



Prepared for



## **INITIAL STUDY**

## **FOR THE**

## SAN JACINTO RIVER STAGE 3 MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN

## Prepared for:

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#### **ACRONYMS LIST**

**Definition** Acronym AB 52 Assembly Bill 52

**AQMP** Air Quality Management Plan **BMPs** Best Management Practices

Cal Fire California Department of Forest and Fire Protection

Caltrans California Department of Transportation **CDFW** California Department of Fish and Wildlife **CEQA** California Environmental Quality Act

City City of Perris

**CLOMR** Conditional Letter of Map Revision

Lower San Jacinto River Advisory Committee Committee

County of Riverside County **CWA** Clean Water Act

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District District

DOC California Department of Conservation

**DTSC** California Department of Toxic and Substance Control

**EMWD** Eastern Municipal Water District

**EPA** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

GHG Greenhouse Gas I-215 Interstate 215

Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model **LESA MDP** San Jacinto River Stage 3 Master Drainage Plan

MRZ Mineral Resources Zone

MS4 Municipal separate storm water sewer system

**MSHCP** Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

**NPDES** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

**PVSD** Perris Valley Storm Drain

RCTC Riverside County Transportation Commission

**ROW** Right-of-way

**SCAB** South Coast Air Basin

SCAQMD South Coast Air Quality Management District

**SR-74** State Route 74

**SWPPP** Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

**TMDL** Total Maximum Daily Load TUA Traditional Use Areas

**USFWS** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM**

#### 1. Project title

San Jacinto River Stage 3 Master Drainage Plan

#### 2. Lead agency name and address

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District 1995 Market Street Riverside, California 92501

#### 3. Contact person email address and phone number

Joan Valle, Chief of Regulatory jvalle@rivco.org (951) 955-8856

#### 4. Project location

The San Jacinto River flows westerly through the San Jacinto and Perris Valley regions of western Riverside County. The San Jacinto River Stage 3 Master Drainage Plan (SJR3 MDP, Project) is located along the approximate 11-mile stretch of the San Jacinto River south of the Ramona Expressway and stretching southwest to the mouth of Railroad Canyon, in the City of Perris and unincorporated Riverside County (see **Figure 1 – Regional Map** and **Figure 2 – Aerial Map**).

The SJR3 MDP is located within the United States Geological Survey Perris, Romoland, and Elsinore Quadrangles at the following sections (see **Figure 3 – USGS Map**):

- Township 4 South, Range 3 West, Section 12
- Township 4 South, Range 2 West, Section 7
- Township 4 South, Range 3 West, Sections 21, 28, 29, 32, and 33
- Township 5 South, Range 3 West, Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 18
- Township 5 South, Range 4 West, Sections 12 and 13

## 5. Project sponsor's name and address

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District 1995 Market Street Riverside, California 92501

#### 6. General Plan designation

The General Plan designations within the proposed SJR3 MDP in the City of Perris are P – Public, CC – Community Commercial, R-6000 – Residential 6,000, NP SP – New Perris Specific Plan, PW SP – Park West Specific Plan, LI – Light Industrial, GI – General Industrial, RG SP – River Glen Specific Plan, and right-of-way (ROW). The General Plan designation for the proposed SJR3 MDP facility within the unincorporated parts of Riverside County is ROW, CR – Commercial Retail, MDR – Medium Density Residential, MUA – Mixed Use Area, OS-CH – Conservation Habitat, and OS-W – Water (see **Figure 4 – General Plan Land Use Map**).

#### 7. Zoning

The zoning designations within the proposed SJR3 MDP in the City of Perris are P – Public, NPSP – New Perris Specific Plan, PWSP – Park West Specific Plan, CC – Commercial Community, LI – Light Industrial, GI – General Industrial, RGSP – River Glen Specific Plan, and R-6,000 – Residential 6,000. The zoning designation for the proposed SJR3 MDP facility within the

unincorporated parts of Riverside County is ROW, MU – Mixed Use, SP – Specific Plan, and R-R – Rural Residential (see **Figure 5 – Zoning Map**).

## 8. Background and Project Description

The lower San Jacinto River (from Ramona Expressway to the mouth of Railroad Canyon) is characterized with very flat terrain and a wide, shallow floodplain. Although the 100-year floodplain can reach widths of approximately two miles, smaller flooding events can still reach widths of over 1,000 feet due to the flat topography of the Perris Valley. The San Jacinto River and floodplain is an important wildlife corridor and contains several unique habitats that support rare and endemic plant and animal species, including vernal pools, wetlands, grasslands, and alkaline soils.

The earliest flood control efforts on the lower San Jacinto River were planned and implemented in the 1930's by the San Jacinto River Levee District. Since that time, the communities surrounding the San Jacinto River and the regulatory environment have changed significantly. While much of this region is still dominated by agricultural production and rural open space, the need to improve the flood resiliency of two critical transportation corridors (i.e., Interstate 215 [I-215] freeway and Ramona Expressway) is of concern to the City of Perris (City) and County of Riverside (County). Additionally, the City and County also want to accommodate planned land development projects within their respective jurisdictions consistent with their respective General Plans.

While many of the early planning efforts for the San Jacinto River were strictly focused on floodplain reclamation to support land development, the current strategy is to advance environmental goals and regulatory constraints and balance those with economic development opportunities.

Seeking a renewed focus on the lower San Jacinto River to protect major transportation corridors, to protect life and property, and to support biological habitat, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) took the lead to assemble an advisory committee (Committee) for the lower San Jacinto River in order to create a comprehensive planning document that considers the engineering, environmental, and economic aspects of a master plan for the lower San Jacinto River.

Under the direction of the District, the Committee considered the evolving nature of the San Jacinto Valley communities including Lakeview, Nuevo, Perris, and Romoland, as well as the benefits of better managing flood hazards that have historically impacted agricultural lands, isolated communities from critical services, and damaged critical environmental resources. The Committee reviewed the impact of flooding on major transportation corridors, including the I-215 freeway and the Ramona Expressway, as well as local and regional development proposals, and future water supply and sewerage projects. It also considered the critical role the floodplain plays in implementing the goals of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), including sustaining the unique local ecology, nourishment of alkali soils that support endangered salt bush species and the San Jacinto River's function as a critical species movement corridor.

After considering various alternatives in the Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), the Committee chose to endorse a "preferred alternative," the San Jacinto River Stage 3 Master Drainage Plan (SJR3 MDP, Project) that focuses on addressing flood protection to the most critical transportation facilities, public safety, and environmental needs.

#### SJR3 MDP

As a result of the Conceptual Planning Report, the District Board of Supervisors directed the District to develop a master drainage plan for the San Jacinto River, Stage 3 based on the "preferred alternative". Therefore, an environmental impact report will be prepared to evaluate the October 2019

potential environmental effects of the contents of the SJR3 MDP. The SJR3 MDP will identify the components needed to sustain flood control of the lower San Jacinto River (Stage 3) in order to protect critical transportation and public safety, while balancing environmental needs.

The following elements of the SJR3 MDP, are considered essential for public safety (refer to **Figure 6A – SJR3 MDP Elements**) and would be initiated by the District, depending on the availability of funds. These improvements are expected to be initiated within the next 10 to 20 years and would be the responsibility of the District in order to protect lives and properties from flooding. The SJR3 MDP will be analyzed on a project level within this EIR. It should be noted that the following SJR3 MDP elements have independent utility from each other and do not require one element to be completed prior to the construction of another MDP element nor is one element a foreseeable consequence of the other. Thus, the SJR3 MDP elements may be constructed one at a time or all at once.

- 1. Armoring<sup>1</sup> of the Southern Side of the Existing Ramona Expressway Embankment (shown in red on **Figure 6A**);
- 2. Embankment and Flow Control Structure Upstream of the I-215 Freeway (shown in dark blue outline on Figure 6A and Figure 6B Embankment and Flow Control Structure Upstream of the I-215 Freeway Improvements);
- 3. Low Flow Channel and Funnel (shown in blue, orange, and black on **Figure 6A and Figure 6B**); and
- 4. Underground Storm Drain (shown in brown on Figure 6A).

The SJR3 MDP elements are described in detail below.

## 1. Armoring of the Southern Side of the Existing Ramona Expressway Embankment

The armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment will span across the entire width (approximately 5,000 feet) of the San Jacinto River floodplain. The existing embankment would be graded and covered with a concrete liner or other armor to protect against erosion. Under current conditions Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assumes that Ramona Expressway will be washed out in a 100-year storm event. The armoring of the existing southern embankment of the Ramona Expressway is proposed to preserve the roadway's integrity during a 100-year storm event which in turn would accurately depict the flow regulations that is provided by Ramona Expressway and enable FEMA and the County to update their flood maps consistent with their rules and regulations.

#### 2. Embankment and Flow Control Structure Upstream of the I-215 Freeway

The embankment and flow control structure upstream of the I-215 freeway consists of the following improvements (see **Figure 6A and Figure 6B**):

Embankment along the I-215 freeway stretches the limits of the San Jacinto River for approximately 10,000 feet and will be approximately 6 feet high (shown in dark blue outline on **Figure 6A and Figure 6B**). The I-215 flow control west berm and east berm of engineered fill would be located on either side of the main channel flow control structure running parallel to the I-215 freeway, across the width of the floodplain, to prevent water from overtopping the freeway (shown as pink and green on **Figure 6A and Figure 6B**). The berms would funnel floodwaters through the flow control structure.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 'Armoring' refer to a variety of protective coverings designed to prevent erosion of slopes, such as rocks, vegetation, or engineering materials.

- Multiple (up to 8) existing culvert flood crossings within the embankment along the I-215 freeway will be replaced with culverts of similar size as the existing auxiliary crossings (shown as brown lines on Figure 6B).
- Collection channel upstream of the I-215 freeway will be adjacent and parallel to the embankment of the I-215 freeway and will convey floodplain drainage to the bridge and proposed culvert flood crossings. The collection channel will range in depth from 3 to 12 feet (shown as pink and green on **Figure 6A and Figure 6B**).
- The main channel flow control structure at the I-215 freeway consists of an approximately 650 linear-foot concrete-lined channel structure in the San Jacinto River, from a couple hundred feet upstream of the I-215 freeway crossing to downstream of the I-215 freeway. The main channel flow control structure will be sized to regulate flows that pass underneath the I-215 freeway for upstream and downstream development (shown in purple on Figure 6A and Figure 6B).

#### 3. Low Flow Channel and Funnel

In order to convey flows to various flood openings (i.e., culverts and flow control structure as described above) along the embankment, the Perris Valley Storm Drain (PVSD) low flow channel consists of re-grading in the existing PVSD in areas upstream of the proposed embankment from Nuevo Road to the I-215 freeway which would allow an increased conveyance capacity, along with a nested PVSD low flow channel in the centerline (shown in blue on **Figure 6A and Figure 6B**). A graded "funnel" is proposed at the confluence of the PVSD low flow channel and the San Jacinto River, upstream of the I-215 freeway, and a partial "funnel" is proposed downstream of the I-215 freeway to assist in regulating flows (shown in blue and orange on **Figure 6A and Figure 6B**). The funnel at its widest is approximately 3,000 feet wide. A low flow channel connects from the partial funnel into the underground storm drain at Ethanac Road (shown in black on **Figure 6A**). The low flow channel will have an approximate top width of 50 feet, base width of 10 feet, and depth of 10 feet.

#### 4. <u>Underground Storm Drain</u>

The Underground Storm Drain component consists of constructing an underground storm drain in the San Jacinto River from Ethanac Road to the mouth of Railroad Canyon (shown in brown on **Figure 6A**). Construction of the pipeline would avoid the majority of the existing riparian channel while providing for a way to keep nuisance flows such as dry weather flows (polluted water run-off from an urban environment into a nearby water system) or "first flush" (initial surface runoff of a rainstorm) flows out of the riparian area in an effort to prevent conversion of the native habitats.

All excess soil generated by project excavation activities is expected to be transported onto adjacent, vacant properties within an approximate 3- to 5-mile radius via bucket trucks.

#### 9. Potential Future Facilities

As noted in the Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), "to the extent feasible, the preferred alternative would not preclude approved and/or pending development activities to proceed in the floodplain fringe (subject to separate project-level environmental review and permitting requirements)." At the time the Conceptual Planning Report was prepared, there was a desire by the Committee Stakeholders to better understand the level of flood control improvements that would be needed to reclaim portions of the SJR3 100-year floodplain in order to facilitate some of the development envisioned by local General Plans and Specific Plans within the City of Perris and County of Riverside. Additional flood control improvements were identified in the Conceptual Planning Report that would be needed to confine the floodplain in order to support development

into what is now the current 100-year floodplain because even with the SJR3 MDP improvements outlined above being implemented, there will still be large areas within the City of Perris and County of Riverside that still fall within the 100 year floodplain. With these future improvements, the 100-year floodplain could be reduced even further and therefore could facilitate development pursuant to the applicable jurisdiction's General Plans/Specific Plans in those areas.

However, since these future facilities would not support the District's goals and mission of providing flood control protection, these improvements are not a part of the SJR3 MDP and as such are expected to be constructed by the development community instead after the SJR3 MDP is implemented. In other words, because future development envisioned in the General Plans and various Specific Plans within the City of Perris and County of Riverside coincide with the 100 year floodplain which would still remain after SJR3 MDP is implemented, additional master-planned flood control facilities, that are not a part of the SJR3 MDP, would need to be constructed in order to remove those areas that remain in the 100 year flood plain in the post-SJR3 MDP-condition outside of the 100 year floodplain.

Although not a part of the SJR3 MDP, because there were certain improvements contemplated within the Conceptual Planning Report, there is a need to, at the very least, address and acknowledge that these future facilities could be implemented after SJR3 MDP is implemented. These future facilities would not be able to be constructed until the complete construction of all the SJR3 MDP facilities outlined above as part of the Project Description.

The future facilities, as noted in the Conceptual Planning Report, that are expected to be initiated by individual developers<sup>2</sup> are going to be addressed at a programmatic level only in the forthcoming EIR and within this Initial Study. These future facilities would include:

- 1. Widening PVSD to its ultimate Master Plan width of approximately 540 feet for conveyance of up to 100 year flows; and
- 2. Widening and terracing the proposed SJR3 partial funnel beyond the I-215 freeway and Case Road; and
- 3. Widening the San Jacinto River Channel south of the widened/terraced funnel to approximately Ethanac Road.

If these future facilities were to be constructed, the City of Perris or County of Riverside, whichever local agency has the land use authority, would need to analyze the specific impacts of construction and implementation of these facilities as part of the individual development projects that require these elements to be constructed. The forthcoming EIR analysis will acknowledge these potential future facilities at a programmatic level only as these future facilities are not considered part of the SJR3 MDP Project.

#### **Future Operations and Maintenance of the SJR3 MDP**

Once a SJR3 MDP facility is constructed, it will require maintenance in order to retain flood control capacity. It is expected that the District will operate and maintain the armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment, embankment and flow control structure upstream of the I-215 freeway, partial terraced low flow channel and funnel, underground storm drain, and PVSD.

Maintenance activities typically consists of keeping the above mentioned SJR3 MDP facilities clear of debris and sediment, removal of deposition, repairs of eroded slopes, reduction of fire hazard

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It is assumed that Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District would not initiate the foreseeable potential future elements because these are non-essential for public safety.

by annual mowing and application of herbicides as well as repairing any damages to these facilities. Vegetation must be removed or mowed annually (or as necessary) to provide the designed hydraulic capacity.

On rare occasions, major repairs may be required following damaging storm events. Thus, major grading will not routinely occur while maintaining the underground storm drain or channel. To maintain the constructed SJR3 MDP facilities, the District will occasionally use equipment similar to the types that will be used to construct the proposed SJR3 MDP facilities, which will be analyzed and discussed in the forthcoming EIR.

#### 10. Surrounding land uses and setting

Within the SJR3 MDP, the existing San Jacinto River floodplain is very flat and wide, with an average slope of 0.02% and variable width from 300 feet to approximately two miles. The floodplain generally consists of an alluvial stream system, although it has experienced a variety of human activity including the construction of bridge crossings and agricultural activities that have all affected the fluvial mechanics.

Refer to **Table 1 – Surrounding Land Uses** for surrounding land uses for each of the SJR3 MDP facilities.

**SJR3 MDP Elements** North West South East Ramona Expressway, Armoring of the Southern Side of San Jacinto River, Ramona the Existing Ramona Expressway San Jacinto River and vacant floodplain vacant lands, and Expressway and **Embankment** vacant floodplain area. area, and agriculture. agriculture. vacant lands. I-215 freeway, SR-74, EMWD facilities, Commercial, I-215 commercial, San roadways, San freeway, SR-74, Embankment and Flow Control PVSD, San Jacinto Jacinto River, and Jacinto River, and San Jacinto River, Structure Upstream of the I-215 River, and vacant vacant floodplain vacant floodplain and vacant Freeway floodplain area. floodplain area. area. area. Residential, I-215 Residential, San Residential, I-215 Residential, freeway, SR-74, Jacinto River, freeway, SR-74, commercial, park, roadways, Perris Valley roadways, and vacant roadways, San Perris Valley Airport, San Jacinto floodplain area. Jacinto River, and Airport, roadways River, and vacant vacant floodplain and vacant Low Flow Channel and Funnel floodplain area. area. floodplain area. Vacant floodplain Residential, vacant Vacant floodplain area and vacant floodplain area, and area and vacant Vacant floodplain area Underground Storm Drain and vacant lands. lands. vacant lands. lands.

TABLE 1 – SURROUNDING LAND USES

#### Notes:

See Figure 6A and Figure 6B.

I-215 = Interstate 215; SR-74 = State Route 74; PVSD = Perris Valley Storm Drain; EMWD = Eastern Municipal Water District.

#### 11. Responsible Agencies

Portions of the SJR3 MDP are within the City of Perris (City) and/or County of Riverside (County) jurisdiction. Because the City or County would be responsible for the approval of any discretionary

projects which would require or rely upon the buildout of the SJR3 MDP, the City of Perris and County of Riverside would be considered Responsible Agencies pursuant to CEQA Section 21069.

City of Perris
Planning Division
101 N. D Street
Perris. California 92570

County of Riverside Transportation and Land Management Agency (TLMA) 4080 Lemon Street 12<sup>th</sup> Floor P.O Box 1409 Riverside, California 92502

#### 12. Other public agencies whose approval is required

(e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)

In addition to CEQA compliance, the SJR3 MDP is also being reviewed for the need to obtain permits and approvals under other Federal, State, and local laws that may be applicable to the construction and maintenance of the SJR3 MDP facilities. While these other permits and approvals are independent of the CEQA document, they are being coordinated as closely as possible. Following is a list of the permits potentially required for the construction and maintenance of the SJR3 MDP.

#### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

A Clean Water Act Section 404 permit could be required if the construction and/or maintenance of the MDP facilities involve the discharge or dredged or fill material within waters of the United States or adjacent wetlands.

#### Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region

Compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit will be required for grading activities of one acre or larger.

If a 404 permit is required, then a Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be required.

A Waste Discharge Permit will be required if ground dewatering is necessary during excavation activities or if waste is discharged into water of the State.

#### California Department of Fish and Wildlife

A Fish and Game Code Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required if a jurisdictional streambed or stream banks will be altered.

## **California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)**

Encroachment permit for the proposed I-215 flow control berm and collection channel and the proposed embankment and flow control structure upstream of the I-215 freeway will be required for improvements done within Caltrans right-of-way.

#### 13. California Native Americans Tribes Consulted

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

Based on the Traditional Use Areas (TUA) maps that the District received, it has been determined that the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are within the boundaries of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Pala Band of Mission Indians, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), the District initiated tribal consultation with each of the aforementioned tribes for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities and consultation is currently ongoing. The results of the tribal consultation process will be summarized in the forthcoming EIR.

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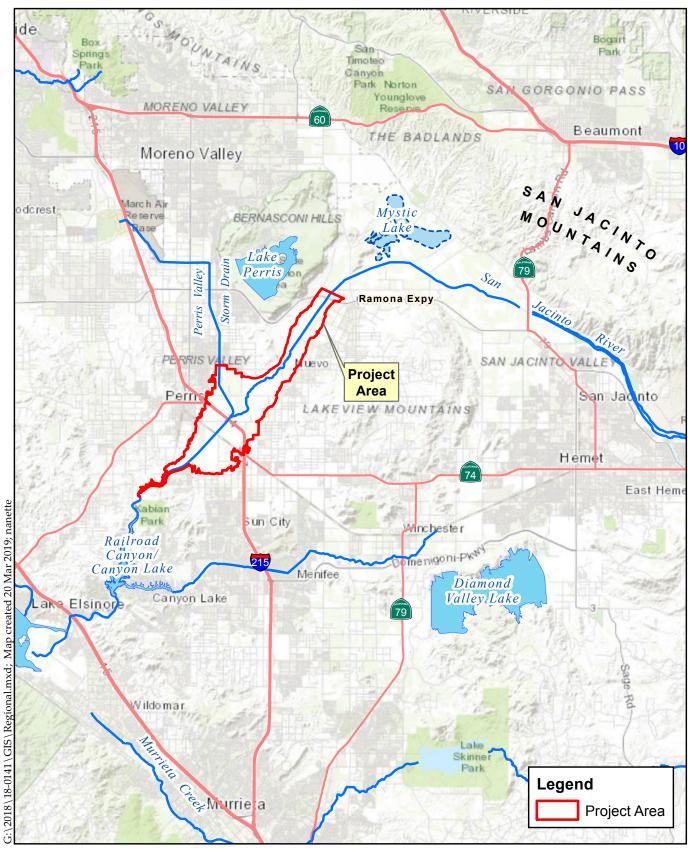


Figure 1 - Regional Map San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP

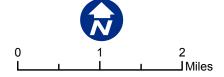




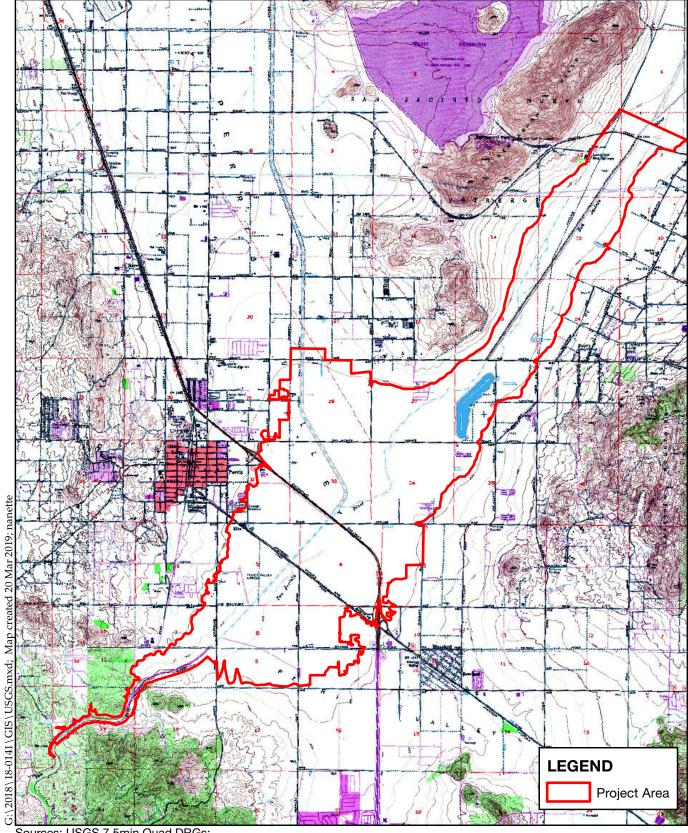


Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2019 (roads) and 2016 (imagery).

Figure 2 - Aerial Map San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP

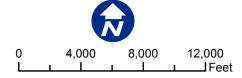




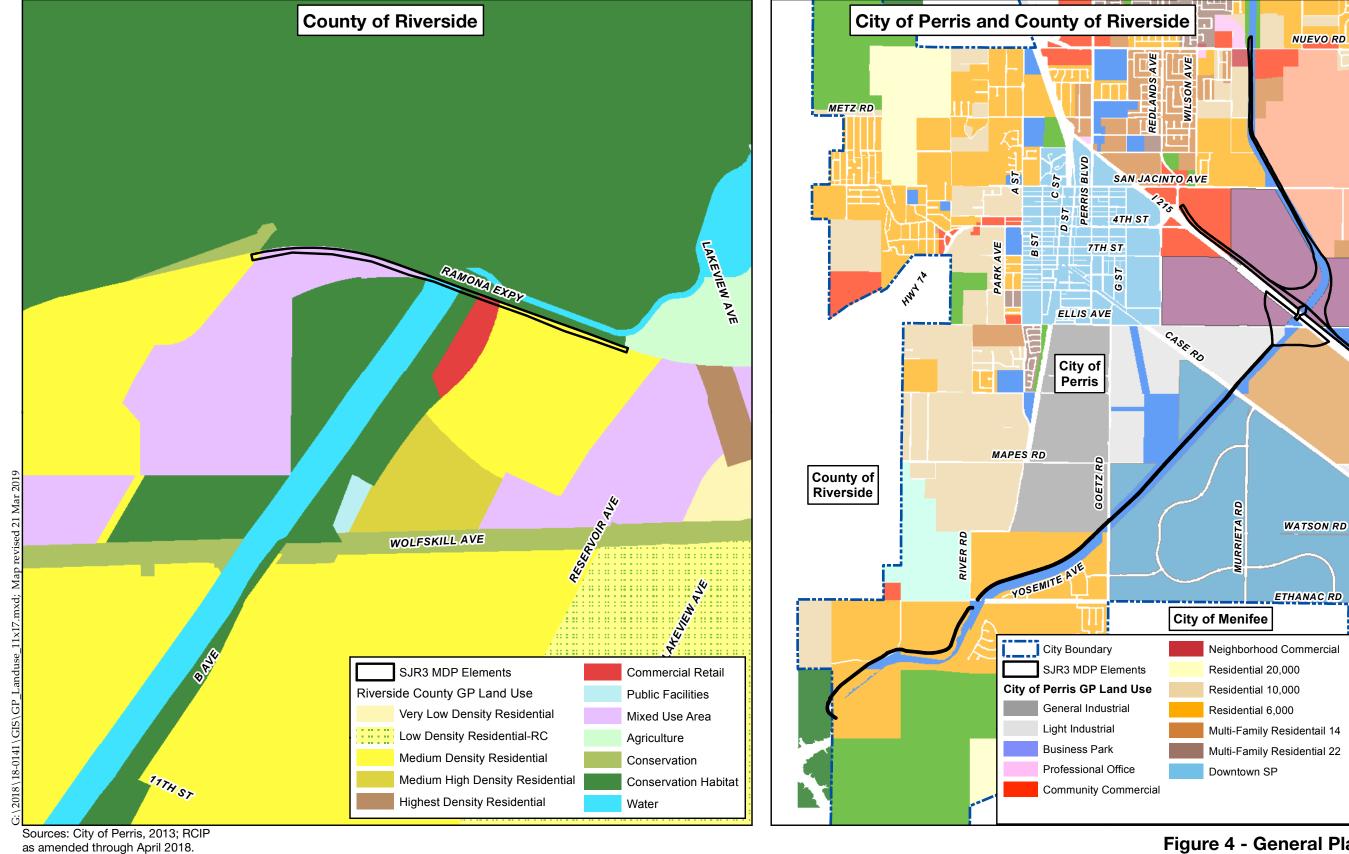


Sources: USGS 7.5min Quad DRGs: PERRIS/ROMOLAND/ELSINORE

Figure 3 - USGS Map San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP







1,000

2,000

3,000

Figure 4 - General Plan Land Use Map

WATSON RD

ETHANAC RD

NUEVO RD

County of Riverside

ELLIS AVE

MAPES RD

Green Valley SP

New Perris SP

Park West SP

River Glen SP

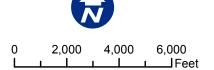
River Walk SP

Open Space

Public

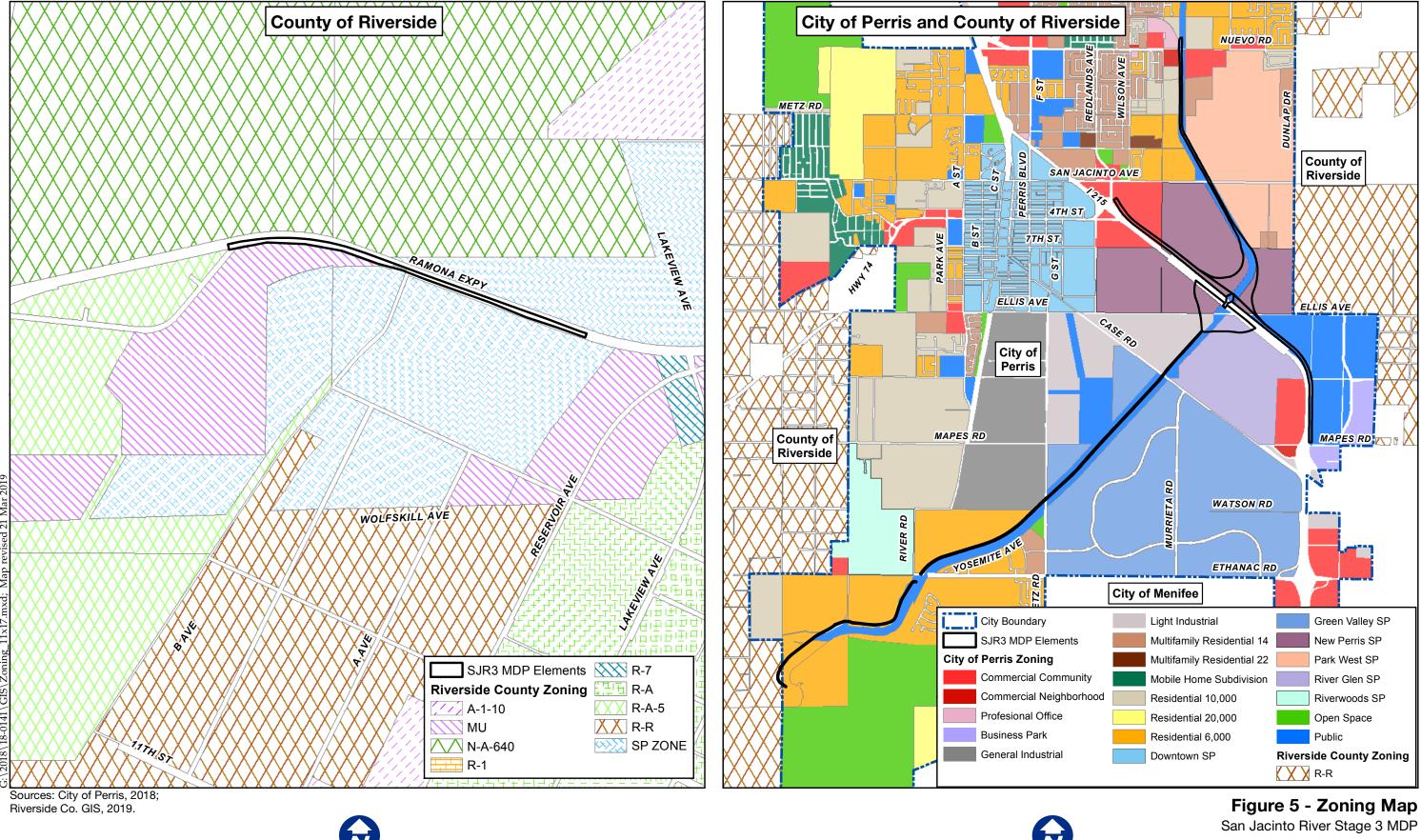
**County GP Land Use** 

San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP



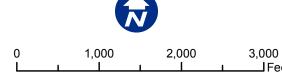


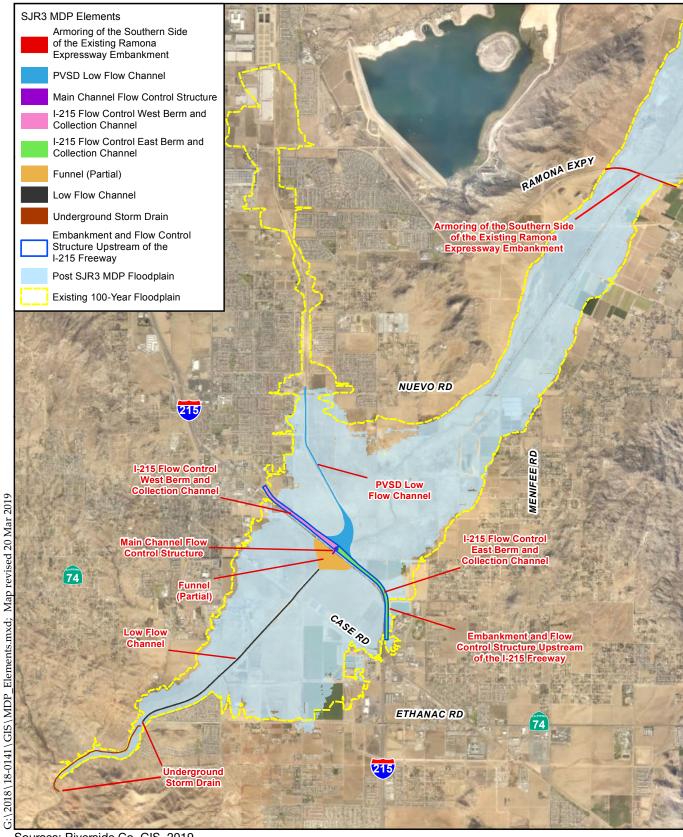
**Conservation Habitat** 



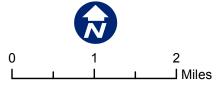
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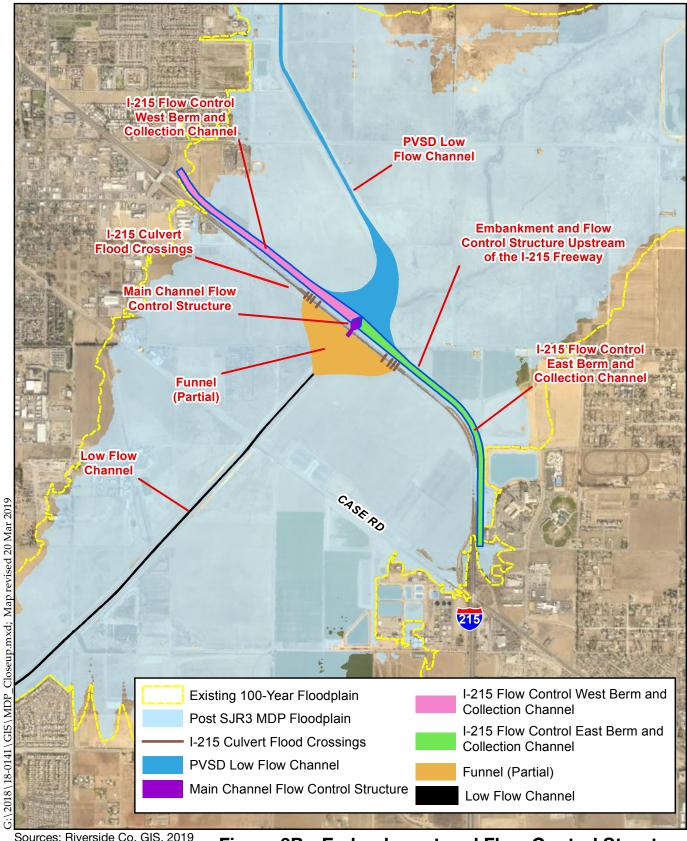
Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2019 (roads) and 2016 (imagery)



# Figure 6A - SJR3 MDP Elements

San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP



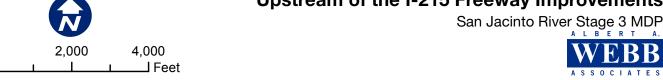


Sources: Riverside Co. GIS, 2019 (roads) and 2016 (imagery).

Figure 6B - Embankment and Flow Control Structure

Upstream of the I-215 Freeway Improvements

0



## **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

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

Ae	esthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Air Quality		
⊠ Bi	ological Resources	Cultural Resources			
⊠ G	eology/Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazardous Materials		
⊠ Hy	/drology/Water Quality		Mineral Resources		
□ No	pise	Population/Housing	Public Services		
Re	ecreation	Transportation	Tribal Cultural Resources		
⊠ Ut	ilities/Service Systems	Wildfire	Mandatory Finding of Significance		
DET	ERMINATION: (To be con	npleted by the Lead Agency)			
		n, which reflects the independent jion District, it is recommended that			
		I and Water Conservation District find note that a NEGATIVE I			
	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District 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 the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.				
$\boxtimes$	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District find that the proposed project MAY have significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.				
	"potentially significant impact" of least one effect 1) has been ad standards, and 2) has been add	I and Water Conservation District find or "potentially significant unless mitigat equately analyzed in an earlier docum dressed by mitigation measures based ONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is requals ssed.	ed" impact on the environment, but a ent pursuant to applicable legal I on the earlier analysis as described		
	could have a significant effect of analyzed adequately in an earli and (b) have been avoided or n	I and Water Conservation District find on the environment, because all potent er EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION nitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR o neasures that are imposed upon the	ially significant effects (a) have been pursuant to applicable standards, r NEGATIVE DECLARATION,		
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Pri	nted Name	×			
Oct	ober 2019		Initial Study		

#### **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed below:
  - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b. **Impacts Adequately Addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. **Mitigation Measures.** For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measure which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

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

#### **Aesthetics Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to both the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) (2011), City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005), and County of Riverside Draft EIR (2015).

#### **Less Than Significant Impact.**

SJR3 MDP Impacts

Scenic vistas are defined as a view through an opening, between a row of trees, or at the end of a vehicular right-of-way and that the roadway network and streetscapes that define them will frame and preserve the scenic vistas from public rights-of-way to the distant horizons and foothills. Immediate views within the SJR3 MDP include the San Jacinto River Valley, vacant floodplain area, vacant lands, agriculture, I-215 freeway, State Route 74 (SR-74), other roadways, PVSD, EMWD facilities, the Perris Valley Airport, commercial, industrial, residential, and recreation (refer to **Table 1** in this document for a detailed breakdown of surrounding land uses by each SJR3 MDP facilities). In the larger viewshed, there are views of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto mountains.

Views could be impacted by a project, generally speaking, if there will be permanent features that will be tall or obstructive such that the views and viewshed for the public are significantly affected. The SJR3 MDP is anticipated to generate excavated soils during construction which will need to be stockpiled. At such time construction begins, the District may be required to obtain stockpile permits from the City of Perris (City). Although short-term stockpiles would be utilized during the construction of the SJR3 MDP, there are no permanent structures proposed as part of the SJR3 MDP that would block or substantially alter the scenic vistas of the San Bernardino or San Jacinto

mountains or other local valleys and hills. The berms to be installed along I-215 are anticipated to be 6- feet tall, and not tall enough to block views from public viewsheds of the surrounding mountains.

In addition to the short term stockpiles that could be used during construction of the SJR3 MDP facilities, the construction activities involving exposed surfaces, transportation of excavated soils via haul trucks or bucket trucks, construction debris, and construction/maintenance equipment may temporarily affect the aesthetic quality of the immediate localized area where construction is occurring. Construction and occasional maintenance activities will be short-term and will cease upon construction/maintenance completion. Maintenance for the SJR3 MDP facilities would include occasional trucks with personnel inspecting the facilities, and some occasional heavy equipment needed for repairs. Implementation of the SJR3 MDP will be at the ground level for the most part, within the San Jacinto River floodplain. Even with the 6-foot berms proposed along the I-215 freeway, these will not affect the overall vistas and viewsheds of the project area; thus, no substantial adverse effect to public vistas and viewsheds would occur. As such, short-term construction impacts as well as the long term operational and maintenance from the SJR3 MDP are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

### Future Facilities Impacts

The construction and operation of the future facilities would be very similar to those described above for the SJR3 MDP facilities. Dirt moving activities would be the main source of aesthetic impacts, but as outlined above, no permanent features are proposed that would affect vistas or view sheds in the project area. Development on the reclaimed floodplain areas that would occur if the future facilities were constructed have already been contemplated for development pursuant to the applicable General Plan, Zoning, and/or Specific Plan analyses that was previously certified and thus would be subject to the County and City's General Plan, Zoning, Specific Plan, and/or Municipal Code. Additionally, specific development proposals would be subject to their own CEQA analysis including the analysis of potential impacts related to scenic vistas. An analysis of aesthetic impacts resulting from the future potential facilities will be required when specific projects are proposed within the County and/or City, including utilizing the information from the County/City's General Plan Draft EIRs. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming FIR

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005), County of Riverside Draft EIR (2015), and Caltrans (2011).

#### Less Than Significant Impact.

#### SJR3 MDP Impacts

There are large rocks scattered among the undeveloped, rolling topography in the west-central area of the City of Perris as well as within the County areas near the Ramona Expressway and these have obvious presence in the visual landscape. No notable stands of native or mature trees exist in the project area. The SR-74 segment within the SJR3 MDP and future potential facilities area is designated as an eligible State Scenic Highway (Caltrans 2011). The segment of the SR-74 that is designated as State Scenic Highway by Caltrans runs from southern Mojave Desert to oak and pine forests of San Bernardino National Forest, and offers views of the San Jacinto Valley and peaks of the San Jacinto Mountains (Caltrans 2011). The project area is not within the scenic highway portion of SR-74.

The SJR3 MDP is primarily located within the 100-year floodplain along portions of the Ramona Expressway, the San Jacinto River and PVSD in the east-central and central areas of the City and County and not in the areas which are the focus of the scenic resources of the City or County. No rock outcroppings, historic buildings or scenic stands of trees will be affected by the SJR3 MDP. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

#### Future Facilities Impacts

The future facilities would have the same less than significant impacts related to the SJR3 MDP listed above for rock outcroppings, trees and historic buildings along scenic highways. Although these resources occur near and around the project, they are not within the footprints of the future facilities.

Future development projects that could be developed as a result of the potential future facilities improvements would have to analyze impacts related to scenic resources in their own CEQA document. However, because there are no scenic resources that would be affected by the potential future facilities improvements given that the improvements are not in the areas which are the focus of the scenic resources along SR-74, nor any other rock outcroppings or trees, impacts are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), County of Riverside Draft EIR (2015), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

Less Than Significant Impact. See discussion above for Thresholds (a) and (b).

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), County of Riverside Draft EIR (2015), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

**Less Than Significant Impact**. Neither the SJR3 MDP nor the future facilities would not require any permanent lighting. Any lighting used during the construction and maintenance activities will be temporary, and construction/maintenance activities are expected to take place during the day. Therefore, impacts from implementation of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities are considered to be less than significant related to light and glare impacts and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

#### **Agricultural Resources Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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?

**Source:** Department of Conservation (DOC) (2017a), DOC (2017b), County of Riverside (2015), CEQA Statutes and Guidelines (2019).

**Potentially Significant Impact**. According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program and as shown on Figure OS-2 – Agricultural Resources in the County's General Plan, both the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located within Farmland of Local Importance, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Urban and Built-Up Land, and Other Land (DOC 2017a).

#### SJR3 MDP Impacts

A portion of the PVSD low flow channel, the embankment and flow control structure, the I-215 flow control east and west berms, the main channel flow control structure, the funnel, the low flow channel, and underground storm drain lie within Farmland of Local Importance, which is not considered Farmland or agricultural lands according to the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines (2019). According to Section 21060.1 of the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines (2019), "agricultural land" means Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California.

A portion of the PVSD low flow channel lie within Grazing Lands and Other Land which are not considered Farmland. A portion of the embankment and flow control structure and the I-215 flow control east berm is located within Urban and Built-Up Land which is not considered Farmland. The armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment is mainly located within the County ROW and will not impact any Farmland. A portion of the funnel lies within Farmland of Statewide Importance and Unique Farmland.

The analysis of converting Farmland to non-agricultural use, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

#### Future Facilities Impacts

The proposed terraced channel, a portion of the widened PVSD area, a portion of the terraced funnel, , and a portion of the reclaimed floodplain area lie within Farmland of Local Importance, which is not considered Farmland or agricultural lands according to the CEQA Statutes and Guidelines (2019). A portion of the widened PVSD area lie within Grazing Lands and Other Land; a portion of the potential fill lie within Grazing Land and Urban Built-Up Land which are not considered Farmland; and a portion of the reclaimed floodplain area lie within Grazing Lands, Other Lands, and Urban Built-Up Lands, which are not considered Farmland. A portion of the terraced funnel and reclaimed floodplain area lie within Farmland of Statewide Importance and Unique Farmland. The analysis of converting Farmland to non-agricultural use, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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

Source: County of Riverside (2015), City of Perris Zoning Map (2016) and DOC (2016).

**No Impact**. The SJR3 MDP involves floodplain management and would not conflict with existing zoning because it will not involve any changes to the current zoning designations. Additionally, the SJR3 MDP and future facilities improvements are not within a zone designated for agricultural use in the County's or City's Zoning Map and are not subject to a Williamson Act Contract (DOC 2016). Therefore, no impacts related to conflicting with agricultural zoning, uses, or contracts are anticipated for either the SJR3 MDP or future facilities improvements and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

Source: County of Riverside (2015) and City of Perris Zoning Map (2016).

**No Impact**. The SJR3 MDP and future facilities would not conflict with existing zoning or cause rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned for Timberland Production because it will not involve any changes to current zoning designations. Additionally, there are no timberland zoned production areas within the SJR3 MDP or potential future facilities area. No impacts will occur from either the SJR3 MDP or potential future facilities improvements and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** County of Riverside (2015) and City of Perris Zoning Map (2016).

**No Impact**. The SJR3 MDP would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use because the SJR3 MDP and future facilities area are outside of forest lands. No impacts will occur from either the SJR3 MDP or the potential future facilities improvements and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

Source: County of Riverside (2015) and City of Perris Zoning Map (2016).

Potentially Significant Impact. See Response 2a. The SJR3 MDP and future facilities would not conflict with existing zoning or cause rezoning of forest land because it will not involve any changes to current zoning designations. Additionally, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located outside of forest lands. The analysis of converting Farmland to non-agricultural use, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR. This threshold question will be addressed under 2a in the forthcoming EIR.

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		ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3.	m	<b>IR QUALITY</b> . Where available, the significance criteria anagement district or air pollution control district may beterminations. Would the project:				ity
	a.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
	b.	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?				
	C.	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	$\boxtimes$			
	d.	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			$\boxtimes$	

#### **Air Quality Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source:** Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), and California Government Code Section 53091.

#### Less Than Significant Impact.

SJR3 MDP Impacts

The SJR3 MDP within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) which is in the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD establishes the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the SCAB, which sets forth a comprehensive program that will lead the SCAB into compliance with all Federal and State air quality standards. To achieve compliance with these standards, the AQMP establishes control measures and emission reductions based upon future development scenarios derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, a project's conformance with the AQMP is determined by demonstrating that it is consistent with the local land use plans and/or population projections that were used in the AQMP.

California Government Code Section 53091 exempts public water facilities from local zoning regulations, which would apply to the District and its projects. Since the SJR3 MDP improvements consists of infrastructure that in and of itself will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns within the MDP area, and would be undertaken by the District, a public agency, the implementation of the SJR3 MDP accommodates present and future development within the surrounding area, the SJR3 MDP does not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the AQMP.

#### Future Facilities Impacts

The construction and operation of the future facilities would have the same less than significant impacts as the SJR3 MDP facilities discussed above related to the SCAQMD AQMP. The resultant possible future development which could occur after completion of the future facilities in the reclaimed floodplain areas have already been contemplated for land development pursuant to the applicable General Plan, Zoning, and/or Specific Plan analyses that was previously certified and thus would be subject to the County and the City's General Plan, Zoning, Specific Plan, and/or Municipal Code. Future development that could be proposed once the future facilities are constructed would be subject to their own CEQA analysis including the analysis of potential conflicts with the SCAQMD's AQMP. Thus, impacts with implementation of the future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), California Air Resources Board (CARB) (2017), County of Riverside General Plan (2015), and City of Perris General Plan (2013).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The portion of the SCAB where the proposed SJR3 MDP and future facilities is located is designated as a non-attainment area for ozone, particulate matter less

than 10 microns in size, and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size under State standards and designated as a non-attainment area for ozone and particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size under Federal standards. In addressing cumulative effects for air quality, the AQMP utilizes approved general plans and, therefore, is the most appropriate document to use to evaluate cumulative impacts of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities because the AQMP evaluated air quality emissions for the entire region using a future development scenario based on general plan land use designations and set forth a comprehensive program that would lead the region, including the areas within the SJR3 MDP and future facilities area, into compliance with all Federal and State air quality standards. The SJR3 MDP and future facilities does not conflict with the County's or City's General Plan land use designations. Nevertheless, although the SJR3 MDP is not expected to have a cumulatively considerable increase in air pollution, the incremental contribution to criteria pollutant emissions will be analyzed further in the forthcoming EIR.

#### c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Sensitive receptors within proximity of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities include residences, a school, park, and recreation. An analysis of the construction emissions will be conducted for the SJR3 MDP and future facilities to the nearest sensitive receptor(s). Potential impacts related to exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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

Source: SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and SCAQMD 2005.

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed SJR3 MDP and future facilities could potentially generate objectionable odors during construction and during occasional maintenance activities related to operation of diesel-powered equipment. However, recognizing the relative location of the surrounding residential and business developments within proximity of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities, and the fact that odors from vehicles already exist in this area and given the short-term construction phases and maintenance activities, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Also, the construction of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will not require a substantial number of diesel-fueled equipment and thus would not create substantial objectionable odors. Additionally, the SCAQMD's Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues In General Plans and Local Planning list major common sources of odor complaints, including: agriculture, chemical plants, composting operations, dairies, fiberglass molding, landfills, refineries, rendering plants, rail yards, and wastewater treatment plants (SCAQMD 2005, p. 2-2). The Project consists of MDP facilities and is not included on CARB's list of facilities that are known to be prone to generate odors. The potential future facilities are also not included on CARB's list of facilities that are known to be prone to generate odors. Thus, because construction and maintenance activities for SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are short-term and the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are not included on CARB's list of facilities that are known to be prone to generate odors, impacts are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

#### **Biological Resource Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The San Jacinto River and floodplain is an important wildlife corridor and contains several unique habitats that support rare and endemic plant and animal species, including vernal pools, wetlands, grasslands, and alkaline soils. Certain drainage improvements for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are intended to prevent habitat conversion of alkali playas due to changes in hydrology associated with urbanization. Given the type of soils (alkaline) and the hydrologic regime of short periods of flooding, standing water, and

drying-out periods, various sensitive plants are associated with the San Jacinto River floodplain within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint. Implementation of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities may have an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on species identified as threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, or special status. A Biological Resources Report will be prepared as part of the EIR analysis. The analysis of potential impacts to candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Biological Resources Report, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would be implemented in areas that support riparian vegetation communities. These riparian communities support potential habitat for special-status riparian birds such as least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). A Biological Resources Report will be prepared as part of the forthcoming EIR analysis. The analysis of potential impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Biological Resources Report, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The San Jacinto River and floodplain is an important wildlife corridor and contains several unique habitats that support rare and endemic plant and animal species, including wetlands. A Biological Resources Report and Jurisdictional Delineation will be prepared as part of the forthcoming EIR analysis. The analysis of potential impacts to wetlands, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Biological Resources Report and Jurisdictional Delineation, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities areas are within the following Western Riverside MSHCP Reserve Features: Proposed Extension of Existing Core 4, Proposed Linkage 7, and Proposed Constrained Linkage 19; a portion of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located within several Criteria Cells. **Figure 7 – Reserve Features and** Initial Study

October 2019

Criteria Cells outlines the SJR3 MDP in relation to the MSHCP Reserve Features and Criteria Cells. These three Reserve Features contemplate the conservation of not only the alkaline soils, but of the sensitive plants all the while maintaining the hydrology of the San Jacinto River. Connectivity to Conservation Areas is also a key element of the three Reserve Features within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities area. The connectivity will be maintained by ensuring a large enough area is set aside where animals can traverse even during high storm events (i.e., leaving lands outside the floodplain conserved) (WEBB 2017, p. 2-2). A Biological Resources Report will be prepared as part of the forthcoming EIR analysis. The analysis of potential impacts to movement of native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species within these Reserve Features and Criteria Cells, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Biological Resources Report, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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

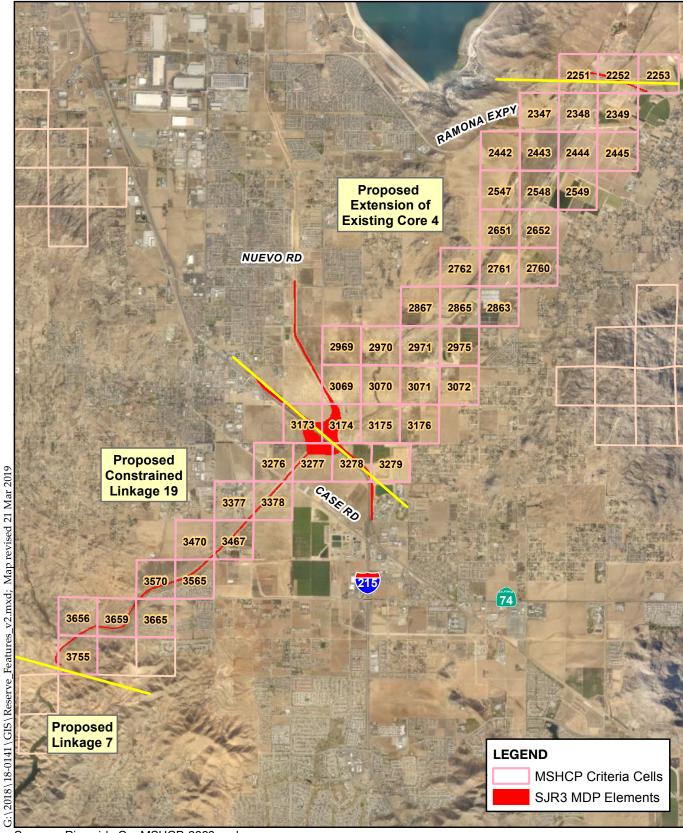
**Source:** County Ordinance No. 559 (2000), County of Riverside General Plan (2015), Chapter 19.71 – Urban Forestry Establishment and Care (2009), and City of Perris General Plan (2013).

Potentially Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located within the San Jacinto River Valley and floodplain area in either the County's or City's jurisdiction. The County's and City's General Plan contain several policies relating to the conservation and protection of natural resources, including conservation and protection of important plant communities and wildlife habitats, and the conservation of important natural resources such as mature trees, rock outcroppings, hills, etc. County Ordinance No. 559 (County of Riverside 2000) and Chapter 19.71 – Urban Forestry Establishment and Care of the City's Municipal Code regulates the removal of trees. The analysis of potential impacts to protecting biological resources such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

Source: Western Riverside MSHCP (2003) and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Potentially Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities is subject to compliance with the Western Riverside MSHCP because the District is a Permittee to the MSHCP. Compliance with the MSHCP will require an evaluation of whether or not the SJR3 MDP affects Reserve Assembly as well as the other survey requirements and compliance with Sections 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.3.2, 6.1.4, 7.3.7, and 7.5.3 of the MSHCP. Some of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities area include riparian habitat area, vernal pool areas, burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia) survey area, Los Angeles pocket mouse (Perognathus longimembris brevinasus), Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area, and Criteria Area Plant Species Survey Area. Because of the sensitive plants and rare soil formations found in the lower San Jacinto River floodplain, the MSHCP has identified the stretch of the river in the study area as a "Reserve Feature" to be conserved as part of the MSHCP Conservation Area. Specifically, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities area are within the following Reserve Features: Proposed Extension of Existing Core 4, Proposed Linkage 7, and Proposed Constrained Linkage 19; a portion of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located within several Criteria Cells. Figure 7 outlines the SJR3 MDP in relation to the MSHCP Reserve Features and Criteria Cells. A Biological Resources Report will be prepared as part of the forthcoming EIR analysis.



Sources: Riverside Co. MSHCP, 2003 and Riverside Co. GIS, 2019; RCIT, 2016 (imagery).

Figure 7 - Reserve Features and Criteria Cells

San Jacinto River Stage 3 MDP





The analysis of potential conflicts with the MSHCP, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Biological Resources Report, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR

		ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5.	CU	ILTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
	a.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	$\boxtimes$			
	b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	$\boxtimes$			
	C.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?			$\boxtimes$	

### **Cultural Resource Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be located within the San Jacinto River Valley, on vacant floodplain areas adjacent to the San Jacinto River, within PVSD, along the I-215 freeway, or within Ramona Expressway. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities could have the potential to impact historic resources where they cross undeveloped, undisturbed, or unstudied areas during construction activities. A Cultural Resources Report will be prepared as part of the forthcoming EIR analysis. The analysis of potential impacts to historical resources, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Cultural Resources Report, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be located within the San Jacinto River Valley, on vacant floodplain areas adjacent to the San Jacinto River, within PVSD, along the I-215 freeway, or within Ramona Expressway. The SJR3 MDP could have the potential to impact archaeological resources where they cross undeveloped, undisturbed, or unstudied areas during construction activities. A Cultural Resources Report will be prepared as part of the forthcoming EIR analysis. The analysis of potential impacts to archaeological resources, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Cultural Resources Report, requires additional study and analysis,

and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source**: State Health and Safety Code 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

Less Than Significant Impact. There are no formal cemeteries located within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities area, and it is not expected that human remains outside of dedicated cemeteries will be encountered within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities area. Per State Health and Safety Code 7050.5, if human remains are encountered during construction, no further disturbance shall occur until the County coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours. If the County coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted to determine the most likely descendent for this area. Once the most likely descendent is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains will proceed pursuant to Public Resources Code 5097.98. The Native American Heritage Commission may become involved with decisions concerning the disposition of the remains. Therefore, since construction of the SJR3 MDP will have to follow required State laws should any unexpected human remains be found, and given that no formal cemeteries are located within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities area, potential impacts to human remains are less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

### **Energy Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Energy sources are classified as non-renewable if they cannot be replenished in a short period of time. Therefore, non-renewable energy resources include fossil fuels. Fossil fuels, which consist of oil, coal, and natural gas and associated byproducts, provide the energy required for the vast majority of motorized vehicles and generation of electricity at power plants.

During construction and maintenance activities, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities have the potential to consume energy resources. Construction and maintenance activities would require the use of construction equipment for grading, hauling, stockpiling, excavating, as well as construction workers and vendors traveling to and from the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities area. Construction equipment requires diesel as the fuel source.

The assumptions used in the forthcoming Air Quality and GHG Analysis will be used to evaluate the potential energy impacts related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. Thus, impacts related to energy resources are considered to be potentially significant until it can be fully analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

Source: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would be required to comply with applicable County, City, State, and Federal energy conservation measures related to construction and maintenance activities. Many of the regulations regarding energy efficiency are focused on increasing building efficiency and renewable energy generation, promoting sustainability through energy conservation measures, as well as reducing water consumption and vehicle miles traveled.

The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities is limited to construction activities and routine maintenance activities, similar to that of existing maintenance operations. No building construction is proposed as part of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities as the SJR3 MDP consists of flood control protection facilities and the potential future facilities would include drainage improvements, excavation, and fill.

Based on the above discussion, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not impact renewable energy sources as the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would not have ongoing operational activities except for infrequent maintenance activities, similar to that of existing maintenance activities within the flood control facilities. Impacts are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
7.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	<ul> <li>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.</li> </ul>			$\boxtimes$	
	ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?			$\square$	

	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
	iv. Landslides?			$\boxtimes$	
b.	Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				
C.	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			$\boxtimes$	
d.	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18- 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?				
e.	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				
f.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				

## **Geology and Soils Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

- 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.

**Source:** DOC (2017c), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2000), County of Riverside General Plan (2015), City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

Less Than Significant Impact. According to Figure S-2 – Earthquake Fault Study Zones in the County's General Plan, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are not located within or near a currently delineated State of California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault. As depicted on Exhibit S-2 – Earthquake Fault Zones of the City's General Plan, no faults are located within the City's boundaries (City of Perris 2005, amended 2016). Additionally, the California Geological Survey (DOC, 2017c) does not identify any Alquist-Priolo fault hazard zones within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint.

### SJR3 MDP Impacts

The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not propose habitable structures. The only features proposed that would pose a slight risk as a result of an earthquake would be the proposed embankments along I\_215 freeway. These proposed embankments along the I-215 freeway could be considered a levee given the proposed height at 6-feet. The embankments will be constructed to withstand expected ground shaking levels and potential soil instability following standard engineering practices provided by the Department of Army, Office of the Chief of Engineers as outlined in the *Design and Construction of Levees Engineer Manual*.

In the event of a major seismic rupture, the District's routine inspection and maintenance activities will ensure that the SJR3 MDP facilities are repaired if damage does occur during a seismic event. In addition, a geotechnical study will be required during the specific design phase of SJR3 MDP to ensure constructability. The SJR3 MDP design will follow the recommendation in the geotechnical study prepared by a registered civil, structural engineer and/or engineering geologist and at a minimum, meet current building standards and codes including those associated with protection from anticipated seismic events within the SJR3 MDP footprint.

### Future Facilities Impacts

The improvements proposed as future facilities could also be the subject to damage during a seismic event, but as with the SJR3 MDP facilities, geotechnical studies would be performed during design of the facilities and the recommendations from said geotechnical studies incorporated into the facilities' design to ensure that standard engineering practices are adhered to. All facilities would be inspected following the District's standard inspection and maintenance procedures after a major seismic event.

The potential for subsequent development that could occur after the future facilities are constructed would have to also be evaluated for seismic impacts at the time these projects are proposed. Specific development proposals would be subject to their own CEQA analysis including the preparation of a geotechnical study to address potential impacts related to exposing people or structures to potentially adverse effects from an earthquake fault.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to earthquake faults with implementation or maintenance of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

### ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

**Source:** DOC (2017c), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2000), County of Riverside General Plan (2015) City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** All of southern California is considered to be a seismically active region where seismic ground shaking is possible from regional fault systems. Refer to Response 7.a.i above. Impacts related to the seismic ground shaking with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

### iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

**Source:** County of Riverside General Plan (2015), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (2000), City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

## Less Than Significant Impact.

## SJR3 MDP Impacts

The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and does not propose structures that would be inhabited by humans and thereby, will not expose persons directly to substantial adverse effects from seismic related ground failure such as liquefaction. The proposed embankment along the I-215 freeway could be considered a levee and will be constructed to withstand expected ground shaking levels. The levee will be designed and constructed following standard engineering practices provided by the Department of Army, Office of the Chief of Engineers as outlined in the *Design and Construction of Levees Engineer Manual*.

According to Figure S-3 – Generalized Liquefaction in the County's General Plan, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are primarily located within moderate potential for liquefaction and a few areas with very low and low potential for liquefaction. Specifically, the proposed SJR3 MDP armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment, PVSD low flow channel, I-215 flow control west berm and collection channel, main channel flow control structure, a portion of the I-215 flow control east berm and collection channel, a portion of the embankment and flow control structure upstream of the I-215 freeway, funnel, low flow channel, and a portion of the underground storm drain are located within moderate potential for liquefaction. A portion of the underground storm drain is located within very low potential for liquefaction, and a portion of the I-215 flow control east berm and collection channel and a portion of the embankment and flow control structure upstream of the I-215 freeway are located within low potential for liquefaction. A geotechnical study will be required during the specific design phase of the SJR3 MDP. The SJR3 MDP design will follow the recommendation(s) in the geotechnical study prepared by a registered civil, structural engineer and/or engineering geologist and at a minimum, meet current building standards and codes including those associated with protection from seismic-related ground failure within the SJR3 MDP footprint. Impacts from SJR3 MDP is considered less than significant and no mitigation measures are necessary.

### Future Facilities Impacts

The potential future widening of the PVSD, terraced channel, terraced funnel, potential excavation, majority of the reclaimed floodplain area are located within an area identified to have a moderate potential for liquefaction. The County's General Plan Policy S 2.2 and City's General Plan implementation measure I.E.1 requires geological and geotechnical investigations by Statelicensed professions in areas with potential for earthquake-induced liquefaction, landsliding, other slope instability, or settlement. As with the SJR3 MDP facilities, a geotechnical study will be required for the design of the future facilities. The future geotechnical analyses prepared as part of the design of the future facilities will outline measures that can be taken to address risk from ground failure including liquefaction.

Future development projects which could occur after implementation of the future facilities will be required to incorporate all the geotechnical recommendations into their project design.

Therefore, impacts associated with seismic related ground failure including liquefaction with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

### iv. Landslides?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), County of Riverside General Plan (2015) and City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016).

Less Than Significant Impact. According to Figure S-4 – Earthquake-Induced Slope Instability Map in the County's General Plan and Exhibit S-4 – Slope Instability in the City's General Plan Safety Element, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are not proposed in areas that are susceptible to landslides. Additionally, the existing San Jacinto River floodplain is very flat and wide, with an average slope of 0.02%. Given the relatively flat topography in the floodplain, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would not be susceptible to landslides. Rather, the SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and does not propose structures that would be inhabited by humans and thereby, will not expose persons directly to landslides.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to landslides with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

b) Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005), and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities includes construction of facilities which would require grading and excavation. Specifically, the embankment, armoring, channel widening, and pipeline installation could all result in some soil erosion or loss of top soil.

Implementation of SJR3 MDP and future facilities are anticipated to result in soil being transported onto adjacent, vacant properties via bucket trucks and soil being transported to vacant properties approximately 3 to 5 miles away within the floodplain fringe via haul trucks. The loss of soils from the SJR3 MDP and future would not be considered a significant loss of topsoil because the topsoil could be reused in the surrounding areas.

Any stockpiling of soils utilized by other property owners would require stockpile permits from the residing land use authority. Stockpile permits would be required from the county or City of which the stockpile shall not exceed a height of four feet, per Count or City standards.

Pursuant to applicable provisions of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Permit for Stormwater Dischargers Associated with Construction Activity, contractors working on either the SJR3 MDP facilities or the future facilities will be required to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that will incorporate applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize impacts related to unstable soils.

Therefore, since the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are not located in an area that is to be significantly susceptible to unstable geologic units or soils that are unstable and required to comply with NPDES requirements, impacts related to unstable soils or soil erosion or the loss of top soil is considered to be less than significant. Also, since the loss of topsoil from construction of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities could most likely be utilized within the Project area, the loss of topsoil is not considered significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), County of Riverside General Plan (2015), and City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016).

Less Than Significant Impact. Refer to Responses 7a.iii and 7a.iv. The existing San Jacinto River floodplain is very flat and wide, with an average slope of 0.02%. According to Figure S-4 – Earthquake-Induced Slope Instability Map in the County's General Plan and Exhibit S-4 – Slope Instability in the City's General Plan Safety Element, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are not proposed in areas that are susceptible to landslides given the flat topography. According to Figure S-3 – Generalized Liquefaction in the County's General Plan, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are primarily located within moderate potential for liquefaction and a few areas with very low and low potential for liquefaction and according to Figure S-7 – Documented Subsidence Areas in the County's General Plan, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are within a susceptible area for subsidence.

The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and does not propose structures that would be inhabited by humans and thereby, will not expose persons directly to substantial adverse effects from landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. A geotechnical study will be required during the specific design phase of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities to ensure constructability. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facility design will follow the recommendation in the geotechnical study prepared by a registered civil, structural engineer and/or engineering geologist and at a minimum, meet current building standards and codes including those associated with protection from anticipated seismic events within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse with implementation of SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

# d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

**Source:** County of Riverside General Plan (2015) and City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016).

Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils can be widely dispersed, found in hillside areas as well as low-lying areas in alluvial basins. Expansive soils are soils with a significant amount of clay particles that have the ability to give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). Fine-grained soils, such as silts and clays, may contain variable amounts of expansive clay minerals. Soil types associated with the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint include domino fine sandy loam, domino silt loam, Escondido fine sandy loam, Exeter sandy loam, Exeter very fine sandy loam, Garretson very fine sandy loam, Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam, Grangeville fine sandy loam, lodo rocky loam, madera fine sandy loam, Ramona sandy loam, riverwash, water, and willows silty clay. The willows silty clay has the potential for expansive soils given the amount of clay particles. Based on the clayey soil types within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint, flood control facilities and drainage improvements could have the potential for expansive soils.

A geotechnical study will be required during the specific design phase of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities and would incorporate any remediation or considerations to address expansive soils in the project design. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facility design will follow the recommendation in the geotechnical study prepared by a registered civil, structural engineer and/or engineering geologist and at a minimum, meet current building standards and codes. It should be noted that the SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and does not propose structures that would be

inhabited by humans and thereby, will not expose persons or structures directly to substantial adverse effects from expansive soils. Given that the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are required to implement all the recommendations from the geotechnical study and comply with CBC requirements and/or standard engineering practices provided by the Department of Army, Office of the Chief of Engineers as outlined in the *Design and Construction of Levees Engineer Manual*, impacts related to expansive soils with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

**No Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and future facilities are flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and will not require septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal system.

Therefore, no impacts from alternative wastewater disposal systems will occur with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

Source: County of Riverside (2015).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located in areas of high paleontological sensitivity. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities could have the potential to impact paleontological resources during construction activities due to the amount of ground disturbance needed to construct the facilities. A Paleontological Resource Assessment will be prepared as part of the forthcoming EIR analysis. The analysis of potential impacts to paleontological resources, along with the potential for feasible mitigation measures for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities recommended in the Paleontological Resource Assessment, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the forthcoming EIR.

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

### **Greenhouse Gas Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** During construction activities, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities have the potential to generate GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment. An Air Quality and GHG Analysis will be prepared that will include an assessment of the GHG impacts from the construction and maintenance of both the SJR3 MDP and the potential future facilities. Impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be fully analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

### Less Than Significant Impact.

SJR3 MDP Impacts

There are no applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emission (i.e., Climate Action Plan) for a linear flood control project such as the SJR3 MDP. Additionally, the flood control facilities as part of the SJR3 MDP will not generate GHGs that will cause a significant impact on the environment. Further, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will not obstruct implementation of any plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions and will be subject to future applicable regulations once adopted. Therefore impacts associated with the SJR3 MDP are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

### Future Facility Impacts

The future facilities themselves will also not cause emissions of GHGs in the long term that would affect a plan or policy addressing GHGs. However, the future development that could occur as a result of the future facilities being constructed could result in GHG emissions. However, at this time, no specific development is proposed on the reclaimed floodplain area and the District does not have land use authority over these areas. Development on these lands have already been contemplated for land development pursuant to the applicable General Plan, Zoning, or Specific

Plan analyses that was previously certified. Consequently, development in the reclaimed floodplain areas as shown on Figure 5-3a and Figure 8-1 in the Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A) would be subject to the County and/or City's General Plan, Zoning, Specific Plan, and/or Municipal Code. Additionally, specific development proposals would be subject to their own CEQA analysis including the analysis of the potential conflict with any plans, policies, or regulations related to GHG including applicable climate action plans. Impacts from the future facilities and subsequent development that could occur is considered less than significant.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation related to GHG with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

### **Hazards and Hazardous Materials Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Riverside County General Plan (2015), and City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016).

Less Than Significant Impact. Future construction and maintenance of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities involves the use of fuel and other petroleum products for construction vehicles and equipment. The construction phase may include the transport of gasoline and diesel fuel and onsite storage for the sole purpose of fueling construction equipment. Future maintenance activities may involve the occasional limited use of herbicides and pesticides in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations.

Lawful and proper storage and use of hazardous materials would be expected. All transport, handling, use and disposal of substances such as petroleum products, solvents and paints related to construction, operation and maintenance of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will comply with all Federal, State and local laws regulating the management and use of hazardous materials. The City's General Plan Policy I.F states that the City coordinates with the County to enforce all rules related to hazardous materials (Perris 2005, amended 2016, p. 52). The Riverside County Emergency Operations Plan outlines the functions, responsibilities, and regional risk assessment for emergency including hazardous materials incident and sets forth the planned response for managing these incidents.

The potential future facilities could allow for future development by individual developers in potential fill areas or in the reclaimed floodplain areas in the City (see Figure 5-3a and Figure 8-1 in the Conceptual Planning Report [Appendix A]). However, at this time, no specific development is proposed on the potential fill areas or reclaimed floodplain area because the District does not have land use authority over these areas. Development on these lands have already been contemplated for land development pursuant to the applicable General Plan, Zoning, and/or Specific Plan analyses that was previously certified and thus would be subject to the City's General Plan, Zoning, Specific Plan, and/or Municipal Code as well as compliance with the most current Building Codes, Additionally, specific development proposals would be subject to their own CEQA analysis including the analysis of whether the project creates a significant hazard to the public or environment. Future development projects in the City will be subject to review and approval from the Department of Environmental Health of the Riverside County Community Health Agency (the agency responsible for regulating the operations of business and institutions that handle hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes in the City). Additionally, future development projects will be required to comply with all Federal. State and local laws regulating the management and use of hazardous materials. Therefore, since the use of hazardous substances are regulated through various Federal, State and local laws, the MDP itself will not create a significant hazard to public or the environment. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Riverside County General Plan (2015), and City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** See Response 9a. The construction and maintenance of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will involve the incidental handling of hazardous materials through the operation and maintenance of equipment. However, BMPs will be implemented for the duration of Project construction as well as future maintenance activities that will avoid and minimize the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

The potential future facilities could allow for future development by individual developers in potential fill areas or in the reclaimed floodplain areas in the City (see Figure 5-3a and Figure 8-1 in the Conceptual Planning Report [Appendix A]). However, at this time, no specific development is proposed on the potential fill areas and reclaimed floodplain areas because the District does not have land use authority over these areas. Development on these lands have already been contemplated for land development pursuant to the applicable General Plan, Zoning, and/or Specific Plan analyses that was previously certified and thus would be subject to the City's General Plan, Zoning, Specific Plan, and/or Municipal Code as well as compliance with the most current Building Codes. Additionally, specific development proposals would be subject to their own CEQA analysis including the analysis of whether the project creates a significant hazard to the public or environment. Future development projects in the City will be subject to review and approval from the Department of Environmental Health of the Riverside County Community Health Agency (the agency responsible for regulating the operations of business and institutions that handle hazardous materials or generate hazardous wastes in the City). Additionally, future development projects will be required to comply with all Federal, State and local laws regulating the management and use of hazardous materials. Impacts related to release of hazardous materials into the environment with implementation of SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. One school, Sky View Elementary School, is located approximately 0.14 mile west of the proposed PVSD low flow channel improvements. The proposed flood control use does not include any activities or uses that would pose a potential health hazard to the local population other than accidental leakage of petroleum products, solvents and paints related to construction and maintenance operations of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities, including the PVSD low flow channel area. All transport, handling, use, and disposal of substances such as petroleum products, solvents, and paints related to construction and maintenance operations of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws regulating the management and use of hazardous materials. No unique use of hazardous materials other than fuels for equipment would be expected from the SJR3 MDP facilities or future facilities and would not be expected to affect Sky View Elementary School.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to hazardous materials within one-quarter mile from a school with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** California Department of Toxic Substance Control (2018) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2018).

Less Than Significant Impact. A review of the Department of Toxic Substance Control's (DTSC's) Hazardous Waste and Substances List – Site Cleanup (Cortese List) indicates that identified hazardous material sites are not located within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint. Additionally, a review of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EnviroMapper database did not indicate any waste site within the SJR3 MDP and future facilities footprint. There are a few hazardous waste and/or toxic release sites immediately west and east of the future potential fill areas south of the I-215 freeway; however, those businesses would be subject to State and Federal compliance such as the DTSC and EPA, respectively.

No significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials are anticipated from nearby hazardous waste sites as construction and maintenance operations of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be constructed within the San Jacinto River, Ramona Expressway, PVSD, and vacant floodplain areas.

The potential future facilities would allow for future development by individual developers in potential fill areas or in the reclaimed floodplain areas in the City (see Figure 5-3a and Figure 8-1 in the Conceptual Planning Report [Appendix A]). However, at this time, no specific development is proposed in the reclaimed floodplain area as part of the project and the District does not have land use authority over these areas. Specific development may not be constructed for years as this would most likely be initiated by developers and the status of hazardous sites and current hazardous permit holders may change. Specific development proposals would be subject to their own CEQA analysis including the analysis of potential impacts related to hazardous materials. Based on the above discussion, impacts related to hazardous materials with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. Perris Valley Airport (privately owned and operated but open to the public) is located immediately adjacent to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities low flow channel improvements and within the future potential fill areas downstream of the I-215 freeway. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities within proximity to the airport will include channels and earthen fill, and does not include development that would result in a safety hazard for people residing within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint. Workers associated with the SJR3 MDP facilities or future facilities would be subject to some airport noise, but these workers would be temporarily (few months) working in the vicinity of the airport.

Any subsequent development that could occur after future facilities are implemented would be subject to their own airport compatibility analysis. No specific development is proposed nor is it a part of the SJR3 MDP or future facilities that would pose a safety or noise hazard for people or residing or working in the area. Impacts related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities being located within two miles of an airport or airport land use plan are considered to be less than

significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** County of Riverside General Plan (2015) and City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016).

**No Impact.** In 1995, the City adopted a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan that is designed to address planned response to extraordinary emergency situations, either man-made or naturally caused. The plan details chain-of-command and step-by-step processes for the City's emergency response team for preparing for potential disasters and for responding to actual disasters. The County prepared a revised multi-agency Multi-Hazard Functional Plan in response to the directives of the Disaster Mitigation Act which includes the City and subsequently replaced the City's 1995 Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (City of Perris 2005, amended 2016, pp. 46-47). The District does not have an emergency response or evacuation plan since they are not a land use authority.

The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be constructed within the San Jacinto River, PVSD, vacant floodplain areas and a portion of the Ramona Expressway. Emergency access will remain available to emergency responders along Ramona Expressway since the improvements consists of armoring the existing southern embankment of the Ramona Expressway and not within the roadway itself. Additionally, because the proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will take place over time and would not be staged in ways that would prohibit access for emergency, no impacts related to interfering with an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan would occur.

Based on the above discussion, no impacts related to emergency access with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would occur and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

Source: City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016).

Less Than Significant Impact. As shown on Exhibit S-16 – Wildfire Constraint Areas in the City's General Plan Safety Element, a portion of the low flow channel and underground storm drain, south of Watson Road to Railroad Canyon is within a wildfire hazard area. However, no habitable structures are proposed with the SJR3 MDP or potential future facilities; thus, the proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The maintenance of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities may contain vegetated areas that could be flammable under certain weather conditions (i.e., Red Flag Warnings from the National Weather Service). In compliance with the MSHCP, the District's Operations and Maintenance Division is typically advised to implement all applicable guidelines and BMPs to minimize the chance of wildlife or other potential direct/indirect impacts.

Therefore, impacts related to wildfire are considered to be less than significant with implementation of SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
10.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the	ne project:			
a.	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	$\boxtimes$			
b.	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	$\boxtimes$			
C.	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
	<ul> <li>Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;</li> </ul>	$\boxtimes$			
	<ul> <li>Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;</li> </ul>	$\boxtimes$			
	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	$\boxtimes$			
	iv) ) Impede or redirect flood flows?	$\boxtimes$			
d.	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			$\boxtimes$	
e.	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				

## **Hydrology and Water Quality Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Board Resolution No. R8-2004-0037.

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Similar to the existing natural drainage features, the proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will convey storm water emanating from residential, commercial, and industrial areas into Canyon Lake and ultimately to Lake Elsinore. Although the proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will not create new sources of pollutants, pollutants will continue to be conveyed within the proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities and discharged into Canyon Lake/Lake Elsinore.

As a result of the beneficial use impact to Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore, the Regional Board listed the two lakes as water quality limited and as an impaired water body in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Per Section 303(d) of the CWA, the Regional Water Quality Control Board established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the pollutant(s) causing the impairment. Per State law, an implementation plan was also adopted to ensure that the TMDL is met and that compliance with water quality standards is achieved. The forthcoming EIR will discuss how the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities relates to the TMDL's and impaired water body status of Canyon Lake and Lake Elsinore. Therefore, impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The purpose of the SJR3 MDP is to collect and convey storm water through the SJR3 MDP footprint. The potential future facilities (widened PVSD, terraced channel, and terraced funnel) would also collect and convey storm water. The forthcoming EIR will address whether the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Therefore, impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:
  - i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Source: SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and NPDES.

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Pursuant to applicable provisions of the NPDES Municipal Permit for Stormwater Dischargers Associated with Construction Activity, contractors will be required to prepare and implement a SWPPP that will incorporate applicable BMPs to minimize impacts related to erosion or siltation during short-term construction activities.

Human activities that have impacted the drainage pattern of the San Jacinto River include agriculture, development, and transportation projects overtime. Agricultural activities in the floodplain have modified the hydrology of the San Jacinto River through channelization as well as the construction of levees to constrain the flows into smaller areas and prevent the wide-spread flooding that historically has occurred. Implementation of the SJR3 MDP will improve the flood flows and protect life and properties within the San Jacinto River floodplain by setting aside lands that will not be subject to development and establishing a floodplain that closely mimics the natural condition of the San Jacinto River for the portion north of the I-215 freeway. The forthcoming EIR will address how the other SJR3 MDP facilities and potential future facilities could affect the drainage patterns and potential alteration of the San Jacinto River. As such, impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Refer to Response 10d.i. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located within the San Jacinto River Valley and floodplain area. The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues in the San Jacinto River Valley and Perry Valley. The potential future facilities could accommodate future land development by individual developers on the potential fill areas and reclaimed floodplain area along the San Jacinto River. The forthcoming EIR will address how the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities could affect the drainage patterns in the San Jacinto River. As such, impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SRJ3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP is intended to collect and convey stormwater through the SJR3 MDP footprint. The forthcoming EIR will address whether the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of the stormwater drainage system or result in additional sources of polluted runoff. This issue is considered to be potentially significant until it can be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

### iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Potentially Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located within the San Jacinto River Valley and floodplain area. The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues in the San Jacinto and Perry Valley area of the County. The potential future facilities could accommodate future land development by individual developers on the potential fill areas and reclaimed floodplain area along the San Jacinto River. The forthcoming EIR will address how the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities could affect the drainage patterns of the San Jacinto River and whether implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would impede or redirect flood flows. As such, impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), County of Riverside General Plan EIR (2015), City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

Less than Significant Impact. A seiche is an oscillation of a landlocked body of water that can cause water damage to buildings, roads, and other facilities that surround the body of water (Lake Perris), typically caused by earthquakes. As concluded in the County's General Plan EIR, the large expanses of open space surrounding the shore and lack of development at the end of the lake limit the potential seiche risks to property and human lives (County of Riverside 2015, p. 4.11-23). As concluded in the City's General Plan Draft EIR, Lake Perris is not likely to be breached as a result of seismic activity and the potential impact associated with flooding resulting from a seiche is less than significant (City of Perris 2005, p. IV-77).

The potential for the occurrence of a tsunami is very low because the Pacific Ocean is the closest tsunami-producing body of water and is located approximately 30 miles southwest from the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint.

The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are within a 100-year flood hazard area. However, the intent of the SJR3 MDP is to increase flood protection in the San Jacinto River Valley and Perris Valley including providing improvements so that roadways (i.e., Ramona Expressway, I-215 freeway) do not get washed out during a 100-year storm event. The SJR3 MDP includes armoring of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment to ensure it will not wash-out during a 100-year storm event and embankment protection along the I-215 freeway at the San Jacinto River to provide 100-year flood protection. No land development is proposed as part of the SJR3 MDP; therefore, no new release of pollutants would occur as a result of the SJR3 MDP.

Based on the above discussion and because specific development proposals would be subject to its own CEQA analysis as it relates to flood hazards and risk of release of pollutants due to project inundation, impacts are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The purpose of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities is to collect and convey storm water. The potential future facilities (widened PVSD, terraced channel, and terraced funnel) would also collect and convey storm water. The forthcoming EIR will address whether the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Therefore, impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

### Land Use and Planning Discussion:

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

a) Physically divide an established community?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are located within the San Jacinto River Valley and Perris Valley, on vacant lands adjacent to the San Jacinto River, along the I-215 freeway, or within Ramona Expressway. The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues that will not

result in physical changes affecting existing communities in the City or the County. The future facilities are also flood control facilities that would not physically divide established communities. Although the areas surrounding the planned flood control facilities are not within existing developed areas, the land uses have already been identified through the City and County via the General Plans and various Specific Plans. The development of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities would not physically divide these future communities.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to physically dividing an established community with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Source: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities consist of infrastructure improvements that in and of itself will not result in physical changes to the existing land use patterns within the SJR3 MDP or potential future facilities area. However, both the City of Perris and County of Riverside have land use authority over the areas affected by the SJR3 MDP and future facilities. The forthcoming EIR will address whether or not the flood control facilities conflict with their Specific Plans and General Plans. Additionally, the MSHCP is a defacto land use regulatory document and the project's consistency with this Plan will be addressed as well in the forthcoming EIR.

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

## **Mineral Resources Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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?

**Source**: City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005) and County of Riverside General Plan Draft EIR (2015).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** According to Figure OS-6 – Mineral Resource Zones, in the County's General Plan, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are within Mineral Resources Zone (MRZ) 3. MRZ 3 are "areas where the available geologic information indicates that mineral

deposits are likely to exist, however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined" (County of Riverside 2015, p. OS-37). All of the SJR3 MDP with the exception of the armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment and a portion of the underground storm drain is within the City's jurisdiction. The armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway is within the County's jurisdiction within County right-of-way, mixed use zoning, or specific plan area, and the portion of the underground storm drain within the County's jurisdiction is in rural residential zone, where mineral resources are not proposed uses; thus, implementation of the SJR3 MDP will not result in the loss of a known mineral resource because improvements would occur along the roadway.

The City's General Plan Draft EIR states that the DOC is primarily interested in preservation of access to significant resources areas included in the MRZ 2 area and lands within the City that are designated MRZ 3 and MRZ 4 are not defined as significant mineral resource areas. Thus, the City's General Plan Draft EIR concluded no impacts to availability of valuable mineral resources would occur for projects in the City's jurisdiction (Perris 2005, VI-28). Therefore, implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities within the City will not impact a known mineral resource. Additionally, the SJR3 MDP improvements within the City will be within the San Jacinto River, vacant floodplain areas, and PVSD which are not likely to have mineral resources. Furthermore, the City's governing land use documents (City's General Plan, applicable Specific Plans) within the SJR3 MDP does not allow for mining.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to mineral resources with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

# 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?

Source: County of Riverside General Plan (2015) and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

Less Than Significant Impact. Refer to Response 12a. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are within MRZ 3 area where the significance of the deposit is undetermined (County of Riverside 2015, p. OS-37). All of the SJR3 MDP with the exception of the armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway embankment and a portion of the underground storm drain is within the City's jurisdiction. The armoring of the southern side of the existing Ramona Expressway is within the County's jurisdiction within County right-of-way, mixed use zoning, or specific plan area, and the portion of the underground storm drain within the County's jurisdiction is in rural residential zone, where mineral resources are not proposed uses; thus, the SJR3 MDP will not result in the loss of availability of locally-important mineral resource recovery site because improvements would not occur in mineral resource recovery sites.

The City's General Plan Draft EIR states that the no sites have been designated as locally-important mineral resource recovery sites on any local plan. Thus, the City's General Plan Draft EIR concluded no impacts to availability of locally-important mineral resource recovery site would occur for projects in the City's jurisdiction (Perris 2005, VI-28).

The potential future facilities including widening of the PVSD to its ultimate width, terraced channel, terraced funnel, potential fill areas, reclaimed floodplain areas, and a portion of the excavated areas are within the City's jurisdiction. As mentioned above, the City's General Plan Draft EIR concluded no impacts to availability of locally-important mineral resource recovery site would occur for projects in the City's jurisdiction (Perris 2005, VI-28). A portion of the potential excavated areas is within the County's jurisdiction. The County's General Plan Draft EIR states that there are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites (County of Riverside 2015, p. 4.14-18).

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
13.	NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a.	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				
b.	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			$\boxtimes$	
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?			$\boxtimes$	

#### **Noise Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Chapter 7.34 – Noise Control, and Ordinance 847.

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Existing sensitive receptors to the SJR3 MDP and future facilities is the residential neighborhood located approximately 365 feet east of the facilities, along a portion of the proposed low flow channel improvements within the City of Perris. There are also residences located along the PVSD as well.

The proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would involve the temporary and intermittent use of construction equipment for various construction activities. Construction equipment may result in temporary increases above existing noise levels. Neither the SJR3 MDP facilities nor the future facilities result in permanent noise impacts. Subsequent operation and maintenance activities of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are expected to generate infrequent and minor increased noise levels associated with trucks and/or heavy equipment used on an as-needed basis for inspection or maintenance purposes. Furthermore, it should be noted that the District currently maintains the PVSD and portions of the San Jacinto River where construction of the SJR3 MDP and some of the future facilities are proposed. Noise associated with future District maintenance activities will be consistent with the current maintenance activities.

Maintenance activities would be infrequent and involve less equipment than the initial construction of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. County Ordinance 847 Section 2(b) states that capital improvement projects of a governmental agency are exempt from noise regulations; therefore, construction activities related to the armoring of the southern embankment of the Ramona Expressway and a portion of the underground storm drain is exempt from noise regulations. The SJR3 MDP will be owned and operated by a governmental agency (District), and the SJR3 MDP will be a capital improvement project.

Chapter 7.34.060 – Construction Noise of the City's Municipal Code states "It is unlawful for any person between the hours of 7:00 p.m. of any day and 7:00 a.m. of the following day, or on a legal holiday, with the exception of Columbus Day and Washington's birthday, or on Sundays to erect, construct, demolish, excavate, alter or repair any building or structure in such a manner as to create disturbing, excessive or offensive noise." It is anticipated that construction activities for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will occur between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with no construction occurring on Sundays or legal holiday, with the exception of Columbus Day and Washington's birthday, consistent with the City's noise code. Any maintenance activities will also be consistent with the City's noise code.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to noise with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Transportation- and Construction-Induced Vibration Guidance Manual (Caltrans 2004), Chapter 7.34 – Noise Control, and Ordinance 847.

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would involve the temporary and intermittent use of construction equipment for various construction and maintenance activities. Sometimes during construction, vibrational noise may occur from equipment movement. Vibrational noise is a concern when sensitive receptors, such as homes, schools, or hospitals are in proximity to the vibrational sources. Although there are residences located within 400 feet of some of the SJR3 MDP and future facilities, it not expected that vibrational noise would significant affect these areas since they are not directly adjacent to the proposed construction areas. County Ordinance 847 Section 2(b) states that capital improvement projects of a governmental agency are exempt from noise regulations; therefore, construction activities related to the armoring of the southern embankment of the Ramona Expressway and a portion of the underground storm drain are exempt from noise regulations. The SJR3 MDP will be owned and operated by a governmental agency (District), and the SJR3 MDP will be a capital improvement project.

Nonetheless, the SJR3 MDP within the City's jurisdiction will comply with the City's Municipal Code related to noise. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will occur between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, with no construction occurring on Sundays or legal holiday, with the exception of Columbus Day and Washington's birthday, consistent with the City's noise code. No specific regulations are outlined with regards to vibration in the City's noise code. A quantitative analysis regarding potential vibration on nearby residences is discussed below.

The heavier pieces of construction equipment used for the construction and infrequent maintenance activities of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities could include dozers, graders, loaded trucks, and water trucks. Ground-borne vibration information related to construction activities has been collected by Caltrans (Caltrans 2004, p. 14). Information from Caltrans indicates that continuous vibrations with a peak particle velocity of approximately 0.1

inch/second begin to annoy people. An approximate 25-foot distance from construction/maintenance area of the low flow channel and underground storm drain to residences was analyzed. The heavier pieces of construction equipment such as large bulldozers and loaded trucks would have a peak particle velocities of approximately 0.089 or less at a distance of 25 feet (FTA 2006). At these distances and with the anticipated construction equipment, the peak particle velocity would be below 0.1 inches/second to the residences. As such, residences within proximity to the proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are not anticipated to be damaged from the ground vibration created during construction or maintenance activities. Additionally, the greatest sources of ground vibration from construction are associated with pile driving, rock drills, and blasting, none of which are expected during construction of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities.

Impacts related to groundborne vibration with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. Perris Valley Airport (privately owned and operated but open to the public) is located immediately adjacent to the SJR3 MDP and potential future low flow channel improvements and within the potential future fill areas downstream of the I-215 freeway. However, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities within proximity to the airport will include channels and earthen fill, and does not include development that would expose people residing or working within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint to excessive noise levels.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to noise with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
14.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proje	ct:			
a.	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
b.	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				

## **Population and Housing Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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)?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP involves floodplain management. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would not result in changes to the planned growth in the area as outlined by the City's/County's General Plan, Zoning, and/or Specific Plan. Any subsequent development that would occur within the County or City as a result of the build out of the flood control facilities in the SJR3 MDP or future facilities would be subject to their own consistency review related to the planned population growth via the General Plans within their jurisdiction. Therefore because the District is not a land use authority, their plans for master flood control facilities will not substantially induce or change the population growth of the area beyond what the City and County have already planned for.

As such, impacts related to substantial population growth with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**No Impact.** The SJR3 MDP involves floodplain management in an area that is not currently developed. No housing exists within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint. Therefore, implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will not displace housing necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Therefore, no impacts related to displacing housing with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would occur and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
15.	PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a.	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	i. Fire protection?			$\boxtimes$	

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i. Police protection?			$\boxtimes$	
ii. Schools?			$\boxtimes$	
iii. Parks?				
iv. Other public facilities?			$\boxtimes$	

#### **Public Service Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP will not require additional services or extended response times for fire protection services. Once implemented, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities should reduce the need for fire protection services related to flooding because the intent of the SJR3 MDP is to increase flood protection, specifically along major thoroughfares (i.e., I-215 and Ramona Expressway), in the San Jacinto River Valley and Perris Valley areas by confining the 100-year floodplain and thus serve to protect life and property. This in turn could allow for more efficient fire protection services during storm events once the project has been completed.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to fire protection with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

### ii. Police protection?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not include new homes or businesses that will require additional services or extended response times for police protection services.

. Impacts related to police protection with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

## iii. Schools?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not directly involve new housing or employment opportunities that would affect local school enrollment. No

school facilities will be physically impacted by construction and implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities.

Impacts related to schools with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

#### iv. Parks?

Source: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not involve new housing or employment opportunities that would increase the use of existing parks.

Impacts related to parks with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

### v. Other public facilities?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not involve development that would increase the needs of other public facilities.

Impacts related to public facilities with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

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

## **Recreation Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not include new homes or businesses that would increase the use of existing parks or recreational facilities.

Impacts related to parks with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and does not propose recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

Impacts related to recreational facilities with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed further in the forthcoming EIR.

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

## **Transportation and Traffic Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and future facilities will not conflict with the circulation system of the project area; the improvements proposed are within the exiting floodplain and San Jacinto River and are being designed so as not to impede or affect the circulation system Initial Study

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and other modes of transportation of the area. In fact, the SJR3 MDP will alleviate flooding which occurs during high storm events along the local roads, including the I-215 freeway.

Any traffic impacts will be limited to temporary construction traffic and traffic during maintenance activities. The proposed excavated soils from the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be transported via haul trucks on existing dirt roads within the floodplain area or transported via bucket trucks onto adjacent properties. The anticipated roadways that would be used during short-term construction activities are Ethanac Road and Murrieta Road during the transport of excavated soils from the underground storm drain to the adjacent parcels for stockpile of dirt within the floodplain fringe. Any temporary street, lane, bicycle lanes, or sidewalk closures during construction or maintenance activities would be coordinated with the City/County/RCTC/Caltrans to ensure that adverse impacts to traffic flow are less than significant and to ensure safe passage of vehicles and pedestrians and continuity of public transits occur. A traffic control plan would be prepared as part of obtaining encroachment permits from the City, or other applicable public agencies (i.e., County, Caltrans, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC)) for work within public street ROW. Construction workers and other construction-related vehicles traveling to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities may result in a minor increase in traffic volume in the vicinity of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities during the short-term construction and maintenance period. This number of additional commuters on the road would be minor, and therefore this amount of increased traffic would not substantially change existing levels of traffic. Operation and maintenance activities would generally continue to occur in a manner consistent with existing practice.

It should be noted that the approximately 3.1-mile PVSD trail project is proposed along the PVSD Channel extending from Nuevo Road to the South Perris Metrolink at Case Road in the City and is likely to be constructed prior to the initiation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. Portions of the PVSD trail project adjacent to the PVSD low flow channel during the SJR3 MDP and PVSD widening during the potential future facilities could be temporarily closed for public safety until short-term construction/maintenance activities are completed within this area. The traffic control plan that would be prepared for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities which will address any signage, detours including coordination with other transportation projects (i.e., bridges or interchanges done by others) and other measures demonstrating consistency with applicable plans, ordinances, and policies. As such, compliance with the traffic control plan would minimize any short-term impacts to the PVSD trail to less than significant levels.

. Based on the above discussion, impacts related to the circulation system with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

# b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Refer to Response 17.a. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not propose any land use projects and therefore would not result in substantial vehicle miles traveled. The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would result in temporary increases in short-term construction-related traffic and limited maintenance-related traffic, similar to that of existing maintenance operations.

Therefore, at this time, because no specific land development is proposed within the potential fill areas and reclaimed floodplain area since the District does not have land use authority and subsequent CEQA analyses will be required by individual developers as specific development projects are proposed, impacts related to conflicts with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) with implementation of the SJR3 and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities consists of expanding existing drainage facilities primarily within existing ROW or vacant floodplain areas that would not increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. No reconfiguration of roads is expected as a result of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities improvements. Improvements to the Ramona Expressway and flood control facilities are the only public facilities that would be impacted by the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. Once completed, implementation of the SJR3 MDP would improve the San Jacinto River by reducing the potential for flood damage to public roads (i.e., Ramona Expressway, Nuevo Road, I-215 freeway, Case Road, Goetz Road, Ethanac Road) and the need for future flood control facilities within the SJR3 MDP area.

Based on the above discussion, impacts related to an increased hazard due to a geometric design feature with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

## d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**No Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint is located within a 100-year floodplain. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be constructed within the San Jacinto River, PVSD, vacant floodplain areas and a portion of the Ramona Expressway. Emergency access will remain available to emergency responders along Ramona Expressway since the improvements consists of armoring the existing southern embankment of the Ramona Expressway and not within the roadway itself.

Implementation of the SJR3 MDP will improve access and mobility in times of flooding emergencies because critical thoroughfares for the City/County (i.e., I-215 freeway) would no longer experience flooding during a 100-year storm and although Ramona Expressway may experience flooding during a 100-year storm event, the roadway would not be washed out.

Future temporary construction impacts will not significantly interfere or impair traffic flow within the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities footprint. A traffic control plan would be prepared as part of obtaining encroachment permit(s) from the City, County, RCTC, or Caltrans for work within public ROW, including Ramona Expressway. The traffic control plan would ensure that temporary construction activities would not conflict with emergency access, and that adequate detours are planned if needed.

Based on the above discussion, no impacts related to emergency access with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would occur and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

#### **Tribal Cultural Resources Discussion:**

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

a) Listed or eligible for the 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)?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** A Cultural Resources Report will be prepared for the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities and will be summarized in the forthcoming EIR, which will address any potential impacts to resources 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), along with any applicable feasible mitigation measures. Impacts are considered to be potentially significant until it can be fully analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Assembly Bill (AB) 52, signed into law in 2014, amended CEQA and established new requirements for tribal notification and consultation. AB 52 applies to all projects for which a Notice of Preparation or Notice of Intent to adopt a Negative Declaration/Mitigated Negative Declaration is issued after July 1, 2015. AB 52 also broadly defines

a new resource category of tribal cultural resources and established a more robust process for meaningful consultation that includes:

- Prescribed notification and response timelines;
- Consultation on alternatives, resource identification, significance determinations, impact evaluation, and mitigation measures; and
- Documentation of all consultation efforts to support CEQA findings.

AB 52 notification was initiated for the SJR3 MDP as required for a Notice of Preparation and EIR. In accordance with AB 52, the District sent letters of Notice to all Native American tribes on November 5, 2018. Since Tribal consultations are pending by the Lead Agency, the SJR3 MDP may have a potentially significant impact until it can be fully analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Utilities and Service Systems Discussion:** 

The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

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 or expansion of existing facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities do not include the construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities include the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities as well as expansion of existing facilities. The forthcoming EIR will address all of the potentially significant impacts related to construction and expansion of storm water drainage facilities.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities improvements do not involve activities that would require permanent water supplies. Future construction of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will necessitate short-term water use in order to provide for dust control and satisfy air quality regulations. The construction contractor would secure water for this purpose from a permitted source. This would be a temporary water need limited to the duration of construction and is a negligible fraction of the volume of water typically managed by water purveyors.

No new or expanded entitlements would be needed to serve the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. Therefore, impacts related to water supplies with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be discussed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will not generate wastewater. No new wastewater treatment facilities are required as a result of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. However, sewer pipelines may require minor relocation during construction activities. In the event that sewer pipelines require relocation, no service interruption to existing residences and business is expected, but if so, it would be very short-term and proper notification would be given to the property owners.

Therefore, impacts related to wastewater with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further discussed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and City of Perris General Plan Land Use Element (2005, amended 2016).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would only generate a limited amount of solid waste during construction activities and will not require service of a landfill on a long-term basis and thus would not be in excess of State or local standards. Construction waste will be limited to trash generated by construction crews plus minimal debris created during the cleaning phases. Waste (i.e.: debris removal from maintenance activities) from

future operation and maintenance would also be limited. Waste would be transported to Perris Materials Recovery Facility and transported to either the El Sobrante Landfill in Corona or to the Badlands Landfill in Moreno Valley. Given that the construction is temporary and construction of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be done in phases, it is expected that the landfill would sufficiently permit capacity to accommodate the SJR3 MDP's and potential future facilities' solid waste disposal needs.

Therefore, impacts related to sufficient permitted capacity of a landfill with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further discussed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), and City of Perris General Plan Draft EIR (2005).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and therefore is not a use that generates substantial amounts of solid waste. The potential future facilities are mainly drainage improvements and is also not a use that generates substantial amounts of solid waste. Any waste from construction and maintenance activities from the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will be required to comply with all Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations regarding solid waste.

Impacts related to solid waste with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities are considered to be less than significant and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further discussed in the forthcoming EIR.

	ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>20.</b> hazard	<b>WILDFIRE</b> – If located in or near state responsible severity zones, would the project:	oility areas o	or lands clas	ssified as ve	ery high fire
a.	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				
b.	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				$\boxtimes$
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?			$\boxtimes$	
d.	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				

#### Wildfire Discussion:

## The discussion below is related to the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities unless otherwise specified.

According to California Department of Forest and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), the proposed southern portion of the low flow channel and the underground storm drain of the SJR3 MDP and the southern portion of the potential future reclaimed floodplain area are within lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zone. Additionally, as shown on Exhibit S-16 – Wildfire Constraint Areas in the City's General Plan Safety Element, a portion of the low flow channel and underground storm drain, south of Watson Road to Railroad Canyon is within a wildfire hazard area.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Cal Fire (2009) City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and County of Riverside General Plan (2015).

**No Impact.** See discussion to Hazards Threshold 9(f) above. The District does not have an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan because they are not a land use authority. As discussed above, the project will not limit or impede first responders or the City of County from implementing their emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

No impacts related to emergency access with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would occur and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Cal Fire (2009), City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and County of Riverside General Plan (2015).

**No Impact.** The SJR3 MDP and future facilities do not propose structures or components that would create a situation where occupants would be expected to be exposed to wildlife risk or create a spread of wildfire and pollutant concentrations.

No impacts related to exposing project occupants to wildfire would occur as no habitable structures are proposed at this time with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. No mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Cal Fire (2009), City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and County of Riverside General Plan (2015).

Less Than Significant Impact. The SJR3 MDP and future facilities allow for the construction and implementation of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and the potential future facilities are mainly drainage improvements which are not constructed facilities that would exacerbate fire risks. With the implementation of the flood control facilities, the flooding that has been experienced on local roadways would be eliminated during 100-year events and thereby add to the public safety environment. The creation of widened areas of flood control

features could provide additional areas of open space and setbacks which could aid the fight of fires should they occur in the project area.

Impacts related to exacerbating fire risks are considered to be less than significant with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. No mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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?

**Source**: SJR3 MDP, Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A), Cal Fire (2009), City of Perris General Plan Safety Element (2005, amended 2016), and County of Riverside General Plan (2015).

**Less Than Significant Impact.** No habitable structures are proposed for the SJR3 MDP or potential future facilities; thus, the proposed SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. It should be noted that the existing San Jacinto River floodplain is very flat and wide, with an average slope of 0.02%. Given the relatively flat topography in the floodplain, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would not be susceptible to landslides.

The SJR3 MDP is a plan for placement and type of flood control facilities that are needed in order to alleviate flooding issues and the potential future facilities are mainly drainage improvements. Implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities would allow water to continue to flow within the San Jacinto River and the resultant floodplain.

Impacts related to exposing people or structures to significant risks to flooding and landslides are considered to be less than significant with implementation of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities. No mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the forthcoming EIR.

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

**Mandatory Findings of Significance Discussion:** 

The discussion below related to the MDP includes both Phase 1 and Phase 2 elements unless otherwise specified.

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Source: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

Potentially Significant Impact. Based on the evaluation and discussions contained in this Initial Study, the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities have the potential to result in significant impacts to all or some subtopics within the following: agricultural resources, air quality/greenhouse gas emissions, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, energy, hydrology and water quality, land use/planning, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. These environmental concerns will be analyzed in the forthcoming EIR and mitigation will be presented as appropriate. See each impact area within this Initial Study for a specific list of topics that will be addressed in the EIR.

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)?

Source: SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** See Response 21a above. The forthcoming EIR will address the contribution of the SJR3 MDP and potential future facilities to any cumulative impacts previously identified.

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

**Source:** SJR3 MDP and Conceptual Planning Report (Appendix A).

**Potentially Significant Impact.** Based on the analysis of all the above questions, it has been determined that there could be potentially significant effects on human beings. The analysis of the SJR3 MDP's and potential future facilities' on potential environmental effects which can cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, with the potential for feasible mitigation measures, requires additional study and analysis, and therefore is considered potentially significant until it can be analyzed fully in the EIR. This will be analyzed in the forthcoming EIR. See each impact area within this Initial Study for a specific list of topics that will be addressed in the EIR.

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