

Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared For:

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

for the Deane Tank Site Expansion Project



Westlake Village Office
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January 2021

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water or SCVWA) prepared this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Initial Study (IS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Deane Tank Expansion Project (proposed Project).

The SCVWA was created January 1, 2018, by an act of the State Legislature (SB 634) through the merger of the three water agencies in the Santa Clarita Valley and serves a population of 273,000 through 70,000 retail water connections. The merger included Castaic Lake Water Agency and its Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, and the Valencia Water Company. The Castaic Lake Water Agency was formed as a wholesale water agency to acquire, treat, and deliver State Water Project water supply throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. The Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD), Newhall County Water District, and the Valencia Water Company were the retail water purveyors. The SCV Water service area has a population of 273,000 and covers approximately 195 square miles or 124,000 acres. Population at build-out is estimated to be 420,000. SCV Water also provides wholesale water to Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36.

The SCWD prepared the 2013 Water Master Plan Update to direct future infrastructure plans within the SCWD's service area.¹ The 2013 Water Master Plan Update was developed based on build-out population estimates and water demand needs for the City of Santa Clarita (City) and unincorporated portions of Los Angeles County within the SCWD service area. Documents prepared prior to January 1st, 2018, were created by prior water agencies and retailers before the formation of the SCVWA.

1.2 AUTHORITY

As part of the SCVWA's approval process, the Project is required to undergo an environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The preparation of an IS and MND is governed by CEQA² and, more specifically, the State *CEQA Guidelines*,³ which guide the process for the preparation of an IS and negative declaration (ND) or MND. Where appropriate and supportive to an understanding of the issues, reference will be made to the statute, the State *CEQA Guidelines*, or the appropriate case law.

1 Santa Clarita Water Division. *Overview of Santa Clarita Water Division*. Accessed October 2020.

https://scvhistory.com/scvhistory/files/clwa_scwd_2012/clwa_scwd_2012.pdf

2 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15000, et seq., State CEQA Guidelines.

3 California Code of Regulations, sec. 15000, et seq.

This IS, as required by CEQA, contains a project description; a description of the environmental setting; an analysis of potential environmental impacts; mitigation measures for any significant effects; an evaluation of the proposed Project's consistency with applicable plans and policies; and the names of preparers.

SCVWA is the lead agency for the proposed Project as defined by CEQA, with the primary responsibility for carrying out and approving a project within its jurisdiction. As the lead agency, SCVWA is required to conduct an environmental review to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project described in this IS. An MND is prepared for a project when the IS has identified mitigation measures required to reduced potentially significant effects on the environment to less than significant effects. If the proposed Project is found to have a less than significant or no impact to an environmental topic, the IS will show that no substantial evidence indicates the proposed Project will have a significant impact on that resource.

1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The content and format of this Initial Study are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA. The IS/MND consists of the proposed findings that the project, as mitigated, would have no significant impacts. The IS/MND contains the following sections and supporting studies:

- **Section 1.0: Introduction** identifies the purpose and scope of the IS/MND and the terminology used in the report.
- **Section 2.0: Project Description** identifies the location, background, and planning objectives of the proposed Project in detail.
- **Section 3.0: Environmental Setting** describes the existing conditions, surrounding land use, general plan, and existing zoning in the Project area.
- **Section 4.0: Environmental Checklist** presents the checklist responses and evaluation for each resource topic.
- **Section 5.0: Environmental Analysis** includes an analysis for each resource topic and identifies potential impacts of implementing the Project. It also identifies mitigation measures, if applicable.
- **Section 6.0: References** identifies all printed references and individuals cited in this IS/MND.
- **Section 7.0: List of Preparers** identifies the individuals who prepared this report and their areas of technical specialty.
- Appendices present data supporting the analysis or contents of this IS/MND. These include:
 - **Appendix A: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Modeling Results**
 - **Appendix B: Biological Resource Survey Report**

- **Appendix C: Cultural Resource Report**
- **Appendix D: Energy Calculations**
- **Appendix E: Geologic and Soils Report**
- **Appendix F: Noise Measurement Data**
- **Appendix G: AB 52 Consultation Letters**

1.4 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT IS/MND

CEQA requires that the lead agency provide the public and agencies the opportunity to review and comment on a Draft IS/MND. As outlined by CEQA, the SCVWA is providing a 30-day period for review and comment on the Draft IS/MND. Upon completion of the public and agency review period, the SCVWA, as lead agency, will evaluate comments on environmental issues received from persons who reviewed the Draft IS/MND and prepare written responses. The SCVWA will include these comments and responses in a Final MND along with any changes that will be reviewed and considered for adoption by the SCVWA Board of Directors.

Interested individuals, organizations, responsible agencies, and other agencies can provide written comments to:

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
26501 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
Contact: Rick Vasilopoulos, Water Resources Planner

Comments may also be sent by facsimile to (661) 705-7912, by email to rvasilopoulos@scvwa.org, or by mail to the address below. Please put “Deane Tank Site Expansion Project” in the subject line. Agency responses should include the name of a contact person within the commenting agency.

The Draft IS/MND is available for review at the following location:

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, California 91350

In addition, the Draft IS/MND is available on the SCVWA website:

<https://yourscvwater.com/document-library/>

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT HISTORY

The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water or SCVWA's) is planning to design and build additional water storage capacity to address an existing deficiency in potable water storage in the Deane Pressure Zone within the SCVWA's Santa Clarita Water Division region (proposed Project). The SCVWA operates two existing one-million-gallon potable water tanks on the Deane Zone hilltop site located in the Canyon Country area of the City of Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County, as shown in **Figure 2-1: Project Location Map**. The tanks were constructed around 1984 and provide water storage for wildfire, local operation, residential use, and emergency purposes that serve the areas within the Deane Pressure Zone.

A *Site Planning Summary Report* has been prepared for the proposed Project which addresses the existing storage deficiency.⁴ According to the *2013 Water Master Plan*, the Deane Pressure Zone has a deficiency in storage of approximately 4.22 million gallons (MG). There are two large new developments within the existing Deane Pressure Zone that require additional storage over and above the existing storage deficiency. The new developments will increase the water storage deficiency to 5.74MG.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed Project would be located on the Deane Zone hilltop site (Project Site) within Accessor Parcel Number (APN) 2839-002-902, which is west of Winterdale Drive and south of Sierra Highway. The rectangular APN parcel is approximately 6.7 acres in size, with access to the existing water tank site provided through a paved roadway located west of Winterdale Drive near the intersection of Nearview Drive. **Figure 2-2: Project Site Plan** provides an aerial view of the Project Site.

2.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the proposed Project is to provide additional water storage capacity for fire protection, emergency and operational needs at the Deane Pressure Zone, which is deficient in storage by 4.22 MG, as of 2013. New developments within the Deane Pressure Zone will increase the existing deficiency to 5.74 MG. New developments within the Deane Pressure Zone include the Skyline Ranch development, which requires an additional 0.87 MG of water demand, and the Sand Canyon Plaza development, which requires 0.65 MG of water demand. The proposed Project includes the construction of a new steel water storage tank with approximately 1.70 MG of storage capacity to address the recent developments.

4 Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, *Site Planning Study: New 1.7 MG Reservoir at Existing Deane Tank Site*, September 2020.

The new steel water storage tank proposed at the Project Site would be approximately 100 feet in diameter, constructed with 29 feet⁵ operation water depth, with the capacity to store approximately 1.70 MG of potable water for the Deane Pressure Zone. The water supply for the new steel tank would be delivered from two existing pump stations located north of the site on Sierra Highway- the Linda Vista Pump Station and Honey House Pump Station and an existing 14-inch line that is located along the access road. The two pump stations and 14-inch water line currently supply water to the existing tanks at the Project Site and would be connected to the newly constructed water storage tank at project completion. As shown in **Figure 2-2**, the proposed steel water storage tank is located south by southwest of the existing tanks.

As part of the proposed Project, other infrastructure-related components include: the installation of new underground water piping and electrical lines and the relocation of existing utilities; a 20 foot wide asphalt paved access road adjacent to each tank; a new drainage system around the proposed steel water storage tank and along the access roadway; retaining walls; and an extra fill pad to assist with balancing earthwork on site. An optional access road may be constructed north of the Project Site that would connect the Project Site to the College of Canyons property to the north and downslope of the hilltop.

Existing on-site utilities would remain operational during construction to keep the existing tanks in service. The existing water storage tanks, along with the new steel water storage tank to be constructed, would be supported by the delivery of water through a 14-inch water pipeline from the pump stations and electrical conduit located below the access driveway. Proposed drainage improvements at the tank site would include the removal of an existing catch basin and drain line. The existing drain line runs from the catch basin down the north-facing slope to a point above an existing terrace drain. The existing drainage patterns of the slope would not be changed by the removal of the drain line. The existing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system would be modified to accept input from the new tank mixer, the seismic isolation valve, and limit switches that provide intrusion alarm notification on the tank hatches.

5 The actual tank will be 32 feet to match the height of the existing tanks, and depth of water within tank would be 29 feet.

SOURCE: Meridian Consultants, LLC - 2020

FIGURE 2-1



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2020

FIGURE 2-2

Upon completion of the construction phase, the existing access road to the tank site would be repaved. New easements may be required for additional access area along the proposed roadway improvements.

The optional access road would be approximately 20-feet wide within the maximum disturbance area identified in **Figure 2-2**. The optional access road would consist of asphalt pavement over compacted base would be constructed along the north facing slope commencing at the existing fire access road within the College of the Canyons campus and connecting to the existing access road, just east of the existing water storage tanks. The north facing slope would be graded to provide a 20-foot wide pathway at a 20 percent maximum longitudinal gradient. Cut/fill slopes, along with required benches and terrace drains, would be constructed, as necessary. It is estimated that approximately 30,000 cubic yards of earthwork would be generated for the construction of the optional access road.

Construction

Construction would take approximately 12 months from March 2022 to February 2023. Construction activities would include grading, excavation, installation of utilities, and construction of new retaining walls and steel water storage tank. The Project would involve hill-top grading to create a pad for the new tank and access roads around the new and existing tanks (see **Figure 2-2**). The existing hilltop would be graded down by approximately 18 feet in order to maintain consistent floor elevation on site with the existing tanks. Approximately 8,000 to 10,000 cubic yards of soil would be removed and reused on-site at the fill pad, west of the proposed steel water storage tank. Retaining walls would be constructed on the southeastern and northeastern side of the proposed tank along the Project Site perimeter.

Temporary excavations would be required during grading to construct the proposed retaining walls. Site preparation would include removal of all vegetation, debris, and existing uncertified fill within disturbance areas. Approximately 9,000 cubic yards of soil may be exported from the site. Existing utilities on site would remain operational during the construction of the new steel water storage tank. Existing utilities would be removed and new drainage, water and electrical pipes would be constructed after the steel water storage tank is substantially completed.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction equipment would need to be stored at the end of each day. A construction staging area has been identified adjacent to the existing tank area (See **Figure 2-2**). SCVWA will comply with the City's construction noise ordinance⁶ and limit construction activities to hours between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM on Saturday within 300 feet of residentially zoned properties. No work may be performed on the following public holidays: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day. Construction equipment would include, but is not limited to, a backhoe, two trenchers, two off-highway

⁶ City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code, Section 11.44.080.

trucks, and traffic control measures including delineators, signs, and flaggers. Operation-related trips would generate up to 15 vehicle trips per week for the proposed tank infrastructure.

2.4 OTHER PUBLIC AGENCY REQUIRED APPROVALS

The proposed Project would include the construction of a new water storage tank and associated infrastructure. Construction and permanent easements are necessary to properly implement the goals for the proposed Project. Other permits that would be required for the proposed Project, but could be the contractor's responsibility, are General Construction Storm Water Permit from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, City Traffic Control Permit, and Trenching and Excavation Permit from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health.

The following approvals and actions are required:

- Adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Project Site is located in the City of Santa Clarita (City). The Santa Clarita Valley is surrounded by the Angeles National Forest to the north and west, the San Gabriel Mountains to the east, and the Santa Susana Mountains to the south.

The Project Site is situated approximately half a mile north of the State Route (SR) 14 and a half mile west of Sand Canyon Road on top of an existing hillside adjacent to the existing water tanks.

3.1.1 Project Site

Access to the gated site is provided through an existing paved driveway off Winterdale Drive. Drainage at the site is currently collected in a catch basin and conveyed through a 14-inch steel pipe that is aligned from the tank site down the slope on the north side of the site. A catch basin is located at the bottom of the slope collects the on-site stormwater and any overflow or drain water from the tanks. The catch basin is connected to a 30-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) storm drain in Winterdale Drive with a 12-inch private drain lateral.

The proposed Project Site currently contains two 1 million-gallon (MG) tanks constructed around 1984, which store potable water for water users within the Deane Pressure Zone. The existing steel tanks are 73 feet in diameter and 32 feet in height. The roof structures are conical. Based on review of the *proposed Project Site Planning Summary Report*, the tanks are not constructed on a concrete ring footing. Each tank has a circumferential steel retaining ring located approximately 1 foot outside the tank finish floor. The existing tanks are set at a floor elevation of 1964 feet above mean sea level and have an overflow elevation of 1992 feet, which is the maximum flow under pressure of the Deane Pressure Zone.

3.1.2 Surrounding Land Uses

The surrounding land uses are residential to the east, west, and south.⁷ This area is zoned for Open Space (OS) and Urban Residential 1 (UR1) for residential developments under 2 dwelling units per acre.⁸ The land use designation to the north is commercial/industrial, single-family residential, and vacant land. This area is zoned for OS, Corridor Plan Mixed Use (CP), and Community Commercial (CC). The California

7 Los Angeles County Office of the Assessor, *Property Assessment Information System*. http://maps.assessor.lacounty.gov/GVH_2_2/Index.html?configBase=http://maps.assessor.lacounty.gov/Geocortex/Essentials/REST/sites/PAIS/viewers/PAIS_hv/virtualdirectory/Resources/Config/Default. Accessed October 15, 2020.

8 City of Santa Clarita, Zoning Map. November 2016. <https://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6970>. Accessed October 15, 2020.

Government Code exempts the development of water and wastewater infrastructure projects initiated by water agencies from County and City building and zoning ordinances.⁹

3.2 APPLICABLE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

3.2.1 City of Santa Clarita General Plan

The City's *General Plan* provides procedures for future growth within the City, emphasizing the preservation of natural resources. The *General Plan* policies and goals serve as a basis for local decision making, and establishes a clear set of development guidelines for citizens, developers, neighboring jurisdictions and agencies, and provides the community with an opportunity to participate in the planning process. The *General Plan* and its various elements are required to function as an integrated, internally consistent, and compatible statement of policies regarding land use and development.

3.2.2 Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has the responsibility for the management of air quality in the South Coast Air Basin. The most recent adopted comprehensive plan is the *2016 Air Quality Management Plan* (AQMP). The 2016 AQMP represents a regional blueprint for achieving healthful air on behalf of the 16 million residents of the South Coast Air Basin. Their primary task is to bring the South Coast Air Basin into attainment with federal health-based standards for unhealthful fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) by 2014; however, the SCAQMD has a reasonable expectation of meeting the 2023 ozone deadline. The 2016 AQMP proposed attainment of the federal 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard by 2014 in the South Coast Air Basin through adoption of all feasible measures. While the 2016 AQMP focused on attainment of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard, it has since been determined, primarily due to unexpected drought conditions, that it was impracticable to meet the standard by the original attainment year.¹⁰ Since that time, the USEPA has approved a reclassification to "serious" nonattainment for the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard, which requires a new attainment demonstration with a new attainment deadline.

The AQMP addresses several State and federal planning requirements, incorporating new scientific information, primarily in the form of updated emissions inventories, ambient measurements, and new meteorological air quality models. It builds upon the approaches taken in the 2012 AQMP for the South Coast Air Basin for attainment of federal PM and ozone standards, and highlights the significant amount of reductions needed and the urgent need to engage in interagency coordinated planning to identify

⁹ California Government Code. Section 53091(d) and €.

¹⁰ South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan*, March 2017.

additional strategies, especially in the area of mobile sources, to meet all federal criteria pollutant standards within the timeframes allowed under the federal Clean Air Act.¹¹

3.2.3 Santa Clarita Water Division, 2013 Water Master Plan Update

The 2013 *Water Master Plan Update* (WMP). The WMP is intended to provide comprehensive analysis of the SCWD distribution system. Recommendations for capital improvements were made from the perspective of the historical data and the contemporary planning framework available and adopted at the time of the preparation of the document.¹²

3.2.4 2015 Urban Water Management Plan

An *Urban Water Management Plan* (UWMP) guides the actions of water management agencies within the CLWA service area. The 2015 UWMP for the CLWA service area includes four retail water purveyors. These retail water purveyors are the SCWD, Newhall County Water District, Valencia Water Company, and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 36. Together, CLWA and the purveyors are the Santa Clarita Valley's "water suppliers." The 2015 UWMP includes estimates of potential supply and demand for 2020 to 2050 in five-year increments. The projected water demand in 2050 for the CLWA service area is approximately 93,900 acre-feet per year with plumbing code savings and active conservation to 122,700 acre-feet per year without plumbing code savings or active conservation.

11 South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan*, March 2017.

12 Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD) *Water Master Plan Update (WMP)*, (2013).

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.1 SUMMARY

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines,¹³ an Initial Study is a preliminary environmental analysis that is used by the lead agency as a basis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a Mitigated Negative Declaration, or a Negative Declaration is required for a project. The State CEQA Guidelines require that an Initial Study contain a project description; a location map; a description of the environmental setting; an identification of environmental effects by checklist or other similar form; an explanation of environmental effects; a discussion of mitigation for potentially significant environmental effects; an evaluation of the project's consistency with existing, applicable land use controls; and the names of persons who prepared the study. In addition, the Initial Study includes additional environmental requirements in compliance with federal environmental laws.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

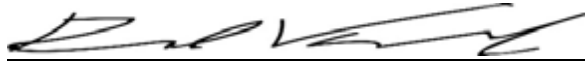
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

¹³ California Code of Regulations, tit. 14, sec. 15063.

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and is eligible for a Categorical Exemption.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.



Signature

January 4, 2021

Date

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section provides an evaluation of the various topics considered for environmental review.

A brief explanation for the determination of significance is provided for all impact determinations except “No Impact” determinations that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Agency (Santa Clarita Water Division) cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” determination is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the Project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” determination includes an explanation of its bases relative to project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

Explanations 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.

Once the Lead Agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist indicates 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.

“Mitigated 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.

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering of a program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

- 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 Measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

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.

Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

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 significance.

5.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS – Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less than Significant Impact.

Scenic resources typically include natural open spaces, topographic formations, and landscapes that contribute to a high level of visual quality. They also can include parks, trails, nature preserves, sculpture gardens, and similar features.¹⁴ Currently, the Project Site is located on a hilltop and is developed with two water storage tanks, associated infrastructure, and an access road. An existing berm currently separates the residential neighborhood from the Project Site and is located east of the proposed water storage tank location. The berm partially obstructs views of the existing water storage tanks. As shown in **Figure 5-1: Viewpoint Key Map**, **Figure 5-2: Viewpoint 1**, and **Figure 5-3: Viewpoint 2**, the Project Site is partially visible from the surrounding residential area to the south, west, and east and from the commercial area to the north.

The Project would involve construction of a new 1.70 MG water storage tank that would be 100 feet in diameter, approximately 32 feet in height, and painted a neutral earth tone color and non-reflective material consistent with the existing water storage tanks. Additionally, there is an existing berm between the existing water storage tanks and the neighboring residential area that would minimize adverse views of the hilltop, as shown in **Figure 5-1** through **Figure 5-3**. Retaining walls would be included to stabilize the

¹⁴ City of Santa Clarita General Plan. Conservation and Open Space Element, June 2011, Accessed December 2020. <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/6%20-%20Conservation%20and%20Open%20Space%20Element.pdf>.

access driveway around the proposed tank, existing water storage tanks, and along the access driveway to preserve the existing ridge top along the driveway. Therefore, the addition of the new water storage tank would be of similar height, location, and color as the existing water storage tanks, would be designed to blend into the surrounding landscape, and would not obstruct existing scenic views across the Project Site. Additionally, the elevations of the surrounding mountains would remain to provide a scenic backdrop to the City residents without detriment from development of the proposed water tank.¹⁵

The Project would also involve utilities and pipelines within the existing access road to the tank site. The utilities, including electric lines and pipelines, would be located underground and would have no long-term visual impacts.

Construction of the optional access road would be located north of the Project Site and would connect the Project Site to the College of Canyons property to the north and downslope of the hilltop. Construction of the access road would be short term, constructed into the downslope of the hillside, and below the ridgeline. Thus, long-term views of scenic vistas from the north to the Project Site would not be obstructed and would not result in an adverse effect on a scenic vista. Construction equipment would be stored at the staging area overnight and would not block or obstruct views across the Project Site.

Therefore, impacts to scenic vistas would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?

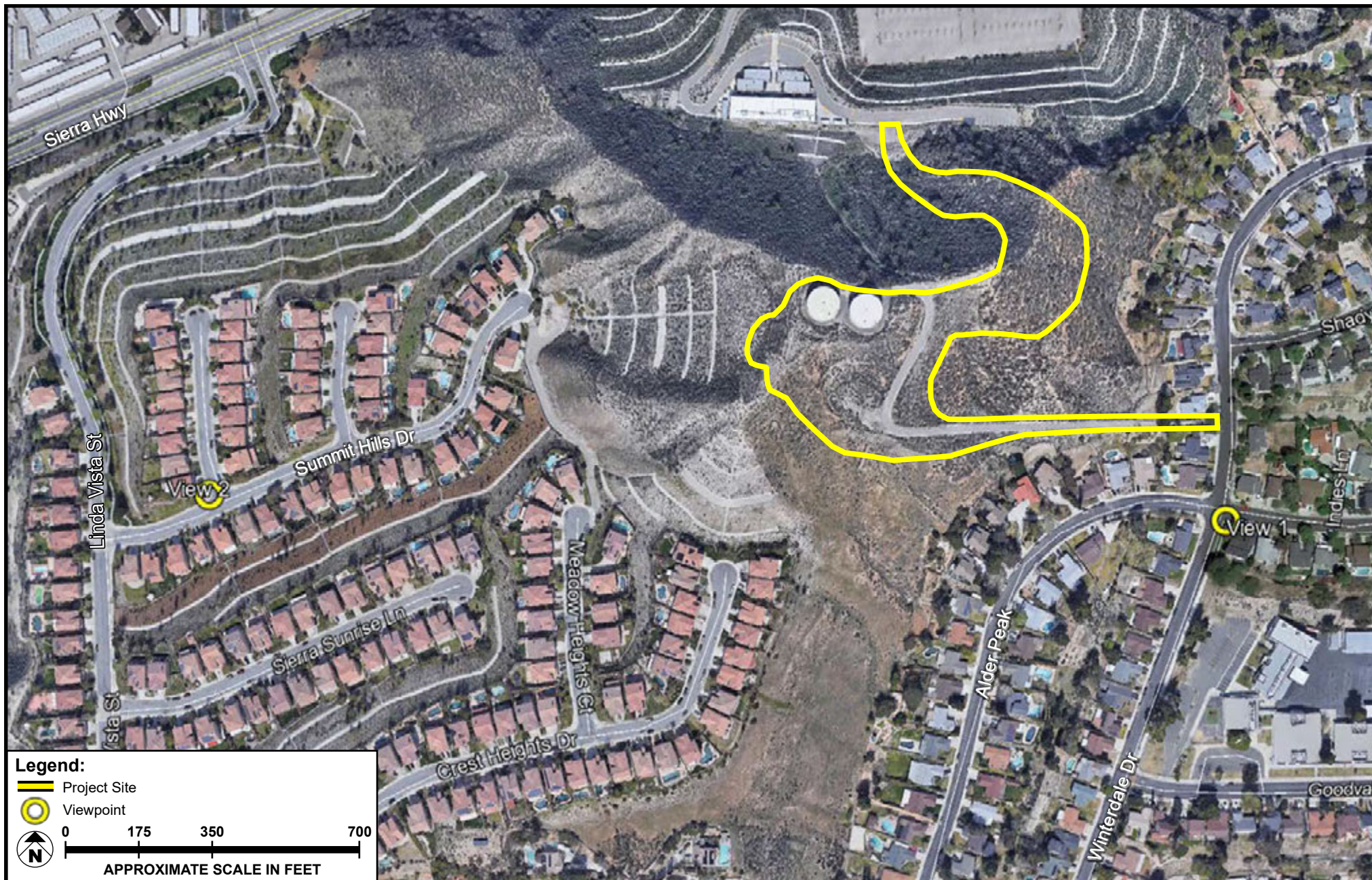
No Impact.

The nearest scenic highway or eligible scenic highway to the Project Site is Interstate 5 (I-5) which is classified as an “Eligible Scenic Highway-Not Officially Designated” located approximately 10 miles away from the Project Site. Construction and development of the proposed Project would not be visible from the I-5 and, as such, would not impact trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a State scenic highway.¹⁶ Therefore, no impacts to scenic resources within a scenic highway would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

¹⁵ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, “Appendix II: Maps, Hillside and Designated Ridgelines,” Exhibit CO-1, (2012).

¹⁶ Department of Transportation (DOT), “California Scenic Highway Mapping System,” http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm. Accessed October 2020.



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2020

FIGURE 5-1



Looking westerly from intersection of Winterdale Drive and Alder Peak



Conceptual Approximation of Proposed View

SOURCE: Meridian Consultants, LLC - 2020

FIGURE 5-2



Looking easterly from intersection of Summit Hills Drive and Crystal Heights Court



Conceptual Approximation of Proposed View

SOURCE: Meridian Consultants, LLC - 2020

FIGURE 5-3

c. *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

Less Than Significant Impact.

As previously discussed, the Project Site is located on a hilltop with two existing water storage tanks, associated infrastructure, and access road. The proposed tank would be of similar height, color, materials, and dimension as the two existing water storage tanks, as shown in **Figure 5-1** and **Figure 5-2**. As previously mentioned, the existing berm located between the Project Site and neighboring area would minimize view across the hilltop where the water storage tanks are located.

Additionally, utilities including electrical, storm drainage and water piping would be located below ground, and connect to new piping on site. There would also be an access road located to the north of the Project Site that would provide a secondary emergency access to the tank Project site from the College of the Canyons Campus.

Construction activities would last approximately 12 months, and as such, would be temporary and short term in nature. Storage of construction equipment would be located adjacent to the existing water storage tanks. Consistent with existing operations, the Project Site would be gated and locked when not in use. The storage of equipment would not obstruct or block views of scenic resources including views of surrounding hillsides as the staging area is located in a less visible area east of the access road, near the back of the hill. Thus, implementation of the Project would not result in substantial degradation to the existing visual character and its surroundings.

Therefore, impacts to the existing visual characteristic and quality of the site and surroundings would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. *Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

Glare is generated during the day from reflective surfaces. Light pollution occurs when nighttime views of the stars and sky are diminished by an over-abundance of light coming from the ground. Construction activities would take place during daylight hours, in accordance with the City's construction noise ordinance,¹⁷ between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM on

¹⁷ City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code, Section 11.44.080.

Saturday within 300 feet of residentially zoned properties. Given the location of the Project Site, potential glare generated during construction activities would be negligible because location is on private property away from the street. The proposed tank would include non-reflective paint coating—consistent with the existing water storage tanks—that would minimize off-site glare. Utilities associated with the tank, such as electric and piping, would be located underground and would not be visible or capable of creating a new source of light or glare. Therefore, glare impacts would be less than significant.

Construction activities could potentially occur during nighttime hours. In the event of nighttime construction, the Project would have nighttime lighting for safety and security. Any temporary lighting must be installed and directed onto the worksite and avoid any spill-over light or glare onto adjacent properties as proposed in **Mitigation Measure (MM) AES-1**. Upon completion of the proposed Project, there would be on-site lighting with a timer to be used for emergency maintenance or site visits during night hours.

Permanent on-site operational lighting would be installed with a timer. Nighttime lighting design of the proposed steel water storage tank would be consistent with the existing water storage tanks and would be directed towards the Project Site for safety and security purposes. Therefore, impacts from operational lighting would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

MM AES-1: Any necessary security lighting during construction of planned facilities shall be designed to be consistent with City zoning codes and applicable design guidelines and to minimize light to adjacent areas. Construction activities shall be restricted to daytime hours on residential streets. If nighttime construction is required, temporary lighting must be directed onto the worksite and avoid any spill-over light or glare onto adjacent properties.

Therefore, nighttime lighting impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – 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 nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code 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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- 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 nonagricultural use?***

No Impact.

The Project Site consists of two water storage tanks, associated infrastructure, and an access road, and as such, is not currently used for agricultural operations. According to the California Department of Conservation “Los Angeles County Important Farmland” 2016 map, the Project Site is designated as “Urban and Built-Up Land” or “Other Land.”¹⁸ None of the Project Site is designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance. Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

¹⁸ Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. 2017. *Los Angeles County Important Farmland 2016*. Accessed October 2020. <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/LosAngeles.aspx>.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

No Impact.

As discussed in **Section 3.0: Environmental Setting**, the Project Site is not currently used for agricultural operations and is zoned for Open Space (OS) and Urban Residential 1 (UR1). Additionally, the proposed Project is not subject to a Williamson Act contract.¹⁹ Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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))?*

No Impact.

The Project area is not currently designated as, or located near land designated for, forest, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.²⁰ As described in **Section 3.0**, the existing zoning surrounding the Project Site is vacant land. The Project Site is zoned for Open Space (OS) and Urban Residential 1 (UR1) for residential developments under 2 dwelling units per acre.²¹ The land use designation to the north is commercial/industrial, single-family residential, and vacant land. This area is zoned for OS, Corridor Plan Mixed Use (CP), and Community Commercial (CC). Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

19 California Department of Conservation (DOC), Division of Land Resource Protection, State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Statewide Map, (2012), ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/wa/2012%20Statewide%20Map/WA_2012_11x17.pdf. Accessed November 2015.

20 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, "Appendix II: Maps, Generalized Land Use and Limited H5 Districts, Exhibit L-2," (2012).

21 City of Santa Clarita, "Zoning Map." November 2016. <https://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showdocument?id=6970>. Accessed October 15, 2020.

d. *Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?*

No Impact.

As previously discussed, the Project Site is not located within a forest area and does not contain any trees. The construction staging area and all construction activities would occur within the Project Site. Thus, none of the proposed construction activities would result in the loss of forestland or in the conversion of forestland to non-forest use.²²

According to the National Forest Locator Map, the closest National Forest is the Angeles National Forest, but, no part of the proposed Project itself is located within any National Forests.²³ Accordingly, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?*

No Impact.

As previously noted, the Project Site is not designated as either farmland or forestland and does not involve farming or forestry operations. Furthermore, there are no agriculture or forestry operations in the vicinity of the Project Site. Therefore, no such land would be converted, and no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

²² Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, "Appendix II: Maps, Generalized Land Use and Limited H5 Districts," Exhibit L-2, (2012).

²³ US National Forest, "Locator Map," (2020), <http://www.fs.fed.us/locatormap/>. Accessed October 2020.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

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

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) adopted an updated air quality management plan (AQMP) in March 2017.²⁴ The Final 2016 AQMP was prepared to comply with the federal and State Clean Air Acts and amendments; accommodate growth; reduce pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin, hereinafter referred to as Basin; meet federal and State air quality standards; and minimize the fiscal impact of pollution control measures on the local economy. It builds on approaches in the previous AQMP to achieve attainment of the federal ozone air quality standard. These planning efforts have substantially decreased exposure to unhealthy levels of pollutants, even while substantial population growth has occurred within the Basin. Projects that are considered to be consistent with the AQMP would not interfere with attainment because this growth is included in the projections utilized in the formulation of the AQMP. Therefore, projects, uses, and activities that are consistent with the applicable assumption used in the development of the AQMP would not jeopardize attainment of the air quality levels identified in the AQMP, even if they exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily emissions thresholds.

²⁴ South Coast Air Quality Management District, Final 2016 Air Quality Management Plan, March 2017.

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has the responsibility for preparing and approving the portions of the AQMP relating to regional demographic projections and integrated regional land use, housing, employment, and transportation programs, measures, and strategies. With regard to air quality planning, SCAG has prepared and adopted the 2020 – 2045 RTP/SCS,²⁵ which includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy that addresses regional development and growth forecasts. Determining whether or not a project exceeds SCAG's growth forecasts involves the evaluation of the following: (1) consistency with applicable population, housing, and employment growth projections; (2) project Mitigation Measures; and (3) appropriate incorporation of AQMP land use planning strategies.

A project is consistent with the AQMP, in part, if it is consistent with the population, housing, and employment assumptions that were used in the development of the AQMP. The Project does not include any land uses that would increase population, employment, or housing projections. The Project would only supplement existing shortage in water supply. Thus, the Project would not induce an increase in population, employment, or housing, and the Project would not conflict with growth projections used in the development of the AQMP.

Additionally, the Basin is currently designated as nonattainment at the federal level for ozone and PM_{2.5}; and at the State level for ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. SCAQMD developed regional emissions thresholds to determine whether a project would contribute to air pollutant violations. If a project exceeds the regional air pollutant thresholds, then it would significantly contribute to air quality violations in the Basin. As discussed further in **Table 5.3-1: Maximum Construction Emissions** below, temporary emissions associated with construction of the Project would fall below regional thresholds and impacts would be less than significant. Additionally, as discussed further in **Table 5.3-2: Maximum Operational Emissions** below, long-term emissions associated with Project operation would not exceed SCAQMD's emission thresholds. As such, the Project would not conflict with the growth assumptions in the regional air plan and would not contribute to air quality violations in the Air Basin. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

25 Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Connect SoCal: 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies Draft, "Chapter 1," <https://www.connectsocial.org/Pages/Connect-SoCal-Draft-Plan.aspx>, Accessed November 2020.

b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?

Less Than Significant Impact.

A significant impact could occur if the Project would add a considerable cumulative contribution to Federal or State nonattainment pollutants. The Basin is currently in State nonattainment for ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}.²⁶ In regard to determining the significance of the Project contribution, the SCAQMD neither recommends quantified analyses of construction and/or operational emissions from multiple related projects nor provides methodologies or thresholds of significance to be used to assess the cumulative emissions generated by multiple cumulative projects. Instead, the SCAQMD recommends that a project's potential contribution to cumulative impacts be assessed utilizing the same significance criteria as those for project-specific impacts. Furthermore, SCAQMD states that "projects that do not exceed the project-specific thresholds are generally not considered to be cumulatively significant."²⁷ Therefore, if a project generates less than significant construction or operational emissions, then the project would not generate a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions for those pollutants for which the Basin is in nonattainment.

Construction

With respect to the Project's construction-period air quality emissions and cumulative Basin-wide conditions, the SCAQMD has developed strategies (e.g., SCAQMD Rule 403) to reduce criteria pollutant emissions outlined in the AQMP pursuant to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). As such, the Project would comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 requirements and implement all feasible Mitigation Measures to reduce potential impacts related to particulate matter and fugitive dust. In addition, the Project would comply with adopted AQMP emissions control measures as described below. Per SCAQMD rules and mandates as well as the CEQA requirement that significant impacts be mitigated to the extent feasible, these same requirements (i.e., SCAQMD Rule 403 compliance, the implementation of all feasible Mitigation Measures, and compliance with adopted AQMP emissions control measures) would also be imposed on construction projects Basin-wide, where applicable.

According to the SCAQMD, individual construction projects that exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily thresholds for project-specific impacts would cause a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions for those pollutants for which the Basin is in nonattainment. Construction of the Project has the potential to

26 California Air Resources Board (CARB), "Area Designation Maps/State and National," <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>.

27 South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), White Paper on Potential Control Strategies to Address Cumulative Impacts from Air Pollution (2003), Appendix A.

create air quality impacts through the use of heavy-duty construction equipment and through vehicle trips generated from construction workers to and from the Project Site. In addition, fugitive dust emissions would result from demolition and construction activities. NO_x emissions would result from the use of off-road construction equipment. Paving and the application of architectural coatings (e.g. paints) would potentially release VOCs.

Construction emissions were estimated according to the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook and construction emission factors contained in the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) (See **Appendix A**). The emission calculations assume the use of standard construction practices, such as compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403—Fugitive Dust, which requires all unpaved demolition and construction areas to be wetted at least three times a day during excavation and construction to minimize the generation of fugitive dust.

The results presented in **Table 5.3-1** are compared to the SCAQMD-established construction significance thresholds. It is important to note, emissions presented in **Table 5.3-1** include regulatory compliance measures such as construction equipment controls (Tier 3 emissions standards with Level 3 DPF) and control efficiency of PM₁₀ (dust control measures). As shown in **Table 5.3-1**, the construction emissions would not exceed the regional VOC, NO_x, CO, SO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} concentration thresholds. As such, construction impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-1
Maximum Construction Emissions

Source			VOC	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
			pounds/day					
Maximum			7	33	25	<1	5	2
SCAQMD	Mass	Daily	75	100	550	150	150	55
Threshold								
Threshold exceeded?			No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod.

Notes:

CO = carbon monoxide; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; SO_x = sulfur oxides; VOC = volatile organic compounds.

Refer to **Appendix A** for CalEEMod Output Sheets.

Operation

Operational activities associated with the Project would result in long-term emissions from area and mobile sources. As the Project only includes the operation of a water storage tank, it would not generate air quality emissions associated with energy (natural gas) consumption. Area-source emissions would

include architectural coating reapplications and are based on consumer product usage rates provided in CalEEMod. Mobile source emissions would include vehicle trips traveling to and from the Project Site for general inspection and maintenance activities. The results presented in **Table 5.3-2** are compared to the SCAQMD-established operational significance thresholds. As shown in **Table 5.3-2**, the operational emissions would not exceed the regional VOC, NO_x, CO, SO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} concentration thresholds. As such, operational impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-2
Maximum Operational Emissions

Source	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM 2.5
	pounds/day					
Area	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Energy	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Mobile	<1	<1	2	<1	1	<1
Total	<1	<1	2	<1	1	<1
SCAQMD Mass Daily Threshold	55	55	550	150	150	55
Threshold exceeded?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod.

Notes: Totals in table may not appear to add exactly due to rounding in the computer model calculations.

CO = carbon monoxide; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; SO_x = sulfur oxides; VOC = volatile organic compounds.

Refer to **Appendix A** for *CalEEMod Output Sheets*.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

c. *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Less than Significant Impact.

The SCAQMD devised the Localized Significance Threshold (LST) methodology²⁸ to assess the potential air quality impacts that would result in the near vicinity of the Project.

Receptors sensitive to air pollution include, but are not limited to, residences, schools, hospitals, and convalescent facilities. The nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the Project Site include residential uses to the west, east, and south, and the Mitchell Community Elementary School use to the south.

28 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Final Localized Threshold Methodology, July 2008.
<http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/localized-significance-thresholds/final-lst-methodology-document.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

The LST methodology considers emissions generated from on-site sources and excludes emissions from off-site vehicular traffic. The SCAQMD provides mass rate lookup tables as a screening tool to determine the likelihood of localized impacts from Project construction and operation. Ambient conditions for the Santa Clarita Valley, as recorded in SRA 13 by the SCAQMD, were used for ambient conditions in determining appropriate threshold levels. Thresholds for each criteria pollutant for construction activity and Project operation were assumed for a disturbance area of 3.73 acres. The LST mass rate look-up tables are applicable to NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} emissions.

Construction

The results of the construction LST analysis is provided in **Table 5.3-3: Localized Construction Emissions**. It is important to note, construction would be required to comply with the SCAQMD's Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust), which requires watering of the Project Site during dust-generating construction activities, stabilizing disturbed areas with water or chemical stabilizers, and preventing track-out dust from construction vehicles, thus further reducing construction-related emissions. Additionally, these estimates assume the maximum area that would be disturbed during construction on any given day during Project buildout. As shown in **Table 5.3-3**, emissions would not exceed the localized significance thresholds for construction. As emissions would be below SCAQMD localized thresholds, impacts to the sensitive receptors identified above from localized emissions during construction would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-3
Localized Construction Emissions

Source	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
	On-Site Emissions (pounds/day)			
Total maximum emissions	18	25	3	2
LST threshold	208	1,315	9	5
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	No	No

Notes:

Totals in table may not appear to add exactly due to rounding in the computer model calculations.

CO = carbon monoxide; NO_x = nitrogen oxide; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns.

*Refer to **Appendix A** for CalEEMod Output Sheets.*

Operation

Local emissions from Project operation would include area sources. As the Project only includes the operation of a water storage tank, it would not generate air quality emissions associated with energy (natural gas) consumption. Area-source emissions would include architectural coating reapplications and are based on consumer product usage rates provided in CalEEMod. The results of the operational LST analysis are provided in **Table 5.3-4: Localized Operational Emissions**. As shown in **Table 5.3-4**, emissions

would not exceed the localized significance thresholds for operation. Therefore, localized operational impacts to the sensitive receptors located around the Project Site would be less than significant.

Table 5.3-4
Localized Operational Emissions

Source	NOx	CO	PM10	PM2.5
	On-Site Emissions (pounds/day)			
Project area emissions	<1	<1	<1	<1
LST threshold	147	1,641	3	2
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	No	No

Notes:

Totals in table may not appear to add exactly due to rounding in the computer model calculations.

CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxide; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns.

*Refer to **Appendix A** for CalEEMod Output Sheets.*

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

Less than Significant Impact.

During construction, activities associated with the operation of construction equipment, the application of asphalt, and the application of architectural coatings and other interior and exterior finishes may produce discernible odors typical of most construction sites. Although these odors could be a source of nuisance to adjacent residences, they are temporary and intermittent in nature. As construction-related emissions dissipate, the odors associated with these emissions would also decrease, dilute and become unnoticeable. As such, construction impacts would be less than significant.

According to the SCAQMD, “while almost any source may emit objectionable odors, some land uses would be more likely to produce odors...because of their operation.”²⁹ Land uses that are more likely to produce objectionable odors include agriculture, chemical plants, composting operations, dairies, fiberglass molding, landfills, refineries, rendering plants, rail yards, and wastewater treatment plants. Operation of the Project includes a stationary water storage tank and would not contain any active manufacturing activities. Therefore, operational impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

29 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning, May 2005, 2-2.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion

- 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?***

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

“Special Animals” or “special status species” is a broad term used to refer to all the animal taxa tracked by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), regardless of their legal or protection status.³⁰ Special-status species include those listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA), species otherwise given certain designations by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and plant species listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

A biological assessment for the Project was completed to determine the presence or absence of any sensitive biological resource (see **Appendix B**).³¹ Standard database searches were conducted prior to the survey of the Project area, including that of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). A reconnaissance survey was conducted in September 2020 as part of the biological assessment and covered the Deane Zone hilltop site, west of Winterdale Drive and south of Sierra Highway. The only special status wildlife species observed during the reconnaissance survey was of coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*). Coastal whiptail is a fairly common species in sage scrub habitats. This species is highly mobile with ample foraging habitat immediately adjacent to the Project Site in the surrounding undeveloped slopes, as it is expected to move into the adjacent undeveloped habitat. However, to ensure no coastal whiptail would be impacted during Project related construction activities, a pre-construction clearance survey shall be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities to ensure no coastal whiptail would be impacted, as identified in **Mitigation Measure MM BIO-1**.

No other special-status plants or animal species were observed during the survey of the Maximum Disturbance Area (See **Figure 2-2**). Therefore, all other special-status plant species known to occur in the area are presumed to be absent from the Project Site.³² Further, it was determined that the Project Site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the other special-status wildlife species known to occur in the vicinity of the Project Site.

Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of on-site habitats, it was determined that the Project Site has a moderate potential to provide suitable habitat for Cooper’s hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), and a low potential to provide suitable habitat for California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*).

30 California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Special Animals List, November 2020. Accessed November 2020. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109406&inline>

31 ELMT Consultants, Habitat Assessment for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency’s Proposed Deane Tank Site Expansion Project, November 2020.

32 ELMT Consultants, Habitat Assessment for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency’s Proposed Deane Tank Site Expansion Project, November 2020.

With the exception of California gnatcatcher, a federally Threatened species, no other species are federally, or State-listed, as endangered or threatened. The coastal sage scrub plant community along the northern boundary of the Project Site provides marginally suitable foraging habitat for California gnatcatcher. However, due to damage from recent wildfires, this area supports mainly weedy/early successional plant species and perennials that are still recovering from being burned. As such, available vegetation is primarily low growing and nesting opportunities for California gnatcatcher are absent at the Project Site. Additionally, the coastal sage scrub plant community is isolated from occupied sage scrub habitats in the region by surrounding development, and the site is above the maximal elevational range for California gnatcatcher, further precluding California gnatcatcher from the Project Site. As a result, it was determined that California gnatcatcher has a low potential to occur on site and are presumed absent from the Project Site.

The Project Site provides suitable foraging habitat for a variety of bird species known to occur within the region.

Suitable bird nesting habitat is present along the Project Site. Nesting birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MTBA) and the California Department of Fish and Game Code and could be impacted by Project activities when construction occurs near nesting areas during the nesting season (February through August). Due to the proximity of Project construction activities in relation to the identified species above, the Project would have a potentially significant impact on these identified species.

Further, implementation of **MM BIO-2**, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted prior to ground disturbance, which would ensure impacts to Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, California horned lark, would be mitigated to less than significant. With implementation of the pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey, impacts to the aforementioned species would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following Mitigation Measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

BIO-1 A pre-construction coastal whiptail survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 3 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities. The survey shall include full coverage of the proposed disturbance limits and a 500- foot buffer, and can be performed concurrently with the nesting bird survey if during February 1 through August 31. Any coastal whiptail observed during the pre-construction survey shall be relocated to a suitable area within the adjacent habitat and outside of the construction zone.

BIO-2 If construction occurs between February 1st and August 31st, a pre-construction clearance survey for nesting birds shall be conducted within three (3) days of the start of any vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during construction. The biologist conducting the clearance survey shall document a negative survey with a brief letter report indicating that no impacts to active avian nests will occur. If an active avian nest is discovered during the pre-construction clearance survey, construction activities shall stay outside of a no-disturbance buffer. The size of the no-disturbance buffer shall be determined by the wildlife biologist and shall depend on the level of noise and/or surrounding anthropogenic disturbances, line of sight between the nest and the construction activity, type and duration of construction activity, ambient noise, species habituation, and topographical barriers. These factors will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis when developing buffer distances. Limits of construction to avoid an active nest shall be established in the field with flagging, fencing, or other appropriate barriers; and construction personnel shall be instructed on the sensitivity of nest areas. A biological monitor shall be present to delineate the boundaries of the buffer area and to monitor the active nest to ensure that nesting behavior is not adversely affected by the construction activity. Once the young have fledged and left the nest, or the nest otherwise becomes inactive under natural conditions, construction activities within the buffer area can occur.

Since there is ample habitat for coastal whiptail immediately adjacent to the Project footprint, and with implementation of a pre-construction clearance survey as identified in **MM BIO-1**, impacts to this species would be less than significant with mitigation.

If construction activities occur outside of the breeding season (February through August), then potential impacts on sensitive bird species would be less than significant. If construction activities occur during the breeding season, implementation of **MM BIO-2** would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

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 US Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less than Significant Impact.

Riparian habitats line the banks of rivers, streams, creeks, and ponds and consist of a variety of vegetation types.³³ These habitats preserve water quality by filtering sediment and some pollutants from runoff before it enters the water body, protect stream banks from erosion, provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife, and preserve open space and aesthetic values.

The Project Site is separated from Santa Clara River, approximately 0.7 miles to the southeast, by existing development and roadways and there are no riparian corridors or creeks connecting the Project Site to this area.³⁴ Furthermore, no discernible drainage courses, inundated areas, or wetland features/obligate plant species that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW were observed within the Project Site.

Four (4) special-status plant communities have been reported in the Mint Canyon USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle: Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, Southern Riparian Scrub, Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland, and Southern Willow Scrub; none of which were observed on-site. Therefore, no special-status plant communities will be impacted by project implementation.

Therefore, there would be no impact to riparian habitats or other sensitive natural community along the length of the Project Site and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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?*

Less than Significant Impact.

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The Corps Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredge or fill materials into “waters of the United States” pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and

³³ Santa Valley Clarita Area Plan, *Biological Resources*, 2012.

³⁴ ELMT Consultants, Habitat Assessment for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency’s Proposed Deane Tank Site Expansion Project, November 2020.

Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and bank under Fish and Wildlife Code Sections 1600 et seq., and the Regional Board regulates discharges into surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

The USFWS NWI and the USGS National Hydrography Dataset were reviewed to determine if any blueline streams or riverine resources have been documented within or immediately surrounding the Project Site. Based on this review, no riverine resources were identified on the Project Site. Two (2) riverine resources were identified approximately 0.31 miles northwest and 0.6 mile east of the site, and the Santa Clara River was identified approximately 0.70 miles southeast of the Project Site.³⁵ However, the riverine resources identified do not show any seasonally wet areas, federally protected streams or wetlands or other water bodies on or adjacent to the Project location.³⁶ Within the Santa Clara River, the NWI has mapped riverine, freshwater emergent wetlands, and freshwater forested/shrub wetlands.

No discernible drainage courses, inundated areas, or wetland features/obligate plant species that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW were observed within the Project Site.

Therefore, no impacts to wetlands would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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?

Less than Significant Impact.

Habitat linkages provide connections between larger habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species yet still inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are features that allow for the dispersal, seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging of a variety of wildlife species. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

35 ELMT Consultants, Habitat Assessment for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's Proposed Deane Tank Site Expansion Project, November 2020.

36 US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), *National Wetlands Mapper*, 2020, Accessed November 2020. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>.

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, the Project Site has not been identified as occurring within a wildlife corridor or linkage. However, Santa Clara River, which flows through Soledad Canyon, approximately 0.70 miles south of the site, is recognized wildlife migratory corridor and has been designated by Los Angeles County as a Significant Ecological Area.³⁷ The Project Site is separated from Santa Clara River by existing development and roadways and there are no riparian corridors or creeks connecting the Project Site to this area. Therefore, the Project Site does not function as a major wildlife movement corridor or linkage. As such, implementation of the Project is not expected to have a significant impact to wildlife movement opportunities or prevent local wildlife movement through the area.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

No Impact.

Water storage tank construction and staging activities would not result in the removal of any trees. The Project Site is not located within a significant ecological area.³⁸ The Project would not interfere or conflict with any local policies or ordinances in protecting biological resources. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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?

No Impact.

The Project Site does not lie within the boundaries of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. In addition, the Natural River Management Plan (NRMP) for the Santa Clara River was approved by the USACE to plan for the development and preservation of the natural resources and habitats along part of the main stem of the river to one-half mile east of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Aqueduct. The Project Site is located approximately 0.70 miles north of the Santa Clara River and is outside the NRMP area. No impacts would occur to the Project Site.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

37 ELMT Consultants, Habitat Assessment for the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency's Proposed Deane Tank Site Expansion Project, November 2020.

38 Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element, 2012, 146 and Figure CO-5.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in section 15064.5?

Less than Significant Impact.

In October 2020, a *Cultural Resources Assessment of the Deane Tank Site Expansion Project located in the City of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California* (Cultural Resources Assessment) was prepared for the proposed Project (see **Appendix C**). This investigation is part of the environmental review process required under CEQA for the proposed Project. The purpose of this study was to assess whether any cultural resources would be affected by the implementation of the proposed Project in accordance with CEQA.

A “historical resource” under CEQA, as defined by California Public Resources Code (PRC) Part 5020.1(j) is any object, building, site, area, place, record, or manuscript that is historically or archaeologically significant, or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California. Guidelines for CEQA further define a “historical resource” as any resource listed in or determined eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the Lead Agency. Additionally, a resource would be automatically listed in the California Register if it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places or formally determined eligible by an agency for listing in the National Register. State CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(a) defines a “historical resource” as a resource that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register)
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined at Cal. Public Res. Code § 5020.1(k))

- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements of § 5024.1(g) of the Cal. Public Res. Code
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14(3), § 15064.5(a))

The eligibility criteria for the California Register are similar to those of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and a resource that meets one of more of the eligibility criteria of the National Register will be eligible for the California Register. Criteria for Designation:

- Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the U.S.
- Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history.
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.
- Has yielded or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

A records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) at California State University, Fullerton was conducted to identify historic and archeological resources within 1 mile of the proposed Project (refer to **Appendix C**). This search included a review was conducted of the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), and documents and inventories from the California Office of Historic Preservation including the lists of California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, Listing of National Register Properties, and the Built Environment Resource Directory (BERD). The search also located relevant reports of previous cultural resource investigations within the search area of the Project Site.

The records search resulted in the identification of five previously recorded cultural resource studies within 1 mile of the Project Site and resulted in the recording of two cultural resources (both isolated prehistoric artifacts) within one-half mile of the Project Site. One of the previous studies assessed a portion of the Project Site for cultural resources but did not identify any cultural resources within the proposed Project boundaries.

A field survey of the Project Site was performed on October 2020.³⁹ As such, the Project Site was examined for any evidence of prehistoric or historic (i.e. greater than 50 years) human activities. No previously recorded archaeological or historic resources, such as features or objects greater than 50 years of age, were observed within the Project Site during site reconnaissance. The records search data combined with

39 BCR Consulting LLC. *Cultural Resources Assessment: Deane Tank Site Expansion Project*. October 30, 2020.

the field survey results have indicated that there are no cultural resources (including prehistoric or historic-period archaeological sites or historic buildings) within or adjacent to the Project Site. Further, a prior study which assessed a portion of the Project Site did not identify any cultural resources and conditions would not indicate sensitivity for buried cultural resources. Therefore, no adverse impact to historic resources would occur and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to section 15064.5?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

A Cultural Resources Assessment (see **Appendix C**) for the Project Site was performed to determine the presence of archaeological resources that may be impacted as a result of proposed Project implementation. As part of the Cultural Resources Assessment, a records search and a pedestrian survey was performed of the Project Site. As discussed in **Section 3.0**, the Project Site has been subject to construction and grading activities related to the existing water storage tanks and site access to the water storage tanks. The Cultural Resources Assessment did not identify any archaeological resources within the proposed Project Site, given the disturbance of the Project Site and the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites within 1 mile of the APE. The majority of ground disturbance work is proposed to take place within area that has been previously disturbed by the existing tank construction activity, where the potential for encountering intact archaeological remains is low. However, in the unlikely event that previously unknown cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, impacts would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures would reduce archaeological impacts to less than significant.

CUL-1: Prior to the start of ground disturbing activities, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) project manager or their designee shall ensure that a qualified archaeologist or another mitigation program staff member has conducted cultural and tribal cultural resources sensitivity training for all construction workers involved in moving soil or working near soil disturbance or documentation can be provided that construction workers have been trained to identify cultural and tribal cultural resources.

CUL-2: Inadvertent Discoveries. During project-related construction and excavation activities, should subsurface archaeological resources, including tribal cultural resources, be

discovered, all activity in the vicinity of the find shall stop and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to assess the significance of the find according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. If any find is determined to be significant, the archaeologist shall determine, in consultation with SCVWA and any local Native American groups (e.g., Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians) expressing interest for prehistoric resources, appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), preservation in place shall be the preferred means to avoid impacts to archaeological resources qualifying as historical resources. Methods of avoidance may include, but shall not be limited to, rerouting or redesign, cancellation, or identification of protection measures such as capping or fencing. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, the qualified archaeologist shall develop additional treatment measures, such as data recovery or other appropriate measures, in consultation with SCVWA and Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians representatives expressing interest in prehistoric archaeological resources. If an archaeological site does not qualify as a historical resource but meets the criteria for a unique archaeological resource as defined in Section 21083.2, then the site shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Section 21083.2.

With implementation of **MM CUL-1** and **CUL-2**, impacts would be less than significant.

c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site has experienced previous ground-disturbance activities from construction of the existing two water storage tanks and associated infrastructure within the Project Site. Moreover, any ground disturbance activities from the proposed Project would occur within close proximity of where construction has already occurred for the existing water storage tanks and, subsequently, has been disturbed by past construction activity. Therefore, the potential to encounter human remains would be low because this area has been disturbed by past tank construction.

If human remains are encountered during construction, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.⁴⁰ The County Coroner must be

⁴⁰ California Health and Safety Code, Sections 7050.5 and 5097.98.

notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. Therefore, potential impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.6 ENERGY

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

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

Less than Significant Impact.

The following analysis estimates the Project's electricity and transportation fuel usage and evaluates whether the Project would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. As the Project includes the operation of a water tank, it would not result in the consumption of natural gas resources. In accordance with Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines, the analysis includes relevant information to address the energy implications of the Project. The supporting energy calculations are included in **Appendix D** of this Initial Study.

The Project Site is within the Southern California Edison (SCE) service area. The SCE service area covers 50,000 square miles and includes 15 counties, which serve approximately 15 million people in central, coastal, and Southern California.⁴¹ SCE generates electricity from a variety of sources including

41 Southern California Edison, *Southern California Edison's Service Area*, <https://www.sce.com/about-us/who-we-are/leadership/our-service-territory>, accessed November 2020.

hydropower, coal, nuclear sources, and renewable sources. The SCE planning area used approximately 105,162 gigawatthours (GWh) of electricity in 2019, the most recent year for which data is available.⁴² The nearest transmission line to the Project Site includes a 66 KV line approximately 0.21 miles to the northwest along Sierra Highway.⁴³

According to the California Energy Commission (CEC), transportation accounts for nearly 40 percent of California's total energy consumption. In 2018, the most recent year of publicly available data, California consumed approximately 681,272,000 barrels (28,613,424,000 gallons, or 42 gallons per barrel) of petroleum for transportation.⁴⁴ Incentive programs, such as the CEC's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVTP), are helping the State to reduce its dependency on gasoline. Several regulations adopted by California to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as Senate Bill (SB) 375, have the added benefit of reducing the State's demand on petroleum-based fuels by requiring reductions in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuels. The CEC predicts that the demand for gasoline would continue to decline over the upcoming years, and there would be an increase in the use of alternative fuels.⁴⁵

Construction

During construction, energy would be consumed in the form of electricity associated with the conveyance of water used for dust control, and on a limited basis, powering lights, electronic equipment, or other construction activities necessitating electrical power. Construction activities typically do not involve the consumption of natural gas. Construction would also consume energy in the form of petroleum-based fuels associated with the use of off-road construction vehicles and equipment within the Project Site, construction worker travel, haul trips, and delivery trips.

As shown in **Table 5.6-1: Summary of Energy Use During Construction** and additionally discussed below, a total of approximately 1,939 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, 34,829 gallons of diesel fuel, and 966 gallons of gasoline is estimated to be consumed during construction.

42 California Energy Commission, *California Energy Consumption Database, Electricity Consumption by Planning Area*, <http://ecdms.energy.ca.gov/elecbyplan.aspx>, accessed November 2020.

43 California Energy Commission, *Electric Infrastructure Map*, <https://cecgis-caenergy.opendata.arcgis.com/app/ad8323410d9b47c1b1a9f751d62fe495>, accessed November 2020.

44 US Energy Information Administration, Independent Statistics & Analysis, *Table F16: Total Petroleum Consumption Estimates*, 2018, https://www.eia.gov/state/seds/data.php?incfile=/state/seds/sep_fuel/html/fuel_use_pa.html&sid=US, accessed November 2020.

45 California Energy Commission, Final 2019 Integrated Energy Policy Report, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/integrated-energy-policy-report/2019-integrated-energy-policy-report>, accessed November 2020.

Table 5.6-1
Summary of Energy Use During Construction

Fuel Type	Quantity
Electricity	1,939 kWh
Diesel	
Off-Road Construction Equipment ^a	19,200 gallons
On-Road Construction Equipment ^b	15,629 gallons
Total	34,829 gallons
Gasoline	
Off-Road Construction Equipment ^a	0 gallons
On-Road Construction Equipment ^b	966 gallons
Total	966 gallons

Source: Refer to **Appendix D** for detailed calculations.

^a Off-road construction equipment encompasses construction equipment on the Project Site (e.g., excavators, cranes, forklifts, etc.).

^b On-road construction equipment encompasses construction worker trips, haul trips, and delivery trips.

Electricity

As shown in **Table 5.6-1**, a total of approximately 1,939 kWh of electricity is anticipated to be consumed during construction. The electricity demand at any given time would vary throughout the construction period based on the construction activities being performed and would cease upon completion of construction. Additionally, Title 24 requirements would apply to construction lighting if duration were to exceed 120 days, which includes limits on the wattage allowed per specified area for energy conservation. As such, the demand for electricity during construction would not cause wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use of electricity. Furthermore, the estimated construction electricity usage represents approximately 8.8 percent of the Project's estimated annual operational demand, which, as discussed below, would be within the service capabilities of SCE.

Transportation Energy

Project construction would consume energy in the form of petroleum-based fuels associated with use of off-road construction vehicles and equipment on the Project Site, construction worker travel to and from the Project Site, and delivery and haul truck trips (e.g., for deliveries of construction supplies and materials).

The petroleum-based fuel use summary provided in **Table 5.6-1** represents the amount of transportation energy that could potentially be consumed during construction based on a conservative set of

assumptions. As shown, on- and off-road vehicles would consume an estimated 35,795 gallons of petroleum (966 gallons of gasoline and 34,829 gallons of diesel fuel) throughout the Project's construction period. For purposes of comparison, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts a national oil supply of 20.3 million barrels (mb) per day in 2023, which is the first year of operation for the Project.⁴⁶ This equates to approximately 7,410 mb per year or 311,199 million gallons (mg) per year. The Project would account for a negligible portion of the projected annual oil supply in 2023.

Operation

During operation of the Project, energy would be consumed from water conveyance to and from the water tank. As shown in **Table 5.6-2: Summary of Annual Energy Use During Operation**, the Project's energy demand would be approximately 22,136 kWh of electricity per year. The Project would consume 1,126 gallons of diesel fuel per year and 6,579 gallons of gasoline per year.

Table 5.6-2
Summary of Annual Energy Use During Operation

Source	Units	Quantity
Electricity		
Water Conveyance	kWh/yr	22,136
Mobile		
Diesel	Gallons/yr	1,126
Gasoline	Gallons/yr	6,579
Fuel Total	Gallons/yr	7,705

Source: Refer to **Appendix D** for detailed calculations.

Notes: kWh/yr = kilowatt-hours per year.

Electricity

The SCE planning area used approximately 105,162 GWh of electricity in 2019, the most recent year for which data is available.⁴⁷ The proposed Project would account for a negligible portion of the projected annual consumption in SCE's planning area.

46 U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2020: Table 11. Petroleum and Other Liquids Supply and Disposition, <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/data/browser/#/?id=11-AEO2020&cases=ref2020&sourcekey=0>, accessed November 2020.

47 California Energy Commission, *California Energy Consumption Database, Electricity Consumption by Planning Area*, <http://ecdms.energy.ca.gov/elecbyplan.aspx>, accessed November 2020.

Transportation Energy

During operation, traffic associated with the Project would result in the consumption of petroleum-based fuels due to vehicular travel to and from the Project Site. As shown in **Table 5.6-2** above, uses associated with the Project would consume 7,705 gallons of petroleum (1,126 gallons of diesel and 6,579 gallons of gasoline) per year for vehicular trips to and from the Project Site. For purposes of comparison, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts a national oil supply of 20.3 million barrels (mb) per day in 2023, which is the first year of operation for the Project.⁴⁸ The Project would account for negligible portion of the projected annual oil supply in 2023.

Based on the analysis presented above and the calculations provided in **Appendix D** of this Initial Study, the Project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy and thus would not generate significant impacts with regard to energy use and consumption.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

b. Conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Project would comply with applicable regulatory requirements for the design of new water related infrastructure, including the provisions set forth in the CALGreen Code and California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with adopted energy efficiency plans and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

48 U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2020: Table 11. Petroleum and Other Liquids Supply and Disposition, <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/data/browser/#/?id=11-AEO2020&cases=ref2020&sourcekey=0>, accessed November 2020.

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
GEOLOGY AND SOILS – Would the project:				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. *Would the project 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.***

No Impact.

The Santa Clarita Valley contains several known active and potentially active earthquake faults and fault zones. The San Andreas Fault Zone is located north of the Santa Clarita Valley and extends through Frazier Park, Palmdale, Wrightwood, and San Bernardino.⁴⁹ Other faults near the Santa Clarita Valley include the San Gabriel and Holser faults. Additionally, the geotechnical report identified that there are no known faults across the Project Site.⁵⁰ The Project Site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Rupture Zone, as delineated by the California Geological Survey.⁵¹ Further, the Project mostly involves activities near the surface or above ground which are not expected to exacerbate or increase the likelihood of rupture of existing faults. Because the Project Site is not located within a known earthquake fault or fault zone, nor does it involve activities which would induce rupture, no impacts from rupture of a fault would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- ii. *Strong seismic ground shaking?***

Less than Significant Impact.

The area is subject to ground shaking and potential damage in the event of earthquakes. As noted previously, the most likely source of strong ground shaking within the region would be a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault Zone or from the San Gabriel or Holser faults. Because the Project Site is located in a seismically active area, occasional seismic ground shaking is likely to occur within the lifetime of the Project. However, this hazard is common in Southern California and the effects of ground shaking

49 County of Los Angeles, *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan*, Safety Element, 195.

50 Byer Geotechnical, Inc., *Geologic and Soils Engineering Exploration for Proposed Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Deane Tank*, August 2020.

51 U.S. Geological Survey, *Geologic Hazards Science Center, U.S. Seismic Design Maps*, Accessed November 2020, <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/hazards/designmaps/usdesign.php>.

can be lessened if the proposed structures are designed and constructed in conformance with current building codes and engineering practices.

Therefore, implementation of appropriate engineering design measures as required by the latest Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction “Greenbook”⁵², California Building Code (CBC), and the recommendations in the Geotechnical Investigation would minimize potential structural failures caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards. Compliance with the requirements of the latest Greenbook, CBC, and recommendations from the Geotechnical Investigation for structural safety during a seismic event would reduce hazards from fault rupture. As such, impacts associated with seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less than Significant Impact.

Liquefaction refers to loose, saturated sand or gravel deposits that lose their load-supporting capability when subjected to intense shaking. Liquefaction usually occurs during or shortly after a large earthquake. The movement of saturated soils during seismic events from ground shaking can result in soil instability and possible structural damage.⁵³ The Project Site is not located within a liquefaction zone.⁵⁴ The CGS has not mapped the site within an area where historic occurrence of liquefaction or geotechnical, geotechnical, and groundwater conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacement such that mitigation as defined in Public Resources Code Section 2693 (c) would be required. Additionally, the subject property is underlain by bedrock, which is not subject to liquefaction.

Overall, the Project would comply with the Uniform Building Code and the California Building Code, to avoid potential impacts related to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. As a result, the Project would not exacerbate existing environmental conditions related to seismic related ground failure, including liquefaction or associated seismically induced settlement, which would result in substantial damage to structures or infrastructure, or expose people to substantial risk of injury. Therefore, Project impacts associated with seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction would be less than significant during construction and operation of the Project.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

⁵² Public Works Standards, Inc. 2021. *Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction*. BNI Publications, Inc.

⁵³ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, *Safety Element* (2012).

⁵⁴ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, *Appendix II: Maps, Seismic Hazards, Exhibit S-3, (2012)*.

iv. Landslides?

Less than Significant Impact.

Landslides are the downslope movement of geologic materials that occur when the underlying geological support on a hillside can no longer maintain the load of material above it, causing a slope failure. The term landslide also commonly refers to a falling, sliding, or flowing mass of soil, rocks, water, and debris that may include mudslides and debris flows. The risks associated with landslides occur when buildings or structures are placed on slopes. The Project Site is located within an area susceptible to landslides.⁵⁵ The Project would incorporate design features relative to the County of Los Angeles Code Section 111, as supported by the Geotechnical Report (See **Appendix E: Geologic and Soils Report**), which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from seismically induced landslides and would be designed and constructed to adhere to the latest CBC. Therefore, potential landslide impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact.

Erosion is the movement of rock fragments and soil from one place to another. Precipitation, running water, waves, and wind are all agents of erosion. Significant erosion typically occurs on steep slopes where storm water and high winds can carry topsoil down hillsides.

Construction of the Project Site would include removal of soils from Project area where the new water storage tank would be located, as well as related to the construction of the access road to the north. Since the Project Site has been previously disturbed by grading and excavation activities within the area where the new tank would go, loss of topsoil or soil erosion would not be significant. However, any removal of topsoil would be replaced during construction. Additionally, standard best management practices (BMPs) as required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would require covering of exposed material to minimize erosion impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

⁵⁵ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, *Appendix II: Maps, Seismic Hazards, Exhibit S-3*, (2012).

The proposed water storage tank would be located on a concrete pad with no exposed soil areas and not interfere with open space. As this would not occur within open space areas, there would be no loss of topsoil or soil erosion. Therefore, no impact would occur during operation of the Project.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- c. Would the project 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?***

Less than Significant Impact.

A significant impact may occur if a project is built in an unstable area without proper site preparation or design features to provide adequate foundations for the project buildings, thus posing a hazard to life and property. Construction activities associated with the Project must comply with the California Building Code, which is designed to assure safe construction, including building foundation requirements appropriate to site conditions.

The Project Site is located in an area susceptible to seismically-induced landslides. As previously discussed, grading and fill recommendations relative to the County of Los Angeles Code Section 111 presented in the Geotechnical Report completed for the Project, would reduce the potential effects of landslides. Lateral spreading results from earthquake-induced liquefaction, causing landslides associated with gentle slopes that flow laterally, like water.⁵⁶ As previously mentioned, the Project is not located within a liquefaction zone and the Project Site is not subject to expansive soils.

The geotechnical report concluded that neither soil nor geologic conditions were encountered during the investigation that would preclude the construction of the proposed development with incorporation of the recommendations in the study. The design and construction of the Project would conform to the latest California Building Code seismic standards, which would ensure impacts associated with unstable geologic unit or soils remain less than significant. As such, the Project would not have the potential to exacerbate current environmental conditions that would create a significant hazard with respect to landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. With the implementation of California Building Code requirements and relevant geotechnical recommendations within the Geotechnical Investigation, the

⁵⁶ U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), "About Liquefaction," <https://geomaps.wr.usgs.gov/sfgeo/liquefaction/aboutliq.html>, accessed October 2019.

Project would result in less than significant impacts with respect to risks associated with landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

d. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Less than Significant Impact.

Expansive soils contain significant amounts of clay particles that have the ability to give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). When these soils swell, the change in volume can exert pressures that are placed on them, and structural distress and damage to buildings could occur. As previously mentioned, the Project is located on bedrock, which is not subject to liquefaction or expansion. The tank site would be constructed on engineered fill which would be protected from significant expansion. Additionally, the Project would be required to adhere to the California Building Code, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from soil expansion. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

e. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact.

Development of the proposed Project would not require the installation of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

According to CEQA Guidelines, projects subject to CEQA must determine whether the project would “directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource.” The Cultural Resources Assessment included a Paleontological Overview. As discussed in **Appendix C**, the geologic unit underlying the Project area is mapped entirely as valley deposits associated with the Mint Canyon Formation dating to the Miocene epoch. The Western Science Center does not have localities within the Project area or within a

one-mile radius, but the Mint Canyon Formation is considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity and is known to preserve vertebrate fossil material.⁵⁷ Thus, any fossils recovered during excavation activity associated with development of the Project would be scientifically significant.

Given the history of the Mint Canyon Formation in the area, construction could have potential impacts on paleontological resources.

Mitigation Measures: The following Mitigation Measure would reduce paleontological impacts to less than significant.

GEO-1 A qualified paleontologist shall be retained by the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCVWA) prior to construction activities to develop and execute a paleontological monitoring plan (PMP) for the grading activities planned for the Project Site within the Miocene sedimentary units. The qualified paleontologist shall meet the qualifications established by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP). The PMP shall include a construction monitoring schedule to be maintained when earthmoving occurs within Miocene sedimentary units and recommendations for initial identification of paleontological resources so that a paleontologist may identify and evaluate unknown fossil resources in the Project Site in the event of inadvertent discovery. The PMP shall be reviewed and approved by the SCVWA prior to the beginning of construction.

The qualified paleontologist shall present the elements of the approved PMP to SCVWA staff and construction supervisors in a pre-construction meeting. The PMP shall present the fossil sensitivity of the geologic formation, the nature of the resources that have been or may be encountered within the formation and steps to be undertaken to mitigate impacts to these resources to a level of less than significant.

If fossils are found during earthmoving activities, the paleontologist shall be authorized to halt the ground-disturbing activities within the prescribed distance in the PMP to allow evaluation of the find and determination of appropriate treatment in accordance with SVP guidelines for identification, evaluation, disclosure, avoidance or recovery, and curation, as appropriate. The paleontologist shall prepare a final report on the monitoring. If fossils are identified, then the report shall contain an appropriate description of the fossils, treatment, and curation. A copy of the report shall be filed with the SCVWA and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

Implementation of **Mitigation Measure GEO-1** would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

57 BCR Consulting LLC. Cultural Resources Assessment: Deane Tank Site Expansion Project. October 30, 2020.

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

Discussion

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

The following analysis estimates the Project's GHG emissions from construction and operation. As the Project includes the operation of a water storage tank, it would not produce GHG emissions from area, natural gas, or solid waste sources. Construction and operation emissions were estimated using CalEEMod (refer to **Appendix A**).

Construction activity impacts are relatively short in duration, and they contribute a relatively small portion of the total lifetime GHG emissions of a project. In addition, GHG emissions-reduction measures for construction equipment are relatively limited.⁵⁸ Therefore, in its *Draft Guidance Document – Interim CEQA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Significance Thresholds*,⁵⁹ the SCAQMD recommends that construction emissions be amortized over a 30-year project lifetime so that GHG reduction measures would address construction GHG emissions as part of the operational GHG reduction strategies. That method is used in this analysis.

The forecasting of construction-related GHG emissions requires assumptions regarding the timing of construction as the emission factors for some of the Project's construction-related GHG emission sources decline over time. As shown in **Table 5.8-1: Construction GHG Emissions**, total construction emissions would be 383 MTCO₂e. One-time, short-term emissions are converted to average annual emissions by amortizing them over the service life of the Project. As shown in **Table 5.8-1**, when amortized over an

58 SCAQMD, *Draft Guidance Document – Interim CEQA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Significance Threshold*, October 2008.

59 SCAQMD, *Greenhouse Gases (GHG)*, Accessed June 2020, <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ghg-significance-thresholds/page/2>.

average 30-year Project lifetime, average annual construction emissions from the Project would be 13 MTCO₂e per year.

Table 5.8-1
Construction GHG Emissions

Construction Phase	MTCO ₂ e/Year
Total Construction	383
30-Year Annual Amortized Rate	13

Source: Refer to **Appendix A**.

Notes: GHG = greenhouse gas; MTCO₂e = metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Operation of the Project has the potential to generate GHG emissions from mobile and energy sources. Mobile source emissions would include vehicle trips traveling to and from the Project Site for general inspection and maintenance activities. Electricity emissions would include energy needed for water conveyance to and from the water tank. **Table 5.8-2: Operational Greenhouse Gas Emissions** shows the total operational GHG emissions during Project operation. As shown in **Table 5.8-2**, the Project would generate 133 MTCO₂e per year.

Table 5.8-2
Operational GHG Emissions

Source	MTCO ₂ e/Year
Construction (Amortized)	13
Energy	36
Mobile	74
Water Conveyance	10
Total	133

Source: Refer to **Appendix A**.

Notes: GHG = greenhouse gas; MTCO₂e = metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

In the absence of any adopted, numeric threshold, the SCVWA evaluates the significance of a project by considering whether the project conflicts with applicable land use designations and regulations. As discussed **Section 5.11: Land Use and Planning**, the Project would serve existing, locally approved developments and would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations. Moreover, as discussed in **Section 5.3: Air Quality** the Project does not include any land uses that would increase population, employment, or housing projections. As such, the Project would not

conflict with SCAG's 2020 – 2045 RTP/SCS. As such, impacts related to direct and indirect emissions of greenhouse gas emissions would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

Less than Significant Impact.

As discussed above, the Project would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations, and would not conflict with regional growth projections as it is a water infrastructure project planned to offset deficient water storage for surrounding development. As such, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

5.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to <i>Government Code</i> Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact.

Hazardous materials include any substance or combination of substances that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in death or serious injury, or pose substantial hazards to humans and/or the environment.⁶⁰

Construction

The Project would include grading, excavation, soil removal, infill and construction of a water storage tank. Construction of the Project would involve the routine handling of small quantities of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, lubricants, and other petroleum-based products used to operate and maintain construction equipment and vehicles on the Project Site. This handling of hazardous materials would be a temporary activity and coincide with the short-term construction phase of the Project. The transport, use, and storage of hazardous materials during the construction and operation of the Project would be conducted in accordance with applicable State and federal laws, such as the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the California Hazardous Material Management Act, and the California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Through compliance with these regulatory requirements, no significant hazards to the public or environment would result in connection with the construction of the Project. Thus, construction of the Project would not result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

During operation, the proposed water storage tank would carry water that has been disinfected. However, the concentration of chloramines in the distribution lines would not be at a level considered hazardous and would be at a level safe for drinking; consequently, no aspect of the Project would involve the use of hazardous materials, and the Project would not create a hazard-related to exposure to hazardous materials. Therefore, compliance to the applicable regulatory requirements would ensure less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

⁶⁰ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Safety Element (2012).

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?*

Less than Significant Impact.

A project would normally have a significant impact from hazards and hazardous materials if: (a) the project involved a risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation); or (b) the project is involved in the creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard.

As discussed above, compliance with federal, State, and local laws and regulations relating to transport, storage, disposal, and sale of hazardous materials would minimize any potential for accidental release or upset of hazardous materials. The Project would involve grading and excavation activities as well as removal and infill of soil. The soil on site is not contaminated and would not pose the risk of releasing hazardous materials into the environment. Additionally, for both construction and operation, there is also the potential for a release of water from significantly damaged water storage tank resulting from a seismic event, concentrations of chloramine within the distribution system would not be high enough to be considered hazardous. Therefore, impacts related to hazardous materials being released into the environment from rupture would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site has an optional access that would directly connect it to the College of the Canyons Campus. The construction phase of the proposed water storage tank could potentially expose the campus to short-term hazardous emissions from diesel machinery and individual employee passenger vehicles. There would also be a potential for the handling of hazardous materials, such as oils, grease or fuels, utilized during the construction of the Project. Compliance with all regulations for the handling of hazardous materials would reduce the potentiality of release. Additionally, as discussed in **Section 5.3**, Table 5.3-3 demonstrates that construction emissions would not exceed the localized significance thresholds for construction. As emissions would be below SCAQMD localized thresholds, impacts to the sensitive receptors identified above from localized emissions during construction would be less than significant.

No hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous materials would be conducted during the operational phase of the water storage tank. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- 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?***

Less than Significant Impact.

A geographical search for hazardous materials sites, as defined in Government Code Section 65962.5, utilizing the online environmental database GeoTracker produced three locations of potential hazardous material near the Project Site. The closest location is approximately 5 miles northwest to the Project Site identified is Joe Scott Boys Camp (28700 Bouquet Canyon Road, Saugus CA 91350). This site is identified as a Historical – WDR (Water Discharge Report) site. The status history for this site lists “Historical – WDR” as of December 18, 1958, and a case date as September 21, 2006.⁶¹ Additionally, two locations identified were classified as leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanup sites, all of which have been designated as case closed: Dixie Diesel Station (29471 The Old Road, Saugus CA 91350), and San Francisquito Power Plant #1 (3700 Clear Creek Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350) that are approximately 13 and 15 miles from the Project Site respectively. The Project Site is not located in an area with current hazardous materials sites and therefore would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- 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 for people residing or working in the project area?***

No Impact.

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Agua Dulce Airpark located approximately 11 miles northeast. Therefore, the Project would not be located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public

61 GEOTracker. State Water Resources Control Board. <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Accessed November 2020.

airport or public use airport. No safety hazard impacts would occur to people residing or working in the area of the Project.

Although the proposed water storage tank would be aboveground; it would be constructed such that it would not obstruct any airport operations. Additionally, as mentioned, the Project Site already has two existing water storage tanks that do not obstruct airport operations or impacts airport safety hazards. Therefore, no safety hazards resulting from airport proximity are expected and no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact.

The nearest airport, public or private, is the Agua Dulce Airpark located approximately 11 miles northeast of the Project Site. The Project Site would not be located near a private airstrip; therefore, the Project would not create a safety hazard for those working within the Project Site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site is located in a State Responsibility Area of land that is classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).^{62,63} Soledad Canyon Road is a County designated secondary disaster route.⁶⁴ Additionally, the SR-14 is a County designated primary disaster route. SR-14 is located approximately a half a mile north of the Project Site. The Project may result in a temporary increase in traffic along SR-14 during construction. However, adequate access to evacuation routes and emergency access to the Project Site and to the surrounding area would continue to be provided. Two-way access would be maintained

62 California Fire, State Responsibility Area (SRA) Viewer, <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/state-responsibility-area-viewer>, accessed October 2020.

63 *Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (2012)*. One Valley One Vision. 3.11: Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Figure 3.11-2: Wildfire Hazard Zone Within the OVOV Planning Area.

64 *Los Angeles Department of Water and Power*. Disaster Route Maps by City. City of Santa Clarita Map. 2010b. Accessed November 2020. <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/disasterroutes/city.cfm>.

throughout construction. As such, SR-14 would continue to function as a disaster route during project construction, in the event of an emergency evacuation.

During operation, the Project would not increase traffic along SR-14. Therefore, operation-related impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

The Project Site is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).⁶⁵ Construction activities may consist of processes that would have the potential to create a fire or use ignitable materials within these areas which have the potential to increase fire danger. The use of flames/sparks in hillside brushy areas would likewise increase the risk of wildfire. As such, impacts would be potentially significant. Mitigation measure **MM HAZ-1** would require the firefighting devices, such as fire extinguishers, in order to minimize the spread of wildfire. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Operation of the Project would not exacerbate the potential for wildfires. There are no ignitable materials or processes that would have the potential to create a fire. Therefore, impacts related to exposing people or structures to adverse effects from wildfires would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following Mitigation Measure would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

HAZ-1 During construction activities, the construction contractor shall provide fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to the satisfaction of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) and shall provide instruction on possible fire risk and the use of fire extinguishers as part of required construction-related safety training.

⁶⁵ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Appendix II: Maps, Very High Fire Hazard, Exhibit S-6, (2012).

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

Discussion

- a. ***Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?***

Less than Significant Impact.

A project would have a potentially significant impact on surface water quality if discharges associated with the project would create pollution, contamination, or nuisance as defined in Section 13050 of the California Water Code (CWC) or that cause regulatory standards to be violated, as defined in the applicable NPDES stormwater permit or Water Quality Control Plan for the receiving body of water. A significant

impact may occur if a project would discharge water which does not meet the quality standards of agencies which regulate surface water quality and water discharge into stormwater drainage systems. Significant impacts would also occur if a project does not comply with all applicable regulations with regard to surface water quality as governed by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) through its nine Regional Boards. Stormwater runoff from construction sites is regulated by the General Construction Storm Water Permit (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ) issued by the SWQCB. This permit applies to traditional construction projects and linear underground projects.

Construction activities would be required to comply with the General Construction Storm Water Permit and would ensure that activities would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. BMPs would be implemented prior to a storm event, including waste management (e.g., stockpile management, sanitary management, spill prevention and control) and temporary sediment controls (e.g., silt fencing), to prevent prohibited discharges and to restrict sediment laden runoff. Accordingly, construction impacts would be less than significant following these requirements.

Furthermore, operation of the Project would not result in discharges that would cause regulatory standards to be violated. Project characteristics include catch basins located within the proposed paved areas next to the proposed water tank. The catch basins would pick up stormwater runoff from the developed portion of the site. The Project would also be subject to the BMPs requirements of the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP). The Project would implement applicable BMPs to retain, treat and/or filter stormwater runoff before it enters the public stormwater drain system. Adherence to the requirements of the MS4 Permit and County wide SUSMP would ensure that potential impacts associated with water quality would be less than significant. With appropriate project design and compliance with the applicable federal, State, local regulations, and permit provisions, impacts of the Project related to operational discharge runoff quality would be less than significant.

The installed BMPs systems would be designed with an internal bypass overflow system to prevent upstream flooding during major storm events. Implementation of LID BMPs would mitigate operational impacts on surface water quality. Therefore, the Project would not result in any violations to any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements and would not cause a substantial increase in concentrations of items listed as constituents of concern for nearby watersheds and impacts on surface water quality and groundwater quality would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- b. Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede substantial groundwater management of the basin?***

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project would include the construction of a new water storage tank within the Project Site and other infrastructure-related components that would serve the Deane Pressure Zone. As previously discussed in the **Section 2.0: Project Description**, the Deane Pressure Zone has a deficiency in storage of approximately 4.22 MG. There are two new, large developments within the existing Deane Pressure Zone that require additional storage over and above the existing storage deficiency. The new developments would increase the water storage deficiency to 5.74 MG. The Project would result in the construction of a new steel tank with a water storage capacity of 1.70 MG to address part of the deficit, as well as for additional fire protection, emergency, and operation needs within the Deane Pressure Zone.

The Project would increase impervious surface and would construct a concrete pad to support the water storage tank. The State Stormwater Standards specify a new impervious surface as significant if it is larger than one acre.⁶⁶ However, the construction of the new water storage tank and site improvements would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge, because the portion of the Project Site that would be constructed is smaller than one acre. The Project would not involve pumping of groundwater and would not otherwise have an impact on the depletion of groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge due to the negligible decrease in pervious surfaces. Therefore, the Project would have less than significant impacts on the groundwater basin and the Project would not impede groundwater management of the underlying basin.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

66 Office of Wastewater Management. Summary of State Stormwater Standards. Accessed November 2020.
https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/sw_state_summary_standards.pdf

c. *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:*

i. *result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;*

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction of the Project Site would include removal of soils from Project area where the new water storage tank would be located. Since the Project Site has been previously disturbed by grading and excavation activities within the area where the new tank would go, loss of topsoil or soil erosion would not be significant. Substantial erosion or siltation would not occur because the area of development would be less than one acre, and proper drainage would be provided to convey all runoff to storm drain system. However, any removal of topsoil would be replaced during construction.

The Project would incorporate all BMPs as necessary to prevent erosion and to control construction-related pollutants from discharging from the site for all permanent drainage and erosion control systems. Additionally, standard BMPs as required under the NPDES permit would require covering of exposed material to minimize erosion impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

As previously discussed, construction activities would include BMPs including straw waddles and silt fencing to minimize erosion and surface water runoff from the site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

ii. *substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;*

Less than Significant Impact.

Site drainage is conveyed to a catch basin and drain pipeline. Drainage at the site is currently conveyed through a 14-inch steel pipe that is aligned from the tank site down the slope on the north side of the site. There is a catch basin at the site that collects the on-site stormwater and any overflow or drain water from the tanks.

Construction of the Project would occur at the hilltop where the current water storage tanks are located. Construction activity would include as cut/fill slopes, potential retaining wall locations, utilities, 20 foot-wide access roadways around all tanks, drainage system around the tanks and down the access roadway,

and an extra fill pad to assist with balancing earthwork. Construction activities would be required to comply with the General Construction Storm Water Permit and would ensure that activities would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. BMPs would be implemented prior to a storm event, including waste management (e.g., stockpile management, sanitary management, spill prevention and control) to prevent prohibited discharges and to minimize the amount of surface water runoff off site. Accordingly, construction impacts would be less than significant following these requirements.

Proposed drainage improvements at the tank site would include the removal of the existing catch basin and drain line. The existing drain line runs from the catch basin down the northerly slope to a point above an existing terrace drain. Most of the existing drain line is exposed along the slope. However, the existing drainage patterns of the slope would not be significantly altered by the removal of the drain line. Proposed drainage improvements would also include the construction of multiple catch basins and new drain lines. The tank site catch basins would be located within the proposed paved areas. The catch basins would pick up stormwater runoff from the developed portion of the site. Additionally, catch basins would also be constructed adjacent to the proposed and existing tanks to pick up potential tank overflows and flows from the tank drains.

Similarly, drainage areas outside the fenced reservoir site are to be captured and conveyed away from paved roadways via gutters, swales and slough walls to minimize site maintenance and debris removal. Runoff containing silt is to be managed on the slope prior to entering drainage systems. Therefore, impacts during construction phase would be less than significant.

Operation of the water storage tanks would not significantly alter the existing drainage pattern of the Project Site. The design of the Project would allow post-construction water runoff to continue in existing directions. As such, the Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- 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;***

Less than Significant Impact.

Large areas of impervious surfaces would not be created as a result of the proposed Project. Construction activities such as earth moving, maintenance of construction equipment, handling of construction materials, and dewatering can contribute to pollutant loading in stormwater runoff. However, as previously discussed, the SCVWA would include BMPs to reduce runoff water off site, including but not be limited to: erosion control, sediment control, non-stormwater management, and materials management BMPs

Construction would be temporary and implementation of BMPs during a rain event would minimize the amount of runoff entering the existing public storm drain system. With the incorporation of BMPs into the Project, the Project would not be an additional source of polluted runoff.

As previously discussed, the Project includes on-site water conveyance and catch basins to ensure that post-construction water runoff during a storm event would be similar to existing conditions. Thus, water runoff entering the public storm drain system would not affect the existing capacity of the public storm drains. Accordingly, impacts during operation would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- iv. ***impede or redirect flood flows?***

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project involves construction of an additional tank and is located on a hilltop. The Project would not involve the construction of any housing, or habitable structures. As such, it would not expose people or habitable structures to flooding. Moreover, the Project is outside of dam inundation area for a major dam/reservoir within the City of Santa Clarita and outside of any 100-year flood hazard areas.⁶⁷ The closest reservoir to the Project is the Bouquet Reservoir, which is approximately 20 miles north of the Project Site. Regarding flood flows, the Project would not impede or redirect any such flows because the Project Site is not located in an area designated as a flood hazard zone.⁶⁸ Thus, the Project would not impede or redirect floodwater flows and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

⁶⁷ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Appendix II: Maps, Flood Plains, Exhibit S-4 (2012).

⁶⁸ FEMA, National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), <https://msc.fema.gov/>, Accessed October 2019.

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

Less than Significant Impact.

Tsunamis are large-scale sea waves produced from tectonic activities along the ocean floor. Seiches are freestanding or oscillatory waves associated with large enclosed or semi-enclosed bodies of water. Given that the Project Site is not located near the ocean or any large enclosed or semi-enclosed bodies of water, the Project would not be located within designated tsunami or seiche zones. Debris and mudflows are typically a hazard experienced in the floodplains of streams that drain very steep hillsides within the watershed. Because the Project Site is located outside of the 100-year flood zone, the Project Site would not place people or structures at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. Additionally, the Project would be designed in accordance with the latest CBC to ensure that the hillside meets current stabilization requirements. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

e. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less than Significant Impact.

Under the California Water Code, the State of California is divided into nine regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs), which govern the implementation and enforcement of the California Water Code and the Clean Water Act. As previously stated, the Project Site is located within LARWQCB's region. The LARWQCB Water Quality Control Plan: Los Angeles Region Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, September 11, 2014, (Basin Plan) is designed to preserve and enhance water quality and protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters. Specifically, the Basin Plan (i) designates beneficial uses for surface and ground waters, (ii) sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be attained or maintained to protect the designated beneficial uses and conform to the State's antidegradation policy, and (iii) describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the Region. In addition, the Basin Plan incorporates all applicable State and Regional Board plans and policies and other pertinent water quality policies and regulations.

Under the NPDES permit enforced by the LARWQCB, all existing and future municipal and industrial discharges to surface waters within the City are subject to applicable local, State and/or federal regulations. The Project would comply with all provisions of the NPDES program and other applicable waste discharge requirements (WDRs), as enforced by the LARWQCB.

The Project would comply with and not obstruct implementation of the LARWQCB's Basin Plan. As described earlier, the Project would comply with applicable NPDES requirements, which would include the use of BMPs during construction of the Project to minimize off-site erosion, flooding, and contamination. Additionally, the construction of the Project would not interfere with groundwater recharge. Therefore, Project construction would not conflict or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan and impacts from construction and operation would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Physically divide an established community?

No Impact.

The Project Site is located within the existing reservoir area including two water storage tanks. The construction staging areas are located within the Project Site and would be short term and temporary in nature. The proposed water storage tank and associated facilities are consistent with the existing facilities within the Project Site. There are no facilities proposed by the project that could physically divide an established community. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Conflict with 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?

No Impact.

Per Section 53091 of the California Government Code, State law does not apply specific local zoning, building, or permit requirements to this type of SCVWA project.⁶⁹ Development of the proposed Project would serve existing, locally approved developments and would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

⁶⁹ California Government Code. Section 53091(d).

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion

- a. *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?***

No Impact.

The Project area is not located in an area where significant mineral deposits or oil or natural gas wells are present.⁷⁰ The Project Site, off-site road improvements and surrounding areas have no substantial records of mineral resources. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- 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?***

No Impact.

As previously discussed, the proposed Project is not located within important mineral resource or oil or gas production areas. Consequently, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of locally important mineral resource recover sites delineated on a local general plan or other land use plan. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

⁷⁰ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, Appendix II: Maps, Mineral Resources, Exhibit CO-2, (2012).

5.13 NOISE

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

Discussion

- 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?***

Less than Significant with Mitigation.

Environmental Setting

Human response to noise varies widely depending on the type of noise, time of day, and sensitivity of the receptor. The effects of noise on humans can range from temporary or permanent hearing loss to mild stress and annoyance due to such things as speech interference and sleep deprivation. Prolonged stress, regardless of the cause, is known to contribute to a variety of health disorders. Noise, or the lack thereof, is a factor in the aesthetic perception of some settings, particularly those with religious or cultural significance. Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise, including schools, hospitals, rest homes, long-term medical and mental care facilities, and parks and recreation areas. Residential areas are also considered noise sensitive, especially during the nighttime hours. The site vicinity is predominantly composed of commercial and residential uses. The following receptors were identified as sensitive receptors in vicinity of the site and shown in **Figure 5.13-1: Sensitive Receptor Sites**.

- **Site 1:** Single family residential uses along Alder Peak/Nearview Drive and Winterdale Drive.
- **Site 2:** Single family residential uses along Winterdale Drive north of Shadyview Drive.
- **Site 3:** Single family residential uses along Crest Heights Drive.
- **Site 4:** Single family residential uses along Meadow Heights Court.
- **Site 5:** Single family residential uses along Summit Hills Drive.
- **Site 6:** Mitchell Community School and single family residential uses on the corner of Winterdale Drive and Goodvale Road.

To quantify existing ambient noise levels at the sensitive receptors identified above, short-term noise monitoring was conducted at six (6) locations over 15-minute intervals at each location on October 28, 2020. As shown in **Table 5.13-1: Ambient Noise Measurements**, ambient noise levels ranged from a low of 37.0 dBA west of Project Site along Meadow Heights Court (Site 4) to a high of 56.7 dBA at northeast corner of Winterdale Drive and Goodvale Road (Site 6).

Table 5.13-1
Ambient Noise Measurements

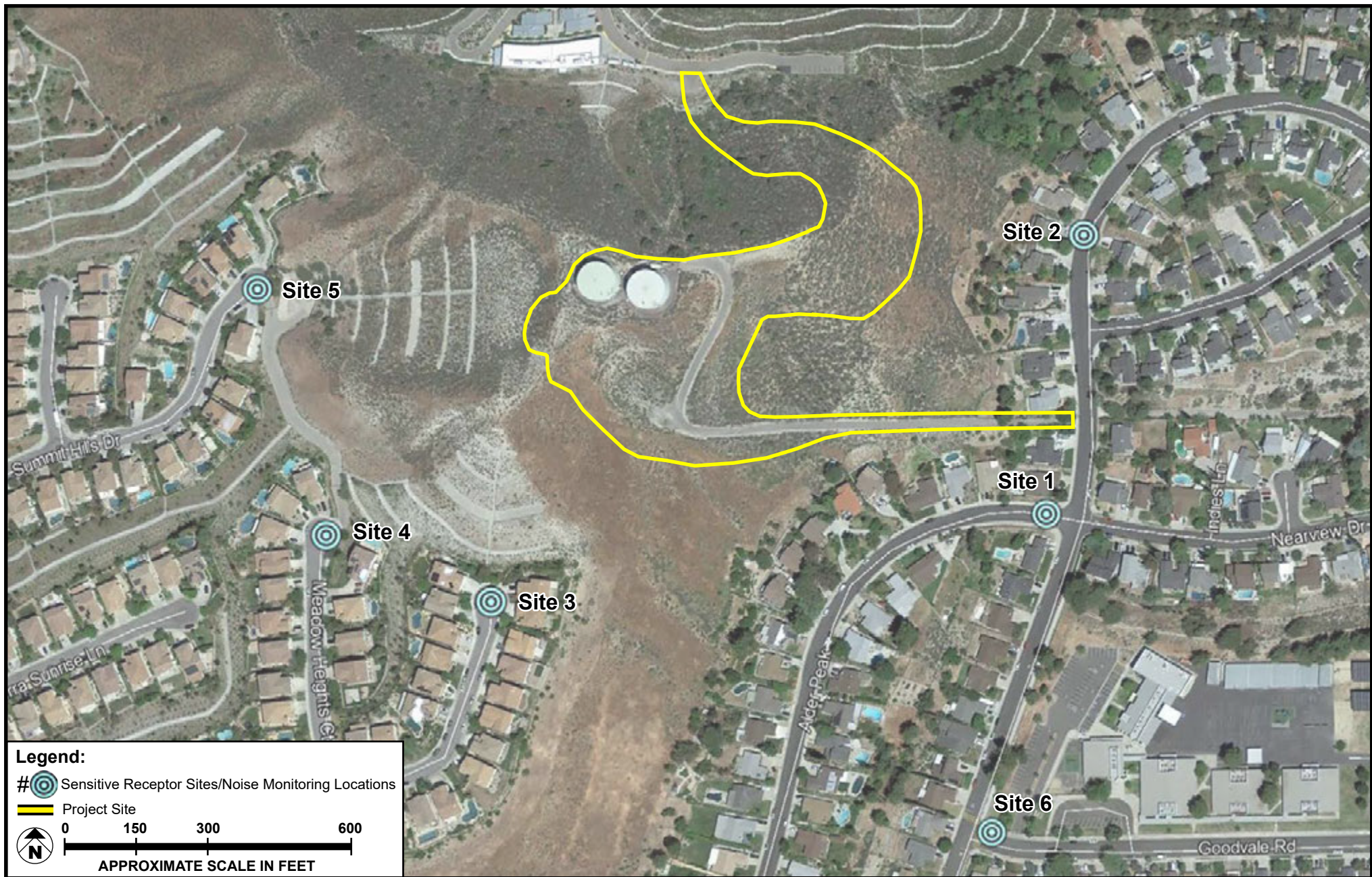
Location Number/Description	Nearest Use	Time Period	Noise Source	dBA Leq
1 Northwest corner of Winterdale Drive and Nearview Drive	Residential	1:08 PM–1:23 PM	Medium traffic activity along Golden Triangle Road.	49.7
2 East of Project Site along Winterdale Drive	Residential	1:26 PM–1:41 PM	Low traffic activity along Isabella Parkway.	42.4
3 South of Project Site along Crest Heights Drive	Residential	2:05 PM–2:20 PM	Medium traffic activity along Soledad Canyon Road.	55.1
4 West of Project Site along Meadow Heights Court	Residential	2:23 PM–2:38 PM	Medium traffic activity along Golden Triangle Road.	37.0
5 West of Project Site along Summit Hills Drive	Residential	2:43 PM–2:58 PM	Medium traffic activity along Soledad Canyon Road.	46.7
6 Northeast corner of Winterdale Drive and Goodvale Road	Residential/ School	1:45 PM–2:00 PM	Medium traffic activity along Golden Triangle Road.	56.7

Source: Refer to **Appendix F** for noise monitoring data sheets.

Notes: dBA = A-weighted decibels; Leq = average equivalent sound level.

Local Regulatory Setting

The City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code (SCMC) Noise Ordinance provides exterior noise standards within the City, which are applicable to the Project.



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2020

FIGURE 5.13-1

Section 11.44.040(A) of the SCMC establishes exterior noise limits for the City which are outlined below in **Table 5.13-2: Santa Clarita Exterior Noise Limits**. At the boundary line between a residential property and a commercial and manufacturing property, the noise level of the quieter zone shall be used.

The numerical limits given in **Table 5.13-2** shall be adjusted by the corrections listed in **Table 5.13-3: Correction to Exterior Noise Limits**, where the following noise conditions exist:

Table 5.13-2
Santa Clarita Exterior Noise Limits

Region	Time	Noise Level Standard (dBA)
Residential Zone	7:00 AM – 9:00 PM	65
Residential Zone	9:00 PM – 7:00 AM	55
Commercial and manufacturing	7:00 AM – 9:00 PM	80
Commercial and manufacturing	9:00 PM – 7:00 AM	70

Source: Santa Clarita Municipal Code, sec. 8.20.

Table 5.13-3
Correction to Exterior Noise Limits

Noise Condition	Correction (in dBA)
(1) Repetitive impulsive noise	-5
(2) Steady whine, screech or hum	-5
<i>The following corrections apply to day only</i>	
(3) Noise occurring more than 5 but less than 15 minutes per hour	+5
(4) Noise occurring more than 1 but less than 5 minutes per hour	+10
(5) Noise occurring less than 1 minute per hour	+20

Section 11.44 of the Santa Clarita Municipal Code (SCMC) regulates noise from demolition and construction activities. More specifically, Section 11.44 prohibits construction work from occurring outside the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday. Moreover, no work shall be performed on the following public holidays: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorial Day and Labor Day. Due to the absence of a quantitative threshold adopted by the City, a significant construction noise impact would occur if noise levels exceed 65 dBA for residential uses and 80 dBA for commercial and manufacturing uses during the daytime period of 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM.

Table 5.13-4: City of Santa Clarita Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise provides these guidelines which are set forth in the Noise Element in terms of the CNEL.

Land Use	Normally Acceptable^a	Conditionally Acceptable^b	Normally Unacceptable^c	Clearly Unacceptable^d
Residential—Low Density Single-Family, Duplex, Mobile Homes	50 - 60	60 - 70	70 - 75	above 75
Residential— Multifamily Homes	50 - 60	60 - 70	70 - 75	above 75
Transient Lodging— Motels, Hotels	50 - 60	60 - 70	70 - 80	above 80
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes	50 - 60	60 - 70	70 - 80	above 80
Auditoriums, Concert Halls, Amphitheaters	—	50 - 65	—	above 65
Sports Arena, Outdoor Spectator Sports	—	50 - 75	—	above 75
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	50 - 65	—	65 - 75	above 75
Golf Courses, Riding Stables, Water Recreation, Cemeteries	50 - 75	—	70 - 80	above 80
Office Buildings, Business and Professional Commercial	50 - 70	70-75	above 75	—
Industrial, Manufacturing, Utilities, Agriculture	50 - 75	75 - 80	above 80	—

Source: City of Santa Clarita General Plan Noise Element, Exhibit N-8: Noise and Land Use Compatibility Guidelines (June 2010).

Notes:

^a **Normally Acceptable:** Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction without any special noise insulation requirements.

^b **Conditionally Acceptable:** New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Conventional construction, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems or air conditioning would normally suffice.

^c **Normally Unacceptable:** New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design. Sound walls, window upgrades, and site design modifications may be needed in order to achieve City standards.

^d **Clearly Unacceptable:** New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.

Operational noise impacts are evaluated for Project-related off-site roadway traffic noise impacts and on-site stationary source noise from on-site activities and equipment. For purposes of this analysis an impact would occur if:

- The Project would cause any ambient noise levels to increase by 5 dBA CNEL or more and the resulting noise falls on a noise-sensitive land use within an area categorized as either

“normally acceptable” or “conditionally acceptable” (see **Table 5.13-4: City of Santa Clarita Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise** for description of these categories); or cause ambient noise levels to increase by 3 dBA CNEL or more and the resulting noise falls on a noise-sensitive land use within an area categorized as either “normally acceptable” or “clearly unacceptable.”

- Project-related operational (i.e., nonroadway) noise sources such as outdoor activities, building mechanical/electrical equipment, etc., increase ambient noise level by 5 dBA, causing a violation of the City Noise Ordinance.

Construction

Construction activities that would occur during the construction phases would generate both steady-state and episodic noise that would be heard both on and off the Project Site. Each phase involves the use of different types of construction equipment and, therefore, has its own distinct noise characteristics. The Project would be constructed using typical construction techniques; no blasting or impact pile driving would be required.

The potential noise impact generated during construction depends on the phase of construction and the percentage of time the equipment operates over the workday. However, construction noise estimates used for the analysis are representative of worst-case conditions because it is unlikely that all the equipment contained on site would operate simultaneously. As would be the case for construction of most land use development projects, construction of the Project would require the use of heavy-duty equipment with the potential to generate audible noise above the ambient background noise level. The Project’s construction noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptors to the Project Site are shown in **Table 5.13-5: Construction Maximum Noise Estimates**. As shown, construction noise levels would result in a maximum increase of 21.4 dBA at the single family residential uses along Alder Peak/Nearview Drive and Winterdale Drive, exceeding the daytime significance threshold of 65 dBA for residential uses.

As mentioned previously, adherence to Section 11.44.080 would prohibit construction to occur between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM on weekdays, 6:00 PM and 8:00 AM on Saturday, and/or any time on Sunday or a federal holiday. Additionally, to reduce maximum construction noise levels to below 65 dBA, **Mitigation Measure MM N-1** would require optimal muffler systems for all equipment and the break in line of sight to a sensitive receptor would reduce construction noise levels by approximately 10 dB or more.⁷¹ Additionally, limiting the number of noise-generating heavy-duty off-road construction equipment (e.g., backhoes, dozers, excavators, rollers, etc.) simultaneously used on the Project Site within 25 feet of off-site noise sensitive receptors surrounding the site to no more than one or two pieces of

71 FHWA, Special Report—Measurement, Prediction, and Mitigation, updated June 2017, https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/noise/construction_noise/special_report/hcn04.cfm, Accessed November 2020.

heavy-duty off-road equipment would further reduce construction noise levels by approximately 14 dBA. Limiting the number of noise-generating heavy-duty construction equipment to two (2) pieces operating simultaneously would reduce construction noise levels by approximately 5 dB. As such, in compliance with the City's Noise Ordinance, maximum construction noise levels resulting in an increase of 21.4 dB above the significance threshold would be reduced by a minimum of 29 dB to the extent feasible; thus construction noise levels would not be considered significant with mitigation.

Table 5.13-5
Construction Maximum Noise Estimates

Site	Nearest Off-Site Building Structures	Distance from Project Site (feet)	Max Leq	Significance Threshold (dBA)	Maximum Noise Increase over Significance Threshold without Regulatory Compliance Measures (dBA)
1	Single family residential uses along Alder Peak/Nearview Drive and Winterdale Drive	50	86.4	65.0	+21.4
2	Single family residential uses along Winterdale Drive north of Shadyview Drive	350	69.5	65.0	+4.5
3	Single family residential uses along Crest Heights Drive	415	68.1	65.0	+3.1
4	Single family residential uses along Meadow Heights Court	460	67.2	65.0	+2.2
5	Single family residential uses along Summit Hills Drive	485	66.7	65.0	+1.7
6	Mitchell Community School and single family residential uses on the corner of Winterdale Drive and Goodvale Road	460	67.2	65.0	+2.2

Source: FHWA, RCNM, version. 1.1.

Refer to **Appendix F** for construction noise worksheets

Operation

The water supply for the new tank would be delivered from two existing pump stations located north of the site on Sierra Highway- the Linda Vista Pump Station and Honey House Pump Station and an existing 14' line that is located along the access road. The two pump stations and 14" water line currently supply water to the existing tanks at the Project Site and would be connected to the newly constructed water storage tank at project completion. Consequently, operation of the storage tanks would utilize submersible pumps and motors, which would significantly limit noise generation during operation. Storage tank operation is largely dependent on the level of water, dependent on demand in the City's system and weather. The storage tank would operate for several hours, up to several days per week. Operational related noise would be episodic in nature and generally not steady over long periods of time. As such, the proposed water storage tank would be stationary and would not generate significant ambient noise levels compared to the existing uses. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following Mitigation Measure shall be implemented.

- N-1: Construction Noise.** SCVWA and its contractors shall implement the following measures during all Project-related construction activities:
- Noise-generating project construction activities, including haul truck deliveries, shall only occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and with no activity allowed on Sundays or federal holidays.
 - During all project construction, construction contractor shall equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, to be equipped with properly operating and maintained optimal mufflers of 10 dB or more.
 - Limit the number of noise-generating heavy-duty off-road construction equipment (e.g., backhoes, dozers, excavators, rollers, etc.) simultaneously used on the Project Site within 25 feet of off-site noise sensitive receptors surrounding the site.
 - A sign, legible at a distance of 50 feet, shall be posted at the project construction site providing a contact name and a telephone number where residents can inquire about the construction process and register complaints. This sign would indicate the dates and duration of construction activities. In conjunction with this required posting, a noise disturbance coordinator would be identified to address construction noise concerns received. The contact name and the telephone number for the noise disturbance coordinator would be posted on the sign. The coordinator would be responsible for responding to any local complaints about construction noise.

Level of Significance Following Mitigation:

With the implementation of **MM N-1**, noise generated during project construction would result in a less than significant impact.

b. *Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction

Construction machinery and operations can generate varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the construction procedures and the construction equipment used. The operation of construction equipment generates vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in amplitude with distance from the source. The effect on buildings located in the vicinity of a construction site often varies depending on soil type, ground strata, and construction characteristics of the receptor buildings. The results from vibration impacts can range from no perceptible effects at the lowest vibration levels, to low rumbling sounds and perceptible vibration at moderate levels, to slight damage at its highest levels. Ground-borne vibration from construction activities rarely reaches the levels that damage structures. Potential building damage occurs when construction activities cause ground-borne vibration levels to exceed 0.2 inches-per second peak particle velocity (PPV) at the nearest off-site sensitive receptors.

Table 5.13-6: Construction Vibration Impacts—Building Damage present construction vibration impacts associated with on-site construction in terms of building damage. It is important to note pile driving would not be required during construction. As shown in **Table 5.13-6**, the forecasted vibration levels due to on-site construction activities would not exceed the building damage significance threshold at the nearby sensitive receptors for vibratory rollers, large bulldozers, caisson drilling, loaded trucks, jackhammers, and small bulldozers. As such, construction vibration impacts would be less than significant.

Table 5.13-6
Construction Vibration Impacts—Building Damage

Nearest Off-Site Building Structures	Estimated Vibration Velocity Levels at the Nearest Off-Site Structures from the Project Construction Equipment							Significance Threshold (PPV ips)
	Pile Driver (impact) ¹	Vibratory Roller	Large Bulldozer	Caisson Drilling	Loaded Trucks	Jack-hammer	Small bulldozer	
FTA Reference Vibration Levels at 25 feet								
	0.644	0.210	0.089	0.089	0.076	0.035	0.003	—
Residential uses to the east (50 feet)	0.228	0.074	0.031	0.031	0.027	0.012	0.001	0.2
Residential uses to the east (350 feet)	0.012	0.004	0.002	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.2
Residential uses to the south (415 feet)	0.010	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.2
Residential uses to the southwest (460 feet)	0.008	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.2
Residential uses to the west (485 feet)	0.008	0.002	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.2
Residential/School uses to the south (460 feet)	0.008	0.003	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.000	0.2

Source: US Department of Transportation, Federal Transportation Authority, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment

Source: Refer to **Appendix F** for construction vibration worksheets.

Note:

¹ Pile driving would not be required during construction.

Operation

The proposed water storage tank would be stationary and would not generate significant groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Moreover, sensitive receptors would not be located within 400 feet of the proposed water storage tank. As such, the Project's operational vibration impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- 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?***

No Impact.

The Project Site is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan. The closest airport to the Project Site is the Agua Dulce Airpark located approximately 8.0 miles northeast of the Project Site. Therefore, the Project is not within two miles of a public airport or public use airport that would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. Consequently, no impacts associated with noise would result from the Project.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Discussion

- a. *Induce substantial 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)?***

No Impact.

The proposed Project would include the construction of a new water storage tank within the Project Site and other infrastructure-related components that would serve the Deane Pressure Zone. As previously discussed in **Section 2.0: Project Description**, the Deane Pressure Zone has a deficiency in storage of approximately 4.22 MG. There are two new, large developments within the existing Deane Pressure Zone that require additional storage over and above the existing storage deficiency. The new developments will increase the water storage deficiency to 5.74 MG. The Project would result in the construction of a new steel tank with a water storage capacity of 1.70 MG to address part of the deficit, as well as for additional fire protection, emergency, and operation needs within the Deane Pressure Zone. Implementation of the Project would offset some of the existing deficit to help sustain the existing population and community within the area and would not induce new population growth. The proposed Project would implement the SCWD Water Master Plan Update and the UWMP. As such, it would not induce substantial population into the area. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. *Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact.

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would occur within the Deane Tank Project Site and would utilize an adjacent area for construction staging. Additionally, there is no housing on the Project Site and displacement would occur requiring replacement housing elsewhere. Neither the Project Site nor the construction staging area contain existing housing or residential structures of any kind. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not displace any existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. *Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact.

The Project Site includes two existing water storage tanks and related infrastructure, access roads around the water storage tanks, access road which connects to Winterdale Drive, and disturbed and undisturbed opens pace. Construction and operation of the proposed Project would occur within the existing water storage tank area, along the access road, and north to the commercial center. The Project Site does not contain existing housing or human inhabiting structures. Accordingly, the proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
PUBLIC SERVICES				
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:				
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

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:

a. Fire Protection?

Less than Significant Impact.

As previously discussed in **Section 2.0**, the purpose of the proposed Project is to build additional water storage capacity for fire protection, emergency and operational needs at the Deane Pressure Zone, which is deficient in storage by 4.22 MG, as of 2013. Thus, the proposed Project would support Los Angeles County Fire Department's ability to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the proposed Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of a new or physically alter an existing government building because no facilities exist on site. In addition, **MM HAZ-1** would require the firefighting devices, such as fire extinguishers, in order to minimize the spread of wildfire. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase demand on the existing Los Angeles County Fire Department services and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of MM HAZ-1 would reduce impacts to less than significant.

b. Police Protection?

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction sites, if not properly managed, have the potential to attract criminal activity (such as trespassing, theft, and vandalism) and can become a distraction for local law enforcement from more pressing matters that require their attention. Consistent with existing operations, the Project Site would be gated and locked when not in use during both construction and operation of the proposed Project. Thus, the proposed Project would not need permanent security or additional measures to minimize local law enforcement services to the Project Site. Therefore, no new facilities would be required. Thus, police protection to the project area would remain similar to existing operations and impacts on police protection would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. *Schools?*

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project would involve construction of a water tank to offset storage deficiencies within the Deane Pressure Zone. As discussed in *Section 5.14: Population and Housing*, the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce population which would also directly or indirectly induce school enrollment. Therefore, impacts to school would remain less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. *Parks?*

No Impact.

The Project Site does not include a park or any recreational facility such as a trail. Implementation of the Project would not impact parks within the vicinity of the Project, as construction and operation would occur within the Project Site. As such, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. *Other Public Facilities?*

No Impact.

As previously discussed, the Project Site does not include sheriff, fire, school, parks, or other public facilities such as libraries. Thus, the proposed Project would not result in adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of a new or physically altered government building or library. As such, there would be no impact to other public facilities resulting from implementation of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.16 RECREATION

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

Discussion

- a. *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?***

No Impact.

Recreational resources in the SCVWA service area consist of State, county/regional, and local parks and designated regional and local recreational trails. The City provides local parks within the City boundaries. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation also provides local parks and recreation facilities for northwestern Los Angeles County residents and provides regional parks for all residents of the county. Regional recreation areas under the control of the federal government include the Angeles National Forest, the Los Padres National Forest, and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation area.

The implementation of the proposed Project would not directly result in growth in the project area as discussed under **5.13: Population and Housing**, and thus would not directly increase the use of recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?***

No Impact.

The implementation of the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly result in growth in the proposed Project area, and therefore would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Upon completion, the proposed Project would provide needed water storage capacity for fire protection, emergency, and operational needs to offset the existing deficit in Deane Pressure Zone as identified in the SCWD Water Master Plan Update and the UWMP.

Therefore, no growth-related impacts to recreational resources would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.17 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

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

Discussion

- a. *Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?***

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction-related traffic would be generated during construction of the Project, including worker vehicles traveling to and from the work site. The Project is anticipated to generate 2 construction workers per piece of equipment. As previously discussed, the Project would utilize two off-highway trucks, a backhoe, two trenchers for trenching activities. This would equate to approximately 5 workers arriving prior to 7:00 AM and leaving either prior to or after afternoon peak-hour traffic (6:00 PM), thereby minimizing trips during peak hours. Short-term traffic impacts would be less than significant. Once construction activities are complete, traffic would revert to the current conditions. The Project does not anticipate any operation-related transportation impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The Project does not anticipate any change in ridership for buses or other forms of public transportation, because the Project Site is closed to the general public. Additionally, there are no bus lines that go directly to the Project Site. Therefore, there is no impact to existing bus service in the study area, and no transit-related Mitigation Measures are warranted.

The Project does not plan to construct any additional bike or pedestrian facilities. Likewise, the Project would not remove or obstruct any bicycle or pedestrian facilities. For construction circulation, residential streets would generally be avoided to not obstruct residential street traffic flow, which would reduce impact to pedestrians and bikers in nearby neighborhoods. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with the circulation system including bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

Less than Significant Impact.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b), focuses on newly adopted criteria (VMT) adopted pursuant to SB 743 for determining the significance of transportation impacts. Pursuant to SB743, the focus of transportation analysis changes from vehicle delay to VMT. The proposed Project would generate an incremental increase in additional operation-related trips and vehicle miles traveled. Therefore, the project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b).

Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project does not include hazardous geometric design features. The roadways adjacent to the Project Site are part of the existing roadway network and contain no sharp curves or dangerous intersections. Additionally, no new driveways are proposed along Winterdale Drive.

Construction

While some temporary construction closures of pedestrian, bicycle, transit, or individual vehicular lanes may be required, the Project would not require major in-street construction and therefore would not have negative, long-term effects on existing pedestrian, bicycle, transit, or vehicle circulation. Additionally, Project access clearly separates vehicular driveways and pedestrian and bicycle circulation, resulting in

limited vehicle/pedestrian, vehicle/bicycle, and vehicle/vehicle conflicts. Therefore, no impact with respect to hazardous design features would occur, and no further analysis is required.

Operation

Operational activity would not impact transportation after construction, because, as previously mentioned, the Project would be set back from the residential street network via the existing access road to the Project Site. Off-site operational activity would include circulation of cars travelling to and from the Project Site for maintenance. However, very few cars are anticipated and would not occur during peak hours. Therefore, no impact with respect to hazardous design features would occur, and operation would not introduce any new hazards due to a geometric design feature. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

d. *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

Less than Significant Impact.

The construction of the Project could temporarily impact emergency access from construction activities within the roadway and could impact normal traffic flow and create roadway conditions that may delay emergency response times. SR-14 is a County-designated primary disaster route. Soledad Canyon Road is located approximately 0.25-miles north of the Project Site and SR-14 is located approximately 0.5 miles south of the Project Site. However, construction related traffic would result in a negligible increase along these roadways. Therefore, the Project would not substantially impair an emergency access and impacts would be less than significant.

The operation of the Project would not result in inadequate emergency access because the facilities would not alter existing roadway alignments nor does the operation take place in existing roadways. Therefore, operation-related impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significa nt Impact	No Impact
Tribal Cultural Resources – Would the project:				
a. 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:				
i. 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), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. 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) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. 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:

i. 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), or

Less than Significant Impact.

As discussed in **Section 5.5: Cultural Resources**, a records search was performed at the SCCIC on October 2020, and did not identify any historic structures. Since there are no historic structures on the Project Site, Project impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- ii. ***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) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.***

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation.

A search of the Sacred Lands File was conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on September 22, 2020 (see **Appendix C**); and on October 22, 2020, the NAHC indicated that there were no known cultural resources identified in the vicinity of the Project Site.

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) establishes a formal consultation process for California Native American tribes to identify potential significant impacts to tribal cultural resources, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as part of CEQA. Pursuant to AB 52, the SCVWA provided notification to the following two tribes on November 16, 2020—Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (See **Appendix G: AB 52 Consultation Letters**). SCVWA received a response from the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (Tribe) which requested consultation pursuant to AB 52. Communication between SCVWA representative and Jairo Avila, Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer for the Tribe occurred between November 16, 2020 and December 14, 2020 to discuss the proposed Project and to set up a consultation meeting. SCVWA sent a follow up email to Jairo Avila to confirm a virtual meeting on December 10, 2020. The *Cultural Resources Assessment* (see **Appendix C**) was provided to Jairo Avila prior to the meeting. The Tribe identified low sensitivity of cultural resources within and surrounding the Project area. Potential mitigation measures were discussed and a final set of mitigation measures were sent for review by the Tribe on December 11th, 2020. The Tribe concurred with the proposed mitigation measures on December 14th, 2020 and indicated the consultation has been concluded in agreement with no further questions or comments.

Prior to the commencement of grading, **MM TCR-1** would require the SCVWA to consult with the Tribe on the proper disposition and treatment of any TCRs uncovered during construction. With the

implementation of **MM CUL-1**, **CUL-2**, and **TCR-1**, potential impacts to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Implementation the following mitigation measure would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

TCR-1 Prior to the commencement of grading, the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency shall consult with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians on the disposition and treatment of any Tribal Cultural Resource encountered during subsurface excavation activities on the Project site.

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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

Discussion

- 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?***

Less than Significant Impact.

A significant impact may occur if a project would increase water consumption or wastewater generation to such a degree that the capacity of facilities currently serving the Project Site would be exceeded. The Project would include the construction of a new water storage tank within the Project Site and other infrastructure-related components that would serve the Deane Pressure Zone. As previously discussed in **Section 2.0**, the Deane Pressure Zone has a deficiency in storage of approximately 4.22 MG. There are two new, large developments within the existing Deane Pressure Zone that require additional storage over and

above the existing storage deficiency. Implementation of the Project would offset some of the existing deficit to help sustain the existing water requirements within the area and would not result in significant environmental effects. The Project would implement the SCWD Water Master Plan Update and the UWMP. As discussed throughout the MND, the Project would not cause a significant environmental effect as a result of the construction of water facilities. No wastewater facilities would be constructed with the Project. Accordingly, impacts would be less than significant.

Storm drains

As discussed in response to **Section 5.10: Hydrology and Water Quality**, the drainage improvements at the tank site would include the removal of the existing catch basin and drain line. The existing drainage swale along the east side of the terrace drain would continue to collect stormwater runoff from the slope and drain to the access driveway. Proposed drainage improvements would include the construction of multiple catch basins, gutter, concrete ditch, and new drain lines. The tank site catch basins would be located within the proposed paved areas. The catch basins would pick up stormwater runoff from the developed portion of the site. Additionally, catch basins would also be constructed adjacent to the proposed and existing tanks to pick up potential tank overflows and flows from the tank drains. The construction of the drainage system would be implemented over a previously disturbed site with close proximity to existing infrastructure. With implementation of BMPs, impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, potential operational impacts to storm drain infrastructure would be less than significant.

Electricity

The Project would have minor electrical upgrades for additional power to meet water storage tank needs. Construction and operation of the Project would not necessitate the construction of off-site facilities or off-site infrastructure improvements that would have the potential to cause significant environmental impacts. It would also not require additional power from Southern California Edison. As such, Project impacts would be less than significant.

Natural Gas

Operation of the Project does not require natural gas and no natural gas facilities exist within the project footprint. Therefore, the Project would not modify or construct any gas lines. No impact would occur to natural gas.

Telecommunications

Construction and operation of the Project would not necessitate the construction of off-site telecommunication facilities that would have the potential to cause significant environmental impacts. As such, there would be no impacts to telecommunication facilities.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

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

Less than Significant Impact.

A significant impact may occur if a project were to increase water consumption to such a degree that new water sources would need to be identified, or that existing resources would be consumed at a pace greater than planned for by purveyors, distributors, and service providers. Water supply for the Santa Clarita Valley is provided by SCV Water, which was created on January 1, 2018, through the merger of the three water agencies in the Santa Clarita Valley. This merger included Castaic Lake Water Agency and its Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, and the Valencia Water Company. In total, SCV Water serves 273,000 customers through 70,000 retail water connections, in an area approximately 195 square miles in size.⁷² SCV Water receives water from four sources: groundwater, recycled water, imported water, and banked water. According to Table 3-1 of the SCV Water 2015 UWMP, in 2015, SCV Water received approximately 23.5 percent of its water supply from groundwater, 0.3 percent from recycled water, 58.5 percent from imported water, and 17.1 percent from banked water. SCV Water groundwater supply in this region is pumped from the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Basin.⁷³

The SCV Water 2015 UWMP has planned growth within the Santa Clarita Valley service area over the next 30 years. SCV Water has made an allowance for future water demand estimates. Future demand services are based on historical growth rates in the service area. Based on these projections, it would appear that SCV Water has made an adequate allowance for water demand increases for both domestic and commercial water supply over the next 30 years. According to Table 2-2, Summary of Project Water Demands of the SCV Water 2015 UWMP, projected water demands for the SCV Water service area is expected to increase from 68,900 acre-feet in 2020 to 93,900 acre-feet in 2050, which would result in a net increase in water demand of 25,000 acre-feet. The SCVWA would be proposing the Project in order to address the water deficit in the Deane Pressure Zone.

As long-term water supply is a significant concern in California, SCV Water can increase supply to meet future demands by (1) increasing the use of groundwater banking programs to ensure reliable water supply from wet to dry years; (2) increasing imported water purchases if available and if there is sufficient storage capacity; and (3) by purchasing additional recycled water, if available. Collectively, these

72 SCV Water. 2019. "Your Water Agency." Accessed on December 10, 2019. <https://yourscvwater.com/your-district/>.

73 SCV Water (Santa Clarita Valley Water). 2018. *Final 2015 Urban Water Management Plan for Santa Clarita Valley*. Accessed on December 6, 2019. <https://scvgsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2015-FINAL-UrbanWater-Management-Plan-for-Santa-Clarita-Valley.pdf>.

additional measures would ensure a reliable source of water for SCV Water, presently and into the future. As such, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- 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?***

No Impact.

A significant impact may occur if a project would increase wastewater generation to such a degree that the capacity of facilities currently serving the Project Site would be exceeded. A wastewater treatment provider would not be serving the Project. The Project does not require wastewater service; therefore, no impacts to wastewater treatment would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- 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?***

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction of the Project would result in the generation of solid waste such as soils and demolished pavement and roadway components from the existing access road. Per CALGreen, 65 percent of construction and demolition waste must be diverted from landfills. As such, at least 65 percent of all construction and demolition debris from the site would be diverted. Additionally, CalGreen requires 100 percent of trees, stumps, rocks, and associated vegetation and soils resulting primarily from land clearing to be reused or recycled. Any hazardous wastes that are generated during demolition and construction activities would be managed and disposed of in compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws. The remaining 35 percent of construction and demolition materials that are not required to be recycled would either be disposed of or voluntarily recycled at a solid waste facility with available capacity. Construction waste is typically disposed of at inert landfills, which are facilities that accept materials such as soil, concrete, asphalt, and other construction and demolition debris. As of 2017, the Azusa Land Reclamation landfill, approximately located 50 miles to the southeast of the Project Site, is the only permitted inert landfill within Los Angeles County. This landfill has a maximum permitted daily capacity of 6,500 tons of waste and receives an average of 1,356 tons of inert waste per day. The landfill has a remaining capacity of 55,705,480 tons and is expected to remain open for approximately 28 years, as of

2017.⁷⁴ There are other facilities that process inert waste and other construction and demolition waste in the County. Collectively, these facilities have a maximum daily capacity of 32,496 tons per day and process an average of 8,535 tons per day. There are also numerous processing facilities for construction and demolition wastes, the nearest of which is the East Valley Diversion (formerly Looney Bins), located at 11616 Sheldon St, in Sun Valley. This facility is approximately 20 miles to the southwest of the Project Site and has a permitted capacity of 4,600 tons of waste per day. This facility has a mixed construction and demolition waste recycling rate of 75percent.⁷⁵ As such, any construction and demolition debris requiring disposal at an inert landfill would be sufficiently accommodated by existing landfills.

For reasons stated above, Project construction would not 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.g., CALGreen standards). Operation of the Project would generate negligible amounts of solid waste. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

e. Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less than Significant Impact.

A significant impact may occur if a project would generate solid waste that was not disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations. The Project would be consistent with the applicable regulations associated with solid waste. Specifically, the Project would comply with the State's construction and demolition requirements, which requires that projects recycle a minimum of 65percent of all inert materials and 65percent of all other materials.⁷⁶ The Project would also comply with AB 939, AB 341, AB 1826 waste diversion goals, as applicable, by providing clearly marked, source-sorted receptacles to facilitate recycling. Since the Project would comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

74 LADPW (Los Angeles Department of Public Works). 2019b. Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan 2017 Annual Report. Accessed on December 10, 2019.
<https://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/swims/ShowDoc.aspx?id=6530&hp=yes&type=PDF>.

75 LADPW (Los Angeles Department of Public Works). 2019b. Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan 2017 Annual Report. Accessed on December 10, 2019.
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76 Green Santa Clarita. Construction and Demolition Recycling Ordinance. Accessed November 2020.
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5.20 WILDFIRE

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

Discussion

a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than Significant Impact.

As discussed in *Section 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the Project site is located in a State Responsibility Area of land that is classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ).^{77, 78} Soledad Canyon Road is a County designated secondary disaster route.⁷⁹ Additionally, the SR-14 is a County-designated primary disaster route. Soledad Canyon Road is located approximately 0.25-miles north of the Project site and SR-14 is located approximately 0.5 miles south of the Project Site. However, construction related traffic would result in a negligible increase along these roadways. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not substantially impair an emergency response plan or evacuation plan.

During operation, the Proposed project would not increase traffic along Soledad Canyon Road or SR-14. Therefore, operation-related impacts would be less than significant.

⁷⁷ California Fire, State Responsibility Area (SRA) Viewer, <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/state-responsibility-area-viewer>, accessed October 2020.

⁷⁸ Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (2012). One Valley One Vision. 3.11: Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Figure 3.11-2: Wildfire Hazard Zone Within the OVOV Planning Area.

⁷⁹ Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Disaster Route Maps by City. City of Santa Clarita Map. 2010b. Accessed November 2020. <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/dsg/disasterroutes/city.cfm>.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project Site is developed with two water storage tanks on a level pad and is surrounded by asphalt. As such, the project would not involve development on a sloped area such that wildfire risks would be exacerbated. The Project would involve construction of another tank on a relatively level infill site that is adjacent to residential development. As such, the proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks such that project occupants would be exposed to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. As previously discussed in **Section 2.0**, the purpose of the proposed Project is to build additional water storage capacity for fire protection, emergency and operational needs at the Deane Pressure Zone. Thus, the proposed Project would assist in wildfire protection efforts for the surrounding area. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- 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?***

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project will not require the installation of infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk. Maintenance of project-related infrastructure would be primarily conducted within the boundaries of the Project Site. The environmental impacts of the construction and maintenance of the infrastructure associated with the proposed Project are analyzed throughout this document, and no significant environmental impacts have been identified. Furthermore, because construction and maintenance of project-related infrastructure would take place within the Project Site or along its immediate frontages, the infrastructure improvements and utility connections required for the Project and their design configurations would comply with applicable fire code requirements for emergency evacuation. For these reasons, the infrastructure improvements associated with the proposed Project are not expected to exacerbate fire risk or to result in temporary or ongoing significant environmental impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

- 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?***

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project is not located near a potential flooding that would result in potential drainage changes.⁸⁰ According to the Geotechnical Report prepared for the Project, the Project Site is not located within an area that has been identified by the State of California as being potentially susceptible to seismically induced landslides and would not be adversely affected by the potential for landsliding. Implementation of the proposed Project would not exacerbate the existing downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

⁸⁰ Santa Clarita Area Valley Plan. One Valley One Vision. Section 3.12: Hydrology and Water Quality. Figure 3.12-1: 100-Year Flood Zone of the OVVO Planning Area.

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE – Does the project:				
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 endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- 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 endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

Less than Significant Impact.

A significant impact may occur if the Project would have a potentially significant impact on fish or wildlife species, including habitat and population, on a plant or animal community, including elimination of such communities or reduction or restriction of the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or historical, archeological or paleontological resources.

As discussed in **Section 5.4, Biological Resources**, the Project is not located within a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved habitat conservation plan that would apply to the Project. No wildlife corridors, native wildlife nursery sites, or bodies of water in which fish are present are located on the Project Site.

Coastal whiptail is a fairly common species in sage scrub habitats. This species is highly mobile with ample foraging habitat immediately adjacent to the Project Site in the surrounding undeveloped slopes, as it is expected to move into the adjacent undeveloped habitat. However, to ensure no coastal whiptail would be impacted during Project related construction activities, a pre-construction clearance survey shall be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities to ensure no coastal whiptail would be impacted, as identified in **Mitigation Measure MM BIO-1**.

However, the Project Site does include trees that could provide nesting sites for migratory birds. Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (50 C.F.R. Section 10.13). Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code prohibit take of all birds and their active nests including raptors and other migratory nongame birds. Therefore, the Project would comply with the MBTA and **MM BIO-2**. As such, impacts related to disturbance to nesting birds would be reduced to less than significant.

The Project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. As discussed in **Section 5.5(a), Cultural Resources**, there are no historical resources on the Project Site and no historical resources would be demolished, altered, or relocated as a result of the Project. As it relates to unknown archeological or tribal cultural resources, in the unlikely event that previously unknown cultural and tribal cultural resources are identified during earthmoving activities, impacts would be less than significant with the incorporation of **MM CUL-1**, **MM CUL-2**, and **MM TCR-1**.

However, as previously mentioned, since the Project is mapped entirely as valley deposits associated with the Mint Canyon Formation dating to the Miocene epoch and the Mint Canyon Formation is considered to be of high paleontological sensitivity and is known to preserve vertebrate fossil material.⁸¹ Thus, any fossils recovered during excavation activity associated with development of the Project could be scientifically significant. Through the implementation of **MM GEO-1**, construction phase procedures would be implemented in the event any unknown paleontological resources are discovered during grading and excavation activities. Based on the preceding analysis in **Section 5.7: Geology and Soils**, impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant with mitigation.

81 BCR Consulting LLC. Cultural Resources Assessment: Deane Tank Site Expansion Project. October 30, 2020.

The Project would not degrade the quality of the environment, reduce or threaten any fish or wildlife species (endangered or otherwise), or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history. Therefore, impacts from the Project would be less than significant.

- 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)?***

Less than Significant Impact.

Development of the Project would not result in impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The Project would be consistent with the SCWD Water Master Plan Update, the CLWA UWMP, and the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan and help to supply water to existing residential and commercial water users along the pipeline route within the North Bouquet Canyon area. Additionally, the issues relevant to the Project are localized and confined to the immediate Project area. There are no unusual circumstances relating to the project, nor are there any successive projects of the same type in the same place that would render any impacts as significant or cumulatively considerable. No significant cumulatively considerable impacts are anticipated to result from the Project. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

- c. Does the project have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?***

Less than Significant Impact.

The Project’s potential impacts to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, transportation, and other environmental issues have been reviewed. The analysis found that development and operation of the Project would result in less-than-significant adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly for air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and traffic. Potentially significant impacts from wildlife and from temporary construction noise were identified and properly mitigated through the implementation of Mitigation Measures. The mitigation measures identified would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact, directly and indirectly, to the nearby population.

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