NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND SCOPING MEETING CITY OF CORONA

Date:	May 20, 2020
Subject:	Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting for the City of Corona 2018 Reclaimed Water Master Plan Program Environmental Impact Report
To:	State Clearinghouse, State Responsible Agencies, State Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, Interested Organizations
Lead Agency/Sponsor:	City of Corona, Public Works Department
Project Title:	Program Environmental Impact Report for the City of Corona 2018 Reclaimed Water Master Plan

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Corona (City) will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the City of Corona 2018 Reclaimed Water Master Plan (project). The City is the lead agency for the project. The purpose of this notice is (1) to serve as a Notice of Preparation of a PEIR pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Section 15082; (2) to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the PEIR to be prepared for the project; and (3) to notice the public scoping meeting.

Consistent with §15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City will prepare a PEIR to address the environmental impacts associated with the project. The project is a long-term plan that will assist the City with meeting its goals for reclaimed water use by recommending the implementation of appropriate projects, programs, and additional studies. The 2018 Reclaimed Water Master Plan and all related CEQA documents can be accessed at the following website: www.CoronaCA.gov/RWMP

Notice of Preparation: The City, as the lead agency, requests that responsible and trustee agencies respond to this notice in a manner that is consistent with Section 15082(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082(c), responsible agencies must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt. Comments in response to this notice must be submitted in writing at the address below at the close of the 30-day Notice of Preparation review period by 5:00 p.m. on June 18, 2020:

Mohammed Ibrahim, PE, Senior Engineer
City of Corona, Public Works Department
400 S. Vicentia Avenue, Suite 210, Corona, California 92882
(951) 739-4840
Mohammed.Ibrahim@CoronaCA.gov

Scoping Meeting: The City will hold a scoping meeting in conjunction with this Notice of Preparation to present the project and the PEIR process and to provide an opportunity for agency representatives and the public to assist the lead agency in determining the scope and content of the environmental analysis for the PEIR. The scoping meeting will be held on-line on June 2, 2020, at 5:00 pm. To attend the meeting visit the City's Website. The public can submit written comments at the following email address: WrittenPublicComments@CoronaCA.gov. The public can provide oral comments during the meeting by emailing OralPublicComments@CoronaCA.gov.

X *mohammed ibrahim*

Mohammed Ibrahim, PE, Senior Engineer

Project Location

As shown on Figure 1, Regional Location, the City is the northwesternmost city in the County of Riverside. It is bordered by the County of Orange to the west, the County of San Bernardino to the north, unincorporated communities in the County of Riverside to the east and south, and the incorporated Cities of Norco, Anaheim, Lake Elsinore, Chino Hills, Eastvale, Riverside, and Yorba Linda. The City is accessed by State Route 91 and Interstate 15. The City provides reclaimed water service to customers within its water service area. The City's water service area is in the western portion of the County of Riverside and includes the City and the unincorporated communities of El Cerrito and Coronita and parts of Temescal Canyon (Figure 2, Service Area Boundary). The City's water service area encompasses approximately 39 square miles.

Project Description

The City is in the process of preparing a PEIR for the project in accordance with CEQA. The last PEIR for the City's 2001 Reclaimed Water Master Plan was prepared in May 2001. Significant changes to the environmental resource topics are not anticipated. However, this updated PEIR will include the latest available developments and modeling. The purpose of the project is to assist the City with meeting its goals for reclaimed water use by recommending the implementation of appropriate projects, programs, and additional studies. The purpose is consistent with the City's larger motivations documented in the City of Corona 2004 General Plan, the City of Corona 2014–2019 Strategic Plan, Ordinance 2854 (Recycled Water Rules and Regulations), and the reclaimed water policy set forth by the City's Department of Water and Power.

Background Information

The City provides reclaimed water service to customers within its water service area. The City's water service area, which encompasses approximately 39 square miles, is in the western portion of the County of Riverside and includes the City and the unincorporated communities of El Cerrito and Coronita and parts of Temescal Canyon. The City is a member of the Western Riverside County Regional Wastewater Authority (WRCRWA), which operates a new wastewater reclamation facility in the City of Eastvale. The WRCRWA is a future source of reclaimed water for the City. The project recognizes the implications of the WRCRWA on the City's reclaimed water system, specifically the shift in location of one source of supply from Water Reclamation Facility 3 to the WRCRWA plant. Projects that support the transmission and distribution of reclaimed water from the WRCRWA were prioritized to take full advantage of this new source.

The project is guided by pending state legislation that would dictate the future of direct potable reuse (DPR) of reclaimed water. DPR involves the introduction of reclaimed water into the potable water system or the raw water supply of a potable water treatment facility. The state DPR policy will provide guidance on the level of treatment and safety precautions required to convert reclaimed water into potable water. DPR is anticipated to impact long-term planning of reclaimed water supply statewide; however, specific implications for the City are uncertain. Once the state DPR policy is finalized, the City will compare the feasibility of DPR to the feasibility of expanding the reclaimed water distribution system as an alternative for maximizing reclaimed water supply. The project examines the reclaimed water distribution system performance and expansion but defers expansion projects until the City determines the most effective use of its reclaimed water resources.

Based on the study area for the project, existing reclaimed water supply is provided by three City-owned and operated water reclamation facilities and two non-potable wells. The average annual production from these sources is approximately 11.35 million gallons per day. Supply of reclaimed water is anticipated to incrementally increase by an additional 0.88 million gallons per day (7.8 percent) through 2040 due to population growth. When the WRCRWA is fully implemented, the level of production will stay the same. However, the location of supply sources will shift north, and the City will have access to additional supply from the WRCRWA.

The primary demand for reclaimed water is irrigation. The reclaimed water system serves the irrigation demands of 26 City parks, 17 schools, and numerous City, commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential common area landscaping. A small amount of reclaimed water serves industrial dual plumbing (e.g., toilet flushing), sewer flushing, street sweeping, replenishment of cooling water, replenishment of recreational impoundment, firefighting training, and construction needs (e.g., dust control and soil compaction). The existing reclaimed water distribution system is relatively young, having been built within the last 10 years. The primary system components include 3 storage tanks with a combined capacity of 7 million gallons, 6 pumping facilities, 8 control valve stations, 54.5 miles of pipelines, and 331 permanent meters.

To meet the supply and demand needs of the City, the improvements proposed in the project are evaluated based on their economic, technical, and financial feasibility. Overall, the goals for implementing the WRCRWA are to (1) receive and use the City's full allocation of reclaimed water from the WRCRWA, and (2) to decommission Reclaimed Water Facility 3. Intermediate steps must be taken to achieve these goals, including improvements to the reclaimed water transmission system between the

WRCRWA and customers in the southern part of the water service area and improvements to the wastewater collection system between sewer customers in the southern part of the sewer shed and the water reclamation facilities in the northern part.

Successful implementation of the project would provide operational, economic, and financial opportunities, such as the reduction of demand spikes from parks, landscape management districts, and school districts, that would result in improved system performance. Other economic opportunities include the conversion of demand from potable water to reclaimed water, which would create an advantage for both the customer and the City. The result would be a decrease in the commodity rate of reclaimed water, which would allow reclaimed water to become a feasible alternative for customers, and the City would benefit from a higher net value for reclaimed water supply. Financial opportunities include the feasibility of project funding. A portion of qualifying expenses may be funded by the State Water Resources Control Board, which would make available grants and low interest loans. Other portions of the project may be funded by the Metropolitan Water District, which offers an incentive for the conversion of potable water demand to reclaimed water demand at a rate of $975 per acre-foot per year. Finally, the City may negotiate with developers on a case-by-case basis to fund a portion of the reclaimed water system.

To be successfully implemented, the project identified 33 projects that were evaluated, prioritized, and scheduled. These projects were split into four recommendations categories: (1) improvements surrounding the WRCRWA, (2) improvements to add demand, (3) enhancements to data collection, and (4) additional studies (Figure 3, Future Reclaimed Water System Projects). There are six projects involving future supply from the WRCRWA that are necessary to accommodate the shift in supply away from Water Reclamation Facility 3 to the WRCRWA. These projects focus on transmission and system performance.

In the future, the City may choose to allocate a portion of its reclaimed water supply to DPR. At this time, the viability of DPR is uncertain because legislation is pending. After the state has created the policy, the City will assess the economic and financial benefits of DPR and compare them to the benefits of expanding the reclaimed water distribution system to deliver non-potable water to customers. Improvements to add demand are in two categories: (1) conversion of adjacent demands and (2) distribution pipelines.

Two projects are recommended to enhance data collection. The City has an extensive automation system for its water facilities called Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system is used primarily for operational control and management of the City's water, wastewater, and reclaimed water assets. Enhancements to the supply management system and the irrigation monitoring system will provide insight on resource and demand management.

Two additional studies related to future uses of reclaimed water are recommended: (1) a study to monitor the County of Riverside's irrigation ordinance and (2) an injection well study. The City recently adopted the County of Riverside's Ordinance 859.3 regarding water-efficient landscape requirements for new construction and retrofit and the establishment of water budgets. The study to monitor the County of Riverside's irrigation ordinance would review the results of and monitoring requirements for implementation of the ordinance, which is anticipated to produce changes in irrigation behavior, demand, and parcel-level compliance calculations. The injection well study would consist of the use of strategically placed injections that should improve the groundwater recovery rate and increase detention time in the aquifer. The injection well study would review possible well locations and quantify the benefits over time.

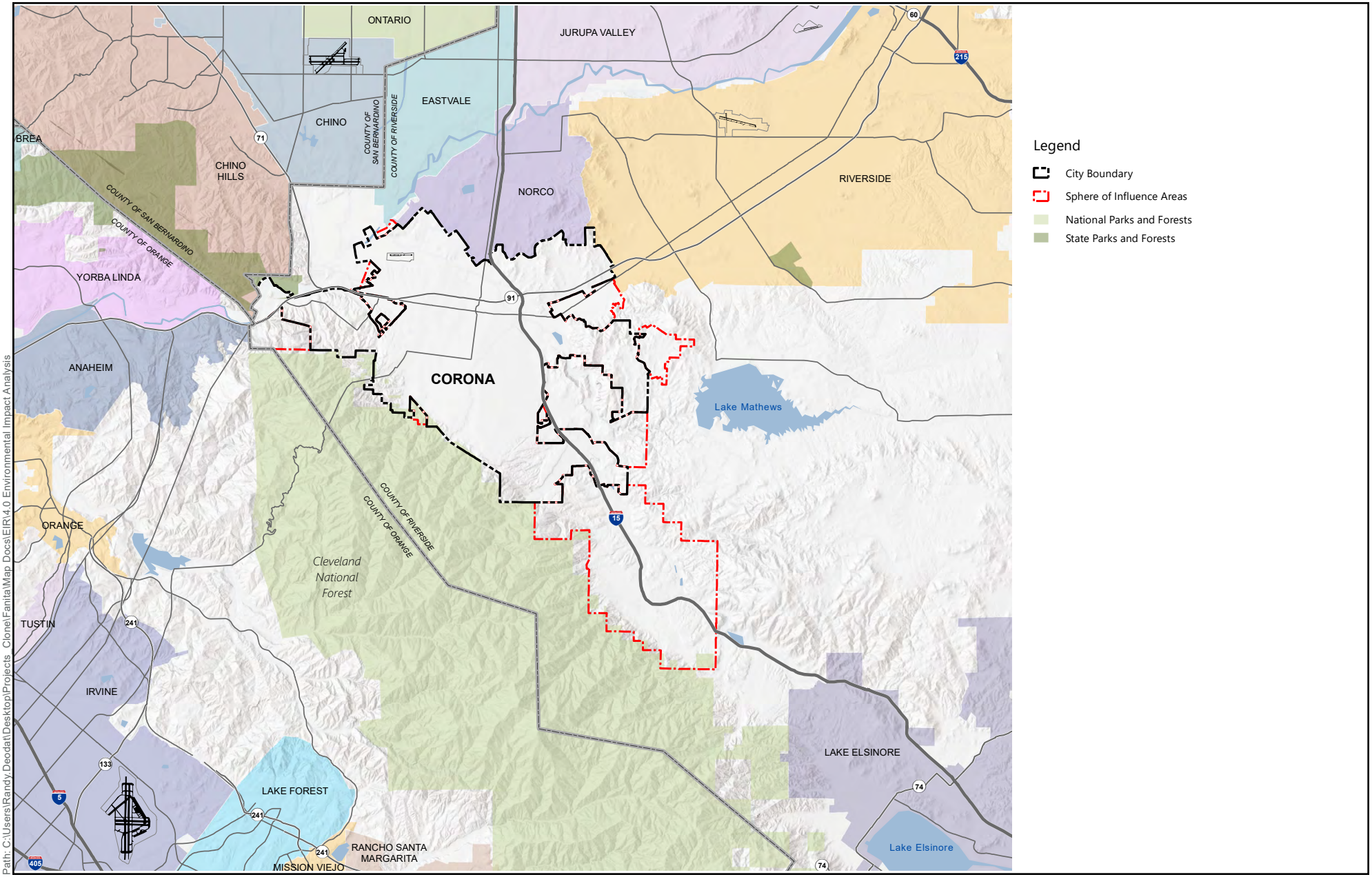
Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The project could potentially affect the following environmental factors, each of which will be addressed in the PEIR:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Wildfire

Attachments

Figure 1, Regional Location
Figure 2, Service Area Boundary
Figure 3, Future Reclaimed Water System Projects



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Source: City of Corona 2018.

Harris & Associates

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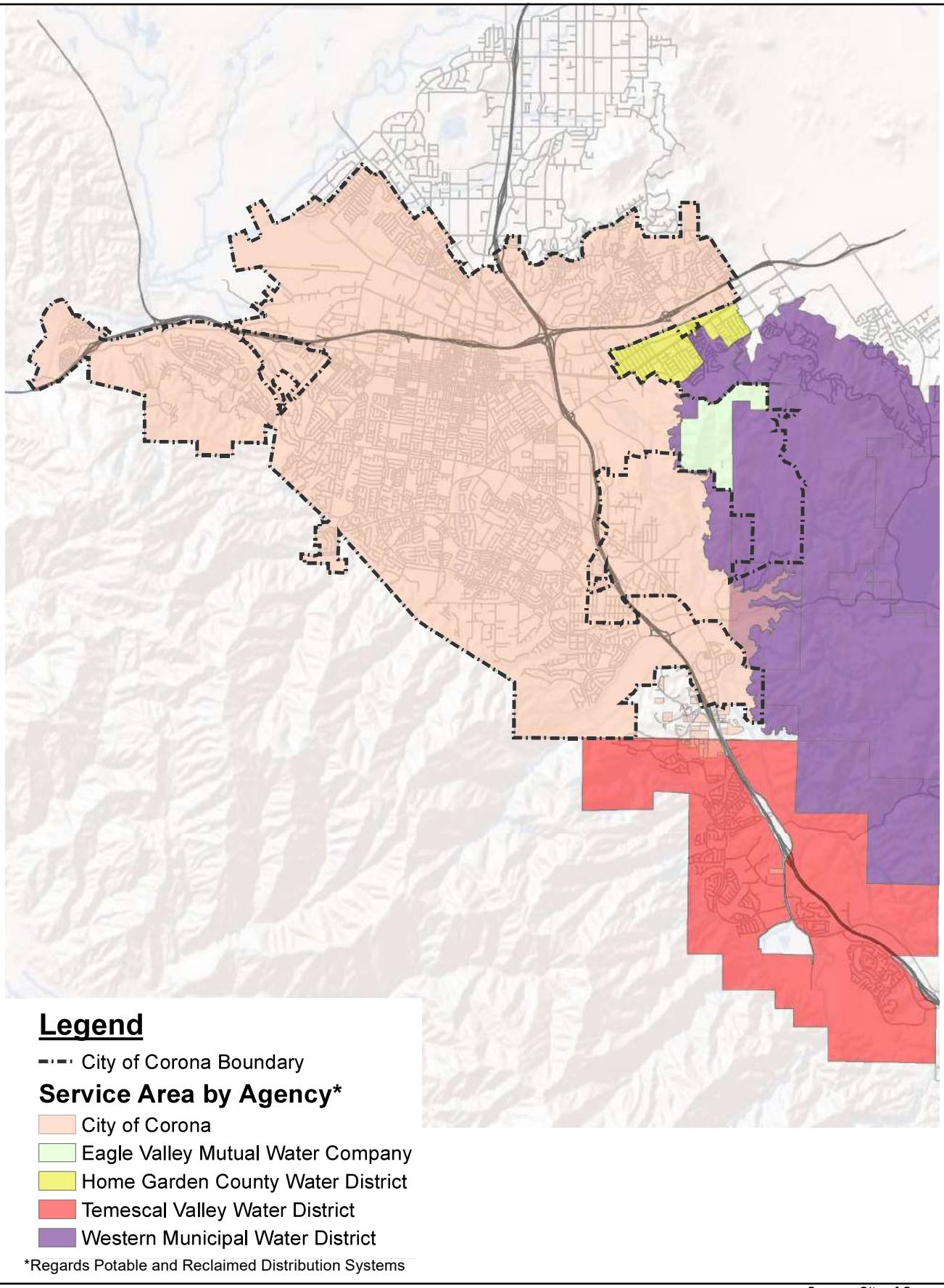
Figure 1

Regional Location

City of Corona 2018 Reclaimed Water Master Plan



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Source: City of Corona 2018.

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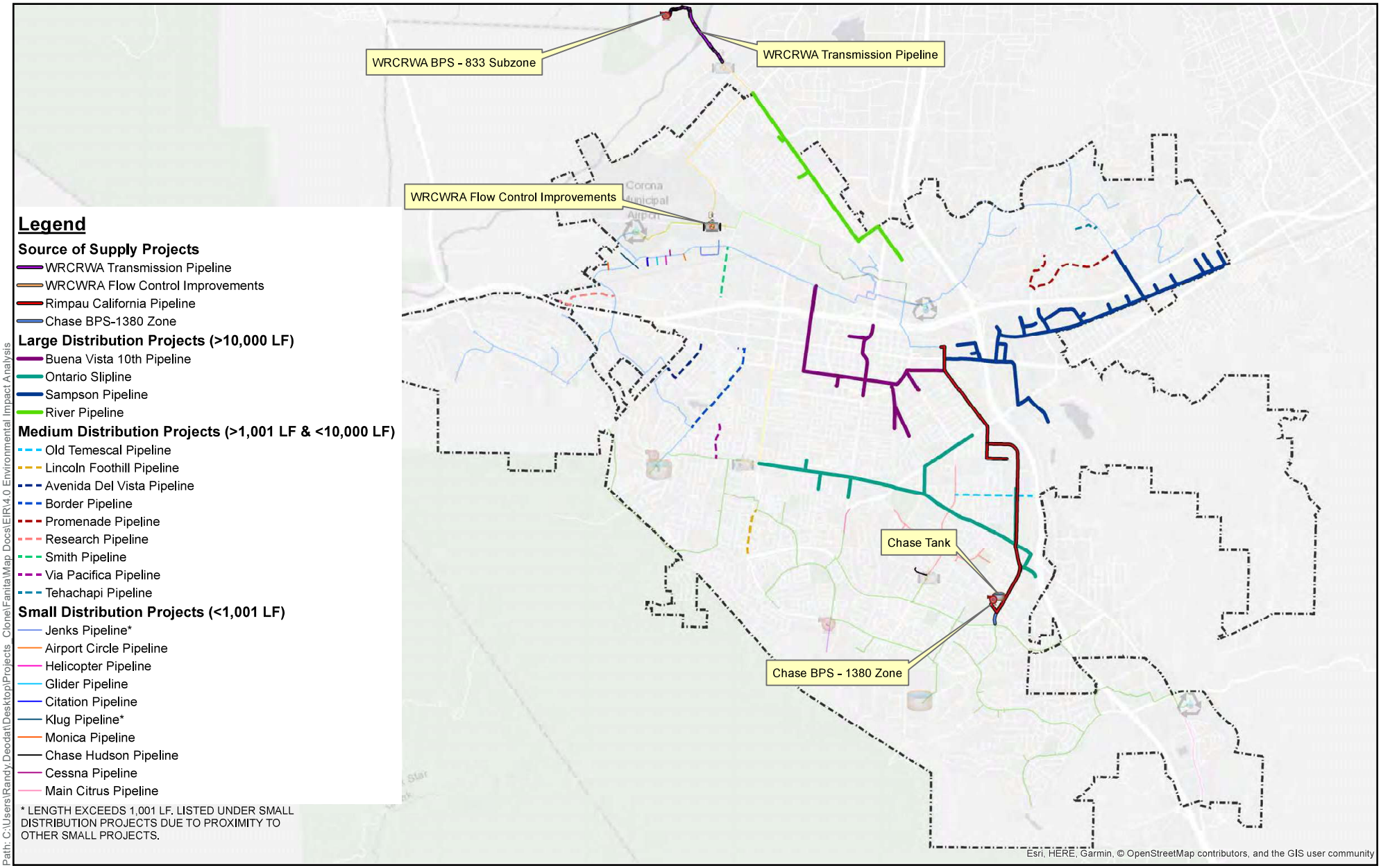
Figure 2

Service Area Boundary



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Source: City of Corona 2018.

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Figure 3

Future Reclaimed Water System Projects

City of Corona 2018 Reclaimed Water Master Plan