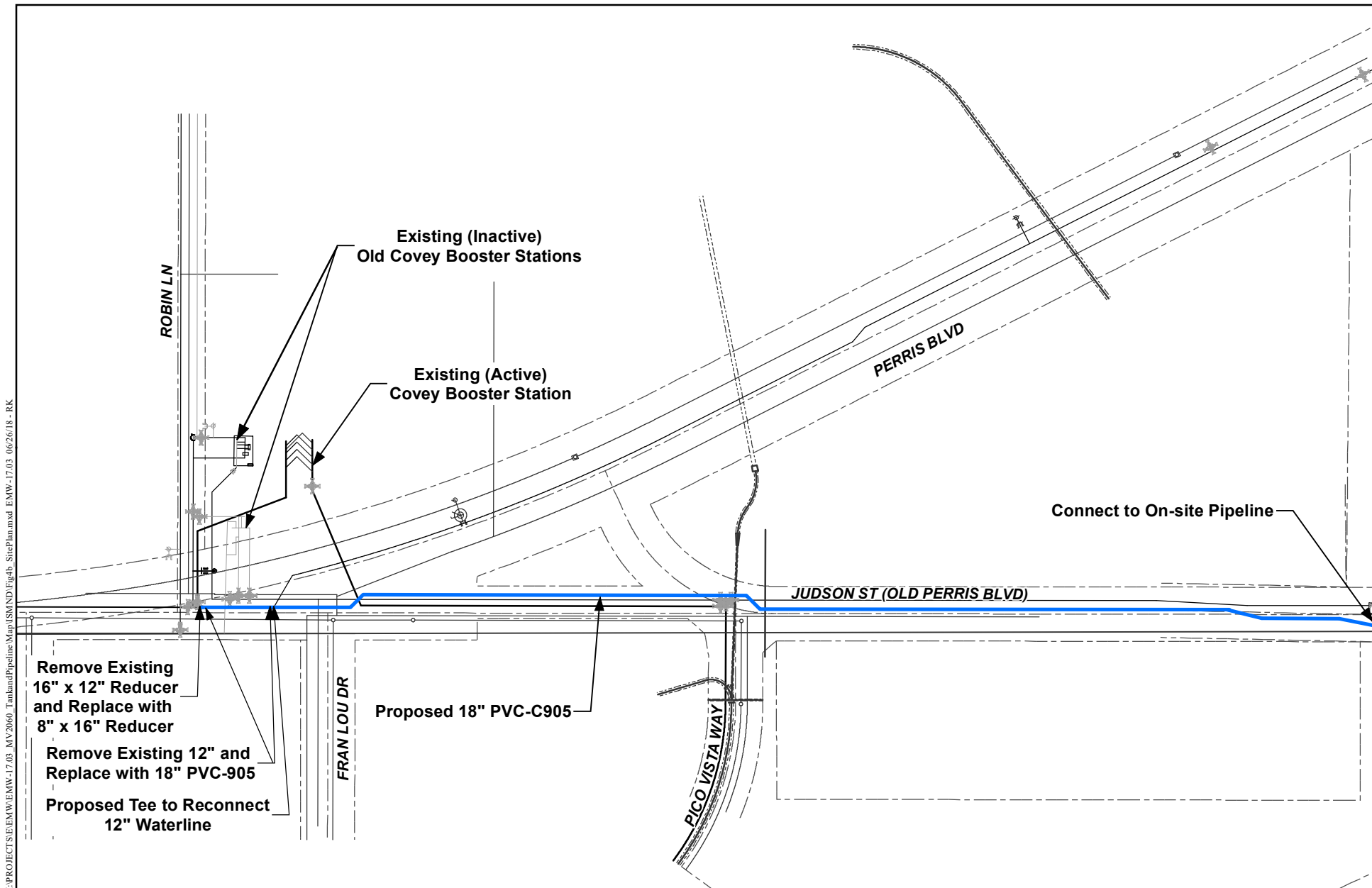




## Site Plan

JUDSON POTABLE WATER STORAGE TANK AND TRANSMISSION PIPELINE PROJECT





**Site Plan**

JUDSON POTABLE WATER STORAGE TANK AND TRANSMISSION PIPELINE PROJECT


### III. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that may require mitigation to reduce the impact from "Potentially Significant Impact" to "Less than Significant" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture / Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance

### IV. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation that follows:

<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the general exemption (CEQA Guidelines, 15061 (b)(3)), a statutory exemption, and/or a categorical exemption, and that if a categorical exemption, none of the exceptions to the exemption apply. A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/> I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/> I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) is required.
<input type="checkbox"/> I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, no further environmental document is required. FINDINGS consistent with this determination will be prepared.
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div> Signature  Joseph Broadhead Principal Water Resources Specialist – CEQA</div><div><div style="text-align: center;">9-5-19</div> Date  For: Eastern Municipal Water District</div></div>

## V. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project using the environmental checklist from the State CEQA Guidelines as amended. The definitions of the response column headings include the following:

- A. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- B. “Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less-Than-Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).
- C. “Less-Than-Significant Impact” applies where the project creates no significant impacts, only less-than-significant impacts.
- D. “No Impact” applies where a project does not create an impact in that category. “No Impact” answers do not require an explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency which show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

### 1. Aesthetics

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Major scenic vistas within the project area include the Box Springs Mountains Regional Park located approximately 2.2 miles to the east, Olive Hill located approximately 0.6 mile to the northwest, and the Reche Mountains and Canyon located approximately 1.0 mile to the north. Areas to the south of the project area are characterized by residential development, where the majority of views toward the project site would be from private locations or blocked by intervening development or landscaping. Visibility of the project site from nearby scenic vistas would vary based on distance from the site, elevation of the trails, and presence of intervening vegetation and structures. Generally, the project site would comprise only a portion of expansive views for recreationalists using public trails at these locations. Implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to degrade views of scenic resources within the project study area, since the tank would be set at an elevation lower than the adjacent hillside to the northeast and would not protrude above the ridgeline. Therefore, scenic vistas would not be affected by the proposed project, and impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **No Impact.** The proposed project is not located within view of a state scenic highway. Interstate 215, which is located approximately four miles west of the project site, is a County-eligible scenic highway; however, it is not eligible as a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)-designated scenic highway (Caltrans 2017). The project site is located approximately 5.8 miles northwest of Gillman Springs Road, which also is designated as a County-eligible scenic highway (Figure 9 of County 2015a). The project site is not visible to motorists on I-215 or Gillman Springs Road. No impact would occur.
- c. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The water tank and related facilities are proposed to be installed on the northeast and southwest slope of a small hill within a vacant parcel. Surrounding land uses include single-family residential development to the south and currently under construction to the north, as well as agricultural activities to the west. The area north and east of the project site consists primarily of open space. An existing water tank is located a quarter mile to the east of the project site.

Construction activities associated with the project, including the presence of construction vehicles, excavated materials, and laydown areas, would result in short-term visual effects to the project site and its surroundings. Temporary visual effects also would occur along the pipeline alignment during construction, although the alignment would be restored to its original condition post construction. Due to the short-term, temporary nature of these potential effects, impacts related to existing visual character or quality of the site and surrounding areas would be less than significant.

Upon completion of construction, the water tank and related facilities would be visible from some areas immediately southwest and northwest of the site. These areas primarily comprise private vantage points such as residential and agricultural uses; public views would be available from the roadways within the residential developments. Views to the proposed facilities from these locations would be limited due to the topography and intervening structures and landscaping. As discussed above in Item 1.b, other public vantage points with visibility of the site include recreational trails associated with Box Springs Mountains Regional, Olive Hill, and the Reche Mountains and Canyon. While public views of the site are available from these locations, due to the topography, surrounding vegetation, and distance from the project site, views to the proposed facilities would be limited. Overall, the quality of public views of the site and its surroundings would not be substantially degraded and impacts would be less than significant.

Relative to the visual character of the project site and surrounding area, the proposed facilities would be similar in scale and appearance to the existing water tank located a quarter mile to the east of the project site. The tank would be set at an elevation lower than the adjacent hillside to the northeast and would not protrude above the ridgeline. Therefore, implementation of the project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character and impacts would be less than significant.

- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Project construction would occur during daylight hours, and no lighting associated with construction would be required. The proposed project would include the installation of security lighting at the site during the long-term operation of the facilities. Security lighting would be similar in nature to the outdoor and street lighting of the existing residential neighborhood south of the property. The proposed project would not result in a new substantial source of light. Additionally, the proposed tank would not be constructed of materials that would create sources of glare. The proposed transmission line and on-site detention basin would not include sources of light or glare. The project site is approximately 47.5 miles from the Palomar Observatory and is not within Zone A (within 15 miles) or Zone B (within 45 miles) of the Mt. Palomar Nighttime Lighting Policy Area. While conformance to restrictions related to these zones would not be required for the proposed project, the project would adhere to the applicable lighting standards established by the County (Ordinance No. 655) and the Moreno Valley Municipal Code (§9.08.100 and §9.10.110). Impacts associated with light and glare would be less than significant.

## 2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

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

### Discussion

- a. **No Impact.** The California Department of Conservation (CDC), Division of Land Resources Protection's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2016a) indicates that no Prime Farmland or Unique Farmland is located within or adjacent to the project site. There is an existing orchard located on Farmland of Statewide Importance near the western boundary of the project site. The project site is identified as Grazing Land. Implementation of the proposed project would involve the construction and operation of a water tank and related facilities on site and would not convert adjacent agricultural uses to non-agricultural use. No impact to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance would occur.
- b. **No Impact.** There are no Williamson Act Contracts in Moreno Valley (CDC 2016b). As no agricultural uses or Williamson Act lands occur within the project site, no impact would occur.

- c. **No Impact.** The project site is not designated or zoned for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, implementation of the project would not conflict with existing zoning for such lands, and no impact would occur.
- d. **No Impact.** As stated in Item 2.c, the project site is not located in an area designated as forest land. Accordingly, project construction and operation would not convert forest land to non-forest use, and no impact would occur.
- e. **No Impact.** There are no timberland production operations within the project site or vicinity. The project does not propose changes that could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

### 3. Air Quality

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under the applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions would exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a. **No Impact.** The project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). SCAQMD develops and administers local regulations for stationary air pollutant sources within the Basin, and also develops plans and programs to meet attainment requirements for both federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). SCAQMD and the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) are responsible for formulating and implementing the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Basin (SCAQMD 2013). The AQMP is a series of plans adopted for the purpose of reaching short- and long-term goals for those pollutants that the Basin is designated as a 'nonattainment' area because the SCAQMD does not meet federal and/or State AAQS. To determine consistency between the project and the AQMP, the project must comply with applicable SCAQMD rules and regulations;



comply with proposed or adopted control measures; and be consistent with the growth forecasts utilized in preparation of the AQMP, which are based on regional population, housing, and employment projections prepared by SCAG.

The project would not result in a significant air quality impact from operational activity, as described further in Item 3.b. Moreover, as discussed in Item 13.a, under Population and Housing, the proposed project does not include growth-generating components. As such, the project would be consistent with growth projections contained in the City's General Plan and also consistent with SCAG and AQMP forecasts. Based on these considerations and pursuant to SCAQMD guidelines, project-related emissions are accounted for in the AQMP, and no impact would occur.

- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Air quality is defined by ambient air concentrations of six specific pollutants identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to be of concern with respect to health and welfare of the general public. These pollutants include ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (including both particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter [PM<sub>10</sub>] and particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter [PM<sub>2.5</sub>]), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and lead (Pb). The Basin is currently in nonattainment for 1-hour ozone, 8-hour ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. SCAQMD's approach for assessing cumulative impacts is based on the AQMP forecasts of attainment of ambient air quality standards in accordance with the requirements of the federal and State Clean Air Acts. As discussed in Item 3.a, the proposed project would be consistent with the AQMP, which is intended to bring the Basin into attainment for all criteria pollutants.

The primary source of air pollutants generated by the proposed project would be emissions associated with construction activities. Construction of the project would result in temporary increases in air pollutant and dust emissions generated primarily from construction equipment exhaust, earth disturbance, construction worker vehicle trips, and heavy-duty truck trips. Overall, daily emissions would be relatively low because only a limited number of truck trips would be required to haul construction equipment to/from the site and only a few pieces of construction equipment would be active at any one time. In addition, construction-related emissions would be short term, lasting approximately one and a half years.

Project construction would employ dust control measures as required by Rule SCAQMD 403 and would not result in emissions that would violate an air quality standard or result in a cumulatively considerable increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment. In addition, construction emissions would be temporary and localized within the immediate project vicinity.

Operational emissions generated from the proposed project would be limited to emissions associated with maintenance activities at the site and would be well below significance levels. Vehicle trips associated with the operation of the proposed project would include (on average), a minor number of trips from weekly maintenance and approximately daily security checks at the tank, and basin maintenance two to three times a year to clean or reform the basin. An average of eight round trips to the project site on a weekly basis would not generate significant emissions. Therefore, operational emissions would be less than significant.

- c. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Sensitive receptors within a one-mile vicinity of the project site include single-family residences adjacent to the project site, and two elementary schools located

over half a mile from the project site. Any project which has the potential to directly impact a sensitive receptor located within one mile and results in a health risk greater than ten in one million would be deemed to have a potentially significant impact. During the project construction period, which would occur over approximately one and a half years, diesel exhaust particulate matter would be generated from heavy construction equipment. Diesel exhaust particulate matter is known to the State of California as carcinogenic compounds, and long-term exposure to diesel exhaust emissions has the potential to result in adverse health effects. Long-term exposure is typically equated with a lifetime of chronic exposure, which is defined in the California Air Pollution Control Officers' Association Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program Risk Assessment Guidelines as 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, for 70 years. While toxic air contaminants (TACs) can have long-term and/or short-term effects, diesel TAC has been shown by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to have little or no short-term impact. Due to the short-term nature of project construction and minimal operational emissions, impacts from exposure to diesel exhaust emissions would be less than significant.

- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The project does not contain land uses typically associated with emitting objectionable odors. The proposed project has the potential to generate objectionable odors during asphalt application, as well as diesel exhaust during construction of the proposed project. However, odors generated during construction activities would be short term, and would be limited to the immediate area of usage. Project construction would employ best available control measures as required by Rule 1120 for asphalt pavements, and would not result in diesel exhaust emissions that would violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, nor result in a cumulatively considerable net increase. Compliance with these rules would ensure odor impacts associated with construction activities would remain less than significant. The long-term operation of the proposed project is not expected to generate noticeable odors.

#### 4. Biological Resources

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

A General Biological Resource Assessment Report was prepared for the project by HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX 2019a; Appendix A). The report documents the results of the biological resources study performed by HELIX for the project, which includes the results of database queries, literature reviews, and biological resources surveys. The results and conclusions of HELIX's biological resources technical study are summarized herein.

- a. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** During the biological survey, the coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) was observed on site. This species is listed at the federal level.

Three other sensitive species were documented within the project site: Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), and California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*). Because these three species are covered under the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), and due to the presence of CAGN within the project site, the District is pursuing MSHCP coverage as a Participating Special Entity (PSE; discussed further in Item 4.f below).

Riversidean sage scrub was found on site, which is suitable nesting habitat for the CAGN and other birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (CFG Code). Modification of this habitat could have an adverse effect on the CAGN and other migratory birds. Additionally, construction of the proposed project could result in noise or dust during the general bird nesting season that could have an adverse effect on the CAGN and other migratory birds. If this were to occur, such effects would violate the MBTA. Impacts to the on-site CAGN and other migratory birds protected under the MBTA would be potentially significant. Implementation

of mitigation measure BIO-1 would reduce potential impacts to CAGN, Cooper's hawk, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, and California horned lark, which are covered under the MSHCP, to a less-than-significant level. Additionally, implementation of mitigation measure BIO-2 would ensure that potential impacts to birds protected under the MBTA and CFG Code are avoided during project construction.

**BIO-1 MSHCP Mitigation Impact Fee.** Prior to construction, the District will pay the appropriate MSHCP mitigation fee in accordance with Section 6.1.6 of the MSHCP for Participating Special Entities or take other such actions in coordination with the RCA and the Wildlife Agencies. The fees shall be either collected by, or submitted to, the RCA.

**BIO-2 Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey and Avoidance.** Vegetation clearing should be conducted outside the nesting season, which is generally defined as January 15 to August 31. If vegetation clearing must take place during the nesting season, a qualified biologist shall be retained to perform a pre-construction survey for nesting birds. A pre-construction nesting bird survey would not be required unless direct impacts to vegetation are proposed to occur. The nesting bird survey shall occur no more than seven days prior to vegetation removal.

Additionally, raptors (birds of prey) are known to begin nest building in January or February. If vegetation clearing is to occur between January 1 and February 15, a nesting raptor survey will be conducted within the project site, including a 500-foot buffer.

If active bird nests are confirmed to be present during the pre-construction survey, a buffer zone will be established by the biologist until a qualified biologist has verified that the young have fledged or the nest has otherwise become inactive.

- b. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** The project site includes portions of two ephemeral drainage features that meet the minimum criteria to be considered Riverine. The project has been specifically designed to avoid impacts to the two drainage features. These features would be conserved on site through placement of a Restrictive Covenant to protect the resources in perpetuity. The Restrictive Covenant will be reviewed and approved by RCA prior to the initiation of ground-disturbance activities (e.g., vegetation clearing and grubbing, equipment staging). Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-3 and BIO-4 would further ensure that the drainages near the project would not be impacted by construction activities. In addition to these measures, a perimeter fence would be installed around the permanent project features to avoid unauthorized access to the facilities. Permanent fencing would ensure that maintenance activities would be restricted to the permanent project footprint, protecting the avoided area and associated functions and values. Signage would also be installed along the perimeter of the Restrictive Covenant, at the site entry points, and along the edges of permanent project features prohibiting access to the area.

Impacts to 4.2 acres of Riversidean sage scrub found on site would be potentially significant; however, the project design has been modified to minimize impacts to Riversidean sage scrub to the maximum extent feasible. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 would reduce impacts to Riversidean sage scrub to a less-than-significant level.

**BIO-3 Biological Monitor.** Prior to construction, the District shall retain a qualified biologist to monitor clearing and/or grubbing activities. The biological monitor shall attend pre-construction meetings and be present during the removal of vegetation to ensure that the

approved limits of disturbance are not exceeded and provide periodic monitoring of the impact area including, but not limited to, trenches, stockpiles, storage areas, and protective fencing. Before construction activities occur in areas containing sensitive biological resources, workers shall be educated by the biologist to recognize and avoid those areas that have been marked as sensitive biological resources.

**BIO-4 Temporary Construction Fencing.** Prior to construction the District shall require that environmentally sensitive areas that occur outside of the approved work limits are identified on construction plans. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along the approved work limits under the direction of the qualified biological monitor. Fencing shall be maintained and remain in place through the duration of project construction.

- c. **No Impact.** The project would be restricted to upland areas that lack potential jurisdictional waters and wetlands. The project proposes to avoid the ephemeral drainages that occur along the northern and southern boundaries of the site; therefore, no impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands would occur.
- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** No known wildlife corridors or nursery sites occur on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. The site is situated in the southeastern corner of a small range of hills. Undeveloped land occurs to the immediate north and east, and residential development occurs to the immediate south and west. Due to this location, the site does not provide a linkage or wildlife movement corridor between adjacent open space areas. The project's water tank and associated access road would not preclude wildlife from moving through the local area unimpeded. Impacts would be less than significant.
- e. **No Impact.** The project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and no impact would occur, as detailed below.

Section 9.17.030 (Landscape and Irrigation Design Standards) of Chapter 9.17 (Landscape and Water Efficiency Requirements) of Title 9 (Planning and Zoning) of the City of Moreno Valley Municipal Code contains provisions for protection of trees, including heritage trees. Heritage trees in the City of Moreno Valley that have certain characteristics (i.e., historical/ cultural character, age, size, species) receive special attention and preservation efforts under Chapter 9.17. There are no trees onsite that meet the criteria for heritage trees. As such, no impacts would occur to protected trees and the project would not conflict with Section 9.17.030 of the City of Moreno Valley Municipal Code.

- f. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The site is located within the Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan of the MSHCP. The MSHCP is a comprehensive multi-jurisdictional effort that includes western Riverside County and multiple cities. Eastern Municipal Water District is not a participating entity under the MSHCP but is pursuing a PSE designation for the project site. Rather than address sensitive species on an individual basis, the MSHCP focuses on the conservation of 146 species, proposing a reserve system of approximately 500,000 acres and a mechanism to fund and implement the reserve system (Dudek 2003). Most importantly, the MSHCP allows participating entities to issue take permits for listed species so that individual applicants need not seek their own permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The MSHCP was adopted on June 17, 2003, by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. The Incidental Take Permit was issued by the USFWS and CDFW on June 22, 2004.

As noted above, the project is located in the Reche Canyon/Badlands Area Plan of the MSHCP. The site is not within a subunit, Criteria Cell, or Cell Group. In order to obtain MSHCP coverage as a PSE, the project is required to demonstrate MSHCP compliance through specific habitat assessments, applicable biological surveys, and the provision of an MSHCP consistency analysis. As further described in the biological report, the project area is not within an area targeted for conservation. Also, the project has been specifically designed to avoid impacts to the two on-site drainage features and would further conserve these features through placement of a Restrictive Covenant. Because the project is consistent with all evaluated MSHCP issue areas, impacts would be less than significant.

## 5. Cultural Resources

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A Cultural Resources Study was conducted for the project by HELIX (2019b; Appendix B). The cultural resources study area included the project site and land within a one-mile radius of the project footprint. The results and conclusions of the cultural resources assessment, which was conducted prior to the project site being graded, are summarized herein.

### Discussion

- a. **No Impact.** The results of the records search conducted by HELIX indicated that no fewer than 10 prior cultural resources investigations have been conducted previously within a one-mile radius of the project site, resulting in a total of eight cultural resources that have been identified and recorded within a one-mile radius of the project site. The two resources closest to the project site are a prehistoric isolate and a bedrock milling features. No cultural resources have been previously identified within the project site.

According to the record search conducted for the project, no properties were currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), historical resources, or historic landmarks recorded within or immediately adjacent to the project area. No potentially significant cultural resources of historic age were observed within or immediately adjacent to the project site during the historic photograph investigation conducted for the project. Therefore, no substantial adverse changes to the significance of historical resources within the project vicinity are anticipated and no impact would occur.

- b. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** As discussed in Item 5.a, eight cultural resources have been identified within the cultural resources study area. The Sacred Lands File search results were received from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 3, 2016. The search was negative for any Sacred Lands within the project vicinity. Letters were sent by certified mail on March 1, 2017 to the tribal contacts indicated by the NAHC. Four responses have been received to date. A letter was received from the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians on March 13, 2017, indicating that although the project area is within the Luiseño Aboriginal Territory, it is outside Rincon's Historic boundaries. Based on this, they deferred to the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga) or the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Soboba), who are located closer to the project area. A letter was received via email from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) on March 17, 2017. The letter indicated that the project area is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area and stated, "At this time ACBCI defers to Soboba. This letter shall conclude our consultation efforts."

A letter from Soboba was received on March 30, 2017, stating that the project area falls "within the bounds of our Tribal Traditional Use Areas. This project location is in proximity to known sites, is a shared use area that was used in ongoing trade between the tribes, and is considered to be culturally sensitive by the people of Soboba." Soboba requested to initiate consultation with the District, to act as a consulting tribal entity for this Project, and to have Native American Monitor(s) from Soboba's Cultural Resource Department present during any ground disturbing proceedings, including archaeological surveys or testing. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (SMBMI) responded by email on April 10, 2017. They, too, requested to initiate consultation with the District regarding the Project. The email further noted:

The proposed project area exists just within Serrano ancestral territory and, therefore, is of interest to the Tribe. This area is known to have been used and lived upon by Serrano ancestors. I have attached a Serrano Ancestral Lands map for your future information. You mentioned that Soboba participated in the cultural resources survey of the project area. We are aware that more than one tribal entity has concerns about the project and would like to respectfully request that during implementation of the project, a monitor from a SMBMI-approved list participate. Tribe has worked with Soboba in the past to work out a cooperative arrangement.

Although the general vicinity of the project has been occupied/used by the Luiseño, Cahuilla, and Serrano people for thousands of years, there are no previously recorded cultural resources or known Sacred Lands within the project area, and none were identified during the field survey conducted on February 28, 2017 by a HELIX archaeologist and a Native American monitor from Soboba. While numerous weathered granitic bedrock outcrops are located within the property, no bedrock milling surfaces were observed. Based upon these findings, the project is anticipated to have no effect to cultural resources. The relatively undisturbed alluvial soils on the project site do, however, present potential for subsurface cultural resources. Further, the project area appears relatively undisturbed in terms of development. Several Tribes have responded that the area is of interest to the Tribe, and Soboba indicated that the area is culturally sensitive. Based on these factors, there is a potential for subsurface cultural resources to be encountered during grading and other ground-disturbing activities. Impacts would, therefore, be potentially significant. Mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-3 will be implemented to reduce potential impacts to below a level of significance:

**CUL-1 Archaeological and Native American Monitoring.** The District shall retain a qualified archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards to oversee an archaeological monitor who shall be present during ground-disturbing activities such as clearing/grubbing, grading, trenching, or any other construction excavation activity associated with the Project. A Native American monitor from a Tribe traditionally culturally affiliated with the Project area shall be retained to monitor during all activities requiring an archaeological monitor. The frequency of monitoring shall be determined by the archaeological monitor and the Native American monitor, based on the rate of excavation and grading activities, proximity to known archaeological resources, the materials being excavated (native versus fill or young versus old soils), the depth of excavation, and if found, the abundance and type of archaeological resources encountered. Excavations into formational materials are not required to be monitored by the archaeologist, as these sediments would not contain cultural material. Full-time field observation can be reduced to part-time inspections or ceased entirely if determined adequate by the qualified archaeologist and the Native American monitor.

**CUL-2 Archaeological Resource Recovery.** In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed, ground-disturbing activities shall be halted or diverted away from the vicinity of the find so that the find can be evaluated. A buffer area of at least 25 feet shall be established around the find, in which construction activities shall not be allowed to continue. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area. All archaeological resources unearthed by project construction activities shall be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American monitor. The District shall coordinate with the archaeologist and the Native American monitor to develop an appropriate treatment plan for the resources if they are determined to be potentially eligible for the CRHR or potentially qualify as unique archaeological resources pursuant to CEQA. The treatment plan may include preservation in place (if feasible) and/or the implementation of archaeological data recovery excavations to remove the resource along with subsequent laboratory processing and analysis. The District, in consultation with the archaeologist and the Native American monitor, shall designate repositories that meet State standards to curate the archaeological material recovered. Project material shall be curated in accordance with the State Historical Resources Commission's *Guidelines for Curation of Archaeological Collections*.

**CUL-3 Archaeological Report.** The archaeological monitor shall prepare a final report at the conclusion of archaeological monitoring. The report shall be submitted to the District, the Eastern Information Center (EIC), and representatives of other appropriate or concerned agencies to signify the satisfactory completion of the Project and required mitigation measures. The report shall include a description of resources unearthed, if any, treatment of the resources, and evaluation of the resources with respect to the CRHR.

- c. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** No evidence of human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries, was identified during the records search, literature review, or field survey. While no human remains are anticipated to be discovered during project construction, in the unexpected event that human remains are encountered during construction, related impacts would be potentially significant. Implementation of mitigation measure CUL-4 would reduce potential impacts to less than significant.



**CUL-4 Procedure for Discovery of Human Remains.** If human remains are encountered unexpectedly during implementation of the Project, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance occurs until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC. The NAHC shall then identify the person(s) thought to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD may inspect the site of the discovery of the Native American remains and may recommend means for treating, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods. The MLD shall complete inspection and make a recommendation within 48 hours of being granted access to inspect the discovery. The recommendation may include the scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Upon the discovery of the Native American remains, the District shall ensure that the immediate vicinity in which the Native American human remains are located is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the District has conferred with the MLD regarding their recommendations, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains. the District shall discuss all reasonable options with the MLD regarding the MLD's preferences for treatment.

Whenever the NAHC is unable to identify an MLD, or the MLD identified fails to make a recommendation, or EMWD or the authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendants and the mediation provided for in Subdivision (k) of PRC Section 5097.94, if invoked, fails to provide measures acceptable to the District, the District or authorized representative shall inter the human remains and items associated with Native American human remains with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further and future subsurface disturbances.

## 6. Energy

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Energy used for construction would primarily consist of fuels in the form of diesel and gasoline. Fuel consumed by construction equipment would be the primary energy resource expended over the course of construction and would include the transportation of

construction materials and construction worker commutes. Heavy-duty construction equipment associated with construction activities, haul trucks involved in the removal of construction and demolition materials, and smaller support equipment (such as lighting, air compressors, and pumps) would consume petroleum-based fuel. Construction workers would travel to and from the project site throughout the duration of construction, presumably in gasoline-powered vehicles. While construction activities would consume petroleum-based fuels, consumption of such resources would be temporary and would cease upon the completion of construction. In addition, the project would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) and mobile equipment energy usage during construction would be minimized as the project would comply with CARB idling regulations, which restrict idling diesel vehicles and equipment to five minutes. The petroleum consumed during project construction would also be typical of similar construction projects and would not require the use of new petroleum resources beyond what are typically consumed in California. Based on these considerations, construction of the project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

During operations, the tank and transmission pipeline would use electricity for pumping water. Additional minor sources of energy use include maintenance worker vehicle trips. The use of electricity would be restricted to necessary tank operations. The project would therefore not use energy in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary manner. Implementation of the project would not result in a substantial increase in demand of local or regional energy supplies compared to existing conditions, and impacts would be less than significant.

- b. **No Impact.** The project would be built and operated in accordance with existing, applicable regulations, which include, but are not limited to, the California Green Building Standards Code and CARB regulations (as mentioned in Item 6.a). Construction equipment and tank operation equipment would be maintained to allow for continuous energy-efficient operations. The project would therefore not conflict with the City's Energy Efficiency and Climate Action Strategy (City 2012), and no impacts would occur.

## 7. Geology and Soils

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

## Discussion

- a.i. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The City is located near a number of major faults, including the San Andreas, Elsinore, and the San Jacinto fault zones. The San Jacinto Fault zone is located approximately 3.5 miles east of the project site (see Figure 6-3 of City 2006a). Based on the Geotechnical Investigation Report for the project (Converse Consultants 2017), there are no known active faults projecting toward or extending across the project site. While the potential for on-site rupture cannot be completely discounted (e.g., unmapped faults could conceivably underlie the site), the likelihood for such an occurrence is considered low due to the absence of known faulting within or adjacent to the project site. Impacts related to fault rupture from implementation of the proposed project would be less than significant.
- a.ii. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The project site is located in a seismically active region and is likely to be subjected to moderate to strong seismic ground shaking. Seismic shaking at the site could be generated by events on any number of known active and potentially active faults in the region, including the Elsinore, San Jacinto, or San Andreas Fault zones. Faulting in the region generally comprises a number of northwest-trending, predominantly right-lateral strike-slip faults at the boundary between the Pacific and North American tectonic plates. An earthquake along any of these known active fault zones could result in severe ground shaking and consequently cause injury and/or property damage in the project vicinity.

The proposed tank and associated structures would be designed and constructed pursuant to applicable American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards and District guidelines. Steel tanks that are designed and constructed in accordance with AWWA Standards have an excellent safety and performance track record and are the industry norm for water storage. The project design would also incorporate measures to accommodate seismic loading, as applicable, pursuant to existing guidelines such as the “Greenbook” Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (Greenbook Committee of Public Works Standards, Inc. 2015) and the International Building Code (IBC; International Conference of Building Officials 2012). These guidelines are produced through joint efforts by industry groups to provide standard specifications for engineering and construction activities, including measures to accommodate seismic loading parameters. The referenced guidelines, while not comprising formal regulatory requirements per se, are widely accepted by regulatory authorities and are regularly included in related standards such as municipal building and grading codes. In addition, the project design would follow guidelines within the California Building Code (CBC; California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2). The CBC is based on the previously described IBC, with appropriate amendments and modifications to reflect site-specific conditions in California. Furthermore, the District regularly monitors (both remotely and by daily observations) all water storage facilities for leaks and repairs them immediately to avoid conditions that might result in a failure. Based on the incorporation of routine maintenance and applicable measures for project design and construction, the potential impacts associated with strong seismic ground shaking are assessed as less than significant.

- a.iii. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Liquefaction is the phenomenon that occurs during severe ground shaking whereby soils reduce greatly in strength and temporarily behave similarly to a fluid. Severe or extended liquefaction can result in significant effects to surface and subsurface facilities through the loss of support and/or foundation integrity. Liquefaction is associated primarily with loose (low density), saturated, fine- to medium-grained, cohesionless soils and shallow groundwater levels. Based on the Figure S-3 in the Safety Element of the Riverside County General Plan (2015), the project site is located within an area of low liquefaction susceptibility. Moreno Valley groundwater levels are generally deep below the ground surface (City 2006a), and the geology below the project site contains dense sediments and shallow bedrock (Converse Consultants 2017). Impacts related to liquefaction would be less than significant.
- a.iv. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The project site is located in an area with potential for earthquake-induced landslides (see Figure S-4 in County 2015b). As described above in 6.a.ii, however, the proposed tank and associated structures would be designed and constructed pursuant to applicable standards and guidelines. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Earthwork and construction activities associated with the proposed project would result in an increased potential for soil erosion at the project site. Construction activities would increase the potential for erosion and transport of eroded material (sedimentation) both within and downstream of the project site. The influx of sediment into downstream receiving waters could result in direct effects such as increased turbidity, and also would provide a transport mechanism for other contaminants such as hydrocarbons that tend to adhere to sediment particles.

Erosion and sedimentation are not considered to be significant long-term concerns for the proposed project, as all developed areas would be stabilized. For example, graded areas and fill materials would be stabilized through efforts such as trench backfill or revegetation. Erosion potential would be higher in the short-term during construction than in pre-construction conditions. Erosion and

sedimentation control measures would be implemented to minimize on-site erosion and off-site transport of eroded materials during project construction. Such control measures would include applicable BMPs as identified in sources including the Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbooks (California Stormwater Quality Association 2015) and/or Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual (Caltrans 2003), in addition to specific BMPs determined by the project contractor and engineer based on site-specific conditions (i.e., revegetation of disturbed areas, covering stockpiled materials, use of erosion control devices and sediment catchment structures, etc.). Implementation of these measures would ensure potential erosion and sedimentation impacts remain less than significant. Additional erosion control measures may also be required in association with NPDES permit requirements, as discussed below in Item 9.a.

- c. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** As discussed in Items 6.a.iii, the project site is not located within an area prone to liquefaction. The project site is, however, located in an area with potential for earthquake-induced landslides, but conformance to applicable standards and guidelines would reduce related impacts to less than significant (see Items 6.a.ii and 6.a.iv.).

The project itself would not cause local soil or geologic units to become unstable nor is construction of the project anticipated to cause on- or off-site landsliding, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Construction activities would be performed in accordance with the project plans, District specifications, and applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey, the project site is underlain by Cienba rocky sandy loam, a somewhat excessively drained soil with medium runoff class (2017). Landslide potential is considered medium. Incorporation of standard engineering guidelines would ensure that effects related to unstable geologic units or soils would be less than significant.

- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Expansive soils are generally high in clays or silts that shrink or swell with variation in moisture. Expansive (or shrink-swell) behavior is attributable to the water-holding capacity of clay minerals and can adversely affect the structural integrity of facilities including underground pipelines. The project site is characterized by Cienba rocky sandy loam, a somewhat excessively drained soil with low clay content (NRCS 2017). Additionally, the proposed project would incorporate standard engineering techniques in accordance with the IBC and CBC to avoid adverse effects of expansive soils. Therefore, impacts related to expansive soils would be less than significant.
- e. **No Impact.** Septic tanks or other alternative wastewater disposal systems would not be a part of the proposed project. No impact would occur.
- f. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** The County General Plan Paleontological Sensitivity Map identifies the project site as being located within a “High B” area of paleontological sensitivity, the second highest level of sensitivity in Riverside County (County 2003). High B sensitivity is based on geologic formations or mapped rock units that are known to contain the correct age and depositional conditions to contain significant paleontological resources that may be encountered at or below depths of four feet. According to the U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Map of the Sunnymead 7.5’ Quadrangle, Riverside County, California, the majority of the project site is underlain by tonalite, which is not considered sensitive or known to contain significant paleontological resources (Morton et al. 2001). Very old alluvial fan deposits are mapped along the western project boundary and within the northeastern portion of the project site. This geologic

formation is considered highly sensitive for paleontological resources. Ground-disturbing activities associated with construction in the areas underlain by very old alluvial fan deposits have the potential to uncover paleontological resources. If such resources were encountered, impacts would be potentially significant. Implementation of mitigation measure GEO-1 would ensure that impacts would be less than significant.

**GEO-1 Paleontological Monitor.** Excavation to depths at or below four feet in areas underlain with very old alluvial fan deposits per the U.S. Geological Survey Geologic Map of the Sunnymead 7.5' Quadrangle, Riverside County, California will be monitored by a qualified paleontologist. If paleontological resources are encountered, the paleontological monitor will have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect work while the paleontological resources are documented and assessed. If significant deposits are found, additional data recovery will be conducted, as necessary, in order to adequately mitigate project impacts. The fossil collection and all associated documentation will be legally transferred to a qualified repository within Riverside County. Full-time paleontological monitoring can be reduced to part-time inspections or ceased entirely if determined adequate by the qualified paleontologist.

## 8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

### Discussion

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Global climate change refers to changes in average climatic conditions, including temperature, wind patterns, precipitation, and storms. Global temperatures are moderated by naturally occurring atmospheric gases, including water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), ozone, and certain hydro-fluorocarbons. These gases, known as greenhouse gases (GHGs), allow solar radiation (sunlight) into the Earth's atmosphere, but prevent radiative heat from escaping, thus warming the Earth's atmosphere. GHGs are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. The accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the Earth's temperature. Emissions of GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are thought to be responsible for the enhancement of the greenhouse effect and contributing to what is termed "global warming," the trend of warming of the Earth's climate from anthropogenic activities. Global climate change impacts are by nature cumulative, as direct impacts cannot be evaluated due to the fact that the impacts themselves are global rather than localized impacts.

GHG emissions associated with the project would be primarily a result of construction activities. Construction would occur over approximately one and a half years and would involve emissions related to construction equipment and vehicle trips associated with construction workers. Construction-related GHG emissions, however, are amortized over the life of the project (defined as 30 years by the SCAQMD), which would result in minimal GHG emissions per year. Operation of the project would result in emissions related to minor vehicle/equipment use associated with routine inspection and maintenance; however, these operational emissions would be negligible. Therefore, impacts from construction and operation of the project would be less than significant.

- b. **No Impact.** As discussed in Item 7.a, the proposed project would result in negligible GHG emissions. The proposed project would not result in emissions that would adversely affect state-wide attainment of GHG emission reduction goals as described in Assembly Bill (AB) 32, Executive Order S-21-09, and Senate Bill 32. Project emissions would therefore have a less than cumulatively considerable contribution to global climate change impacts, and the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. No impact would occur.

## 9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** During the project construction period, hazardous substances used to maintain and operate construction equipment (such as fuel, lubricants, adhesives, solvents, and asphalt) would be present. The use or generation of such construction-related hazardous materials could potentially result in significant impacts through accidental discharge associated with use, storage, operation, and maintenance activities. The transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. In addition, implementation of the proposed project would require conformance with the NPDES Construction General Permit (Order 2009-0009-DWQ). Such conformance would entail implementation of a SWPPP to address the discharge of contaminants (including construction-related hazardous materials) through appropriate BMPs. While specific BMPs would be determined during the SWPPP process based on site-specific characteristics (equipment types, etc.), they would include standard industry measures and guidelines contained in the NPDES Construction General Permit text. Based on implementation of appropriate BMPs to provide conformance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, potential impacts associated with construction-related hazardous materials would be less than significant.
- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** As discussed above in Item 9.a, project construction would require the use of hazardous materials, which could be at risk of release through upset and/or accident conditions. The potential for release would be minimized through implementation of a Cal-OSHA Construction Safety Plan and a hazard communication program during construction, as required under Section 5194 of the California Code of Regulations. The hazard communication program would include disclosure of the hazardous materials present on site, labels for hazardous materials containers, safety data sheets (with information on the health effects of hazardous materials), and employee training on hazardous materials handling. In the event of an accidental release of hazardous substances, the project would comply with Code of Federal Regulations Section 1910.120, which outlines protocol for hazardous waste clean-up operations and emergency response. Through compliance with these regulations and procedures, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, and impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **No Impact.** The closest school to the project site is Sugar Hill Elementary School, approximately 0.6 mile to the northwest. No existing or proposed school facilities are located within 0.25 mile of the project site. Therefore, no impact associated with hazardous materials would occur to schools.



- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 (Cortese List) requirements, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database were searched for hazardous materials sites in the project site and vicinity. The results of these searches indicated that no listed hazardous material sites are located within or adjacent to the project site. The following listings are located in the general site vicinity:

- One leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanup site is associated with the Shell gas station on Heacock Street, approximately 1.7 miles south of the project site. Cleanup activities have been completed and the site was eligible for closure as of July 2016.
- One voluntary cleanup site is associated with the Best Cleaners dry cleaning business on Pigeon Pass Road, approximately 2.25 miles southwest of the project site. Further investigation and remediation activities are in progress.

Given the scale and distance of these sites from the proposed project, they do not represent a hazards concern for the project. Additionally, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted for the project site by Converse Consultants (2016). The assessment concluded that the property appeared to be undeveloped land as early as 1901, and there is no evidence of recognized environmental conditions on or near the property. Accordingly, impacts related to hazardous materials sites would be less than significant.

- e. **No Impact.** The project site is located approximately 5 miles northeast of March Air Reserve Base. While a portion of the parcel is within the High Terrain Zone, the proposed property boundary for the project encompasses a lower hillside southwest of the High Terrain Zone boundary (see Map MA-1 of Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission [RCALUC] 2014). The proposed facilities would not be located within a mapped Compatibility Zone; therefore, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard to the construction or maintenance workers. No impact would occur.
- f. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Construction vehicles and equipment accessing the site would use Perris Boulevard to access the project site via Judson Street. Construction activities would not result in lane closures or blockages to area roadways or private driveways. As such, the project would not inhibit access to hospitals, emergency response centers, school locations, communication facilities, highways and bridges, or airports. Potential impacts to emergency response or evacuation plans from the proposed project would be less than significant.
- g. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The project site is located in the wildland urban interface and is designated as a “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone” (VHFHSZ) within a “Local Responsibility Area” (CalFire 2009). The proposed project does not include habitable structures that could expose people to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Furthermore, the presence of employees at the project site would be limited to periodic maintenance and security checks. No employees would work at the site on a daily basis or for long periods of time. While the proposed water tank and related facilities could be exposed to risks associated with wildland fires, the Chapter 49 of the California Fire Code requires hazardous vegetation and fuels management and adequate defensible space around structures within the VHFHSZ. Therefore, impacts associated with the

exposure of people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury, or death would be less than significant.

## 10. Hydrology and Water Quality

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

### Discussion

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Potential water quality impacts associated with the proposed project would be limited to short-term construction-related erosion and sedimentation. Based on the nature of the proposed project (i.e., installation of a water tank), no potential long-term impacts to

water quality would result. As required under the NPDES, administered by the RWQCB, a SWPPP would be created for the proposed project. The SWPPP would address erosion control measures that would be implemented to avoid erosion impacts to exposed soil associated with construction activities. The SWPPP would include a program of BMPs to provide erosion and sediment control and reduce potential impacts to water quality that may result from construction activities. BMPs would be selected to achieve maximum sediment removal and represent the best available technology that is economically achievable. Standard BMPs may include the following types of measures:

- Temporary erosion control measures such as silt fences, staked straw bales/wattles, silt/sediment basins and traps, check dams, geofabric, sandbag dikes, and temporary revegetation or other groundcover would be employed for disturbed areas.
- Storm drain inlets on the site and in downstream off-site areas would be protected from sediment with the use of BMPs acceptable to the District, local jurisdictions and the California RWQCB, Santa Ana Region.
- Dirt and debris would be swept from paved streets in the construction zone on a regular basis, particularly before predicted rainfall events.
- No disturbed surfaces would be left without erosion control measures in place between October 15 and April 15. The District would file a Notice of Intent with the Regional Board and require the preparation of a SWPPP prior to commencement of construction. The District would routinely inspect the construction site to verify that the BMPs specified in the SWPPP are properly installed and maintained. The District would immediately notify the contractor if there were a non-compliance issue and require immediate compliance.

Additionally, the District would obtain coverage under the NPDES Construction General Permit. Construction activities would be required to comply with the conditions of this permit, including, but not limited to, preparation of a SWPPP, implementation of BMPs, and monitoring, to ensure impacts to water quality are minimized. Potential water quality impacts would be avoided or reduced below a level of significance through conformance with NPDES permit conditions.

While the depth to groundwater around the site is generally deep and dewatering would not be likely, if dewatering is necessary then controls on construction site dewatering would be implemented. If possible, water generated as a result of construction site dewatering would be discharged on site so that there would be no discharge to downstream watercourses. If discharge to surface water were unavoidable, the District would require the contractor to comply with the provision of the NPDES General Dewatering Permit. The provisions of this permit are sufficiently protective of water quality to ensure that impacts to surface water would remain below significant thresholds. During dewatering activities, permit conditions would be followed. The District would routinely inspect the construction site to verify that permit measures are properly implemented. The District would notify the contractor of any non-compliance and require immediate compliance.

- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Construction and operation of the proposed tank would not require or affect the use of groundwater or substantially hinder groundwater recharge. Therefore, the project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater

recharge such that the project would impede sustainable groundwater management. Impacts would be less than significant.

- c.i. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Earthwork activity at the site and subsequent construction of the tank and associated transmission line and access road would result in changes to the existing drainage pattern of the project site. The proposed project includes the construction of concrete-lined u-ditches and gutters, which would collect stormwater flows from the project site and divert them around the proposed tank pad and into the 0.26-MG on-site detention basin. The detention basin would accommodate partial flows from the site, and tank overflows would be discharged to the detention basin via a concrete-lined emergency spillway. A rip-rap energy dissipater is proposed downstream of the spillway. The proposed u-ditches and on-site detention basin would control storm flows from the site. Due to the control of storm flows and implementation of BMPs as required by the NPDES permit, impacts associated with erosion and siltation as a result of a change in drainage patterns would be less than significant.
- c.ii. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** As discussed in Item 10.c.i, the proposed project includes storm drainage improvements to convey and partially retain storm flows. The proposed detention basin would be sized to adequately store the volume of three feet of water from the tank as well as on-site stormwater flows. Impacts associated with surface runoff and flooding from a change in drainage patterns would be less than significant.
- c.iii. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** As discussed in Item 10.c.i, runoff water associated with the developed portion of the project site would be collected at an approximately 0.26-MG on-site detention basin. As discussed in Item 10.a, implementation of BMPs and compliance with NPDES requirements would reduce short-term pollutant generation and ensure that the proposed project would not result in additional sources of polluted runoff. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c.iv. **No Impact.** The project site is not located within an area prone to flooding (see Figures S-9 and S-10 in County 2015b) and the project would therefore not impede or redirect flood flows. No impact would occur.
- d. **No Impact.** The project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area and is not within an inundation area associated with Sunnymead Ranch Lake (located approximately 1.5 miles to the northwest) or Perris Reservoir (located approximately seven miles to the south), which are the closest water bodies potentially capable of generating a seiche (see Figures S-9 and S-10 in County 2015b). Given the project's distance from the Pacific coast (approximately 30 miles), the project would not be at risk from inundation by tsunamis. Therefore, no impacts related to release of pollutants in a flood hazard, seiche, or tsunami zone would occur.
- e. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Refer to Items 10.a through 10.c. The project would comply with storm water quality standards during construction and operation, and appropriate BMPs would be implemented to address potential water quality impacts and reduce them to a less-than-significant level.

## 11. Land Use and Planning

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

### Discussion

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The proposed project is located in an area that contains existing and proposed residences. Construction of the project may result in short-term increases in vehicle trips during the construction period; however, once construction is completed, the project would not interfere with community access. Therefore, the proposed project would not physically divide an established community, and impacts would be less than significant.
- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The proposed project would construct a new water tank and related facilities in the City of Moreno Valley. The project would not affect land use designations or zoning, nor would it prohibit future development in association with land use guidance and policy documents. As such, the project would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of an agency having jurisdiction over the project, nor would it conflict with zoning or general plan land use designations.

As discussed in Item 4.f, the District is not a signatory to the MSHCP, and is pursuing MSHCP coverage as a PSE. As a PSE, the District would be required to demonstrate MSHCP compliance. Impacts would be less than significant.

## 12. Mineral Resources

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■

## Discussion

- a. **No Impact.** The project site is located within Aggregate Mineral Resource Classification Zone Category 3 (MRZ-3, Miller and Busch 2008). MRZ-3 indicates that the significance of mineral deposits cannot be evaluated from available data. The project site does not contain known significant mineral resources, and is not currently used (or planned for use) as a mineral resource recovery site; therefore, no impact to mineral resources would occur as a result of project implementation.
- b. **No Impact.** Refer to Item 11.a, above.

## 13. Noise

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

### Fundamentals of Sound and Environmental Noise

Noise can be defined as unwanted sound. Sound (and therefore noise) consists of energy waves that people receive and interpret. Noise consists of any sound that may produce physiological or psychological damage and/or interfere with communication, work, rest, recreation, or sleep. To the human ear, sound has two significant characteristics: pitch and loudness. Pitch is generally an annoyance, while loudness can affect a person's ability to hear. Pitch is the number of complete vibrations (cycles per second) of a wave that results in the tone's range from high to low. Loudness is the strength of a sound that describes a noisy or quiet environment. It is measured by the amplitude of the sound wave. Loudness is determined by the intensity of the sound waves combined with the reception characteristics of the ear. The sound intensity refers to how hard the sound wave strikes objects, which, in turn, produces the sound's effect. This is a characteristic of sound that can be precisely measured with instruments.

Sound intensity or acoustic energy is measured in decibels (dB) that are weighted to correct for the relative frequency response of the human ear. For example, an A-weighted noise level dBA includes a de-emphasis on high frequencies of sound that are heard by a dog's ear but not by a human's ear. The zero on the decibel scale is based on the lowest level that the healthy, unimpaired human ear can detect. Unlike linear units (e.g., inches or pounds), decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale, representing points on a sharply rising curve.

Since decibels are logarithmic units, sound pressure levels cannot be added or subtracted by ordinary arithmetic means. For example, if one automobile produces a sound pressure level of 70 decibels on the A-scale (dBA) when it passes an observer, two cars passing simultaneously would not produce 140 dBA. In fact, they would combine to produce 73 dBA. This same principle can be applied to other traffic quantities as well. In other words, doubling the traffic volume on a street would increase the traffic noise level by 3 dBA. Conversely, halving the traffic volume would reduce the traffic noise level by 3 dBA. A 3 dBA change in sound is the level where humans generally notice a *barely perceptible* change in sound and a 5 dBA change is generally *readily perceptible*.

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during the evening and at night, state law requires that, for planning purposes, an artificial dB increment be added to quiet time noise levels. The predominant rating scales for human communities are the Noise Equivalent ( $L_{EQ}$ ), the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), and the Day-Night Average Sound Level ( $L_{DN}$ ), all of which are based on A-weighted decibels [dBA]. The  $L_{EQ}$  is the total sound energy of time-varying noise over a sample period. The CNEL is the average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after addition of five decibels to sound levels in the evening from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and after addition of ten decibels to sound levels in the night from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.  $L_{DN}$  is the average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after the addition of ten decibels to sound levels in the night after 10:00 p.m. and before 7:00 a.m. CNEL and  $L_{DN}$  are utilized for describing ambient noise levels because they account for all noise sources over an extended period of time and account for the heightened sensitivity of people to noise during the night. The CNEL metric has gradually replaced the  $L_{DN}$  factor, but the two descriptors are essentially identical.

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project would require the use of heavy equipment for excavation, trenching and pipeline installation, installation of the tank, and paving. Construction activities also would involve the use of smaller power tools, generators, and other sources of noise for construction of the proposed tank, as well as noise from construction-related vehicular traffic. Each construction activity would create elevated short-term construction noise impacts. Construction activities would be temporary and generally limited to daytime hours in accordance with Sections 11.80.030 and 8.14.040 of the City of Moreno Valley Municipal Code, which regulate construction times and noise emissions related to construction activities. Construction within the city is permitted Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No construction is permitted on Sunday or on holidays unless approval is obtained from the city building official or city engineer.

There are existing residences adjacent to the southern project site boundary. Construction of the southern portion of the access road and the turnaround would occur approximately 100 feet from the nearest residences. The loudest piece of equipment from these activities would be an excavator for excavation. According to the Roadway Construction Noise Model (U.S. Department of Transportation [USDOT] 2008), at 100 feet an excavator would generate a noise level of 70.7 A-weighted decibels dBA  $L_{EQ}$ . Construction of the majority of the access road and of the tank would

occur over several hundred feet from the nearest residences, and would have lower noise levels due to distance attenuation. Moreover, the proposed project construction would be consistent with and adhere to the construction hours and noise standards identified in the City of Moreno Valley Municipal Code and described above; therefore, impacts associated with construction noise would be less than significant. Nonetheless, the District would implement the following BMP to reduce construction noise impacts:

The District would establish a noise complaint response program and would respond to noise complaints received for the project by measuring noise levels at the affected receptor site. If exterior noise levels at the receptor exceed an  $L_{EQ}$  of 60 dBA during the daytime or 55 dBA during the nighttime, the District will implement adequate measures (which may include portable sound attenuation walls, use of quieter equipment, shift of construction schedule to avoid the presence of sensitive receptors, housing mechanical equipment, etc.) to reduce noise levels to the greatest extent feasible.

The District would also include the following in construction contract documents:

All equipment used during construction should be muffled and maintained in good operating condition. All internal combustion engines should be fitted with well-maintained mufflers in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

### **Operational Noise**

The County Ordinance No. 847, *Regulating Noise*, establishes standards for regulating noise for the County. The ordinance does not, however, establish thresholds of significance for the purpose of CEQA analysis. Noise review and planning for the County is conducted by the Department of Public Health Office of Industrial Hygiene, which provides guidelines for the determination of community noise impacts due to stationary (i.e., non-transportation) noise sources. The stationary noise exposure standard for the property line of an occupied residential property is 45 dBA between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. and 65 dBA between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. The standard for noise control is based on 10-minute noise equivalent level ( $L_{EQ}$ ) measurements.

Operational noise associated with the project would include vehicle trips for periodic maintenance and security checks as well as maintenance activities at the project site. The trips associated with vehicles for periodic maintenance and security checks would not result in increases in traffic noise levels in the area. The level of noise generated by maintenance activities is not expected to be substantially perceptible to surrounding uses. The operation of the project is not expected to expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards for residential uses established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, and therefore, impacts associated with operational noise would be less than significant.

- b. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Ground-borne vibration is a concern for projects that require heavy construction activity such as blasting, pile-driving, and operating heavy earth-moving equipment. Ground-borne vibration can result in a range of impacts, from minor annoyances to people to major shaking that damages buildings. Typically, ground-borne vibration generated by man-made sources attenuates rapidly with distance from the source of vibration. Sensitive receptors for vibration include structures (especially older masonry structures), people (especially residents, the elderly and sick), and vibration-sensitive equipment.



Construction activities associated with the project, such as the use of heavy tracked vehicles (e.g., excavators) or blasting, have the potential to result in ground-borne vibration. Vibration from construction activity is typically below the threshold of perception when the activity is more than 50 feet away from receivers. The nearest sensitive receptors include the residences located approximately 200 feet to the south and residences being constructed approximately 150 feet to the north of proposed grading activities. For sensitive receptors located approximately 150 to 200 feet from proposed grading locations, vibration effects would be temporary, and likely indistinguishable from vibration generated by nearby traffic on area roadways given the distance from vibration-generating activities. Additionally, construction noise and associated vibration would be controlled through the time restrictions currently established in the City's Municipal Code. Nevertheless, mitigation measure NOI-1 has been included to ensure impacts associated with construction-related ground-borne vibration would remain less than significant.

Ground-borne vibration and ground-borne noise are not typically associated with the operation of water tanks; therefore, operation and maintenance of the proposed project is not expected to produce ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels and no operational impacts would occur.

**NOI-1 Construction Vibration Control Measures.** The following measures shall be implemented during construction to minimize vibration effects to surrounding noise and vibration-sensitive land uses:

- For any construction activities that include blasting, a qualified blasting consultant and geotechnical consultant shall prepare all required blasting plans and monitor all blasting activities in conformance with the standards of the State of California, Department of Mines.
- Noticing for blasting shall be provided between two and four weeks prior to construction to all residents or property owners within 600 feet of the proposed blasting activity. The announcement shall state specifically where and when construction will occur in the area. If construction delays of more than seven days occur, an additional notice shall be made, either in person or by mail.

- c. **No Impact.** As discussed in Items 9.e and 9.f, the project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public or private airstrip. Additionally, the proposed project does not propose habitable structures that would result in people being exposed to noise from an airport. No impact would occur.

## 14. Population and Housing

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

### Discussion

- a. **No Impact.** Implementation of the proposed project would not directly induce population growth due to the fact that no new housing or businesses are proposed. The proposed project would upgrade the operations and capacity of the existing water system to accommodate an identified deficit in potable water storage, and it would not extend service outside of the District's service area. The proposed project would help accommodate existing and planned growth; therefore, it would not induce unplanned growth. For these reasons, no impact associated with population growth would occur.
- b. **No Impact.** The proposed project involves the construction and operation of a water tank and related facilities on vacant land. The proposed project would not displace homes or people. No impact would occur.

## 15. Public Services

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

## Discussion

- a. **Fire Protection – Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The construction and operation of the proposed project would not result in increases in the need for fire protection services. During construction, fire protection may be required, but these would be short-term demands and would not require permanent increases in the level of public service offered or affect response times associated with fire protection services. Because of the short-term nature of potential fire protection needs during construction, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts associated with fire protection services.

**Police Protection – Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Impacts to police protection would be similar to those described above for fire protection services. During construction, there may be a need for increased police protection at the site associated with potential theft or vandalism at the project site. However, the long-term operation of the project would not result in increases in the need for police protection services. Impacts would be less than significant.

**Schools – No Impact.** The proposed project would place no demand on school services because it would not involve the construction of facilities that require such services (i.e., residences) and would not result in increases in population to the project area. No impact would occur.

**Parks – No Impact.** The proposed project would not result in increases in population in the project area, and thus, would not result in increased usage or demand on parks. No impact would occur.

**Other Public Facilities – No Impact.** The project does not propose new housing nor would it induce population growth such that there would be an increase in demand for new or expanded public services. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in impacts to other public facilities.

## 16. Recreation

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

- a. **No Impact.** See Item 14.a, *Parks*. The proposed project would not result in population increases, and thus, would not result in an increased usage of parks or other recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

- b. **No Impact.** The proposed project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

## 17. Transportation/Traffic

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

### Discussion

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Regional access to the project site is provided by I-215 and SR 60. Local access would be provided by Perris Boulevard and Judson Street. Perris Boulevard is a regional north-south route and a divided arterial street (City 2006b). Judson Street is a two-lane neighborhood road that leads directly to the project site. Construction and operation of the proposed project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. The proposed project does not include components that would result in long-term traffic generation, beyond occasional maintenance and security checks.

The project would result in a short-term increase in traffic during construction. Project-related construction traffic would include deliveries of equipment and materials, construction employee travel to and from the work site, and hauling of demolition and excavation material off site. These trips are not expected to exceed 30 truck trips per day. Average daily trips (ADT) near the project site at the intersection of Perris Boulevard and Jaclyn Avenue were 13,100 in 2017 (City 2017). The addition of up to 30 truck trips associated with construction per day would not result in a discernible increase in traffic in the project area and would be temporary. Impacts would be less than significant.

A minor long-term increase in traffic generation would occur as a result of project operations. Vehicle trips associated with operation of the proposed project would include (on average) a round-trip truck trip associated with periodic maintenance and round-trip truck trips associated with security checks. Intermittent operational traffic and the short-term construction traffic resulting from the proposed project would not exceed a level of service standard for designated roads or

highways. Based on these factors, less-than-significant impacts would occur as a result of project implementation.

No roadway improvements or land use changes with the potential to affect alternative transportation are proposed as part of this project. There are no designated bus stops or alternative transportation programs in place within the project site vicinity or other roads that would be temporarily impacted by the proposed project. Thus, implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

- b. **No Impact.** CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) sets forth specific criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts. Subdivision (b)(1) pertains to land use projects and describes factors that may indicate whether the amount of a land use project's vehicle miles traveled may be significant or not. Because project-related traffic would be limited predominantly to a relatively small number of trips during the construction period, the project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, and no impact would occur.
- c. **No Impact.** The proposed project would include construction and operation of a water tank. The proposed project does not propose site modifications that would result in hazards due to design features such as driveways, intersection improvements, etc., that would affect traffic safety, nor would it cause incompatible uses (such as tractors) on local roads. No associated impact would occur.
- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Implementation of the proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access as traffic impacts during construction would be minimal and temporary. Impacts to emergency access would be less than significant.

## 18. Tribal Cultural Resources

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that is:				
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision © of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

Potentially relevant to prehistoric/Native American archaeological sites is the category termed Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) in discussions of cultural resource management performed under federal auspices. “Traditional” in this context refers to those beliefs, customs, and practices of a living community of people that have been passed down through the generations, usually orally or through practice. Cultural resources can include TCPs, such as gathering areas, landmarks, and ethnographic locations in addition to archaeological districts. Generally, a TCP may consist of a single site, or group of associated archaeological sites (district or traditional cultural landscape), or an area of cultural/ethnographic importance.

AB 52, effective July 1, 2015, introduced the Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR) as a class of cultural resource and additional considerations relating to Native American consultation into CEQA. As a general concept, a TCR is similar to the federally defined TCP; however, it incorporates consideration of local and state significance and required mitigation under CEQA. A TCR may be considered significant if included in a local or state register of historical resources; or determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in Public Resources Code §5024.1; or is a geographically defined cultural landscape that meets one or more of these criteria; or is a historical resource described in Public Resources Code §21084.1, a unique archaeological resources described in Public Resources Code §21083.2; or is a non-unique archaeological resource if it conforms with the above criteria.

- a. **No Impact.** As discussed in 5.a, no properties currently listed on the NRHP or CRHR, historical resources, or historic landmarks were recorded within or immediately adjacent to the project area. No potentially significant TCRs of historic age were observed within or immediately adjacent to the project site during the historic photograph investigation conducted for the project. Therefore, no substantial adverse changes to the significance of TCRs within the project vicinity are anticipated and no impact would occur.
- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** No TCRs have been identified on the project site; however, several Tribes have responded that the area is of interest to the Tribe, and Soboba indicated that the area is culturally sensitive. Although impacts to TCRs are not anticipated from implementation of the proposed project, given the past Native American occupation of the region, there is potential for unknown resources to be discovered during project construction. Implementation of mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-3 would ensure that potential impacts related to disturbance of human remains would be less than significant.

## 19. Utilities and Service Systems

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

### Discussion

- a. **No Impact.** The proposed project would provide the District with improved service capabilities and reliability. It would not, however, require or result in the relocation or construction of new utility facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. No associated impact would occur.
- b. **No Impact.** The proposed project would involve the construction and operation of a potable water storage tank and related facilities which would not require new or expanded entitlements for water service. No impact would occur.
- c. **No Impact.** The proposed project would not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing wastewater treatment facilities. No impact would occur.
- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Construction and operation of the proposed tank and related facilities would generate only minimal solid waste and would not affect landfill capacity. During construction of the project, construction debris (e.g., excavated soil) would be generated. Project construction is not anticipated to generate substantial volumes of solid waste. Solid waste debris would be

disposed of at a permitted landfill. Moreover, AB 939, also known as the Integrated Waste Management Act, and AB 341 mandate the reduction of solid waste disposal in landfills by requiring a minimum of 50 percent diversion rate. Accordingly, at least half of the potential construction waste would be diverted from a landfill. The remaining quantity is reasonably anticipated to be within the permitted capacity of the permitted landfills serving the project area. Impacts would be less than significant.

- e. **No Impact.** See Item 19.d. The proposed project would comply with applicable, federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

## 20. Wildfire

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

### Discussion

- a. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Refer to Item 9.b. Potential impacts related to emergency response would be less than significant.
- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Aside from temporary construction and maintenance workers, there would be no occupants on site. Therefore, the project would not expose occupants to pollutants from a wildfire or an uncontrolled wildfire and impacts would be less than significant.
- c. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Infrastructure that would be required as part of the proposed project and that may exacerbate fire risk includes a paved access road and electrical service to support tank operations. While the paved access road itself would not exacerbate fire risk, and may actually serve



as a fire break in the instance of a wildfire, its construction would require the use of off-road equipment in an area that is designated as a VHFHSZ. The primary concern with the use of construction equipment in a VHFHSZ is that the equipment's internal combustion engine has the potential to generate sparks and heat near flammable brush material. Equipment used for the proposed project, however, would be equipped with spark arrestors, per industry standards. In addition, the project would reduce the amount of flammable material on-site through vegetation removal.

Similarly, improperly functioning electrical wires have the capability of producing sparks. The District has established protocol to ensure the proper installation and maintenance of electrical equipment. Specifically, Section 16010 – General Electrical Requirements of the District's Standard Detailed Provisions requires equipment and materials to conform to numerous standards, one of which is the National Fire Protection Association's National Electric Code. The National Electric Code sets forth standards for safe electrical design, installation, and inspection to protect people and property from electrical hazards, including those associated with wildfire hazards.

The District has also established general construction protocol as part of their contract documents to minimize fire risk in Section 02201 – Construction Methods and Earthwork of the Standard Detailed Provisions. Protocol includes verifying standard on-site fire prevention measures are constantly enforced, maintaining appropriate fire extinguishers and/or temporary fire hoses, and storing flammable materials away from work areas. Through conformance with District and standard industry measures, impacts would be less than significant.

- d. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** The project site is not located in an area prone to flooding (County 2015b) and the proposed structures would therefore not be exposed to risk from downstream flooding. Due to sloped nature of the project site and surrounding areas, the proposed structures have the potential to be exposed to landslides that may occur from post-fire slope instability; however, as discussed under Item 7.a.iv, the proposed tank and associated structures would be designed and constructed pursuant to applicable standards and guidelines to minimize risk associated with landslides. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

## 21. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	□	■	□	□

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable ("cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	■	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

- a. **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in sections IV and V of this form. As a result of this evaluation, the project was determined to have potential significant direct effects related to biological resources (loss of sensitive habitat and adverse impacts on sensitive species), cultural resources (archaeological resources and paleontological resource), and tribal cultural resources (significance of tribal resource). Mitigation measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and CUL-1 through CUL-5 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels for these issue areas.
- b. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Implementation of the proposed project would not result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The majority of project-related impacts would be localized, short-term impacts. Additionally, no other projects have been identified within the same general location and timeframe that would have cumulative effects when considered with the proposed project.

The project is consistent with local and regional plans, including the AQMP. The project adheres to all other land use plans and policies with jurisdiction in the project area. The project is not considered growth-inducing as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d). The project would not induce, either directly or indirectly, population and housing growth, and would increase traffic volume marginally in the project area. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

- c. **Less-Than-Significant Impact.** Compliance with the BMPs included in Sections 3 through 12 above would ensure that implementation of the proposed project does not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

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## VIII. ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ACBCI	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
ADT	average daily trips
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
AMSL	above mean sea level
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
AWWA	American Water Works Association
Basin	South Coast Air Basin
BMPs	best management practices
CAGN	Coastal California Gnatcatcher
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CDC	California Department of Conservation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFG Code	California Fish and Game Code
CH <sub>4</sub>	methane
City	City of Moreno Valley
CMP	Riverside County Congestion Management Plan
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
County	County of Riverside
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
dB	decibel
dBA	decibels on the A-scale, or A-weighted noise level
District	Eastern Municipal Water District
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
GHG	greenhouse gas
HELIX	HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
I-215	Interstate 215
IBC	International Building Code

L <sub>DN</sub>	day-night average sound level
L <sub>EQ</sub>	noise equivalent
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MG	million-gallon
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MRZ-3	Aggregate Mineral Resource Classification Zone Category 3
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
N <sub>2</sub> O	nitrous oxide
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
OS	Open Space
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Pb	lead
Pechanga	Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians
PM	particulate matter
PM <sub>10</sub>	particulate matter (less than 10 microns in diameter)
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	particulate matter (less than 2.5 microns in diameter)
PSE	Participating Special Entity
RCA	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority
RCALUC	Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SMBMI	San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
Soboba	Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
SR	State Route
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TACs	toxic air contaminants
TCP	Tribal Cultural Properties
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resource



USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

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