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Castaic Lake Water Agency

Recycled Water Program, Phase 2A

Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Environmental Assessment

Prepared for

Castaic Lake Water Agency

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Prepared by

May 2011

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Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Environmental Assessment

Recycled Water Program, Phase 2A

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1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Environmental Assessment (EA) is to satisfy the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to analyze any potential environmental impacts from the implementation of Phase 2 (specifically, Phase 2A) of the Recycled Water Program, which is meant, in part, to satisfy legislative mandates set forth by the State of California[1] to meet recycled water goals of 1 million acre-feet per year by 2010. The Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) is proceeding with the proposed project as part of its Recycled Water Master Plan[2] (RWMP), adopted in 2002 to deliver recycled water to the Santa Clarita Valley. The proposed project will also help to meet the goals for recycled water use described in the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan prepared by CLWA and the local water retailers and adopted in November 2005. For purposes of simplification, in this document this will be referred to as "the proposed project" or "the project."

1.1.1 CEQA Compliance

This document is a MND prepared in accordance with CEQA, and it provides an overview of the proposed project, identifies the anticipated environmental impacts from the proposed project, and identifies mitigation measures to reduce the level of impacts to less than significant.

All "projects" within the State of California are required to undergo an environmental review to determine the environmental impacts associated with implementation of the project in accordance with CEQA.[3] CLWA is the Lead Agency for the proposed project and, as such, is required to conduct an environmental review to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project described in this MND.

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1 State of California, California Water Code 13577, "Recycled Water Act of 1991."

2 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, *Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2002.

3 CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et al.*, 2010.

The CLWA certified a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in March 2007 that provides environmental review for the Recycled Water Master Plan in accordance with the requirements of CEQA.[4] The PEIR provides general analysis of the effects of the Recycled Water Master Plan. This document provides more specific, project-level analysis through a process known as "tiering."[5,6,7] This document incorporates the PEIR by reference and concentrates on site-specific issues related to the Phase 2A project. The PEIR is available for review at CLWA website (www.clwa.org).

The PEIR also includes standard mitigation measures and related performance standards that the CLWA will apply to the proposed project to ensure that one or more measures or standards will effectively avoid or reduce particular environmental impacts.

This MND for the Phase 2A project is being distributed directly to numerous agencies, organizations, interested groups, and persons for comment during the scoping period. This MND is also available for review for a 30-day period (May 9, 2011, through June 8, 2011) at the following locations:

County of Los Angeles Public Library, Valencia Branch
23743 Valencia Blvd.
Santa Clarita, California 91355-2191

County of Los Angeles Public Library, Newhall Branch
22704 W. Ninth Street
Newhall, California 91321

Ventura County Library
Hall of Administration
646 County Square Dr., Ste 150
Ventura, CA 93001

As permitted in section 15150 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, the MND has referenced technical studies, analyses, and reports. Information from the referenced documents has been briefly summarized in the appropriate section(s) of the Draft EIR. All referenced documents are available for public inspection and review upon request at:

Castaic Lake Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, California 91350.

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4 BonTerra Consulting, *Final Program Environmental Impact Report - Castaic Lake Water Agency Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2007.

5 BonTerra Consulting, *Final Program Environmental Impact Report - Castaic Lake Water Agency Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2007.

6 *California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines*, Section 15152.

7 California Public Resources Code, Section 21093.

1.1.2 NEPA Compliance

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) applies to projects that are carried out, financed, or approved in whole or in part by federal agencies. Accordingly, this article applies to projects that involve one or more state or local agencies and one or more federal agencies.[8] Portions of the proposed project utilize funding from a federal grant program. As such, in accordance with NEPA,[9] the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposed project and alternatives. The potential impacts are evaluated according to their context and intensity, as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. The EA process also includes procedures for giving federal, state, and local agencies and the public opportunities to provide input on the proposed project and alternatives. Completion of the EPA will be evidenced by a signed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD).

If a Lead Agency (CLWA) finds that an EIS or FONSI for a project would not be prepared by the federal agency (EPA) by the time when the Lead Agency will need to consider an EIR or Negative Declaration, the Lead Agency should try to prepare a combined EIR-EIS or Negative Declaration-FONSI. To avoid the need for the federal agency to prepare a separate document for the same project, the Lead Agency must involve the federal agency in the proration of the joint document.[10]

This document has been prepared as a combined Mitigated Negative Declaration under CEQA and Environmental Assessment under NEPA.[11] The EA for the Phase 2A project is being distributed directly to numerous agencies for comment during the scoping period. The EA is also available for review for a 30-day period (May 9, 2011, through June 8, 2011) on the US EPA Region IX website:

US EPA – Generated NEPA Documents
http://www.epa.gov/region9/nepa/epa-generated/

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8 California Public Resources Code, Section 21083; National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190 as amended; NEPA Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Parts 1500 to 1508.

9 US Code, Title 42, Section 4321 *et. seq*., National Environmental Policy Act.

10 *California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines*, Section 15222, "Preparation of Joint Documents."; 40 C.F.R. Sections 1502.25, 1506.2, and 1506.4.

11 *California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines*, Section 15220 to 15226.

1.2 PROJECT HISTORY

CLWA developed a RWMP to determine the potential users of recycled water and the source of recycled water for the Santa Clarita Valley. CLWA provides water to four local retailers that serve the Santa Clarita Valley: the Newhall County Water District (NCWD), the Santa Clarita Water Company (SCWC), the Valencia Water Company (VWC), and the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 36 (LACWD).

The Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) (a consolidation of Sanitation Districts No. 26 and No. 32) provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVSD operates two water reclamation plants (WRPs), the Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP. These facilities are interconnected to form a regional treatment system known as the Santa Clarita Valley Joint Sewerage System (SCVJSS); this interconnectivity optimizes operating efficiencies of the wastewater treatment plants through diversion of solids and excess wastewater from the Saugus WRP to the Valencia WRP for treatment and disposal. The SCVJSS has a design capacity of 28.1 million gallons per day (mgd) and currently processes an average flow of 21 mgd. Use of recycled water from the Valencia WRP is permitted under RWQCB Order No. 87-48. On July 24, 1996, the CLWA executed an agreement with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) to purchase up to 1,700 afy of recycled water from the Valencia WRP. In 2002, the CLWA constructed the facilities to deliver this supply to The Player's Club Golf Course and initiated deliveries in 2003.[12] The Saugus WRP does not produce recycled water for reuse at this time.

The CLWA has a contract with the State of California, acting by and through the Department of Water Resources, to purchase water from the State Water Project (SWP) and sell/convey water used to supplement local groundwater supplies to local retail water purveyors in the Santa Clarita Valley. These purveyors include: NCWD, the Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD), the VWC, and the LACWD.

12 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, November 2005.

1.2.1 Recycled Water Master Plan Program EIR

The CLWA previously completed the CEQA process and adopted the RWMP Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in March 2007.[13] The RWMP Program EIR analyzed potential environmental impacts from obtaining recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The second phase of the RWMP proposes to obtain recycled water from the Saugus WRP, and requires further environmental review as the next phase in the Program in addition to using a source of recycled water not anticipated in the Program EIR.[14]

As described in *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15168(c)[15] subsequent activities in the program must be examined in the light of the program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared.

> *(1) If a later activity would have effects that were not examined in the program EIR, a new Initial Study would need to be prepared leading to either an EIR or a Negative Declaration.*
>
> *(3) An agency shall incorporate feasible mitigation measures and alternatives developed in the program EIR into subsequent actions in the program.*
>
> *(4) Where the subsequent activities involve site specific operations, the agency should use a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the program EIR.*

The RWMP Program EIR is incorporated by reference. The MND/EA will use the adopted RWMP Program EIR, where appropriate, to tier appropriate information. Project design features identified in the RWMP Program EIR will be used where appropriate. Mitigation measures and regulatory requirements proposed and approved in the RWMP Program EIR, as they apply to the Phase 2A project, have been incorporated and use the same identification as the Program EIR, where appropriate, within this document. If additional mitigation is required it will be incorporated and identified as being one number higher than the previous mitigation measure. A mitigation measure or regulatory requirement that has been updated from the original version in the RWMP Program EIR shall be identified as strikethrough when deleted and underlined when updated. When there are no applicable project design features and regulatory requirements for a potential impact, they shall be grouped together.

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13 BonTerra Consulting, *Final Program Environmental Impact Report - Castaic Lake Water Agency Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2007.

14 California Public Resources Code, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, *State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15163.

15 California Public Resources Code, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, *State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15168(c).

Preliminary Design Report

CLWA completed a Preliminary Design Report (PDR) for Phase 2[16] of the recycled water system, which was preceded by three reports that evaluated potential opportunities for recycled water use in the CLWA service area. An initial Reclaimed Water System Master Plan (1993 RWMP) was completed for CLWA in 1993.[17] An update to the 1993 RWMP, completed in 2002, addressed the changes in the area that had occurred in the last decade.[18]

The 2002 RWMP recommended utilizing a phased plan to implement the recycled water system. The implementation phases were prioritized based on the status of the users (existing or future), the anticipated construction schedule of future users, and the proximity of the users to the recycled water source. Phase 2 of the recycled water system, as presented in the 2002 RWMP, included a variety of recycled water uses in the existing developed area between Interstate 5 (I-5) and the Santa Clarita City Center. Potential users primarily included parks, schools, and homeowner's associations. Improvements identified in the 2002 RWMP included an 8,000-gallon-per-minute (gpm) expansion of the existing Valencia WRP recycled water pump station from 4,000 to 12,000 gpm, a 3.5-million-gallon (mg) reservoir, and 62,000 linear feet (lf) of pipelines, ranging in size from 8 to 36 inches. Four alternatives for Phase 2 were further developed in 2006 as part of a Work Plan developed for use in an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant.

Concerns with discharging into the Santa Clara River addressed in the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) mitigation plan for the reach of the river where Saugus WRP discharges, and subsequent discussions with CLWA and the purveyors, have resulted in a modified approach to Phase 2. The modified approach includes evaluation of only two project alternatives as, discussed later in this document (see **Section, 4.0, Description of Alternatives**).

Each alternative includes the construction of a 4,500-gpm pump station, construction of a 1.75-mg reservoir, and construction of transmission and distribution pipelines. Further evaluation of customer laterals are only included for the recommended alternative and are discussed in the NEPA portion of this document (see **Section 5.0**, **Affected Environment**). The modified project approach only considers effluent from the Saugus WRP as the recycled water source for this phase and also includes potential use of CLWA's existing piping infrastructure. Consequently, alternatives for pipeline alignments to Valencia WRP, expanding Valencia WRP, and utilizing the existing Lockheed tank for storage are not considered for this phase. Instead, several sites near the Saugus WRP area are being considered for the pump station, and CLWA's Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (RVWTP) is being considered for the storage reservoir.

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16 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, *Final Preliminary Design Report for the Recycled Water System – Phase 2A*, 2009.

17 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, *Reclaimed Water Master Plan*, 1993.

18 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, *Reclaimed Water Master Plan*, 1993., *Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2002.

2.0 PROPOSED PROJECT, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED PROJECT/ACTION

2.1.1 Purpose

The Recycled Water Program, Phase 2 will provide approximately 1,740 acre-feet per year (afy) or 1.55 million gallons per day (mgd), of recycled water to CLWA customers and is separated into two distinct sub phases: Phase 2A and Phase 2B. Phase 2A is described in detail in this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Environmental Assessment (EA); Phase 2B is not part of this MND/EA. Upon approval by the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD), the amount of recycled water requested by CLWA would be supplied by the SCVSD from the Saugus WRP.

2.1.2 Saugus Water Reclamation Plant Operations and Expansion

The SCVSD currently owns and operates the Valencia WRP and the Saugus WRPs, which process an annual average flow of 20 mgd. According to a recent discharge study completed for the Saugus WRP,[19] between 1975 and 2004, the Saugus WRP discharge has generally increased from 3 mgd to up to 7 mgd with annual average of approximately 5 mgd (5,600 afy) in 2009. Currently, daily average discharge ranges as much as 1.5 mgd throughout the year depending on inflow volumes.

Diurnal fluctuations are discharges that occur at the Saugus WRP in accordance with plant operations and daily water use cycles in the service area.[20] During the course of a 24-hour period, discharge from the Saugus WRP oscillates every 20 minutes, typically by 0.1 mgd to 0.5 mgd. Filter backflushing occurs twice each day, during which time the Saugus WRP discharge is reduced to zero for periods that last up to an hour.

The Saugus WRP is a tertiary treatment plant and consists of comminution (cutting up), grit removal, primary sedimentation, activated sludge biological treatment, secondary sedimentation, coagulation, nitrification and denitrification, duel filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. The reclaimed water is then discharged into the Santa Clara River downstream of Bouquet Canyon Road. Solids are conveyed to the Valencia WRP for processing.

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19 ESA, *Saugus WRP Reduced Discharge Analysis, Upper Santa Clara River, California*, prepared for Castaic Lake Water Agency, March 2010.

20 ESA, March 2010.

The average maximum capacity for future treatment at the Saugus WRP is projected for 6.5 mgd. The Valencia WRP processes an average of 15 mgd, or 16,800 afy, and has a capacity for 20 mgd. The proposed project would use the Saugus WRP for recycled water use instead of the Valencia WRP, which was the designated source for all recycled water in the RWMP.

The seasonal average fluctuation of effluent produced from the Saugus WRP is 0.5 mgd. To accommodate the proposed project/proposed action, use of recycled water produced by the Saugus WRP based on a seasonal peaking factor and the average oscillation of 0.1 to 0.5 mgd from the Saugus WRP, the proposed project/proposed action would detract approximately 0.9 mgd from the average maximum effluent during the highest demand month, resulting in an average maximum effluent of the Saugus WRP of 5.6 mgd. An annual 0.5 mgd reduction in discharge from the Saugus WRP, 10 percent reduction from the current annual average, is within the range of daily variability for discharges.[21] With the inclusion of the 24-hour oscillation period of the Saugus WRP (0.5 mgd), the average monthly operational effluent from the Saugus WRP would not fall below 5.0 mgd, thus leaving 5.0 mgd in the Santa Clara River.

Based on the proposed project's/action's average daily highest demand month peaking factor of 1.83 and the average oscillation of 0.1 to 0.5 mgd from the Saugus WRP, the proposed project/proposed action would detract approximately 0.9 mgd from the average maximum effluent, resulting in an average monthly maximum effluent of the Saugus WRP of 5.6 mgd. An annual 0.5 mgd reduction in discharge from the Saugus WRP, 10 percent reduction from the current annual average, is within the range of daily variability for discharges.[22]

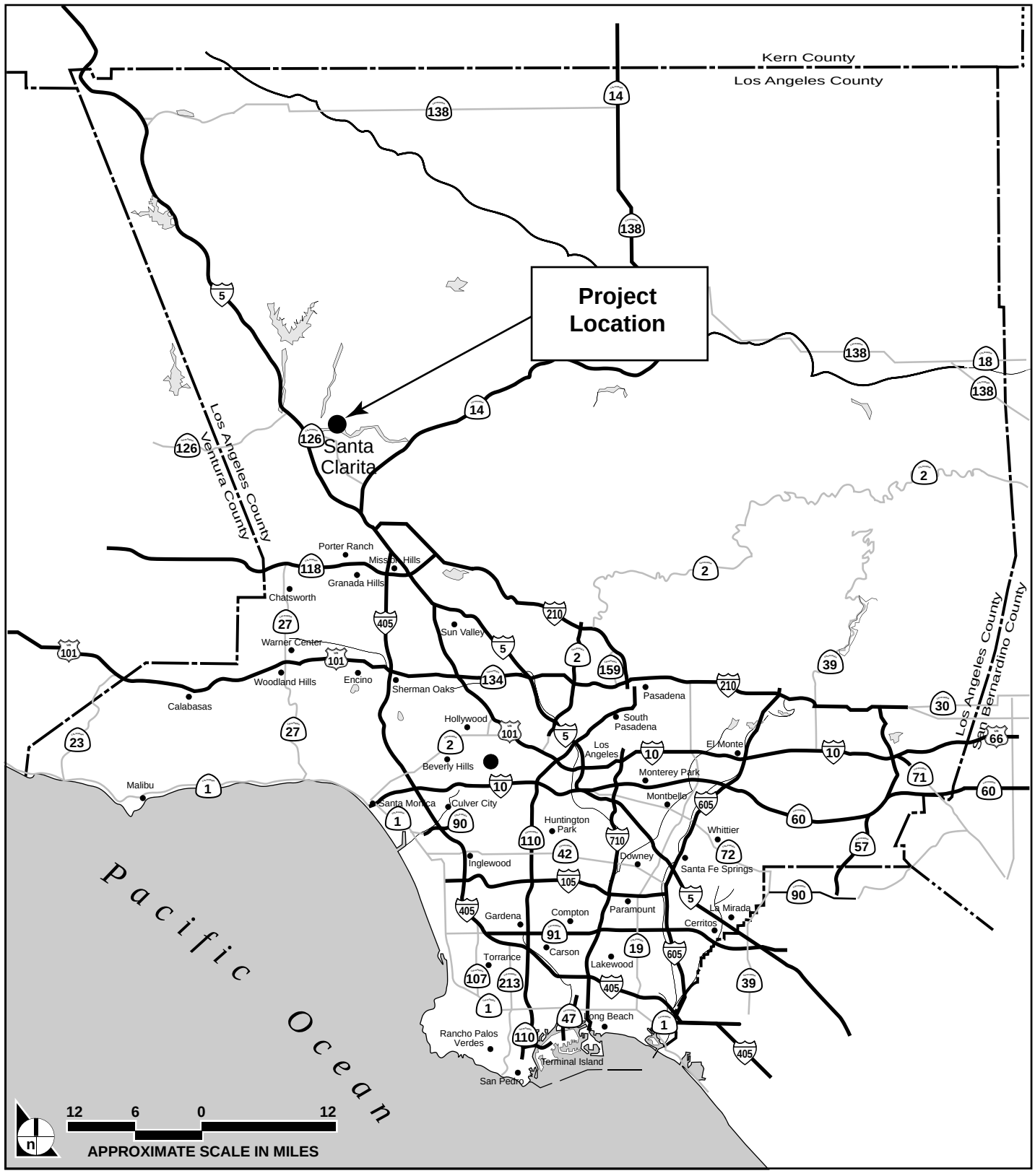
2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in the City of Santa Clarita in northern Los Angeles County, as shown in **Figure 1, Regional Location**.

The proposed project, which is located in the northern portion of the City within the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) boundaries, will serve portions of the CLWA service area. As shown in **Figure 2, CLWA Boundary and Service Area**, the CLWA service area comprises approximately 195 square miles of land in incorporated and unincorporated areas in or adjacent to the Santa Clarita Valley area of Los Angeles County and also extends into eastern Ventura County. No components of the project would be located in Ventura County.

21 ESA, March 2010, 3.

22 ESA, March 2010, 3.

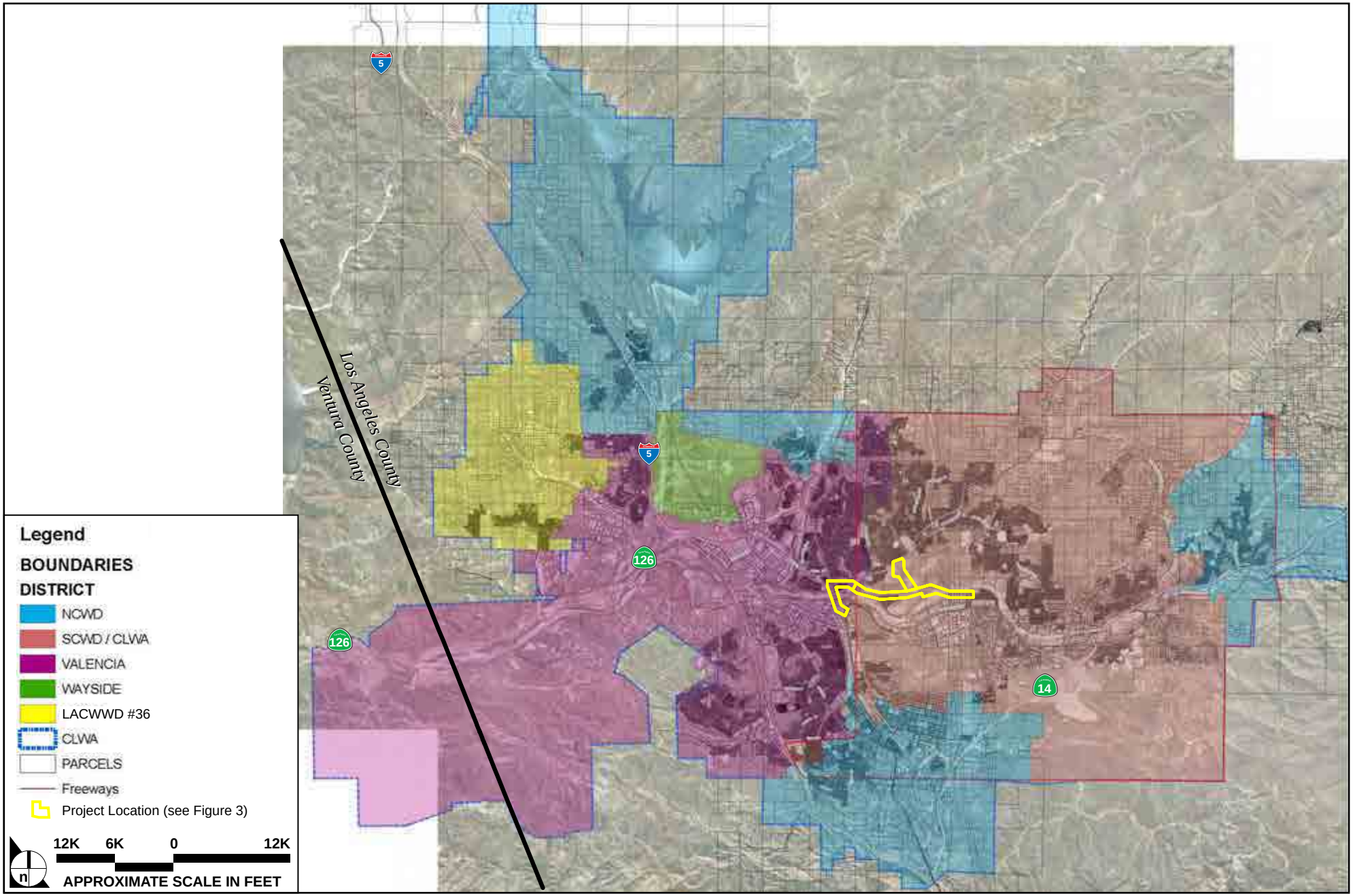


SOURCE: Impact Sciences, Inc. – July 2009

FIGURE **1**

Regional Location

1035-001•07/09



SOURCE: Newhall County Water District, Santa Clarita Valley Water Purveyor Sphere of Influence - July 2008

FIGURE **2**

CLWA Boundary and Service Area

The project consists of a linear alignment ranging in width from approximately 25 to 100 feet wide along a corridor from the Saugus Water Reclamation Plant (WRP), located approximately 800 feet south of the Bouquet Canyon and Soledad Canyon Road intersection, and through the south side of Bouquet Canyon Road from where it will connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral and cross under Valencia Boulevard and the Santa Clara River. The alignment continues along Newhall Ranch Road and through the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (RVWTP) site to Central Park (see **Figure 3, Phase 2A Location**). Central Park is an 80-acre multi-use park, owned and maintained by the City of Santa Clarita, and is classified as a regional park. Additional distribution pipelines would extend west and east and into the River Village and Bridgeport developments.

The pipeline alignment was developed specifically to take advantage of the potential for reuse of existing facilities and future expansion to the eastern portion of the CLWA service area. A majority of the pipeline alignment is within the street right-of-way (ROW).

2.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP), of which the Phase 2A project is a component, are as follows:

- To satisfy the legislative mandates, as set forth in the Water Recycling Act of 1991, which encourage the production and use of recycled water through the established statewide goal of recycling a total of 700,00 acre-feet per year (afy) of water by the year 2000 and 1,000,000 afy by the year 2010.
- To conserve potable water supplies by making recycled water available for various non-potable uses, including irrigation, industrial processes, and recreational enhancement, where feasible and appropriate.
- To develop a cost-effective system for the delivery of recycled water.
- To create a recycled water system that can produce enough water to meet the recycled water demands of existing and future customers.

To develop the recommended recycled water system, key service policies must be considered. Because specific service policies have not yet been established by CLWA, policies necessary for the development of a recycled water system are recommended. Recommended service policies, upon which the recommended recycled water system is based, are as follows:

- Although retail service by CLWA is limited to areas prescribed by statute, CLWA would provide the facilities to deliver recycled water to individual existing and future users identified as each implementation phase is developed.

- For new development tracts that plan to, or are conditioned to, utilize recycled water, CLWA would provide the facilities to deliver recycled water to the boundary of the tract or to a location reasonably near the tract.

- Facilities located within planned public right-of-way of new development tracts must be dedicated to CLWA or the retail service provider.

- At CLWA's convenience and discretion, CLWA may construct transmission facilities through new development tracts.

- On-site facilities for new or existing users will be provided by the user. However, CLWA may develop an incentive program to assist funding in the on-site retrofits.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The proposed project would divert 511 afy, or 0.46 mgd, of recycled water from the Saugus WRP to augment potable water supplies within CLWA's service area. Phase 2A of the recycled water pipeline project includes pump site alternatives, reservoir site alternatives, and transmission system alternatives. Alternatives addressing Phase 2A of the RWMP for providing recycled water to the Santa Clarita Valley were previously addressed in the Final Preliminary Design Report (PDR).[23]

The MND/EA considers the following alternatives for Phase 2A of the Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP):

- Proposed Phase 2A Recycled Water System (Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative)

- No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply[24]

- Recycled Water Master Plan Implementation (No Action) Alternative

- North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

23 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2002.

24 40 CFR Section 1502.14(d)

SOURCE: Google Earth - 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - July 2009

FIGURE **3**

Phase 2A Location

1035-001•07/09

2.4.1 Proposed Phase 2A Recycled Water System (Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative)

Phase 2A extends the recycled water system from the Saugus WRP to the existing abandoned Honby Pump Station. Phase 2A will provide approximately 511 afy of recycled water, or 0.46 mgd, from the Saugus WRP and route it through a new 4,500-gallons per minute (gpm) pump station at the Valencia Mart Shopping Center west of the intersection of Bouquet Canyon Road and Valencia Boulevard, where it will connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral to the west of the pump station, to cross under Valencia Boulevard and the Santa Clara River. Approximately 18,000 feet of transmission pipeline and approximately 17,000 feet of distribution and lateral pipeline would be utilized for Phase 2A (see **Figure 4, Conceptual Project Design)**. The 511 afy, or 0.46 mgd, of recycled water would divert about 9 percent of the average effluent discharged from the Saugus WRP.

New transmission and distribution pipelines would be placed along Valencia Boulevard, Newhall Ranch Road, and through the RVWTP site to Central Park (80-acre regional park) and to the existing Honby Pump Station. Additional distribution pipelines would extend west and east into the River Village and Bridgeport developments. A new 1.75-million-gallon (mg) welded steel tank (reservoir) would be placed on the RVWTP site. The reservoir site allows for construction of an additional reservoir in future phases of the recycled water system.

Phase 2B, which is a future project and not evaluated as part of this environmental document, would include the rehabilitation of the Honby Pump Station, the conversion of an existing 14-inch pipeline from potable to recycled water use, and additional storage in the eastern portion of CLWA's service area.

Recycled water demands to be served by the proposed project/preferred alternative are summarized in **Table 1, Recycled Water Demands to be Served by Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative**. Currently, these areas are served using potable water sources.[25]

25 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Final Preliminary Design Report Recycled Water Phase 2A*, 2009, ES-1.

Table 1
Recycled Water Demands to be Served by Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Customer/Area	Average Annual Demand (afy)	Maximum Day Demand (gpm)
Bridgeport Community Association	14	20
River Village	300	426
City of Santa Clarita (misc. landscaped areas)	64	88
City of Santa Clarita – Central Park	133	189
Total	**511**	**723**

Source:
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Final Preliminary Design Report for the Recycled Water System – Phase 2A, June 2009, 7-1.

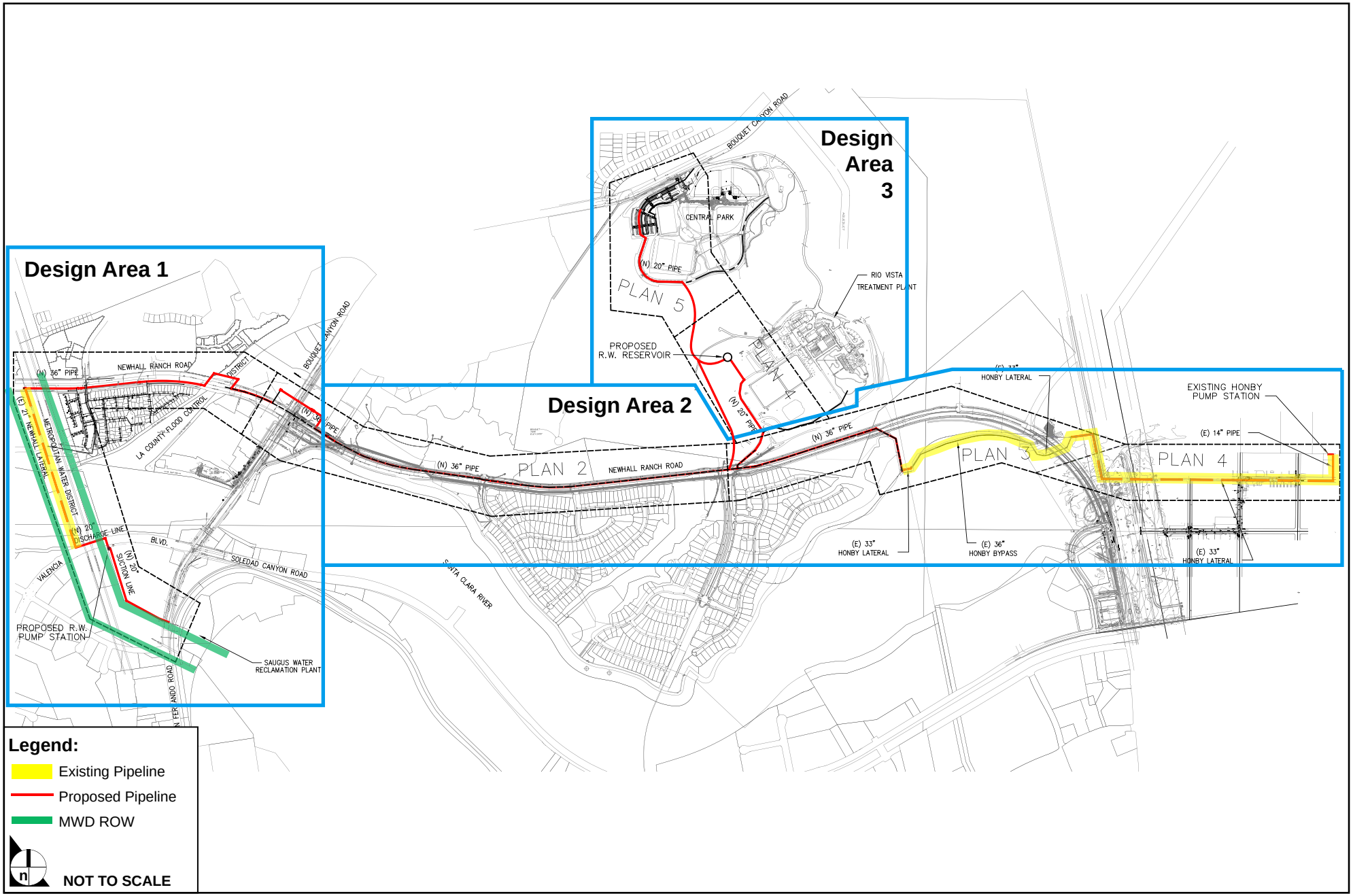
For purposes of analysis, the proposed project/preferred alternative has been divided into three design areas that would together consist of Phase 2A of the RWMP:

- Design Area 1 of the project (**Pump Station**) would consist of the Saugus WRP discharge line, which would connect to the proposed pump station located in the Valencia Mart Shopping Center. The discharge line would then follow Valencia Boulevard west and connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral, located in an existing Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) right-of-way (ROW), cross the Santa Clara River, and connect to the proposed transmission pipeline that runs east and parallel with Newhall Ranch Road.

- Design Area 2 of the project (**Pipeline Alignment**) would start at the connection with the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral and run east along the southern alignment of Newhall Ranch Road. A proposed pipe bridge would cross the Bouquet Canyon Channel, and then would travel east along the northern alignment of Newhall Ranch Road to connect with the existing 33-inch Honby Lateral/36-inch Honby Bypass pipelines that connect to the existing Honby Pump Station.

- Design Area 3 of the project (**Reservoir**) would connect the RVWTP with the proposed Newhall 36-inch pipeline. This 20-inch pipeline would traverse north to connect to the proposed 1.75-mg reservoir, which is proposed west of the existing sludge drying beds on the RVWTP site, and then traverse north down a steep gradient to Central Park to a future recycled water pump station.

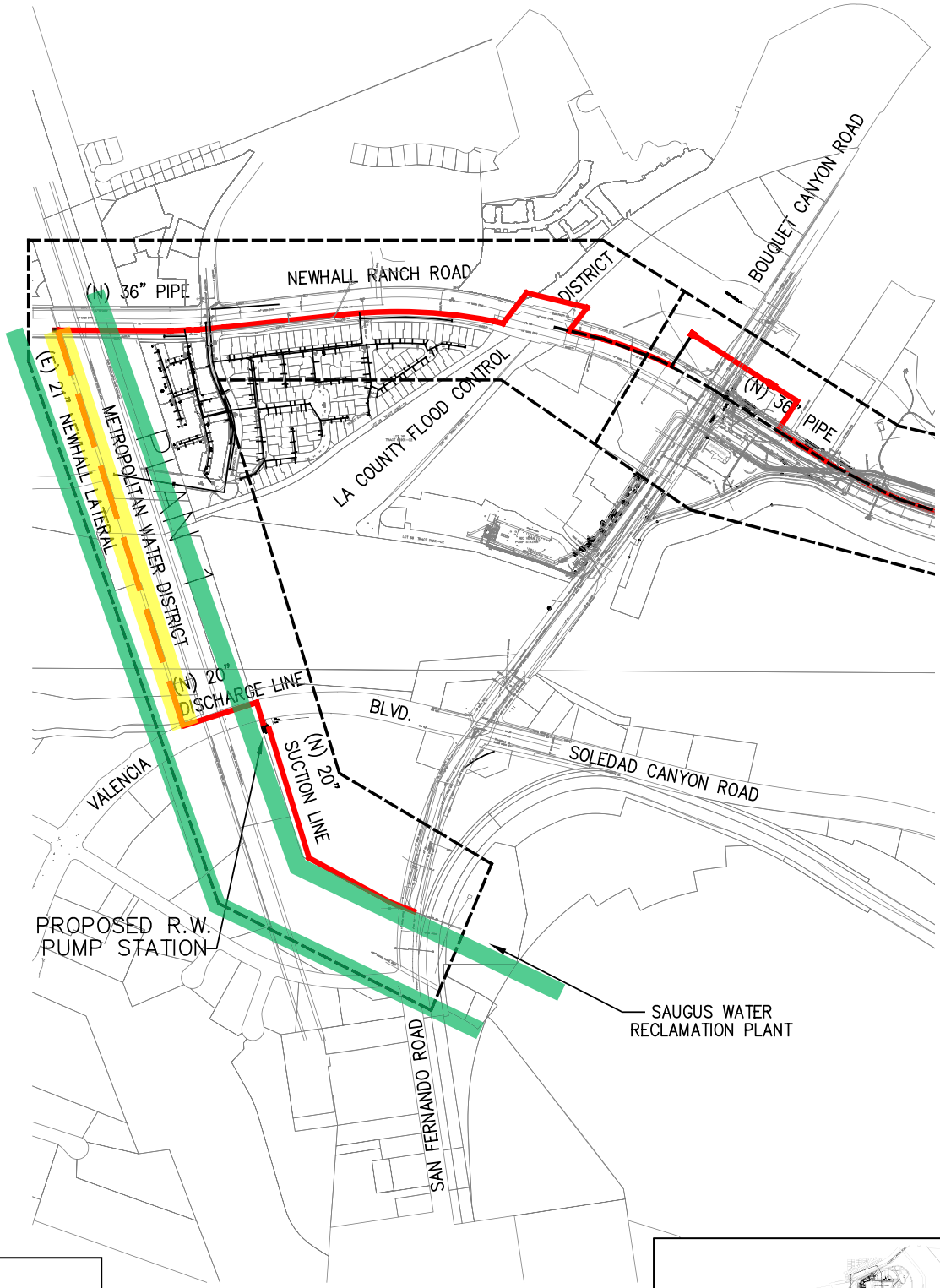
The location of each of the design areas are shown on **Figure 5** through **Figure 7**.



SOURCE: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants - June 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - December 2010

FIGURE **4**

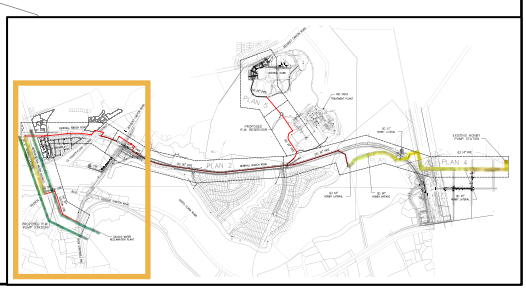
Conceptual Project Design



Legend:

- Existing Pipeline
- Proposed Pipeline
- MWD ROW

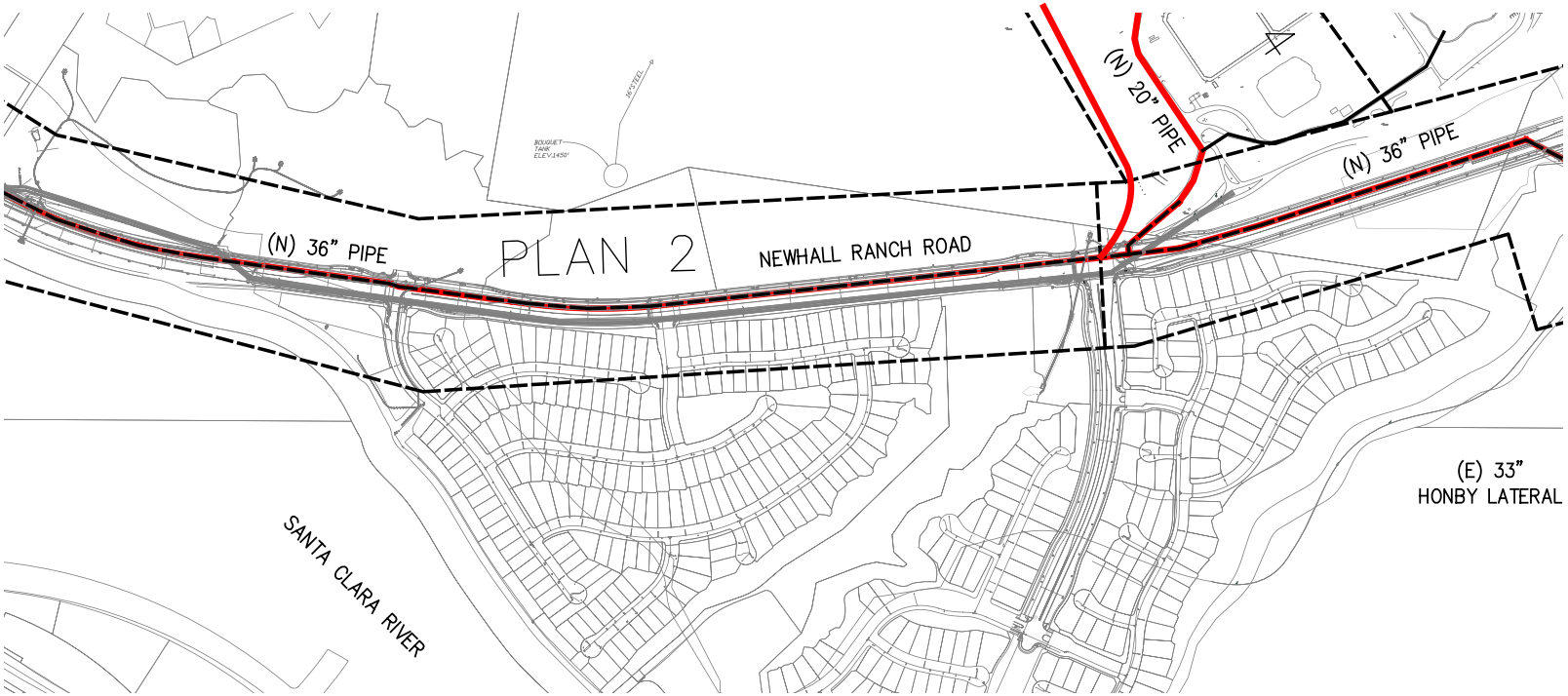
NOT TO SCALE



SOURCE: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Final Preliminary Design for the Recycled Water System, Phase 2A - June 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - July 2009

FIGURE 5

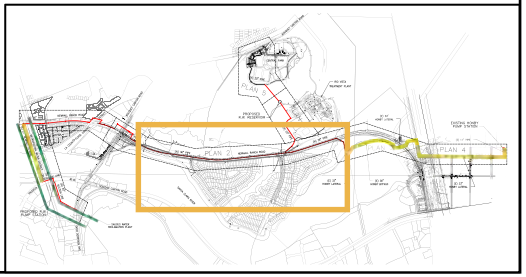
Design Area 1 - Pump Station



Legend:

- Existing Pipeline
- Proposed Pipeline
- MWD ROW

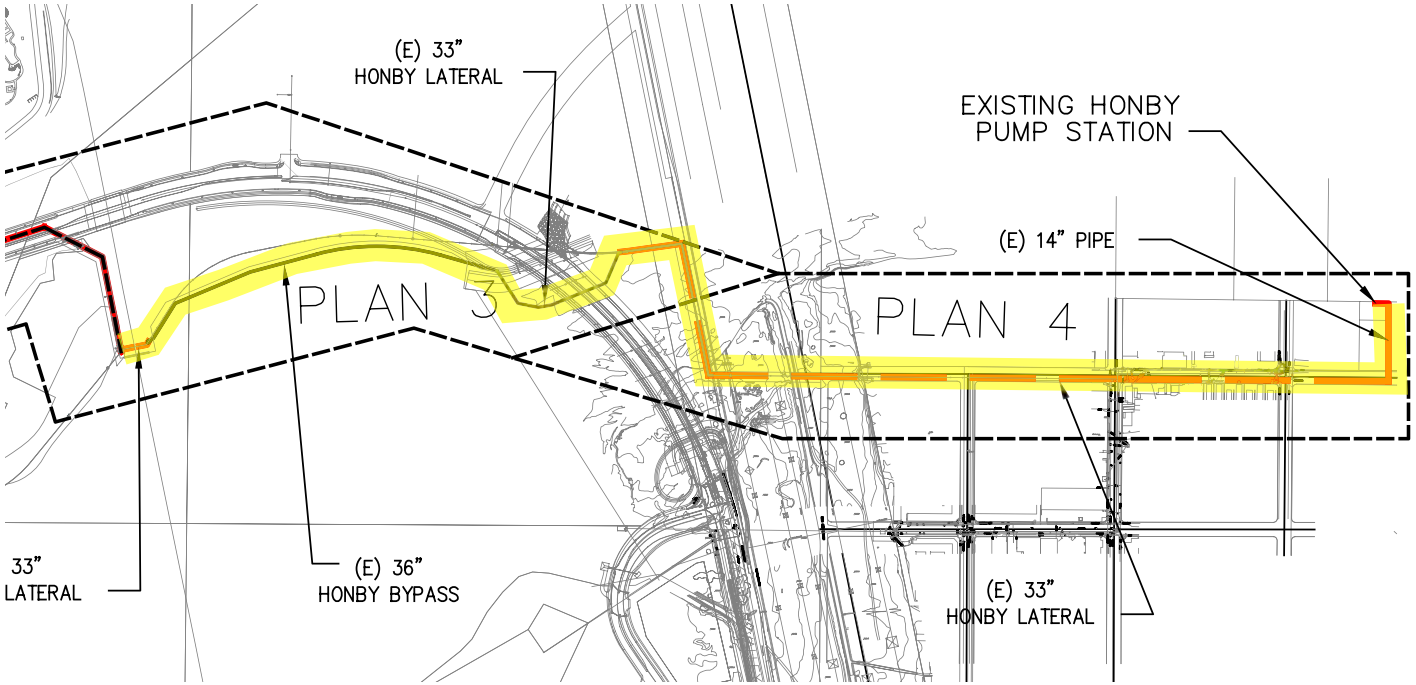
NOT TO SCALE



SOURCE: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Final Preliminary Design for the Recycled Water System, Phase 2a - June 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - July 2009

FIGURE **6a**

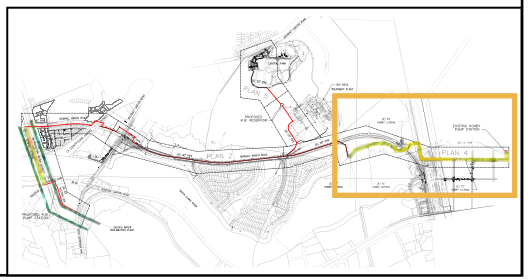
Western Portion of Design Area 2 - Pipeline Alignment



Legend:

- Existing Pipeline
- Proposed Pipeline
- MWD ROW

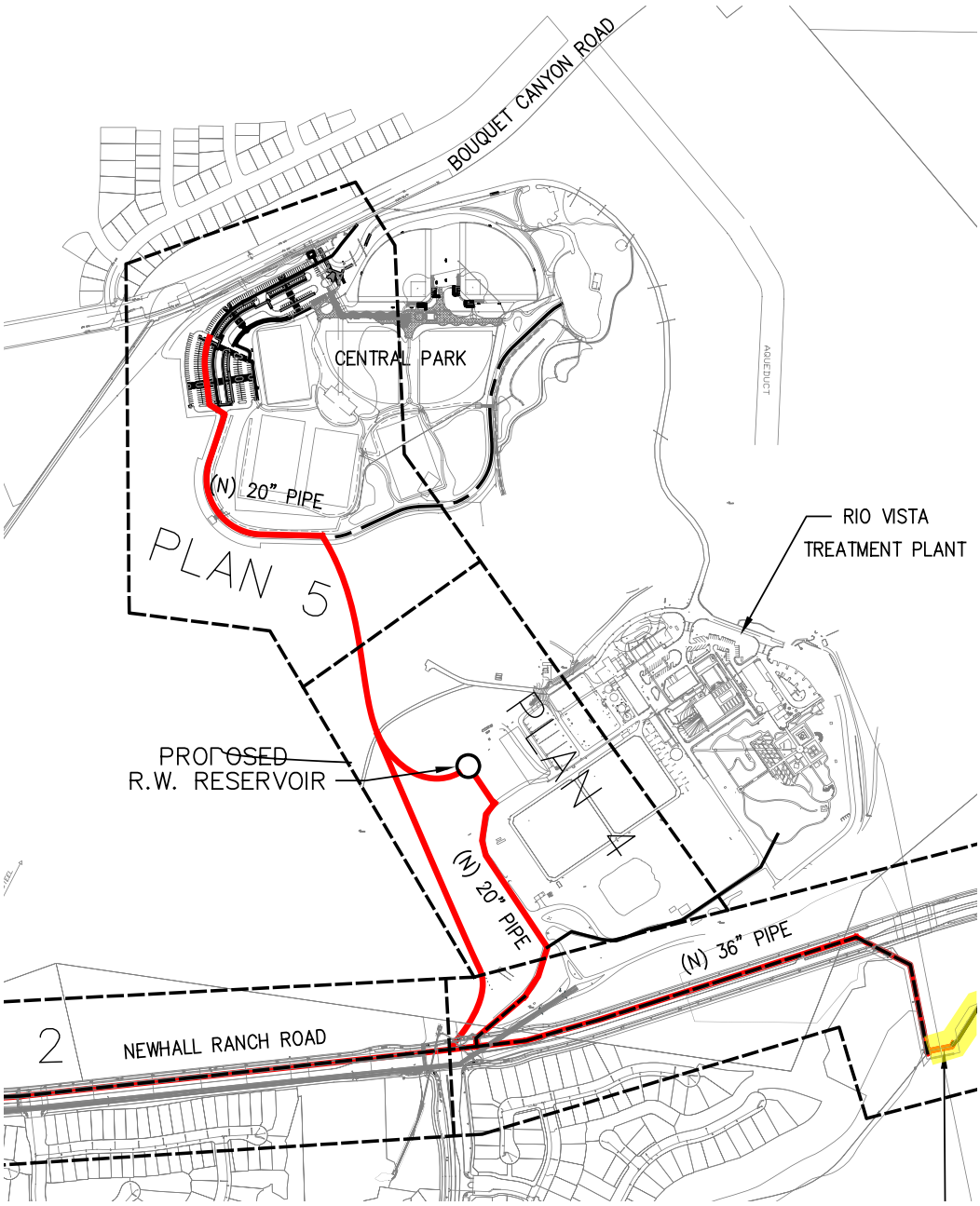
NOT TO SCALE



SOURCE: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Final Preliminary Design for the Recycled Water System, Phase 2a - June 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - July 2009

FIGURE **6b**

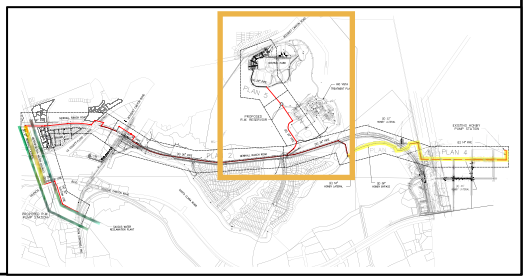
Eastern Portion of Design Area 2 - Pipeline Alignment



Legend:

- Existing Pipeline
- Proposed Pipeline
- MWD ROW

NOT TO SCALE



SOURCE: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Final Preliminary Design for the Recycled Water System, Phase 2A - June 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - December 2010

FIGURE **7**

Design Area 3 - Reservoir

Design Area 1 – Pump Station

The recycled water source for Phase 2A of the RWMP will be treated effluent from the Saugus WRP. A proposed 20-inch suction piping would connect to an existing manhole in Bouquet Canyon Road west of the Saugus WRP site and continue west/northwest behind the Valencia Mart Shopping Center along the truck loading area and enter the proposed pump station from the south. This site is located southwest of the Bouquet Canyon Road/Valencia Boulevard intersection. The length of this portion of the 20-inch suction piping would be approximately 1,260 linear feet (lf).

The shopping center is bound by Bouquet Canyon Road along the east, Valencia Boulevard along the north and the MWD ROW on the west and south. The proposed pump station would be located in the northwest corner of the shopping center away from designated parking areas and the shopping center.

The pump station will be a single-story building constructed of split-face concrete masonry block with some minor architectural elements added to the block. The building will be approximately 49.5 feet long by 32 feet wide and approximately 12 feet high. Rain gutters will carry the water to the ground for runoff. Pump stations would include four 1,500-gpm vertical turbine pumps. Three of the pumps will be capable of delivering the required 4,500 gpm of effluent from the Saugus WRP, and one pump would operate as a standby unit.

The discharge piping would exit the pump station and head north towards Valencia Boulevard and west approximately 400 feet to the connection point on the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral. The Newhall Lateral travels approximately 2,100 feet across the Santa Clara River to connect to the proposed 36-inch transmission pipeline along Newhall Ranch Road.

Design Area 2 – Pipeline Alignment

The overall alignment of the recycled water pipeline consists of approximately 7,700 lf of existing pipeline (2,100 lf of the 21-inch Newhall Lateral within the western section of Phase 2A, 2,700 lf of the 36-inch Honby Bypass, and 2,900 lf of the Honby Lateral within the eastern section of Phase 2A), 12,000 lf of new 36-inch diameter transmission main along Newhall Ranch Road, and 17,000 lf of new 4- and 6-inch distribution pipelines to deliver recycled water to Bridgeport and River Village residential communities.

The proposed 36-inch transmission main would connect with the 21-inch Newhall Lateral within the MWD ROW along the southern alignment of Newhall Ranch Road. It would travel east approximately 12,000 lf along the southern alignment of Newhall Ranch Road and be used to transport the recycled water from the Saugus WRP to the north of the Santa Clara River and to east and west of Bouquet Canyon Road. A pipeline bridge is proposed to cross Bouquet Canyon Channel, which is under Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) jurisdiction, where the proposed transmission main

would then travel east along Newhall Ranch Road (see **Figure 6a, Western Portion of Design Area 2 – Pipeline Alignment**). The transmission main would continue east underneath Bouquet Canyon Road/Newhall Ranch Road intersection and east along Newhall Ranch Road to connect with the existing 36-inch Honby Bypass. The 36-inch Honby Bypass pipeline travels approximately 2,700 lf and crosses the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power First Los Angeles Aqueduct and the Santa Clara River. The 36-inch Honby Bypass pipeline would connect to the existing 33-inch Honby Lateral pipeline, which travels approximately 2,900 lf and connects to the existing Honby pump station (see **Figure 6b, Eastern Portion of Design Area 2 – Pipeline Alignment**).

The transmission main shall include 17,000 feet of new distribution pipeline that would supply recycled water to portions of the Bridgeport area, River Village, City of Santa Clarita landscaped areas, Central Park, and CLWA's RVWTP grounds.

Design Area 3 – Reservoir

Design Area 3 would consist of the 20-inch reservoir pipeline that would diverge from the proposed 36-inch transmission main, the reservoir, and the 20-inch Central Park pipeline that would connect and serve Central Park. The reservoir piping along this alignment would connect to the 36-inch transmission main in Newhall Ranch Road and continue north within RVWTP along access roads west of the existing clear wells and sludge drying beds to the reservoir site (Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 1). This route includes approximately 1,900 feet of pipe along paved and unpaved areas. The estimated width of the construction footprint for this pipeline would be up to 25 feet wide, or approximately 1 acre total in size. Design Area 3 would be analyzed along the reservoir pipeline route with 1,000 feet of clearance for considering potential pipeline design restrictions (i.e., steep slope). In the event that Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 1 is restricted due to the surrounding topography of the hillside, Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 2 would provide additional flexibility for design within the 1,000 feet of clearance. This pipeline would consist of similar size and length as Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 1. Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 2 would connect to the 36-inch transmission main in Newhall Ranch Road and continue north within an existing 12-foot-wide cross country trail to the existing 12-foot-wide paved access/service road and travel east within the access road to the proposed reservoir. Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 2 would have an estimated construction footprint 10 feet in width, or approximately 0.4-acre total in net area, and would be located approximately 1,000 feet west of the existing clear wells (as identified on **Figure 9** below).

The conceptual alignment of the 20-inch Central Park pipeline would connect from the reservoir to Central Park via a south by southwest alignment along the existing paved access road that leads to a Santa Clarita Water District reservoir located farther south. It would then divert and traverse north (downhill) within an existing 12-foot-wide cross country trail, that is regularly maintained by the City of Santa Clarita, where it would connect to Central Park. The cross country trail traverses down the slope for a length of approximately 1,300 feet from the paved access/service road to the south edge of Central Park. The net acreage of the construction footprint within the existing cross country trail would not exceed 0.4 acre. The 20-inch reservoir piping would then connect to a proposed future pump station within Central Park. The 20-inch reservoir piping is sized to accommodate the maximum day demand for Phase 2A; it could accommodate maximum day demands of approximately 7,200 gpm.

Storage requirements for CLWA's recycled water system are based on providing storage for 75 percent of the maximum day demand for each pressure zone. The project is within the 1430 Pressure Zone, which would have a maximum day demand of 7,177 gpm, or 10.33 mgd. The required storage for the 1430 Pressure Zone, based on providing 75 percent of the maximum day demand, is 7.75 mgd. The maximum day demand for all potential customers included for Phase 2A is approximately 2,467 gpm, or 3.55 mgd. The storage requirement for Phase 2A would therefore be 2.66 mgd.

The velocity in the pipe, assuming the reservoir would provide water under maximum day conditions for the entire 1430 Pressure Zone, would be approximately 7.3 feet per second (fps); however, this scenario is unlikely since there would be additional storage for the 1430 Pressure Zone. The velocity in the pipeline, assuming maximum day demand of 2,500 gpm for Phase 2A, is approximately 2.5 fps. This pipeline route would minimally impact day-to-day operation of the treatment plant.

The area proposed for the reservoir location is located on a hill south of Central Park and west of the existing RVWTP sludge drying beds. This area is accessible via an existing paved access road that leads to a Santa Clarita Water District reservoir located farther south at a higher elevation. The area is primarily vacant with vegetation and remnants of wood frames, cement pipe, and initial manhole covers. The elevations in the area considered for the reservoir range from 1,395 to 1,410 feet and would likely produce a balance in cut/fill earthwork quantities. This area is bounded on the east, west, and south with topography sloped at approximately 1:3. The elevations decrease more gradually along the north. This area could accommodate up to two 100-foot-diameter, 46-foot-high (1.75 mg) reservoirs with 25-foot access around the reservoirs. The reservoir shall be an aboveground welded steel structure.

Construction of two reservoirs in this area would effectively utilize the existing topography, without requiring significant fill; further, it would allow CLWA to maintain storage during maintenance of the reservoirs. Construction of one 1.75-mg reservoir could meet and exceed the storage requirements for Phase 2A.

This site provides CLWA with the option to construct a reservoir when the additional storage would be needed for future phases of the recycled water system. The proposed 1.75-mg reservoir would provide sufficient storage to meet 75 percent of the maximum day demand for the customers identified in **Table 1**.

Construction

The construction of Phase 2A would take 1 to 1.5 years and each area would be constructed simultaneously. The expected completion of Phase 2A is 2012. All pipelines constructed during the project shall have a minimum cover of 5 feet, or less depending on the size of the pipe. Pipeline that exits/enters pump stations would potentially require trenching depths of 15 to 20 feet. Staging areas for construction of the pipelines would be limited to the construction footprint of the pipeline. Staging areas for the pump station shall be adjacent to the east of the proposed pump station in Design Area 1. Staging areas for Design Area 3 would be adjacent to the west of the RVWTP sludge drying beds. Due to the topography of Design Area 3, construction of the reservoir piping would be restricted to and remain within the existing 12-foot-wide cross country trail and the paved east/west access road. Staging for work along the trail and the paved access road would be at the existing RVWTP immediately adjacent to the west of the sludge drying beds (shown in **Figure 7**). Non-excavation staging and associated pipe installation activities would occur within the aforementioned staging area adjacent to the RVWTP so as not to impact adjacent natural areas.

Construction of the reservoir shall require overexcavation and recompaction a minimum of 2 feet beneath the reservoir pad elevation of 1,396 feet to remove existing artificial fill beneath the proposed structure. Overexcavation shall extend 5 feet laterally beyond the structure or the depth of the overexcavation. Loose, soft, or unsuitable materials shall be removed. On-site soils are suitable to be used as general fill beneath the proposed structure. The design criteria for pipelines, storage tanks, and pump stations are described in detail in the Final Preliminary Design Report (PDR) report.[26]

2.4.2 No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

Under the No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply, Phase 2 of the RWMP would not be implemented. All water needs within the Phase 2A service area would have to be met with potable water supplies as they currently are, and the use of recycled water would not be an option. The potable water supply projections set forth in the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) are based on the assumption that 1,700 to 17,400 acre-feet per year (afy) of recycled water will be available for use in the

26 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, *Final Preliminary Design Report for the Recycled Water System Phase 2A*, *Section 4*, June 2009.

Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) service area.[27,28] This alternative would not meet any of the objectives of the RWMP, the recycled water objectives of the UWMP, or the objectives of the State's Water Recycling Act.[29]

2.4.3 Recycled Water Master Plan Implementation (No Action) Alternative

The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would be to implement the original design, route, and source of recycled water described in Phase 2 of the RWMP. The source of recycled water for the RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would be the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). This alternative would provide approximately 1,236 afy recycled water to the existing developed area between the Interstate 5 (I-5) freeway and the Valencia City Center.[30] The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative improvements would include a 6,000 gallons per minute (gpm) expansion of the existing Valencia recycled water pump station, a 3.5-million-gallon (mg) reservoir, and 62,000 linear feet (lf) of pipelines, ranging in size from 8 to 36 inches.

2.4.4 North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

The north pipeline alignment alternative considered would provide for the construction of a new approximately 14,000-lf pipeline consisting of 36-inch-diameter transmission pipe along Soledad Canyon, Bouquet Canyon, and Newhall Ranch Roads and approximately 18,900 lf of new distribution pipeline as seen in **Figure 8, North Pipeline Alignment Alternative**. The distribution pipeline would consist of

- two separate distribution lines ranging in diameter from 10 to 16 inches extending from Newhall Ranch Road south along McBean Parkway to Avenue Scott and north along McBean Parkway to Copper Hill Drive to serve customers in those areas, and
- a 10-inch distribution pipeline extending north from Bouquet Canyon Road along Seco Canyon Road to Los Rogues Drive.

In addition, the pump station site would be located east of Bouquet Canyon Road and Soledad Canyon Road intersection adjacent to Soledad Canyon Road, the reservoir site would be located west of the sludge drying beds, and the reservoir pipeline would connect to the 36-inch transmission pipe at Bouquet Canyon Road at Central Park and continue south along the hillside adjacent to the reservoir site.

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27 Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, *Final Preliminary Design Report for the Recycled Water System Phase 2A*, *Section 4*, June 2009.

28 Castaic Lake Water Agency, CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, Valencia Water Company, *2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, November 2005.

29 California Water Code, Section 13575 through Section 13583, "Water Recycling Act of 1991."

30 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2002, 69.

Pump Site

As previously discussed, the recycled water source for this phase of the Recycled Water System is treated effluent from the Saugus WRP. Therefore, locating the pump station on the Saugus WRP site would be preferred and advantageous as it would eliminate the need for property acquisition and would place the pumps close to the water source, minimizing the length of the suction piping and creating a more hydraulically desirable scenario.

The Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) is currently creating a facilities plan for the Saugus WRP and the feasibility of locating the pump station on site. Therefore, depending on the LACSD's facilities plan, the site may or may not transform into a viable option and alternative locations would be considered. This alternative location was identified as potentially feasible for a pump station.

The pump site is located approximately 550 feet east of the Bouquet Canyon Road and Soledad Canyon Road intersection adjacent to Soledad Canyon Road, see **Figure 8**. The area accommodates a small shopping center with several small businesses and the site is located in the eastern most corner of the property, east of the shopping center. The site consists of parking spaces and some vacant land overgrown with shrubs. A short concrete masonry unit wall and billboard divide the parking area form the vacant area. The general plan land use and zoning designation is Community Commercial.

Reservoir Site

The alternative site location was analyzed at the CLWA Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (RVWTP) that meets the elevation requirements for the storage reservoirs. The location would provide for a 3.5 million gallon reservoir would be 143 feet in diameter and 46 feet in height.

The reservoir site is located west of the sludge drying beds, along the western boundary of the RVWTP grounds, see **Figure 8**. The area is accessible by an existing access road located south of the RVWTP facilities. The access road is accessible from Newhall Ranch Road. The 3.5 million gallon reservoir would be 143-feet in diameter and 46 feet in height. The elevation of this area would range from 1,395 to 1,410 mean sea level (msl) and the area would result in a balance of cut and fill activities.

Reservoir Pipeline Route

The reservoir piping along this route would include approximately 2,400 feet of pipe connecting to the 36-inch transmission main piping in Bouquet Canyon Road at Central Park, cross Central Park and continue southeast along the side of the hill adjacent to the reservoir site. The piping along the hillside would be constructed below grade with standard 42-inch cover; approximately 600 feet of pipe would be constructed below grade along the 3:1 sloped hillside.

SOURCE: Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Final Preliminary Design for the Recycled Water System, Phase 2a - June 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - August 2009

FIGURE **8**

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

2.5 PROJECT APPROVALS

2.5.1 Approvals and Permits

CLWA was awarded a federal grant by the EPA as part of the Catalog of Federally Designated Assistance (CFDA) 66-202, Congressionally Mandated Projects, and grant process.[31] The grant process provides funding for implementing projects or programs for special purposes identified in EPA's annual appropriations act or Conference Report through cooperative agreements. These grants are identified for specifically designated organizations. The projects may be associated with (1) various environmental requirements (e.g., wastewater treatment, drinking water treatment); (2) identifying, developing, and/or demonstrating necessary pollution control technologies and techniques to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution; and/or (3) evaluating the economic and social consequences of alternative strategies, technologies, or mechanisms for use by those in economic, social, governmental, and environmental management positions. The proposed project/preferred alternative would utilize grant funding for construction of the necessary recycled water facilities. Therefore, this document will need to be submitted to and approved by the EPA for grant approval.

The majority of the proposed pipeline alignment for this project will be in the public roadway right-of-way. An encroachment permit from the City of Santa Clarita will be required prior to construction of the pipeline. In addition, when recycled water pipes cross potable water pipes, design drawings will need to be submitted to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) for approval.[32]

The LACFCD owns and maintains the Bouquet Canyon Channel and 42- to 72-inch diameter storm drains that would be crossed along the alignment. LACFCD's role for the proposed project/proposed action would be the approval of an amended contract for the sale of recycled water to CLWA.

The western portion of the Phase 2A proposed pipeline alignment would be located within the MWD ROW. To protect their utilities, MWD requires review and approval of the pipeline alignment.

For crossings that require trenchless method and bore and jack installations, an Underground Classification would be required from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health prior to construction. Other permits that would be required for this project—but could be the contractor's responsibility—are General Construction Storm Water Permit from Regional Water Quality Control Board and Trenching and Excavation Permit from California Occupation Safety and Health.

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31 Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, Environmental Protect Agency Programs, Congressionally Mandated Grants, 66-202, https://www.cfda.gov/?_so_list_froma345e59a09d0aa1d5eef16228ddd7b4c=20&_so_list_froma345e59a09d0aa1d5eef16228ddd7b4c_page=2.

32 California Code of Regulations, Water Code, Titles 17, Sections 60313 through 60316.

2.5.2 Private Property Easements

Permanent easements would only be necessary if the trenchless method option is considered for the Bouquet Canyon channel crossings. Furthermore, permanent easements would be necessary to allow access to be able to perform operation and maintenance on components of the proposed project/preferred alternative. In addition, permanent easements will be needed to accommodate construction activities for the project.

2.5.3 Coordination Considerations

The following issues, which are not a part of the project, must be addressed before the project can proceed:

- Newhall Lateral: Use of the 21-inch Newhall Lateral is dependent on the construction of a larger parallel pipeline to correct a hydraulic bottleneck in CLWA's potable water transmission system. The Newhall Lateral would not become available for recycled water use until the parallel pipeline is constructed.

- Honby Parallel Phase 2: As mentioned, the 36-inch Honby Bypass, and Honby Parallel Phase 1 are proposed to be converted to recycled water pipelines. However, these pipelines will not be available until the Honby Parallel Phase 2 construction is complete. Once the necessary connection between Honby Parallel Phase 1 and Honby Parallel Phase 2 (33-inch Honby Lateral) and disconnection of Honby Parallel Phase 1 to Honby Bypass are complete, the transition of Honby Bypass and Honby Lateral from potable to recycled water pipelines can occur.

- Retrofit of existing landscape irrigation lines: In areas where potable pipelines supply water for irrigation, the transition to retrofit the landscape irrigation service to recycled water would require coordination between the customer, water purveyors (VWC or SCWD), CLWA and California Department of Public Health.

- Approval from the SCVSD for the use of 511 afy of recycled water from the Saugus WRP.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) service area consists of incorporated and unincorporated areas in or adjacent to the Santa Clarita Valley area of Los Angeles County and also extends into eastern Ventura County. However, the project is located entirely in the City of Santa Clarita.

3.1 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

As described above in **Section 2.0, Project Description**, the proposed project/preferred alternative is divided into three design areas. The general physical characteristics and surrounding land uses of each of the design areas are provided.

3.1.1 Design Area 1 – Pump Station

Topography

Design Area 1 is located within the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California right-of-way (ROW). The topography of this area is relatively flat. The pipeline route from the Saugus Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) to the proposed pump station (southern portion of Design Area 1) is currently disturbed and paved; the route includes Bouquet Canyon Road, the Valencia Mart Shopping Center (Shopping Center), and Valencia Boulevard. The southern portion of Design Area 1 is covered by asphalt and is currently used as surface parking and loading docks for the commercial uses to the north and west.

The connection with the discharge pipeline leaving the pump station to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral would cross underneath the Santa Clara River and connect to the proposed 36-inch transmission main along Newhall Ranch Road (northern portion of Design Area 1). The northern portion of Design Area 1 consists of the riparian area located within the Santa Clara River. Located adjacent to the northern boundary of the river is the Bridgeport area. This Bridgeport area consists of an MWD ROW; the Santa Clara River Trail; Bridge Park Lane, which travels east/west connecting to residential subdivisions; and Bridgeport Park. Newhall Ranch Road is located adjacent to and north of Bridgeport Park. Sensitive uses would include Bridgeport Elementary School to the west and residential uses to the east.

Surrounding Land Uses

The existing general plan land use designation for the southern portion of Design Area 1 is Community Commercial (CC). Surrounding the southern portion of Design Area 1, the land use designation to the north is Specific Plan (SP), and land to the west, east, and south is designated CC.

The existing general plan land use designation for the northern portion of Design Area 1 is SP. Land use designations surrounding this portion of Design Area 1 include Residential Moderate (RM) to the north and SP to the east, south, and west.

The existing zoning for the southern portion of Design Area 1 is Community Commercial (CC-Z). The surrounding zones include CC-Z to the east, south, and west; and the North Valencia I Specific Plan (SP(1)) is located to the north. The existing zoning for the northern portion of Design Area 1 is designated SP(1). The surrounding zones would include SP(1) to the east, south, and west, and Residential Moderate (RM-Z) to the north.

3.1.2 Design Area 2 – Pipeline Alignment

Topography

The topography of Design Area 2 is relatively flat with an increase in elevation as the transmission main nears the existing 36-inch Honby Bypass. The 36-inch proposed transmission main would connect with the 21-inch Newhall Lateral at the western end of Design Area 2 and with the 33-inch Honby Bypass at the eastern end of Design Area 2. The proposed transmission main would be within the street ROW and would cross the Bouquet Canyon Channel, which is under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), and would connect to the existing 36-inch Honby Bypass, which crosses the Santa Clara River. The proposed transmission main connects to the existing 33-inch Honby Lateral, which follows Santa Clara Street to connect to the existing Honby Pump Station.

The western portion of Design Area 2 would consist of the connection point with the 21-inch Newhall Lateral and include the transmission main until the eastern boundary of the commercial uses on the east side of the Bouquet Canyon Road/Newhall Ranch Road intersection. The existing conditions of the western portion of Design Area 2 include the paved streets with paved sidewalks and drainage and the Bouquet Canyon Bridge. The drainage underneath the bridge consists of a concrete-lined flood control channel. The transmission main would parallel Newhall Ranch Road from west to east. There are residential uses to the north and to the south of Newhall Ranch Road that terminate at the western side of the Bouquet Canyon Channel. Commercial uses and structures are located around the Bouquet Canyon Road/Newhall Ranch Road intersection.

The eastern portion of Design Area 2 would consist of the proposed transmission main, starting at the eastern boundary of the commercial uses, which would include the transmission main and the connection, and use, of the existing Honby Bypass/Honby Lateral pipelines that terminate at the Honby Pump Station. This section of Newhall Ranch Road increases in elevation from 1,177 above mean sea level (msl) to 1,377 msl, a change of 200 feet msl. Vacant, graded/disturbed hillsides are located north of

Newhall Ranch Road from Bouquet Canyon Road east until the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (RVWTP). Along the southern portion of Newhall Ranch Road is the River Village residential subdivision. The transmission main would connect to the existing Honby Bypass. The existing Honby Bypass pipeline, which is encased in concrete along the majority of its length, crosses the Santa Clara River, under the jurisdiction of, and with previously approved permits from, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The existing Honby Bypass then connects to the existing Honby Lateral, which parallels Santa Clara Street, and then connects to the Honby Pump Station. The Honby Lateral has commercial uses on the north and south sides.

Surrounding Land Uses

The existing general plan land use designation for the western portion of Design Area 2 is the street ROW. The surrounding general plan land use designations would include, from west to east along the northern portion, RM and CC. The surrounding general plan land use designations along the southern end of the western portion of Design Area 2, from west to east, would include SP and CC. The existing general plan land use designations for the eastern portion of Design Area 2 along the northern portion of Newhall Ranch Road, from west to east, are RM, Open Space (OS) (which would include the RVWTP), and Industrial Commercial (IC) along the existing Honby Lateral. The existing general plan designations along the southern portion of the eastern area of Design Area 2 include RM and IC.

The existing zoning for the western portion of Design Area 2 along the northern portion of the transmission main is RM-Z and CC-Z. The existing zoning adjacent and to the south would is SP(1) and CC-Z. The existing zoning along the northern and southern portions of the eastern portion of Design Area 2 is RM-Z, OS-Z, and IC-Z.

3.1.3 Design Area 3 – Reservoir

Topography

The topography of Design Area 3 ranges in elevation of 1,215 msl to 1,430 msl. As seen in **Figure 7, Design Area 3 – Reservoir**, Design Area 3 would consist of the connection point of the 20-inch reservoir pipeline with the 36-inch proposed transmission main, the RVWTP, and the 20-inch reservoir pipeline that would connect to a future pump station at Central Park. As described in **Section 2.0, Project Description**, this area would include a 1,000-foot zone, from the western edge of the sludge beds west, to allow for design restrictions for the reservoir pipeline due to potential topographical restrictions. North of the reservoir tank is Central Park, which has been disturbed and graded.

The area proposed for the reservoir location is located on a hill south of Central Park and southwest of the existing RVWTP sludge drying beds. This area is accessible via an existing paved access road that leads to a Santa Clarita Water Division (SCWD) reservoir located farther west at a higher elevation. The area is primarily vacant, with vegetation and remnants of concrete foundations and wood frames. The elevations in the area considered for the reservoir range from 1,395 to 1,410 feet and would likely produce a balance in cut/fill earthwork quantities. This area is bounded on the east, west, and south with topography sloped at approximately 1:3. The elevations decrease more gradually along the north.

Surrounding Land Uses

The existing general plan land uses designation for Design Area 3 is OS. The surrounding general plan land use designation to the north, south, east, and west is OS.

The existing zoning for Design Area 3 is zoned for OS-Z and the surrounding zoning to the north, south, east, and west are zoned for OS-Z.

3.2 APPLICABLE PLANNING DOCUMENTS

In addition to the CLWA's Recycled Water Master Plan,[33] the following documents are applicable to the proposed project/preferred alternative.

3.2.1 City of Santa Clarita General Plan

The City of Santa Clarita General Plan[34] provides goals and policies of the values and principles that will guide the City for the next 20 years and to buildout. The principles will be carried out with the application of common standards for land use development, infrastructure, and resource management, as appropriate or applicable. The principles implement the vision for the Santa Clarita Valley, which is intended to sustain and enhance environmental resources, economic vitality, and the social well-being of its residents. The Noise Element of the City of Santa Clarita General Plan guides and sets policies for development and land uses relating to noise generation. The project would potentially have noise impacts related to the construction phase of Phase 2A.

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33 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan*, 2002.

34 City of Santa Clarita, *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, 1991.

3.2.2 City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code

The City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code provides guidelines and sets ordinances for the land uses and zones within the City. The City has adopted ordinances to control point-source noise that would apply to the proposed project/preferred alternative both during construction and operation.[35] This ordinance is also incorporated herein by reference and is available for review at the City's Web site. Two sections of the ordinance are particularly pertinent to the proposed project/preferred alternative: Sections 11.44.040 and 11.44.080, as amended, Section 11.44.040, identifies City noise limits for residential and commercial land uses and Section 11.44.080 identifies special noise sources for construction work and times allowed for construction (7:00 AM to 7:00 PM) located within 300 feet of residentially zoned properties.

3.2.3 2007 Air Quality Plan

The CLWA service area is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB); the management of air quality in the SCAB is the responsibility of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). SCAQMD is responsible for bringing air quality in the areas under its jurisdiction into conformity with federal and state air quality standards. Specifically, SCAQMD is responsible for monitoring ambient air pollutant levels throughout the basin and for developing and implementing attainment strategies to ensure that future emissions meet federal and state standards. In order to achieve air quality standards, the SCAQMD adopts an air quality management plan (AQMP) that serves as a guideline to bring pollutant concentrations into attainment with federal and state standards.

The SCAQMD adopted the Final 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (2007 AQMP) on June 1, 2007. California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved the 2007 AQMP as the comprehensive state implementation plan component for the basin on September 27, 2007. Because the 2007 AQMP has been approved by the SCAQMD and CARB, it is an "applicable regional plan" in terms of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for assessing plan consistency.

The SCAB is currently in non-attainment for ozone (O_3), respirable particulate matter (PM_{10}), and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS).

35 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, Chapter 11.44, "Noise Limits," adopted in 1990 and amended in 2006.

3.2.4 Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan

The Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan (SCREMP) for the Santa Clara River[36] provides for the development and preservation of the natural resources and habitats along part of the main stem of the Santa Clara River from Castaic Creek to 0.5 mile east of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power First Aqueduct, plus parts of San Francisquito Creek and the Santa Clara River South Fork. The Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) is implemented within the area governed by the SCREMP. The SCREMP emphasizes the use of existing water supplies and encourage recycled water use as a supplemental local water supply by constructing delivery systems and actively promoting the use of locally produced recycled water to replace drinking quality water for nonpotable applications.[37]

3.2.5 Urban Water Management Plan

An Urban Water Management Plan[38] (UWMP) guides the actions of water management agencies within the CLWA service area. The 2005 UWMP was jointly prepared by CLWA, the SCWD, Newhall County Water District, and the Valencia Water Company. Section 4 of the UWMP describes the existing and future recycled water opportunities available to the CLWA service area. The description includes estimates of potential supply and demand for 2005 to 2030 in five-year increments, as well as CLWA's proposed incentives and optimization plan. The UWMP has a goal of an additional 15,700 acre-feet per year (afy) of recycled water being added to the water supply in the CLWA service area by 2030. This does not include approximately 5,300 afy of recycled water to be produced by the proposed Newhall Ranch WRP and used exclusively within the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan area.

Currently, CLWA is preparing its 2010 update to the UWMP which will be adopted by July 2011.

3.2.6 Recycled Water Master Plan

The information developed in the 2002 RWMP was largely drawn from the 1993 RWMP supplemented with contacts from CLWA, Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD), local water purveyors, the City of Santa Clarita, the County of Los Angeles, oil company representatives, and potential water users.

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36 Los Angeles County Public Works Department, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, *Santa Clara River Enhancement and Management Plan*, May 2005.

37 Los Angeles County Public Works Department, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, *Section 6.2.1*, "Riverwide Recommendations."

38 Castaic Lake Water Agency, CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, Valencia Water Company, *2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, November 2005.

Additional analysis and computer modeling were performed as part of the RWMP update. Water demand characteristics were also updated through discussions with potential users. The updated data and computer modeling was used to develop a revised cost-effective recycled water system.

The 2002 RWMP evaluated the following:

- Existing and Projected Land Uses
- Existing and Projected Potable Water Supply and Demand
- Regulatory and Permitting Requirements
- Potential Recycled Water Sources, Demands and Constraints
- Seasonal Storage Opportunities
- Recommended Recycled Water System Facilities and Costs
- Funding and Financing Opportunities
- Implementation Considerations and Phasing Plan

The 2002 RWMP recognized that current WRP production is not anticipated to be adequate to meet the total demands of the CLWA service area. However, as potable water demands increase, recycled water production will similarly increase, thereby becoming more available to support non-potable uses in lieu of potable imported water or groundwater. The implementation plan outlined in the 2002 RWMP was phased to utilize the increases in plant production.

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The analysis of the preferred alternative/proposed project/preferred alternative and each of the other alternatives will be analyzed below. Applicable regulatory requirements and mitigation measures will be called out at the end of each impact analysis.

4.1 SUMMARY

Pursuant to the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines*,[39] 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. Cumulative impacts were identified and analyzed in the Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) Program EIR, which came to the conclusion that implementation of the RWMP would not result in significant or unavoidable cumulative impacts.[40]

In accordance with NEPA,[41] the EPA is required to conduct an environmental review on the project funded by the grant discussed below in **Section 2.5.1, Approvals and Permits**. EPA is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of the proposed project/preferred alternative and alternatives.

This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Environmental Information Document (EA) is intended to provide a uniform format for environmental information but is not intended to change existing funding agency policies regarding the necessity for other environmental reviews. The MND/EA format is based on both state and federal guidelines that describe what is needed for complete environmental documentation under the CEQA[42] and NEPA.[43]

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39 California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15063.

40 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 6-21.

41 NEPA, United States Code, Title 42, Section 4321 *et. seq*.

42 California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq., *California Environmental Quality Act.*

The format of the MND/EA Affected Environment section discusses each potential resource following the *State CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G.[44] The discussion will include pertinent NEPA issues followed by the impact of the natural resources.

This document has been prepared as a combined Mitigated Negative Declaration under CEQA and Environmental Information Document under NEPA.[45] NEPA applies to projects which are carried out, financed, or approved in whole or in part by federal agencies. Accordingly, Article 14 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* applies to projects which involve one or more state or local agencies and one or more federal agencies.[46]

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors listed below were evaluated for the proposed project/preferred alternative and each of the alternatives:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Circulation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

4.3 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

This section includes an evaluation of impacts based on the *State CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G Environmental Checklist. Each issue and criterion from the checklist is explained in the discussion following the checklist and, if necessary, mitigation measures are provided to reduce impacts to less than significant. All answers take into account the whole of the action, including on- and off-site effects, cumulative and project level; direct and indirect effects, and effects from both construction and operation of any new development.

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43 Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Sections, 6, 25, 35, and 1500, *National Environmental Policy Act*.

44 California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, *State CEQA Guidelines*, Section 15000 et seq.

45 *California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines*, Section 15220 to 15226.

46 California Public Resources Code, Section 21083; National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190 as amended; NEPA Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Parts 1500 to 1508.

Each checklist criterion is noted as to whether there is an environmental impact.

- A "No Impact" response indicates that there is no impact.
- A "Less Than Significant Impact" response means that while there is some impact, the impact is below the threshold of significance defined by Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA).
- A "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation" response indicates that a new impact has been identified in the course of this analysis and mitigation measures have been provided in this Mitigated Negative Declaration to reduce a potentially significant impact to a less than significant level.

4.3.1 Aesthetics

Environmental Setting

The Santa Clara River, which traverses through the area of Phase 2A, is an important visual element for the project site. The topography of the site is relatively flat with a gradual increase as the transmission pipeline approaches the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (RVWTP). The majority of the project area is developed, although portions of the hillside adjacent to the west of the RVWTP still support vegetation types such as chaparral and sage scrub. Freeways and roadways—such as Interstate 5 (I-5), located approximately 2 miles west of the project area; State Route (SR) 14, located over 3 miles to the southeast; and SR-126, located over 3 miles to the northwest—provide view corridors through the Valley. Of these highways, I-5 and SR-126, west of I-5, are designated as state eligible scenic highways.[47] The following impacts were analyzed for the Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative, No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply, RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative, and the Pipeline Alignment Alternative.

Environmental Impacts

Environmental impacts are analyzed using Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form), which lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on aesthetic resources if it would

- have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista;
- substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway;
- substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings; or

47 Caltrans, "California Scenic Highway Mapping System" (last updated in December 2007), http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm, 2009.

- create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Impact 4.3.1 Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. As described in **Section 2.0, Proposed Project, which** includes the alternatives**,** the proposed project is divided into three design areas: Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3.

Design Area 1 would include a proposed 20-inch suction pipe below ground that would connect to a proposed single-story building that would contain the pump station. The discharge piping would connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral, which travels across the Santa Clara River to connect to the proposed 36-inch transmission pipeline along Newhall Ranch Road (see **Figure 5)**. The proposed pipeline would be located below ground under existing roadways and paved surface areas. Construction impacts would be short-term in nature and would have less than significant impacts. As the proposed pipelines would be located underground, there would be no permanent impact on scenic vistas in relation to the pipelines. The proposed pump station would be located on developed property, would be one story high, and would contain minor architectural elements that conform to the Community Commercial (CC-Z) zoning regulations. The proposed pump station would conform to the CC-Z zoning regulations, and its impacts would therefore be less than significant.[48]

Design Area 2 would include the proposed 36-inch transmission pipeline beneath the existing Newhall Ranch Road, the existing 36-inch Honby Bypass, the existing Honby Lateral, and the proposed 4- and 6-inch distribution pipelines that would be located permanently beneath existing roadways (see **Figures 6a** and **6b)**. The construction of the proposed pipelines would be short term in nature and would have less than significant impacts on scenic vistas. Any native or landscaped vegetation that would be disturbed during construction would be restored upon completion, and any proposed pipelines would be located permanently beneath the existing roadway. Therefore, impacts on scenic vistas would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 would include 20-inch reservoir pipeline that would connect with the 36-inch transmission pipeline, the reservoir, and the reservoir pipeline that would travel north, downslope to Central Park (see **Figure 7)**. Construction of this area would be short term in nature, and would therefore have less than significant impacts. The reservoir piping would be located underground, and therefore would have no

48 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, Section 17.15.030, "Development Standards Chart: C and I Zones."

permanent impacts on scenic vistas. The reservoir would be located above ground and would include a landscape plan that would provide a visual buffer around the reservoir. Impacts would potentially be significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Use

No Impacts. This alternative would continue the use of potable water supplies for the use of irrigation throughout the project area. The continued use of potable water would use the existing underground pipelines. As a result, no new facilities or pipelines would be needed for this alternative. Therefore, there would be no impacts under this alternative.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. As described in **Section 2.4.3, RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative,** the RWMP Phase 2 would continue to be implemented. This alternative would include an expansion of the existing Valencia recycled water pump station, a 3.5-million gallon (mg) reservoir, and 62,000 linear feet (lf) of pipeline. The source of recycled water for this alternative would be the Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). Construction impacts on scenic vistas would be temporary, and would therefore be less than significant. The proposed pipelines would be located permanently underneath existing roadways; therefore, they would have no impact on scenic vistas. The proposed expansion of the existing recycled water pump station would not impact scenic vistas.

The proposed reservoir would be located above ground, and rural areas on the outskirts of the City of Santa Clarita would provide more candidate sites than developed urban areas due to the amount of undeveloped and unentitled land required to construct a reservoir tank that can accommodate 3.0 mg to 3.5 mg.[49] The construction and operation of reservoir tanks in hillside areas could present a potentially significant impact to scenic vistas due to grading and changes in topography, removal of vegetation, and the placement of a structure in hillside areas.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. As described in **Section 2.4.4, North Pipeline Alignment Alternative**, this alternative would construct approximately 14,000 lf of pipeline consisting of 36-inch-diameter transmission pipe along Soledad Canyon, Bouquet Canyon, and Newhall Ranch Roads; approximately 18,900 lf of new distribution pipeline; a reservoir west of the sludge drying beds; and

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49 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft RWMP Program EIR*, (2006) 3.1-5, Aesthetics.

reservoir pipeline that would connect to the proposed 36-inch transmission pipe along Bouquet Canyon Road at Central Park and continue south along the hillside adjacent to the reservoir site (see **Figure 8)**. The proposed pipeline would be located beneath existing roadways and would have no permanent impacts on scenic vistas. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center, one story tall, and have small architectural features consistent with the CC—Z zone use.[50]

The proposed reservoir would be located on a hillside west of the RVWTP facilities. Hillsides potentially provide scenic vistas for City residents. The reservoir would have a 100-foot diameter and would be 46 feet in height. The construction of the reservoir would potentially impact the topography of the site and the surrounding vegetation; therefore, construction may potentially impact a scenic vista.

Project Design Features

The following project design feature was approved in the RWMP Program EIR and will be incorporated:

- All roadways and other public structures that would be impacted by construction of the RWMP (i.e., underground distribution system), shall be repaired and restored upon completion of the construction activities, consistent with the requirements of the encroachment permits from the local transportation agencies.

Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure has been incorporated from the RWMP Program EIR (PEIR) and shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.1-1 Prior to commencement of grading activities for the pump station and the reservoir tank, CLWA shall prepare a landscape plan that would include strategic planting of native trees, shrubs, and other vegetation to buffer the views of the structures.

50 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, Section 17.15.030, "Development Standards Chart: C and I Zones."

Impact 4.3.1-2 **Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Design Area 1. As seen in **Figure 5**, this design area is located in an urbanized and developed area. The proposed pipeline would not be located near a state scenic highway. The use of the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral would also not be located near a state scenic highway. There would be no impacts.

Design Area 2. As seen in **Figures 6a** and **6b**, the proposed 36-inch transmission line would be located within the street right-of-way (ROW) along Newhall Ranch Road. There are no designated state scenic highways in the City of Santa Clarita or elsewhere in the Santa Clarita Valley. The stretch of the I-5 freeway from the Interstate 210 tunnel to SR-126 has been designated by Caltrans as a state eligible scenic highway.[51] This stretch of I-5 is bordered by development, small hillsides, and trees. The project site can not been seen due to the change in elevation and the previously mentioned development, hillsides, and vegetation.

Design Area 3. As seen in **Figure 7**, the reservoir and the associated pipeline would be located on the hillside that contains the RVWTP and is south of Central Park. Trees and rock outcroppings were identified on a site visit.[52] Impacts associated with the potential removal of mature trees are discussed in **Section 4.3.4, Biological Resources**. However, as the nearest eligible scenic highway is located over 3 miles to the west and the project site cannot be seen, there would be no impacts on scenic resources.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use the existing potable water supplies for irrigation in place of the proposed recycled water supply. These water supplies would be used in the CLWA service area. As a result the existing potable water pipelines and water tanks would be used for the transmission of the irrigation water. As the pipelines and water tanks are existing conditions, no new impacts would result.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. The implementation of Phase 2 of the RWMP would provide approximately 1,236 acre-feet per year (afy) recycled water to the developed area between

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51 Caltrans, "California Scenic Highway Mapping System" (last updated in December 2007), http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm, 2009.

52 Site visit by Impact Sciences, Inc., on July, 23, 2009.

the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. The stretch of the I-5 freeway between I-210 and SR-126 has been designated an eligible state scenic highway by Caltrans. The proposed pipelines would be located within urban areas of the City and under existing roadways. The construction of the distribution system would result in temporary impacts to scenic resources and the existing setting. However, the construction impacts would be temporary and, therefore, would not have permanent impacts to scenic resources because the pipelines would be located underground.

The construction of the 3.5-mg reservoir would be located in either an elevation zone of 1,430 feet above mean sea level (msl) or 1,650 msl. As a result, it would result in a potentially significant impact to the existing character of a hillside.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would develop three distribution lines: two separate distribution lines extending from Newhall Ranch Road south to Avenue Scott and north to Copper Hill Drive along McBean Parkway, and one pipeline extending north from Bouquet Canyon Road along Seco Canyon Road to Los Rogues Drive (see **Figure 8)**. The pump site would be located within a commercial shopping center located approximately 550 feet east of the Bouquet Canyon Road and Valencia Boulevard intersection. The reservoir site would be located in the same area, west of the sludge drying beds, as that of the proposed project. The I-5 freeway is designated as an eligible state scenic highway by Caltrans,[53] and is located over 1 mile west of the westernmost point of this alternative. As the project area cannot be seen from the I-5 freeway, there would be no potential impacts on scenic resources viewed from a state-designated scenic highway. Therefore, there would be no impact on scenic resources near a state scenic highway.

The distribution pipelines would include construction, which would be temporary, within the street ROW. The pipelines would be located beneath the street; therefore, there would be no impacts on the existing visual character of the project site.

The pump station would be one story and would conform to the Community Commercial zoning code of the City. Impacts would therefore be less than significant. The potential impacts to the existing character of the site are further discussed in **Section 4.3.4, Biological Resources**.

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53 Caltrans, "California Scenic Highway Mapping System" (last updated in December 2007), http://www.dot.ca.gov /hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm, 2009.

Project Design Features

All roadways and other public structures that would be impacted by construction of any alternative shall be repaired and restored upon completion of the construction activities.

Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation has been incorporated from the RWMP PEIR and shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.1-2 Reservoir tanks and booster pump stations shall be painted with low-reflective paint in a camouflaging color that blends with the surrounding environment.

PEIR MM 3.1-3 Prior to the commencement of grading activities, CLWA's Engineer for the grading and construction of the reservoir tanks shall provide a Grading Plan that incorporates landform grading techniques and minimizes changes to topography. If bench-cuts into hillsides are required to locate the reservoir tank or other RWMP facilities, then landform grading techniques shall be incorporated that preserve as much of the natural topography as possible and that create cuts which blend into the surrounding hillside area.

PEIR MM 3.1-4 Prior to the commencement of grading activities for any component of Phase 2A, a qualified biologist/arborist shall be consulted to determine the biological/aesthetic value of potentially impacted trees. All impacted native trees shall be replaced at a minimum ratio of 1:1 to mitigate for the loss of biological value, and all impacted ornamental trees shall be replaced at a minimum ratio of 1:1 to mitigate for aesthetic impacts. All impacted trees shall be replaced with appropriate native species at an ultimate ratio to be determined by a qualified biologist/arborist.

Impact 4.3.1-3 **Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. Design Area 1. As seen in **Figure 5**, this design area is located in an urbanized and developed area. The proposed pipeline would be located beneath the existing street within the ROW. The construction of the proposed pipeline would be temporary. Once construction is completed, areas disturbed from the construction of the recycled water pipelines such as Newhall Ranch Road and Valencia Boulevard would be returned to its original state. Therefore, there would be no impacts. The pump station would be located within a commercially zoned and developed area. As described in **Section 2.4.1, Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative**, the pump station would be housed in a building that would be one story and have small architectural features, in accordance with the CC-Z zone. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 2. As seen in **Figures 6a** and **6b**, the proposed 36-inch transmission line would be located within the street ROW along Newhall Ranch Road. The construction would trench within the street ROW and would be temporary and short term. Completion of the transmission line would restore the disturbed area to as close to original as feasible. There would be no impact on the existing visual quality or character of the site.

Design Area 3. As seen in **Figure 7**, the reservoir and the associated pipeline would be located on the hillside that contains the RVWTP, south of Central Park. Trees and rock outcroppings were identified on a site visit.[54] Impacts associated with the potential removal of mature trees are discussed in **Section 4.3.4, Biological Resources**. However, impacts would potentially be significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use the existing potable water supplies for irrigation in place of the proposed recycled water supply. These water supplies would be used in the CLWA service area. As a result, the existing potable water pipelines and water tanks would be used to convey the irrigation water. As the pipelines and water tanks are existing conditions, no new impacts would result to the existing character of the site.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. The implementation of Phase 2 of the RWMP would provide approximately 1,236 afy recycled water to the developed area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center.

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54 Site visit by Impact Sciences, Inc., on July, 23, 2009.

The proposed pipelines would be located within urban areas of the City and under existing roadways. The construction of the distribution system would result in temporary impacts to scenic resources and the existing setting; however, the construction would be temporary. Therefore, the proposed pipelines would not have a permanent impact to scenic resources because they would be located underground.

The construction of the 3.5-mg reservoir would be located in either an elevation zone of 1,430 feet msl or 1,650 msl. As a result, it would result in a potentially significant impact to the existing character of a hillside.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would develop three distribution lines: two separate distribution lines extending from Newhall Ranch Road south to Avenue Scott and north to Copper Hill Drive along McBean Parkway, and one pipeline that would extend north from Bouquet Canyon Road along Seco Canyon Road to Los Rogues Drive (see **Figure 8**). The pump site would be located within a commercial shopping center located approximately 550 feet east of the Bouquet Canyon Road and Valencia Boulevard intersection. The reservoir site would be located in the same area as that of the proposed project, west of the sludge drying beds

The distribution pipelines would involve temporary construction within the street ROW. The pipelines would be located beneath the street; therefore, there would be no impacts on the existing visual character of the project site.

The pump station would be one story and would conform to the Community Commercial zoning code of the City. Impacts would therefore be less than significant.

The construction of the reservoir, which would have a 100-foot diameter and would be 46 feet high, would potentially impact the topography and the vegetation of the hillside. Therefore, potential impacts to the existing setting of the site would potentially be significant.

Project Design Feature

All roadways and other public structures that would be impacted by construction of any alternative shall be repaired and restored upon completion of the construction activities.

Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures **PEIR MM 3.1-1** through **PEIR MM 3.1-4** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.1-4 **Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. Design Area 1. As previously discussed, the construction of the proposed pipeline would be temporary. It would be located beneath the ground. Therefore, the proposed pipeline would not generate new sources of light and glare, and there would be no impact.

The proposed pump station would be located in the shopping center west of the Valencia Boulevard/Bouquet Canyon Road intersection. The facility would be 12 feet high and 49.5 feet long by 32 feet wide. Coordination with the City would be required to determine if construction for the proposed 20-inch suction piping along Valencia Boulevard would be required during nighttime hours. Therefore, nighttime light impacts would potentially be significant.

Design Area 2. As seen in **Figure 6a** and **6b**, the 36-inch transmission line would be within the Newhall Ranch Road street ROW. Coordination with the City would be required to determine if construction along the Bouquet Canyon Road/Newhall Ranch Road intersection would take place during nighttime hours in order to minimize traffic impacts. Nighttime lighting would potentially be significant.

Design Area 3. This design area would be located within the 1,000-foot clearance area located on the hillside with the RVWTP. The reservoir piping would be located beneath the ground, and would therefore have no impacts on light and glare. The 1.75-mg reservoir would be 46 feet in height and 100 feet in diameter. Due to the surface area of the reservoir, glare from sunlight could be redirected by the reservoir. Therefore, glare impacts are potentially significant.

The reservoir tank may be equipped with motion-detection lighting for security.[55] These lights would be directed downward and would only be triggered by movement around the tank. The security lighting effect would be geographically limited and periodic. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

55 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft Recycled Water Master Plan Program EIR*, 2006, 3.1-9.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The implementation of the No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would utilize the existing potable water as irrigation in the project area. The potable water pipelines and potable water tanks already exist. Therefore, no new construction or development of pipelines and water tanks would be needed for this area, and there would be no impacts from light and glare.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. The implementation of Phase 2 of the RWMP would continue as described in the recycled water master plan. The area would develop 62,000 lf of pipelines, expand the existing Valencia recycled water pump station, and develop a 3.5-mg reservoir. The area is already developed and lies between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Construction of the proposed recycled water pipelines would take place beneath the surface of the street and the pipelines would be located within the ROW. As described above, construction would be coordinated with the City to identify areas that would potentially require nighttime construction to minimize traffic impacts. Therefore, potential nighttime lighting would potentially be significant.

The expansion of the recycled water pumps would be located within the Valencia WRP. The buildings would conform to the style and architecture of the surrounding pumps and buildings. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

As previously mentioned, the reservoir would be located on a hillside that would be able to accommodate a 3.0-mg or 3.5-mg tank. Potential impacts associated with light and glare from the reservoir would be similar to those described under **Design Area 3**, above, and would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would use the Saugus WRP and would include additional distribution pipelines. Construction of the recycled water pipelines would be temporary and in some areas would require construction at night to minimize traffic impacts. The nighttime lighting of the construction sites would potentially cause a significant impact. There would be no permanent light or glare because the pipelines would be located beneath the existing paved streets.

The proposed pump station would be located in a commercial shopping center. As described in **Section 2.4.1**, the pump station would be housed in a one-story building that would have small architectural features that would comply with the regulations of the CC-Z zone. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

The reservoir would be located west of the RVWTP sludge drying beds, on the hillside. The size of the reservoir would potentially cause a significant impact on light and glare.

Project Design Feature

Where security lighting is installed, the light fixtures selected will have motion-detector technology and be directed downwards to limit the geographic extent of light and glare.

Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures **PEIR MM 3.1-1** and **PEIR MM 3.1-2** shall be implemented to reduce glare by providing vegetation and using non-reflective paint. The following mitigation, approved in the RWMP PEIR, shall be implemented to reduce nighttime lighting:

PEIR MM 3.1-5 In order to mitigate for potential impacts due to nighttime lighting for construction activities near sensitive receptors, such as residential homes, construction activities will be restricted to daytime hours on residential streets. For nighttime construction in commercial corridors, the areas of pipeline construction adjacent to walkways or roadways must be well lit and clearly defined at all times to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians. Temporary lighting must be directed onto the worksite and avoid any spill-over light or glare onto adjacent properties. Construction activities will comply with encroachment permit requirements and approved traffic control plan requirements.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts to aesthetics and visual resources associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact.

The proposed project would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts to scenic vistas, new sources of light and glare, and the alteration of the existing visual character of the project site, and implementation of regulatory requirements and mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant. The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts related to the alteration of the existing visual character of the site, scenic vistas, and impacts related to new sources of light and glare. Implementation of regulatory requirements and mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce potential impacts to new sources of light and glare, scenic vistas, and impacts related to the potential alternation of the existing visual quality of the site.

4.3.2 Agricultural Resources/Farmland Protection

Environmental Setting

As described in **Section 3.0, Environmental Setting**, the project area is in an urbanized area and does not contain any designated farmland.[56] Projects are subject to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to non-agricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency.[57] The state categorizes and maps Important Farmlands (Prime, Unique, and of Statewide and Local Importance) using the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). As the project or any of the alternatives do not contain farmland within their boundaries, they are not subject to the FPPA.

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on agricultural resources if it would

- convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the FMMP of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use;
- conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract; or
- involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use.

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56 California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, *Los Angeles Important Farmland 2006 Map*, 2009.

57 US Department of Agriculture, "Farmland Protection Policy Act," http://www.nrcs.usda.gov /programs/fppa/, 2009.

Impact 4.3.2-1 **Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3 are located within an urbanized area of the City of Santa Clarita. The proposed recycled water pipelines would be located within the street ROW, underground. The proposed pump station would be located within the land use designation for Community Commercial. The proposed reservoir would be on land currently designated as Open Space. However, as there is no land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, there would be no impact on the conversion to non-agricultural use.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use the existing facilities for the storage and transportation of potable water for use as irrigation for CLWA customers. As no new construction would result from the implementation of this alternative, there would be no impact on the conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. The implementation of Phase 2 of the RWMP would be located between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. This alternative would construct new pipelines, expand the Valencia WRP, and include a 3.5-mg reservoir. As described in the FMMP, the area designated for this alternative does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As seen in **Figure 8**, the proposed distribution pipelines would travel from the Saugus WRP, across the Santa Clara River underneath the Bouquet Canyon Road bridge, north to Seco Canyon and Central Park, west to McBean Parkway, and then south to Scott Avenue and north to Copper Hill Drive. As previously mentioned, the proposed pipeline would be located beneath the street ROW, the pump station would be located in a commercial shopping center, and the reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. As there is no land designated for farmland along this alternative route, there would not be a conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.2-2 Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. As described above under **Environmental Setting**, Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3 are located within an urban area of the City of Santa Clarita. Lands within the project boundary were not identified as designated Williamson Act lands.[58] As identified in the zoning map for the City of Santa Clarita, there is no agricultural zone designation.[59]

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use existing potable water facilities. As identified above, there are no Williamson Act contracts located within the City of Santa Clarita.[60]

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would not encourage or require any other changes in the existing environment that would result in conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use. Any proposed pipelines would be located underground. However, in the event that this alternative would potentially conflict with the zoning of the alternative area, the zone would not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water.[61]

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58 California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, *2006 Williamson Act Program Parcel Maps*, 2009.

59 City of Santa Clarita, *Zoning Map*, 2007.

60 California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, *2006 Williamson Act Program Parcel Maps*, 2009.

61 California Government Code, Section 53091(e).

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above under **Environmental Setting**, and as seen by the route of the proposed pipelines in **Figure 8**, the alternative boundary is located within an urban area of the City. As the proposed pipelines would be located underground beneath the street ROW, there would be no impact on agricultural zones or lands designated under the Williamson Act.[62]

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.2-3 Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Design Area 1. The proposed 20-inch suction pipelines would be located beneath the Valencia Boulevard ROW and the within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center. The proposed pump station would also be located in the Valencia Mart Shopping Center. The existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral would remain unchanged. The surrounding environment is built urban land. Therefore, no agricultural lands would be converted.

Design Area 2. The proposed 36-inch recycled water transmission main would be located within the Newhall Ranch Road ROW. As seen in **Figure 6a** and **Figure 6b**, the main would cross the Bouquet Canyon Channel under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD). The proposed 36-inch transmission main would connect to the existing 36-inch Honby Bypass, which connects to the existing 33-inch Honby Lateral pipeline. As the surrounding land is residential and commercial, there would be no conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural use.

Design Area 3. The 20-inch reservoir pipeline would connect at the 36-inch transmission main (see **Figure 6a**), and travel north to connect to the proposed reservoir. A 20-inch pipeline would then travel north to connect to Central Park. The RVWTP is located east of the proposed reservoir and reservoir pipeline.

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62 California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, *2006 Williamson Act Program Parcel Maps*, 2009.

The proposed reservoir would be on land currently designated as Open Space. However, as there is no land designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, there would be no impact on the conversion to non-agricultural use.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this alternative, the proposed recycled water system would be supplemented by the potable water supply. The transmission and storage of potable is already in place and developed. Therefore, there would be no construction and no impact due to converting surrounding agricultural land uses to non-agricultural purposes.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would be implemented in between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. As described previously, pipelines would be located beneath the street ROW and the proposed pump station, and reservoirs would not change the nature of the existing environment or effect the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural purposes.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would construct one distribution main (see **Figure 8**), that would travel from the Saugus WRP north along Bouquet Canyon Road to Seco Canyon Road, and then north to Los Rogues Drive, and north to Central Park. The other main would travel west from Bouquet Canyon Road along Newhall Ranch Road and then south along McBean Parkway to Avenue Scott and north along McBean Parkway to Copper Hill Drive. All proposed pipelines would be placed beneath the street ROW and are located near residential or commercial areas. The proposed reservoir would be located west of the RVWTP. Therefore, this alternative would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Each of the alternatives would have no impact with regard to agricultural resources. No regulatory requirements or mitigation measures are required.

As there is no identified farmland in any of the areas designated in the alternatives, the Farmland Protection Policy Act would not apply under NEPA.

4.3.3 Air Quality

Environmental Setting

Climate

The Santa Clarita Valley—with the Sierra Pelona Mountains on the north, and the Santa Susana and San Gabriel Mountains to the south, east, and west—is in a transitional microclimatic zone located between two climatic types, termed "valley marginal" and "high desert." The project area is situated far enough from the ocean to escape coastal damp air and fog, and also far enough from the high desert to escape extremely hot summers and harsh winters. As a result, summers are dry and warm, with daytime temperatures ranging from 70 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and winters are temperate, semi-moist and sunny, with daytime temperatures ranging from 40 to 65°F. Rainfall averages 13 to 24 inches a year, with the rainy season running primarily from October to April.

The Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) requires the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to set national ambient (outdoor) air quality standards (NAAQS) for the nation for pollutants that are considered harmful to public health and the environment. These pollutants are referred to by the US EPA as "criteria pollutants," and they include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), respirable particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), and lead.[63]

The US EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards has set primary and secondary NAAQS for these pollutants. Primary standards are considered the maximum levels of ambient air pollutants considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the public health and welfare. Secondary standards were set to protect against decreased visibility, and damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. The secondary standards are the same as the primary standards, with the exception of CO and SO_2. There is no secondary standard for CO and the secondary standard for (SO_2) is less restrictive than the primary standard.

[63] The term "criteria air pollutant" derives from the requirement that the US EPA must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants. This term is used by both the US EPA and CARB.

Table 2, Ambient Pollutant Concentrations, Santa Clarita/Placerita Monitoring Station and Nearest Monitoring Stations, lists the measured ambient pollutant concentrations and the violations of state and federal standards that have occurred at the monitoring station from 2004 through 2008. As shown, the Santa Clarita/Placerita monitoring station registered values above state and federal standards for O_3 and $PM_{2.5}$, values above the state standard for PM_{10}. Concentrations of CO, NO_2, SO_x, lead, and sulfate have not exceeded federal standards anywhere within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) for several years. Values for lead and sulfate are not presented in the table below since ambient concentrations are well below the state standards.

Table 3, South Coast Air Basin Attainment Status, NAAQS, and **Table 4, South Coast Air Basin Attainment Status, CAAQS**, identifies the SCAB's attainment status relative to the primary NAAQS and the California ambient air quality standards (CAAQS), respectively. Because the attainment/nonattainment designation is pollutant specific, an area may be classified as nonattainment for one pollutant and attainment for another. Similarly, because the state and federal ambient air quality standards differ, an area could be classified as attainment under the federal standards and as nonattainment under the state standards for the same pollutant. As shown in **Table 2**, the SCAB is in nonattainment for the federal standards for ozone (8 hour), PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. As shown in **Table 3**, the air basin is in nonattainment for the state standards of ozone (1 hour), ozone (8 hour), and $PM_{2.5}$.

States with basins that are not in attainment with the NAAQS are required to submit a state implementation plan (SIP) that describes how the air basin will achieve the federal standards by specified dates.

The project area is located within the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The following rules apply to the project:

Rule 201 – Permit to Construct – Rule 201 establishes an orderly procedure for the review of new and modified sources of air pollution through the issuance of permits. Rule 201 specifies that any facility that installs non-exempt equipment that causes or controls the emissions of air pollutants must first obtain a Permit to Construct from the SCAQMD. Project components would be subject to this rule if a back-up generator or engine was installed that was greater than 50 brake horse power (bhp).[64]

64 South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 201, "Permit to Construct." Amended in 2004.

Rule 402 – Nuisance – Prohibits the discharge from a facility of air pollutants that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to the public or that damage business or property.[65]

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on air quality if it would

- conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan;
- violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation;
- 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 (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors);
- expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

65 South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Rules and Regulations*, Rule 201, "Permit to Construct." Amended in 2004, Rule 402, "Nuisance." Adopted in 1976.

Table 2
Ambient Pollutant Concentrations, Santa Clarita/Placerita Monitoring Station and Nearest Monitoring Stations

Pollutant	Standards[1, 2]	Year 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
OZONE (O_3)						
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.158	0.173	0.16	0.135	0.160
Maximum 8-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.113	0.141	0.120	0.110	0.131
Number of days exceeding state 1-hour standard	0.090 ppm	69	65	62	31	50
Number of days exceeding state 8-hour standard	0.070 ppm	81	69	64	64	73
Number of days exceeding federal 8-hour standard [3]	0.075 ppm	52	47	40	44	55
CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)						
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		5	2	2	2	2
Maximum 8-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		3.7	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.86
Number of days exceeding state 8-hour standard	9 ppm	0	0	0	0	0
Number of days exceeding federal 8-hour standard	9 ppm	0	0	0	0	0
NITROGEN DIOXIDE (NO_2)						
Maximum 1-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.09	0.087	0.08	0.08	0.073
Annual average concentration monitored (ppm)		0.020	0.019	0.018	0.020	*
Number of days exceeding state 1-hour standard [4]	0.18 ppm	0	0	0	0	0
PARTICULATE MATTER (PM_{10})						
Maximum 24-hour concentration monitored ($\mu g/m^3$)		54	55	53	131	32.0
Annual average concentration monitored ($\mu g/m^3$)		28.1	25.8	23.4	29.9	*
Number of samples exceeding state standard	50 $\mu g/m^3$	2	1	1	5	0
Number of samples exceeding federal standard	150 $\mu g/m^3$	0	0	0	0+	0
PARTICULATE MATTER ($PM_{2.5}$)						
Maximum 24-hour concentration monitored ($\mu g/m^3$)		56.2	39.5	44.0	43.3	26.1
Annual average concentration monitored ($\mu g/m^3$)		15.7	13.9	*	13.1	*
Number of samples exceeding federal standard [5]	35 $\mu g/m^3$	4	4	1	1	0
SULFUR DIOXIDE (SO_2)						
Maximum 24-hour concentration monitored (ppm)		0.009	0.006	0.004	0.003	0.003
Number of samples exceeding 24-hour state standard	0.04 ppm	0	0	0	0	0
Number of samples exceeding federal 24-hour standard	0.14 ppm	0	0	0	0	0

Sources: California Air Resource Board, "Air Quality Data Statistics," http://www.arb.ca.gov/adam/welcome.html
US Environmental Protection Agency, "Air Data: Access to Air Pollution Data," http://www.epa.gov/air/data/.
— No air quality data received for this year.
** There was insufficient (or no) data available to determine the value.*
[1] Parts by volume per million of air (ppm), micrograms per cubic meter of air ($\mu g/m^3$), or annual arithmetic mean (aam).
[2] Federal and state standards are for the same period as the maximum concentration measurement unless otherwise indicated.
[3] For O_3, the US EPA revised the 8-hour standard effective May 27, 2008. The statistics are based on the previous standard of 0.08 ppm.
[4] For NO_x, CARB revised the 1-hour standard effective March 20, 2008. The statistics are based on the previous standard of 0.25 ppm. In addition, CARB adopted an annual standard of 0.030 ppm, which is more stringent than the federal standard of 0.053 ppm.
[5] For $PM_{2.5}$, the federal standard for $PM_{2.5}$ was changed to 35 $\mu g/m^3$ in 2006. Statistics shown are based on the 65 $\mu g/m^3$ standard.

Table 3
South Coast Air Basin Attainment Status, NAAQS
(Los Angeles County)

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Designation/Classification
Ozone (O_3)	8 Hour	Nonattainment/Severe 17
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour, 8 Hour	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	Annual Arithmetic Mean	Attainment/Unclassifiable
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	24 Hour, Annual Arithmetic Mean	Attainment
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24 Hour	Nonattainment/Serious
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	24 Hour, Annual Arithmetic Mean	Nonattainment
Lead (Pb)[1]	Calendar Quarter	Attainment

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency, "Region 9: Air Programs, Air Quality Maps," http://www.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/maps_top.html. 2008.

[1] The US Environmental Protection Agency issued a final rule on October 15, 2008 reducing the lead standard from 1.5 µg/m³ averaged over a calendar quarter to 0.15 µg/m³ averaged over a rolling three-month period. Based on 2005–2007 monitoring data, California has not exceeded this new standard anywhere. The US EPA will make final designations no later than October 2010. The designation listed in this table is based on the previous standard.

Table 4
South Coast Air Basin Attainment Status, CAAQS

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Designation/Classification
Ozone (O_3)	1 Hour, 8 Hour	Nonattainment[1]
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour, 8 Hour	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	1 Hour	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	1 Hour, 24 Hour	Attainment
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24 Hour, Annual Arithmetic Mean	Nonattainment
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Annual Arithmetic Mean	Nonattainment
Lead (Pb)[2]	30 Day Average	Attainment
Sulfates (SO_4)	24 Hour	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S)	1 Hour	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride[2]	24 Hour	Unclassified
Visibility-Reducing Particles	8 Hour (10:00 AM–6:00 PM)	Unclassified

Source: California Air Resources Board. "Area Designations Maps/State and National." July 2007. http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm.

[1] CARB has not issued area classifications based on the new state 8-hour standard. The previous classification for the 1-hour ozone standard was Extreme.

[2] CARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as "toxic air contaminants" with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined.

Impact 4.3.3-1 Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. According to the adopted final program EIR[66] and the SCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook* (1993), the purpose of the consistency finding is to determine whether a project is inconsistent with the assumptions and objectives of the regional air quality plans, and thus whether it would interfere with the region's ability to comply with federal and state air quality standards. Consistency with the AQMP means that a project is consistent with the goals, objectives, and assumptions in the respective plan to achieve the federal and state air quality standards. If the project is inconsistent, local governments need to consider project modifications or inclusion of mitigation to eliminate the inconsistency. Note that even if a project is consistent, it could still have a significant impact on air quality under CEQA.

As described in **Section 3.2, Applicable Planning Documents**, the project is located within the SCAQMD basin which adopted and implements the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (2007 AQMP). As discussed below, construction of the proposed project would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds for criteria pollutants. This project would be sized to serve growth projections in the City and County general plans. Therefore, the proposed project would also be consistent with the SCAQMD's 2007 AQMP.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

Impacts would be significant and unavoidable. Under this alternative the proposed recycled water system would be supplemented by the potable water supply. Facilities to transmit and store potable water are already in place and are in conformance with the City's local ordinances. However, this alternative would not be consistent with the City's general plan or the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), which indicate that future water supplies would be supplemented by recycled water.[67] As this alternative is not consistent and would conflict with the City's general plan or the 2005 UWMP, impacts would be significant and unavoidable.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above, this alternative would be implemented in between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. The proposed pipelines would be located beneath street ROW and the proposed pump station and reservoirs would be located in vacant, non-urbanized

66 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft Program Recycled Water Master Plan EIR*, Volume I, 2006, 3.15-13.

67 Castaic Lake Water Agency, CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, Valencia Water Company, *2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, Chapter 4.2, Recycled Water Master Plan, November 2005.

areas. As described in the RWMP Draft Program EIR,[68] this alternative would meet the objectives and policies of the AQMP and would not establish new or modified permitted sources of non-attainment air contaminants or precursors.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above, the only air pollutants that are in non-attainment are ozone, particulate matter, and fine particulate matter. As this alternative would develop more new pipelines than that of the proposed project, it may result in greater impacts. As described below under the **Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative**, the methodology used to determine potential construction emission impacts was based on a worst-case scenario. As seen below in **Table 5**, ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ would not exceed the SCAQMD thresholds.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.3-2 Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. The proposed project is located within the SCAQMD and would follow the SCAB thresholds for air pollutants. The URBEMIS2007 model was used to analyze the potential impacts from construction emissions. The following assumptions were made: the construction of all design areas would occur over a period of one year (the pump station was calculated using general heavy industrial land use at 1,600 square feet), the construction information used to analyze the project was from the draft RWMP;[69] the grading and trenching duration considered was eight months, the building duration considered was four months, and the paving duration considered was two months.

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68 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft Program Recycled Water Master Plan EIR*, Volume I, 2006, 3.15-5.

69 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft Program Recycled Water Master Plan EIR*, Volume II, *Air Quality Modeling Data for the Air Quality Report*, 2006, 33.

This analysis is based on a theoretical worst-case scenario. The results of the URBEMIS2007 modeling are shown in **Table 5, Estimated Daily Construction Emissions**.

Table 5
Estimated Daily Construction Emissions

Construction Year	Emissions in Pounds per Day					
	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_X	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Summertime Emissions						
Unmitigated Emissions	**13.83**	**97.78**	**37.84**	**0.01**	**6.09**	**3.96**
SCAQMD Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Threshold?	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**
Mitigated Emissions	**13.83**	**97.78**	**37.84**	**0.01**	**4.12**	**3.55**
SCAQMD Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Threshold?	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**
Wintertime Emissions						
Unmitigated Emissions	**13.83**	**97.78**	**37.84**	**0.01**	**4.12**	**3.55**
SCAQMD Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Mitigated Emissions	**13.83**	**97.78**	**37.84**	**0.01**	**4.12**	**3.55**
SCAQMD Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Exceeds Threshold?	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**

*Emissions calculations are provided in **Appendix 4.3.3**.*
ROG = reactive organic gases

As **Table 5** shows, the only air pollutant that was close to exceeding the SCAQMD thresholds was NO_X. Therefore, the proposed project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing air quality violation.

Pipelines would not result in significant impacts to air quality, nor would they emit any criteria pollutants; moreover, trips associated with the maintenance of pipelines would not substantially impact air quality. The proposed project would include a 4,500-gpm pump station, which would be subject to the SCAQMD Rules 201 and 402,[70] which would ensure that pump station-related impacts would be less than significant.

70 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft Program Recycled Water Master Plan EIR*, Volume I, 2006, 3.3-17.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water for irrigation in place of recycled water. The potable water supply would utilize the existing water facilities. As a result, there would be no need for new and/or additional water pipelines and facilities. As there would be no new construction, there would be no new air pollutant emissions.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would develop pipeline to transport recycled water from the Valencia WRP to areas between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. This alternative would construct new pipeline located in the street ROW, expand the existing recycled water pump station at the Valencia WRP, and construct a reservoir. As described above and in **Appendix 4.3.3**, the URBEMIS2007 model was used to calculate the potential construction emissions from the implementation of the proposed project. This analysis was based on the RWMP air quality report,[71] which projected that each phase of the RWMP for construction of any pipeline, reservoir, and pump stations would last 14 months. This analysis was based on a worst-case scenario. This alternative does not have a preliminary design report that would identify the approximate amount of pipeline or the size of the reservoir. As this alternative would construct recycled water pipeline and would be similar to the proposed project, the worst-case analysis used for the proposed project would be assumed for this alternative. Therefore, air pollutant emissions would not exceed SCAQMD regulations.

However, this alternative would still adhere to standard SCAQMD regulations, such as maintaining all construction equipment in proper tune and shutting down equipment when not in use for extended periods of time. Prior to the approval of the project plans and specifications that have the potential to exceed SCAQMD daily NOx significance thresholds, the construction contractor would include a diesel fuel reduction plan to reduce NO_x emissions. Impacts would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would develop pipeline to transport recycled water from the Saugus WRP to the RVWTP, as seen in **Figure 8**. This alternative would construct 35,000 feet of new pipeline, which would be located in the street ROW.

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71 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft Program Recycled Water Master Plan EIR, Volume II, Air Quality Modeling Data for the Air Quality Report*, 2006, 33.

As described above and in **Appendix 4.3.3**, the URBEMIS2007 model was used to calculate the potential construction emissions from the implementation of the proposed project. This analysis was based on the RWMP air quality report,[72] which projected that each phase of the RWMP for construction of any pipeline, reservoir, and pump stations would last 14 months. This analysis was based on a worst-case scenario. As a result, this alternative would fall within this analysis and, as seen in **Table 5**, construction emissions would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds. However, there are rules that each project would have to comply with under SCAQMD guidelines.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The following regulatory requirements were identified in the RWMP PEIR and are applicable for the proposed project and alternatives:

PEIR RR 3.3-1 The project shall comply with SCAQMD Rule 1113, which limits the ROG content of architectural coatings used in the SCAQMD Basin or shall allow the averaging of such coatings, as specified, so that actual emissions do not exceed the allowable emissions if all the averaged coatings had complied with the specified limits.

PEIR RR 3.3-2 During clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations, excessive fugitive dust emissions shall be controlled by regular water or other dust preventive measures using the following procedures, as specified in the SCAQMD Rule 403.

- Limit on-site vehicle speed to 25 miles per hour.
- Water or securely cover material transported on site or off site sufficiently to prevent generating excessive amounts of dust.
- Minimize area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations so as to prevent generating excessive amounts of dust.
- Indicate these control techniques in project specifications. Compliance with the measure will be subject to periodic site inspections by CLWA.

72 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 33.

- Prevent visible dust from the project from emanating beyond the property line, to the maximum extent feasible.
- Cease operations during high wind conditions, defined by Rule 403 as instantaneous wind speeds that exceed 25 miles per hour.

PEIR RR 3.3-3 Prior to construction of any ~~RWMP development~~ phase of the proposed project, if a backup generator or engine would be installed that was greater than 50 brake horsepower, then under SCAQMD Rule 201, CLWA shall apply for a Permit To Construct which provides an orderly procedure for the review of new and modified sources of air pollution.

PEIR RR 3.3-4 The project shall comply with SCAQMD Rule 402, which prohibits the discharge from a facility of air pollutants that cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to the public or that damage business or property.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.3-3 **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 (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. As previously discussed, the air basin is currently in non-attainment for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$; any increase in these air pollutants would be considered significant. The proposed project would result in temporary local increases in emissions from construction equipment exhaust. As the proposed project is below the SCAQMD significance thresholds, these emissions are not considered significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water for irrigation and involve the continued use of existing water facilities. The alternative would not generate any new construction or new trips. The existing water pump stations would continue to comply with SCAQMD Rule 201 and Rule 402. Therefore, there would be no new impacts.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. As described above, this alternative is located between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center and would develop pipeline, pump stations, and water tanks. As seen in **Table 5**, the construction emissions would meet the SCAQMD thresholds for NO_X, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$, and would therefore be less than significant. Incorporation of Rule 201 and Rule 402 would minimize operational emissions, and trips to the pipelines and water tanks (for maintenance) would be occasional. However, in the event that there is the potential for ozone-forming emissions to exceed SCAB standards for ROG and NO_x, such emissions should be reduced if possible. Because the SCAB is in non-attainment for ozone (state and federal), additional ROG and NO_x emissions (precursors to O_3), would be considered significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts. However, SCAQMD standards and City/County Code requirements would be implemented on a project-by-project basis. Even though the RWMP has unavoidable impacts for short-term construction activities, long-term operational impacts to air quality would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Construction of this alternative would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase in ozone, PM_{10}, or $PM_{2.5}$ because short-term emissions for all criteria air pollutants would be below SCAQMD thresholds. Operational emissions would conform to SCAQMD Rule 201 and Rule 402, and would therefore not contribute cumulatively to criteria air pollutants.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirements **PEIR RR 3.3-1** through **PEIR RR 3.3-4** shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.3-4 Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. Certain land uses are considered particularly sensitive to air quality impacts. Schools, hospitals, rest homes, long-term medical and mental care facilities, and parks and recreation areas are all considered sensitive receptors. Residential areas are also considered air sensitive. Design Area 1 would be constructed within an urbanized, commercial area. Therefore, there would be no impact to sensitive receptors.

Design Area 2 would be constructed within the Newhall Ranch Road ROW. As described in **Section 3.0, Environmental Setting**, Newhall Ranch Road is bounded by residential uses to the north and southwest of the Bouquet Canyon Channel (see **Figure 4**). As described previously, construction impacts are considered temporary; however, due to the proximity of the sensitive receptors impacts are considered potentially significant.

Design Area 3 would be constructed near Central Park. The construction of the proposed reservoir piping would traverse Central Park. As construction impacts are temporary, potential impacts to the park would be temporary. However, due to the proximity of construction of the pipeline to Central Park, which would be considered a sensitive receptor, impacts would be potentially significant.

The proposed project is not a trip-generating project (with the exception of minor, maintenance-related trips), and would therefore not substantially increase the amount of off-site mobile source emissions. Additionally, long-term operational emissions would be well below SCAQMD standards.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would not generate any new construction, as the use of potable water for irrigation for the project area would be through the existing water pipelines and facilities. Long-term operational emissions would be well below SCAQMD standards. No sensitive receptors would be impacted.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would include commercial and residential uses throughout the project area (between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center). Construction would temporarily impact those sensitive receptor areas and, therefore, be potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would construct the proposed pipeline within a larger residential area. The pump station would be located within a commercial area, and would therefore have no impact on sensitive receptors. The reservoir would be constructed west of the sludge drying beds, south of Central Park, and is not located near sensitive receptors. The construction of the pipeline would be potentially significant but temporary.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirements **PEIR RR 3.3-1** through **PEIR RR 3.3-4** shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation, tiered from the approved RWMP PEIR, shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.3-1 Prior to the approval of the project plans and specifications for any component of the ~~RWMP~~ project that has the potential to exceed AQMD daily NO_x significance thresholds, the construction bid packages shall include a separate "Diesel Fuel Reduction Plan" for ~~the RWMP~~ any one of the design areas. This plan shall identify the actions to be taken to reduce diesel fuel emissions during construction activities (inclusive of grading and excavation activities). Reductions in diesel fuel emissions can be achieved by measures including, but not limited to, the following: (a) use of alternative energy sources, such as compressed natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas, in mobile equipment and vehicles; (b) use of "retrofit technology," including diesel particulate traps, on existing diesel engines and vehicles; and (c) other appropriate measures. The Diesel Fuel Reduction Plan shall include the following provisions:

- All diesel-fueled off-road construction, equipment shall be California Air Resources Board (CARB) certified or use post-combustion controls that reduce pollutant emissions to the same level as CARB-certified equipment. CARB-certified off-road engines are engines that are three years old or less and comply with lower emission standards. Post- combustion controls are devices that are installed downstream of the engine on the tailpipe to treat

the exhaust. These devices are now widely used on construction equipment and are capable of removing over 90 percent of the PM_{10}, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compounds from engine exhaust, depending on the specific device, sulfur content of the fuel, and specific engine. The most common and widely used post-combustion control devices are particulate traps (i.e., soot filters), oxidation catalysts, and combinations thereof.

- All diesel-fueled on-road construction vehicles shall meet the emissions standards applicable to the most current year to the greatest extent possible. To achieve this standard, new vehicles shall be used or older vehicles shall use post-combustion controls that reduce pollutant emissions to the greatest extent feasible.

- The effectiveness of the latest diesel emission controls is highly dependent on the sulfur content of the fuel. Therefore, diesel fuel used by on-road and off-road construction equipment shall be low sulfur (greater than 15 ppm) or other alternative low polluting diesel fuel formulation.

Impact 4.3.3-5 Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. Potential odors generated during construction operations would be temporary and are determined to result in less than significant impacts. The pump station would operate on electricity and would not generate diesel-related odors. When back-up generators would be required, emissions would be released that could be considered odorous; however, the back-up generators will not be operational more than 200 hours per year. Therefore, impacts associated with odor would be sporadic and less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water for irrigation of the project area. As the existing facilities for water use are already in place, there would be no need for construction. Back-up generator use would be short term and temporary in nature.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would be constructed between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Therefore, the potential footprint of construction would be larger. However, construction and the potential odors generated would be temporary in nature. The pump stations would operate on electricity and would not generate diesel-related odors.

When back-up generators would be required, emissions would be released that could be considered odorous; however, the backup generators will not be operational more than 200 hours per year. Therefore, impacts associated with odor would be sporadic and less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. Potential odors generated during construction operations would be temporary in nature. The pump station would operate on electricity and would not generate diesel-related odors. When back-up generators would be required, emissions would be released that could be considered odorous; however, the back-up generators will not be operational more than 200 hours per year. Therefore, impacts associated with odor would be sporadic and less than significant.

Summary Analysis

The potential impacts to air quality associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact. The proposed project would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts related to the result of a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutant and the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; implementation of regulatory requirements and mitigation mitigations would reduce impacts to less than significant. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would have no impacts on air quality. The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts related to violating air quality standards, and result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutant and the exposure of substantial pollutant concentrations to sensitive receptors. Implementation of regulatory requirements and mitigation measures would reduce such impacts to less than significant. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts related to violating air quality standards, and result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutant and the exposure of substantial pollutant concentrations to sensitive receptors. Again, implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce such impacts to less than significant. Implementation of the proposed project would allow CLWA to utilize water that flows through the Saugus WRP as a source for recycling instead of importing state water. As a result, the proposed project would decrease the use of relatively energy intensive imported water, thereby reducing energy related emissions. Consequently, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would indirectly decrease as a result of the proposed project.

As required under NEPA the Clean Air Act regulates impacts on air quality. As described all alternatives were found to be less than significant or to have no impact on air quality.

4.3.4 Biological Resources

Environmental Setting

Developed areas represent the majority of the ROW along the proposed alignment. These areas consist of all paved areas including the road and paved shoulder, gutters, curbs, and sidewalks. Developed areas are entirely devoid of vegetation. Therefore, due to the urbanized development **Design Area's 1** and **2** were determined to have minimal to no potential for federally threatened or endangered species.

The area of the project determined to have the greatest potential for federally threatened or endangered species was determined to be **Design Area 3** due to the amount of open space located on the hillside. The site is undeveloped and shows signs of prior and ongoing disturbances, including disking, dumping, unpaved roadways, and foundations of former buildings and associated surviving landscaping plants. Furthermore, the area west, northwest of the RVWTP sludge drying beds was previously used as a Bouquet Canyon Boys Camp.[73]

Prior to the July 2009 site visit, searches of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants were conducted to identify special-status plant or special-status animal species known to occur in the area. The CNDDB lists historical and recently recorded occurrences of special-status plant and special-status animal species and the CNPS database lists historical and recent occurrences of special-status plant species. The database searches included the Newhall United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle, in which the project site is located, as well as the seven surrounding quadrangles: Whitaker Peak, Warm Springs Mountain, Mint Canyon, San Fernando, Green Valley, Val Verde, Santa Susana, and Oat Mountain.

Based upon the review of the CNDDB and CNPS databases, 23 special-status plant and 30 special-status animal species have been reported from the nine-quad region containing the project site. Of these 53 species, none were observed on site; however seven special-status plant and 22 special-status animal species could potentially utilize the site, based on habitat characteristics (see **Appendix 4.3.4** for a complete analysis of these 29 special-status species). The area immediately east of the RVWTP was previously surveyed for the presence of the federally Threatened coastal California gnatcatcher.[74] This survey identified plant species that included wild oats (*Avena* sp.), ripgut brome (*Bromus rigidus*), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), and California sagebrush (*Artemesia californica*).

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73 US Geological Survey, 7.5-minute 1995 Newhall quadrangle, revised by USDA Forest Service.

74 Compliance Biology, *Results of Focused Coastal California Gnatcatcher Surveys; Prospective Water Tank Locations, River Park Project*, 2003.

The southern portion of the site is most accurately described as a hilltop and supports species consistent with California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), thick-leaf yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), California sagebrush, and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). No California gnatcatchers or any other federal or state-listed endangered, threatened, or candidate species were recorded on this area during the focused protocol surveys.[75]

USFWS conducted a site visit within the project area for the habitat of the federally endangered least Bell's vireo and the coastal California gnatcatcher.

Design Area 3

The area of the proposed reservoir site is entirely disturbed in character and is dominated by plantings of oleander (*Nerium oleander*) and ornamental trees. Much of this area is paved and contains the foundation and remains of a former building. A cross country trail bisects this area and is connected to Central Park located to the northwest of the RVWTP. Ruderal plants persisting in this area include native and non-native annual and short-lived perennial species, such as Russian-thistle (*Salsola tragus*), tocolote (*Centaurea melitensis*), California aster (*Corethrogyne filaginifolia*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), red-stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), and red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*).

Identified in the CNDDB database search was a federally Endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), a federally Threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), and a state-listed Endangered San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*). The potential for these species within the Design Area is considered low due to the small amounts of suitable habitat for the species.

Southern Area

The area south of the proposed water tank location is primarily ruderal and is dominated by non-native annual species, chiefly mustards and grasses, but also supporting scattered stands of native annual species, including narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), clustered tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*), rancher's fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*), and miniature lupine (*Lupinus bicolor*).

75 Compliance Biology 2003.

Stands of native shrubs are scattered within the matrix of annual vegetation. These include California sagebrush, mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*—in a localized depression among debris piles), pine-leaf goldenbush (*Ericameria pinifolia*), and California buckwheat. Groves of blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), and Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) are also present.

The southern area lies adjacent to a small canyon that supports a well-developed riparian area dominated by Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and mulefat.

Northern Area

The area north of the proposed reservoir site is relatively undisturbed and retains much of its native character. The topography of the area, from south to north, decreases from 1,427 msl to 1,215 msl [(a ratio of 1:3 (horizontal:vertical)], and contains north facing slopes. An existing regularly maintained cross country trail connects Central Park with Newhall Ranch Road to the south. Vegetation in this area is primarily California sagebrush-dominated coastal sage scrub on steep slopes. Small rock outcrops are present along a ridgeline that marks the approximate western boundary of the survey area. Swales are present and become channelized below the cross country trail. The largest of these supports a mature coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and a stand of mulefat near its upper terminus. Further downslope, a stand of giant wildrye (*Leymus condensatus*) would also appear to be dependent on elevated soil moisture provided by on-site drainage. Much of the understory on steep slopes in this portion of the site retains a dense cover of one-sided bluegrass (*Poa secunda*) and other native herbaceous species, indicating relatively high value of habitats here.

The drainages terminate onto a flat area dominated by non-native trees (*Eucalyptus*, *Pinus* and Peruvian-pepper (*Schinus molle*)). Additional species in the southern portion of the site include Bigelow's spike-moss (*Selaginella bigelovii*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), scapellote (*Acourtia microcephala*), coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), shrubby butterweed (*Senecio flaccidus* var. *douglasii*), beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris* var. *basilaris*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), black sage (*S. mellifera*), bush monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), birch-leaf mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides* var. *betuloides*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and Whipple's yucca (*Yucca whipplei*). Special-status species reported in the database results and the reasons for their potential to utilize or be absent from the project site are summarized in **Appendix 4.3.4**.

Environmental Impacts

Specifically, Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on biological resources if it would:

- 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 US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pools, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- 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.
- Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy ordinance.
- Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Impact 4.3.4-1 **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 US Fish and Wildlife Service.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described in **Section 3.0 Environmental Setting**, both Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 are located within urbanized and disturbed areas. Therefore, potential impacts on wildlife and vegetation would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 would include the construction of 20-inch reservoir piping that would follow the existing cross country trail west of the outfall area (Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 2 as shown on **Figure 9**). The cross country trail is utilized on average once per month by various high school and club cross country teams. The construction of the pipeline would have a footprint of approximately 8 feet wide and up to 10

feet deep and would remain within the existing 12-foot-wide cross country trail. The reservoir piping would continue within the paved access road east to connect to the proposed reservoir. The proposed reservoir would be located near the cement pipe and manhole covers west of the sludge drying beds. The reservoir footprint would range from 0.5 acre to 1 acre in size.

The area west, northwest of the RVWTP sludge drying beds was previously used as a Bouquet Canyon Boys Camp.[76] The area of the project determined to have the greatest potential for federally Threatened or Endangered species was determined to be Design Area 3 due to the amount of open space located on the hillside. However, as described in **Section 3.0 Environmental Setting**, the hillside is surrounded by urbanized uses (Central Park and maintenance roads to the north; the RVWTP to the east, which purifies and treats imported surface water seven days a week; Newhall Ranch Road and single family residential dwelling units approximately 800 feet to the south of the access road; and a SCVSD water tank approximately 0.25-miles west).

Santa Ana Sucker/Unarmored Threespine Stickleback

The CNDDB and CNPS searches identified the potential for the listed species as high for the Santa Ana sucker and the unarmored threespine stickleback (located within the River).

The Santa Ana sucker population located within the Santa Clara River is not federally listed due to the lack of evidence showing it was native to the Santa Clara River,[77] and critical habitat is not designated for that population. The US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) earliest record of the sucker in the Santa Clara River watershed is from 1934;[78] USFWS contain records of the sucker in the Santa Ana River from 1897.[79] Based on this data, the USFWS has presumed the sucker in the Santa Clara River was introduced. Therefore, the USFWS has not listed the Santa Clara River population in Ventura and Los Angeles counties because it does not appear to represent a native population of the Santa Ana sucker (and it is not listed). Therefore, impacts on the Santa Ana sucker would be less than significant.

The location of observed stickleback population within the Santa Clara River is downstream of the McBean Dry Gap (approximately 1.25 miles downstream of the Saugus WRP).[80] As described above, the project would utilize existing pipeline crossing underneath the Santa Clara River. As the action would

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76 US Geological Survey, 7.5-minute 1995 Newhall quadrangle, revised by USDA Forest Service.

77 US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 50 CFR Part 17, *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule To Designate Critical Habitat for the Santa Ana Sucker (Catostomus santaanae); Final Rule*, 2005.

78 Hubbs et al. 1943.

79 Snyder 1908.

80 ESA, *Saugus WRP Reduced Discharge Analysis*, March 2010.

not disturb the Santa Clara River, there would be no potential for impacts on the unarmored threespine stickleback. Direct impacts to stickleback populations would be less than significant.

The average maximum capacity for future treatment of wastewater at the Saugus WRP is projected for 6.5 mgd. The proposed project/action has the ability to store recycled water produced from the Saugus WRP and would utilize the stored recycled water as needed. As described in Section 2.1.2, based on a seasonal peaking factor and the average oscillation of 0.1 to 0.5 mgd from the Saugus WRP, the proposed project/proposed action would detract approximately 0.9 mgd from the average maximum effluent, resulting in an average maximum effluent of the Saugus WRP of 5.6 mgd during the proposed project's/action's peak demand month. A 0.5 mgd reduction in discharge from the Saugus WRP, 10 percent reduction from the current annual average, is within the range of daily variability for discharges.[81] A 10 percent discharge reduction could slightly reduce channel depth and width of the river segment at The Old Road bridge (approximately 2.3 miles downstream of the Saugus WRP),[82] and is not considered to be substantial relative to existing variable conditions. Depending on river flow and overall hydrologic conditions, the discharge may account for a maximum of 50 to 100 percent of flow at The Old Road Bridge approximately 2.3 miles downstream.

River flow monitoring during September 2009[83] indicated that river flow, water depth, and channel width in the vicinity of The Old Road bridge are not measurably affected by diurnal fluctuations in discharge from the Saugus WRP. Consequently, water located within the pools of known stickleback populations would remain and subsequently the habitat for the stickleback would remain. Indirect impacts to stickleback populations would be less than significant.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher

As identified in the database search, there is a low potential for the coastal California gnatcatcher (CAGN) to occur in the project area. Habitat that is critical to the CAGN, thus the designation as a federally Threatened species, is classified through a number of landscape factors, which would include elevation, topography, and the fragmentation, patch size, and disturbance of habitat. The primary vegetation preferred by the CAGN is open sage scrub with California sagebrush as a dominant or co-dominant species. The northern hillside of Design Area 3 was found to contain areas of California sagebrush-dominated coastal sage scrub vegetation interspersed throughout approximately 35 acres and therefore potential habitat for the CAGN. The estimated density of the California sagebrush is considered sparse and intermittent throughout the sage scrub vegetation. The elevation of the Design Area 3

81 ESA, March 2010, 3.

82 ESA, March 2010, 3.

83 ESA, March 2010, 3.

descends from 1,430 feet msl to 1,215 feet msl (an average slope of 30 percent). The surrounding hillside area is considered open to activities associated with Central Park to the north and west, maintenance activities associated with the water tank and RVWTP operations to the east, and activities associated with the residences located to the south. The ambient noise level for the area adjacent and to the north of Newhall Ranch Road, as identified in **Section 4.3.11 Noise**, was determined to be 54 dB(A) for a 24-hour period. The potential area of disturbance along the cross country trail during construction would be 0.4 net acre in size (10 feet of construction disturbance within the 12-foot cross country trail for the length of the reservoir pipeline). Pipeline would be located within the cross country trail and the paved access road. Nevertheless, the 35 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat within Design Area 3 is not entirely appropriate for gnatcatcher, as California sagebrush is not present over the whole area.

CAGN tend to occur most frequently within gently sloping areas and along the lower slopes of the coast ranges. It has been reported that 16 percent of all recent (1992 to present day) CAGN locality records in the US, based on a small sample size of less than 400 studies, occurred above an elevation of 820 ft (250 m).[84] Based on a much larger sample size for the same geographic area (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego Counties), 9 percent of all CAGN records occur above 984 ft (300 m) in elevation.[85] Based on the findings, it is reasonable to assume that the majority of the locality records from coastal areas of Ventura County would be found at elevations similar to coastal areas in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties (below 820 ft).[86] As described above, the lowest elevation of the on-site habitat suitable for the CAGN is 1,215 msl. As determined by previous locality records, the likelihood of the presence of CAGN would be between 9 and 16 percent for this elevation. Therefore, the sparse and intermittent California sagebrush, elevation and topography, and the existing uses surrounding the hillside would contribute to marginal habitat for CAGN.

Thirty five acres therefore represents a conservative maximum, and any habitat suitable for gnatcatcher will be substantially less than this, as shown on **Figure 9, Design Area 3 – Reservoir and Conceptual Pipeline Routes**. The area immediately east of the RVWTP was surveyed in 2003 for CAGN, which did not identify the presence of CAGN,[87] and the CAGN was not found during focused surveys on the River Park project site to the south. As both areas contain similar habitat and are within the same geographical area as the analyzed project, the likelihood that CAGN is present in Design Area 3 is considered low.

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84 Atwood, J. L. and J. S. Bolsinger. *Elevational distribution of California gnatcatchers in the United States.* J. Field Ornithology 63, 1992, 159-168.

85 Michael Brandman Associated (MBA). *A rangewide assessment of the California Gnatcatcher (Polioptila californica).* Prepared for the Building Industry Association of Southern California. July1991.

86 Atwood and Bolsinger, 1992.

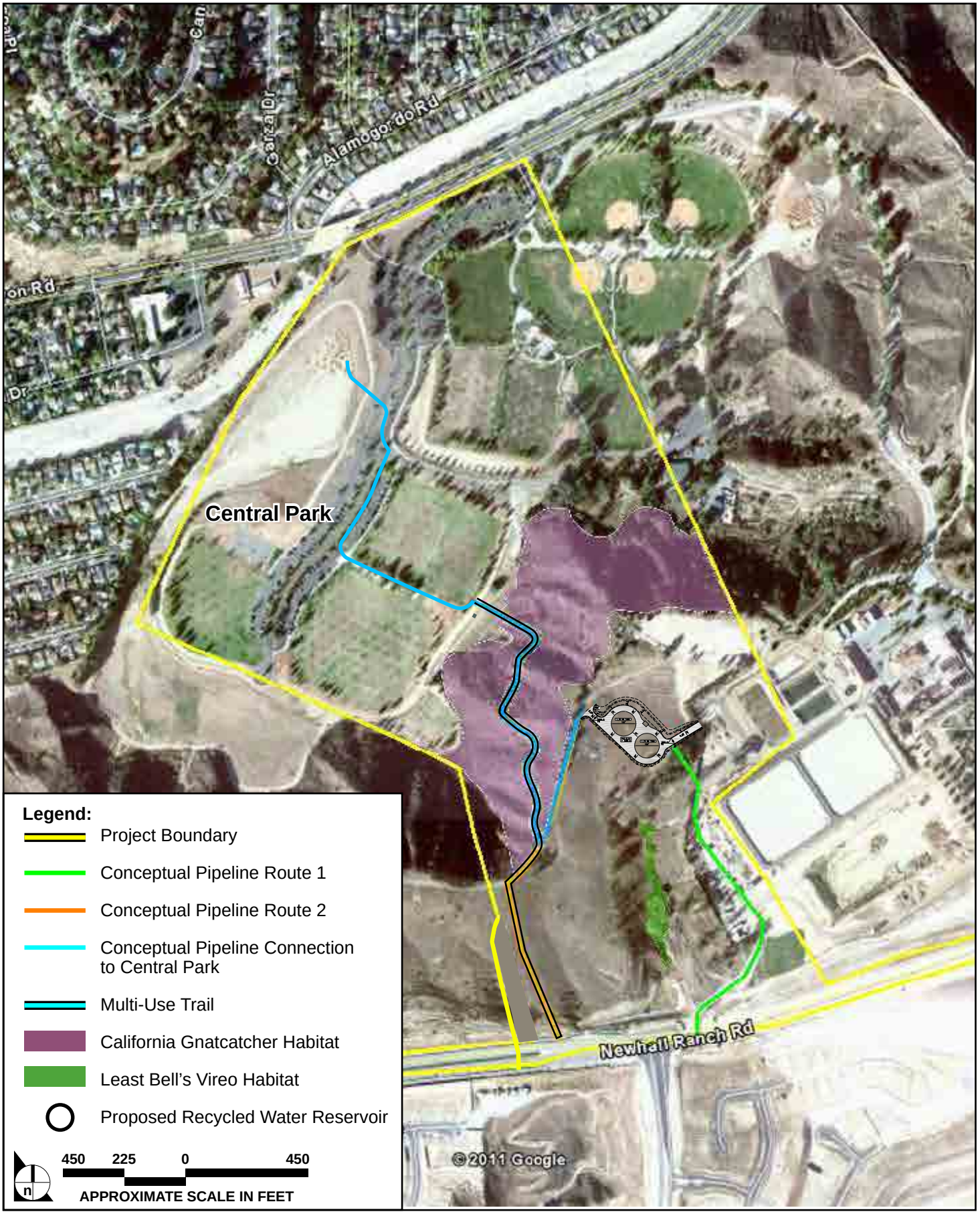
87 Compliance Biology, 2003.

As described above in **Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative**, the conceptual reservoir pipeline connecting to the reservoir would utilize the existing cross country trail and paved access road. The reservoir piping that would connect to Central Park would be located within the paved access road and continue west to be located within the cross country trail, which bisects the hillside containing potential areas of habitat for CAGN (shown in **Figure 9**).[88] As described previously, the cross country trail is utilized for running and races, on average, once per month by various schools and organizations as part of a larger cross country course. The approximate net acreage of the cross country trail is 0.4 acre. The trail is devoid of vegetation and the pipeline construction through the area would not require vegetation removal. This would account for approximately 1.0 percent of the conservative estimate of the 35-acre coastal sage scrub habitat. As a result, the actual potential temporary disturbance during construction would be within the existing access road and cross country trail. Therefore, the likelihood of disturbing any immediate areas of potential habitat suitable for CAGN would be minimal. Nonetheless, the construction of the northern portion of the proposed pipeline within Design Area 3 from the reservoir tank to Central Park would occur within the identified coastal sage scrub habitat. A site visit by the USFWS confirmed that habitat for the CAGN within the areas to be disturbed by construction activities was too steep to support CAGN, marginal quality at best, heavily used by the public, and nighttime light use by Central Park to the south. USFWS concluded that the proposed project/preferred alternative would "not likely to adversely affect," habitat suitable for CAGN (see letters dated January 25, 2011 and April 4, 2011 in **Appendix 4.3.4**).

Construction of the reservoir pipeline from the reservoir to Central Park would not occur during breeding season for CAGN (March 15 to June 30). Due to the elevation difference from the reservoir to Central Park construction of the pipeline would complete approximately 100 feet of pipeline per day. Therefore, construction of 2,500 linear feet of pipeline is estimated to be completed in no more than working 25 days. Construction staging areas for the reservoir pipeline would be located outside of the multi-use trail and paved access roadway areas, and located to the west at the RVWTP facility.

The USFWS has adopted a requirement that noise levels above 60 dB(A) in breeding areas of CAGN and LBV may affect the reproductive success of the species during its respective breeding season. As a result, any additional noise, other than background noise levels, which exceed 60 dB(A) are considered to adversely affect CAGN and LBV. However, as construction of the reservoir pipeline would occur outside of the breeding season, no significant noise impact would occur during pipeline construction.

88 It should be noted that the graded road has regrown with vegetation.



SOURCE: Impact Sciences, Inc. – December 2010

FIGURE **9**

Design Area 3 – Reservoir and Conceptual Pipeline Routes

As described above, the conceptual alignment of the reservoir to Central Park pipeline would traverse down the hillside into Central Park utilizing the existing cross country trail. Construction of the reservoir pipeline would remain within the 12-foot-wide cross country trail and is estimated to have a footprint of 10 feet in width. Construction activities within the cross country trail would involve the use of excavation equipment, pipe installation, and backfill of the pipeline. All construction and material preparation activities not associated with excavation, installing and backfilling, such as pipe cutting operations, would not be permitted to occur within 100-feet of the trail or identified CAGN habitat, and would be restricted to occur within the staging area at the RVWTP facility to minimize indirect noise disturbances. In addition, construction equipment would be limited to only the equipment necessary to trench and install the pipe, and deliver materials to and from the excavation areas as identified in **Mitigation Measure 3.4-4**. To avoid any unintended intrusion into the coastal sage scrub habitat, the trail would be closed to other activities for the duration of construction of the reservoir pipeline, as specified in **Mitigation Measure 3.4-5**. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.4-6** would require construction breaks to take place within the staging area; this will contain potential food and trash outside of the coastal sage scrub habitat and reduce the potential for scavenger species to be attracted to the area. Additional measures to minimize potential construction impacts to the coastal sage scrub habitat would include implementation of **Mitigation Measure 3.4-7** and **3.4-8** which would require a pre-construction bird survey of the immediate area of the design pipeline route for Design Area 3 from the reservoir to Central Park one week prior to construction and a qualified biologist to periodically survey (each survey shall be at least two weeks apart) the habitat surrounding the construction of the reservoir pipeline. In the event that construction monitoring or either the pre-construction surveys observe a CAGN, the work would stop and the project engineer, in coordination with a USFWS representative, would determine appropriate protocols for the immediate habitat where the bird is present. Therefore, the potential disturbance due to construction on immediate areas of coastal sage scrub habitat, and consequently any potential impacts on the CAGN, would be less than significant.

Least Bell's Vireo

As identified during the database search and subsequent site survey, the southern area surveyed contains less than 1 acre of Fremont cottonwood-dominated vegetation located near discharge pipeline outlets of the RVWTP, which is potentially suitable as habitat for the least Bells vireo (LBV). Suitable habitat for LBV includes willows and other low shrubs that afford nesting and roosting cover; this includes dense valley foothill riparian habitat including cottonwood, mulefat, and wild blackberry (or mesquite in desert localities). A site visit conducted by the USFWS on November 30, 2010, concluded that the riparian vegetation south of the proposed reservoir site is not of suitable quality or quantity to support the LBV.

While suitable habitat for LBV may be present, no formal surveys have been conducted for the presence of LBV within **Design Area 3**.

As discussed in the Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative, both of the conceptual pipeline alignments would connect from the 36-inch transmission main in Newhall Ranch Road to the reservoir site (shown in **Figure 9**). Conceptual Pipeline alignment 1 would be located within a disturbed area immediately adjacent to the west of the RVWTP or approximately 200 feet east of the potential LBV habitat. Conceptual Pipeline Alignment 2 would be located within the existing cross country trail approximately 525 feet to the west of the LBV habitat. The approximate footprint for construction of either pipeline alignment would be 1 acre in size. Consequently, direct construction activities would avoid the LBV habitat and would result in less than significant impacts.

San Fernando Valley Spineflower

San Fernando Valley spineflower has been known to associate with openings in coastal sage scrub habitat and primarily found within sandy soils. A Web Soil Survey was conducted to determine the soils comprising of Design Area 3. The majority of the soils were Saugus loam and Ojai loam.[89] Saugus loam consists of loam or sandy loam (soil contains roughly 50 to 70 percent sand) and Ojai loam consists of sandy loam (50 to 100 percent sand). Although focused surveys for San Fernando Valley spineflower were not conducted, site survey performed by a botanist in July 2009 did not observe the presence of spineflower on site. According to site surveys conducted for the River Park project located to the south of the project site, there was no San Fernando Valley spineflower observed.[90] Although not observed, the potential exists for spineflower to occur within the coastal sage scrub habitat.

As described above, the conceptual alignment of the reservoir to Central Park pipeline would traverse down the hillside into Central Park utilizing the existing cross country trail. The temporary construction impacts would not directly impact coastal sage scrub habitat. As a result of the coastal sage scrub habitat being left intact, and the known association between the existence of spineflower and coastal sage scrub habitat, impacts would be less than significant.

89 United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, "Web Soil Survey, National Cooperative Soil Survey," http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm, Accessed on July 22, 2010.

90 FLx, *Rare Plant Surveys and Vegetation Mapping, River Park Newhall Ranch/Valencia Company Project Sites, Los Angeles County, CA*, 2002.

There were trees identified within Design Area 3 during the site visit.[91] Trees within this area have the potential to be habitat for nesting birds. As all bird nests are covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and potential impacts would be significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water as a source of irrigation for the project area. This alternative would use existing facilities (pipelines and pump stations) to transport the water. As a result, there would be no need for construction and no adverse impact on any special-status species.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Due to the lack of site-specific information for the construction of the various alternative components and the known presence of wildlife in the region in general, it is assumed that wildlife would be impacted by this alternative. Most impacts to wildlife would be associated with the construction and operation of the water tanks or other facilities located in undeveloped areas. It can be assumed that each tank would result in approximately 0.5 to 1 acre of permanent habitat disturbance, depending on the site characteristics and the size of the tank. However, construction impacts would potentially be significant without mitigation.

The recycled water pipelines would be located underneath existing streets and within an urban and developed area. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described above in **Environmental Setting**, the length of the proposed pipeline would be within the street ROW. Therefore, there would be no impacts on adversely effecting special-status species. The pump station would be located in a commercial shopping center. Therefore, there would be no impacts on adversely effecting special-status species. The reservoir area contains small amounts of potential habitat for the CAGN and the LBV. As identified in the analysis of the Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative, the construction of the reservoir piping would be adjacent to the RVWTP. Previous surveys did not identify the presence of CAGN. A field visit conducted by the USFWS concluded that the habitat for CAGN was marginal and that construction within this area would "not likely to adversely affect" the CAGN. Therefore, the potential for significant impacts to CAGN and LBV would be less than significant.

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91 Impact Sciences, Inc. site visit on July 23, 2009.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of **PEIR MM 3.1-4** and the following mitigation identified in the RWMP Program EIR shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.4-1 As each component of the RWMP is brought forward for implementation ~~(with the exception of the Northwest Spur Pipeline)~~, a Biological Reconnaissance Survey will be conducted by a qualified Biologist to map and determine the extent and location of all special status vegetation types, to assess the suitability for special status plant and wildlife species and to conduct focused surveys at the appropriate time of year if suitable habitat is present within or adjacent to the proposed impact area. Surveys will definitively determine the absence or the presence and location of all special status plant species. If present, an assessment of the potential impacts will be conducted. If potentially significant impacts are assessed, the CLWA will attempt to avoid, or minimize if not possible to avoid, the impacts by adjusting the location of the proposed pipeline alignment or reservoir location. For unavoidable impacts, a mitigation plan shall be prepared and implemented to offset such impacts.

Impacted special status vegetation types will be restored on site. A revegetation program will be implemented in accordance with an appropriate, agency-approved landscape palette developed for the region on all graded areas not utilized for improvements or structures. Restoration will consist of seeding and planting containers of appropriate species. For those special status plant species that may be replanted, a pre-construction survey during the peak flowering period will be conducted by the Project Biologist. The limits of each plant or plant population location within the impact area will be clearly delineated with lath and brightly colored flagging. If the plant is located in the impact area, the loss will be mitigated by seed and bulb collection, if appropriate (depending on the growth type of the species), and revegetated onto a suitable mitigation site in the vicinity.

A detailed revegetation and special status plant restoration program will be developed and implemented and will contain the following items: responsibilities and qualifications of the personnel to implement and supervise the plan; site selection; site preparation and planting implementation; schedule; maintenance plan/guidelines; monitoring plan; long-term preservation; and performance standards. Restored areas shall be designated as open space and shall be protected from development in perpetuity.

In addition, if a potentially impacted species is state or federally listed as Threatened or Endangered, the CDFG and/or the USFWS will be consulted and a permit application will be submitted. The requirements of the mitigation, as set forth by the appropriate agency, will be adhered to. At a minimum, the construction period will be scheduled to avoid the breeding season of such species, year-long residents shall be relocated if feasible, and loss of habitat will be replaced at a minimum ratio of 1:1.

In an effort to avoid or minimize impacts to nesting birds, seven days prior to the onset of construction activities, a qualified Biologist will survey within 500 feet of the current project component impact area for the presence of any active raptor nests (common or special status). Any nest found during survey efforts will be mapped on the construction plans. If no active nests are found, no further mitigation would be required. Results of the surveys will be provided to the CDFG.

PEIR MM 3.4-2 Earth-moving equipment will avoid maneuvering in areas outside the identified limits of construction in order to avoid disturbing open space areas that will remain undeveloped. Prior to construction, the natural open space limits will be marked by the Construction Supervisor and a qualified Biologist. These limits will be identified on the construction drawings. The applicant will submit a letter to the appropriate agencies verifying that construction limits have been flagged in the field. No earth-moving equipment will be allowed within the open space areas.

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.4-3** of the RWMP Program EIR was not applicable for this project. The following mitigation measures are not identified in the RWMP Program EIR and are specific for the proposed project and alternatives:

MM 3.4-4 Only construction equipment necessary for trenching, delivering, and installation of the reservoir pipeline from the reservoir site to Central Park shall be used. All construction shall remain within the 12-foot-wide cross country trail.

MM 3.4-5 The cross country trail shall be closed for the duration of active construction activities for the reservoir pipeline (i.e., trenching, installation, and backfilling activities) in order to avoid off trail occurrences within the coastal sage scrub habitat.

MM 3.4-6 All construction breaks shall take place within the designated construction staging area in Design Area 3 (adjacent to the west of the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant) and shall dispose of leftover food and trash within trash receptacles within the staging area.

MM 3.4-7 One week prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction bird surveys for coastal California gnatcatcher and least Bell's vireo in areas that would require the direct removal of coastal scrub and chaparral vegetation, native and non-native trees, riparian areas or other areas where suitable nesting habitat for these and other resident or migratory bird species may occur. The surveys shall focus on breeding behavior and nesting locations in the proposed work area and immediately adjacent to that area. Based on the results of the surveys, recommended buffer areas between construction activities and observed nesting habitat shall be provided to the project engineer if the work is scheduled to occur near those locations while nesting is occurring (February 15 through August 31).

If, during the pre-construction bird survey, coastal California gnatcatcher is detected, construction shall stop. The project engineer shall then consult with a United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) representative to determine appropriate protocols to avoid the immediate habitat of the bird.

MM 3.4-8 A qualified biologist shall conduct periodic surveys at least two weeks apart during construction of the reservoir pipeline and during removal of vegetation to ensure that breeding wildlife and nesting birds species are not harmed. The biologist shall be able have the authority to redirect or temporarily stop work if threats to the species are identified during monitoring. If a bird species, in particular California gnatcatcher or least Bell's vireo, is identified within the immediate habitat of the reservoir pipeline path then construction of the reservoir pipeline shall halt.

Impact 5.3.4-2 **Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 are located within urbanized and disturbed areas, as described in **Section 3.0, Environmental Setting**. Therefore, the potential on adversely impacting any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community would be less than significant.

As described above in the **Environmental Setting**, Design Area 3 includes a riparian area just southwest of the RVWTP sludge drying beds. The southern area lies adjacent to a small canyon that supports a well-developed riparian area dominated by Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and mulefat.

The area north of the proposed reservoir site is relatively undisturbed and retains much of its native character. There is an existing cross country trail that bisects the northern slope of the hillside. Swales are present and become channelized below the cross country trail.

As described in **Section 2.4**, the construction of the reservoir piping would follow the cross country trail and east along the paved access road adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. The footprint would be 8 feet wide by 10 feet deep. The reservoir would not be located within a riparian area and would therefore, have no significant impacts. As the riparian area is designated east of the cross country trail, the potential for significant impacts to occur exists.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water as a source of irrigation for the project area. This alternative would use existing facilities (pipelines and pump stations) to transport the water. As a result, there would be no need for construction and no adverse impact on any special-status species.

No Action Alternative – RWMP Implementation

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would be supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water. The proposed pipelines would be located beneath existing streets and would therefore have no impact on riparian areas. The pump station expansion would be located within the Valencia WRP, which is paved and developed. Therefore, there would be no impacts on riparian areas.

The probable location for a reservoir would be located on a hillside with open space. This would be large enough to accommodate a 3.0 mg or 3.5 mg reservoir; the footprint of which would range from 0.5 acre to 1 acre in size. The elevation of the reservoir would be at either 1,430 msl or 1,650 msl and would potentially be constructed in a relatively flat area. As a result, the likelihood is considered low that riparian conditions would exist. As such, construction of the reservoir would potentially be significant due to varying reservoir locations.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. As described above in **Environmental Setting**, the length of the proposed pipeline would be within the street ROW for **Design Area's 1** and **2**. Therefore, there would be no impacts to riparian areas. The proposed pipelines and the pump station are located within urbanized and disturbed areas, as described in **Section 3.0 Environmental Setting**. Therefore, the potential on adversely impacting any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community would be less than significant.

As described above in the **Environmental Setting**, Design Area 3 includes a riparian area just southwest of the sludge drying beds. The southern area lies adjacent to a small canyon that supports a well-developed riparian area dominated by Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and mulefat.

The area north of the proposed reservoir site is relatively undisturbed and retains much of its native character. There is an existing cross country trail that bisects this area and connects to Central Park. Swales are present and become channelized below the existing cross country trail.

As described in **Section 2.4**, the construction of the reservoir piping would follow the unpaved construction access road adjacent to the west of the RVWTP or the cross country trail and existing SCVSD water tank access road, depending on final design considerations. The footprint would be 8 feet wide by 10 feet deep. As the riparian area is designated west of the construction access road, impacts would be potentially significant.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirements are identified in the RWMP Program EIR and the alternatives shall be in compliance with the following:

PEIR RR 3.8-1 Prior to the commencement of grading activities for construction of each of the proposed project ~~components~~ design areas, CLWA shall determine whether or not the construction activities are required to obtain coverage under the NPDES General Storm Water Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ) or the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2003-0007-DWQ). If the proposed project ~~component~~ design area meets the criteria for coverage under either of these two NPDES permits, then CLWA will be responsible for filing a Notice of Intent, a SWPPP (if applicable), and the appropriate fees to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality in order to obtain coverage under the applicable NPDES permit. Pursuant to the permit requirements, CLWA shall minimize construction related pollutants, including erosion-related sediment, in the site runoff through the implementation of Best Management Practices.

PEIR RR 3.4-1 Prior to the construction of any ~~phase or component~~ design area of the ~~RWMP~~ proposed project that involves impacting drainages, streams, or wetlands through filling, stockpiling, conversion to a storm drain, channelization, bank stabilization, road or utility line crossings, or any other modification to a jurisdictional drainage, a jurisdictional delineation shall be conducted. Any jurisdictional impacts would require permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the CDFG before any development could commence. Both permanent and temporary (construction-related) impacts are regulated and would therefore trigger the need for permits. Compensatory mitigation for the loss of wetland or riparian function and values is a fundamental component of the applicable regulatory programs.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.4-2** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.4-3 **Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pools, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Drainages in the northern portion of the site are potentially subject to regulation by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CDFG, and RWQCB. As described in **Section 2.4**, the area of analysis includes a clearance zone of 1,000 feet west from the sludge drying beds. Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 would not adversely affect federally protected wetlands because these areas contain urbanized commercial and residential land uses. Although Design Area 3 contains a riparian area southwest of the sludge drying beds, construction activities would avoid this area. The reservoir would be located in the disturbed area west of the northern most portion of the RVWTP. The proposed pipeline would traverse the existing cross country trail and the paved access road west of the RVWTP. As this area is not designated as a federally protected wetland there would be less than significant impacts.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water as a source of irrigation for the project area. This alternative would use existing facilities (pipelines and pump stations) to transport the water. As a result, there would be no need for construction and no adverse impact on any special-status species. There would be no impact.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center would be supplied with recycled water. The recycled water pipelines would be located beneath existing streets and within urban areas. Therefore, there would be no impact. The expansion of the recycled water pump station in the Valencia WRP is located on a paved, developed area and would therefore not be located within a wetland. There would be no impact. The reservoir site would be located within an open space area on a hillside and not in an area containing wetlands or riparian habitat. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Drainages in the northern portion of the site are potentially subject to regulation by the USACE, CDFG, and the RWQCB. As described in **Section 2.4**, the area of analysis includes a clearance zone of 1,000 feet west from the sludge drying beds. The proposed pipelines and pump station would not adversely affect federally protected wetlands because these areas contain urbanized commercial and residential land uses. The area adjacent to the west of the RVWTP contains a riparian area southwest of the sludge drying beds. However, the reservoir would be located in the disturbed area west of the RVWTP. The proposed pipeline would traverse from the Bouquet Canyon Road transmission main, around Central Park, and up the hillside to connect to the reservoir, as seen in **Figure 8**. The reservoir pipeline would therefore not be located within the riparian area and potential impacts would not occur.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The following regulatory requirements are identified in the RWMP Program EIR and applicable alternatives shall be in compliance with **PEIR RR 3.8-1** and **PEIR RR 3.4-1**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.4-4 **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.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The proposed project is located in an urban developed area of the City. Because no wildlife migration or movement corridors would be affected, for Design Area 1 and Design Area 2, there would be no impacts.

As described above, Design Area 3 is located on the hillside that contains the RVWTP. This hillside is immediately surrounded by urban development to the south, west, and north with urban development further east. As a result of the urban development the hillside would be considered an isolated "island" in terms of allowing the potential for wildlife movement. Areas available as opportunities for wildlife movement would include the Santa Clara River located south of the River Village residential development. The South Coast Missing Linkages (SCML) project has developed a comprehensive plan for a regional network that would maintain and restore critical habitat linkages between existing open space reserves.[92] As described in the SCML project, the Santa Clarita Valley contains portions of three linkages identified in the Missing Linkages project: the Santa Monica-Sierra Madre Mountains Connection, the Sierra Madre-Castaic Connection, and the San Gabriel-Castaic Connection. The project would not impinge on any of these linkages. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 also contains trees that are located within a riparian area and is suitable habitat for nesting native bird species. To avoid impacts to nesting birds during construction, it is recommended that a qualified biologist be retained to conduct nesting bird surveys within suitable nesting habitat prior to initiation of construction or ground disturbing activities (PEIR MM 3.4-1). Impacts on nursery (i.e., nesting) sites of native wildlife species would be potentially significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water as a source of irrigation for the project area. This alternative would use existing facilities (pipelines and pump stations) to transport the water. As a result, there would be no need for construction and no adverse impact on wildlife movement.

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92 South Coast Wildlands. 2008. South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network for the South Coast Ecoregion. Produced in cooperation with partners in the South Coast Missing Linkages Initiative. Available online at http://www.scwildlands.org.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. This alternative would supply recycled water to the area between I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. The proposed pipelines and the expansion of the pump station would be located in urban, developed areas. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant on disrupting wildlife movement.

The reservoir would be located on a hillside that would contain open space provide areas for wildlife movement. As a result, construction would potentially cause a significant impact.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described above in **Environmental Setting**, the length of the proposed pipeline would be within the street ROW. The proposed project is located in an urban developed area of the City. No wildlife migration or movement corridors would be affected, there would be no impacts.

As described above, the hillside is surrounded by urban development immediately to the south, west, and north with urban development further east. As a result this area would be considered an isolated "island" and would not provide the potential for wildlife movement. The Santa Clara River located south of the River Village residential development would provide the opportunity for wildlife movement, but the project would not have any structures in river that could affect wildlife movement. Therefore, potential impacts to wildlife movement would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 west of the RVWTP contains trees that are located within a riparian area and is suitable habitat for nesting native bird species. To avoid impacts to nesting birds during construction, it is recommended that a qualified biologist be retained to conduct nesting bird surveys within suitable nesting habitat prior to initiation of construction or ground disturbing activities (PEIR MM 3.4-1). Impacts on nursery (i.e., nesting) sites of native wildlife species would be potentially significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.4-1, PEIR MM 3.4-2**, and **MM 3.4-8** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.4-5 Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy ordinance

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The proposed project is located within the City of Santa Clarita. The City of Santa Clarita's Oak Tree Preservation ordinance[93] requires the preservation of all healthy oak trees, including scrub oaks, within the City, unless compelling reasons justify the cutting, pruning, encroachment, and/or removal of such trees. Additionally, the Ordinance states that no person shall cut, prune, remove, relocate, endanger, damage, or encroach into the protected zone of any oak on any public or private property within the City except in accordance with the conditions of a valid oak tree permit issued by the City. This generally applies to trees that are 6 inches or more in circumference (2 inches in diameter).

Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 would be located within urbanized and paved areas. Therefore, there would be no impact. Design Area 3 was identified to contain several oak trees. As the construction proceeds, these would be avoided to the degree possible. Additionally, the project is exempt from local ordinances; however, the CLWA would follow the oak tree ordinance as designated within the City. There are no other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources that would be applicable to the project. Impacts would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water as a source of irrigation for the project area. This alternative would use existing facilities (pipelines and pump stations) to transport the water. As a result, there would be no need for construction and no adverse impact on any special-status species.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. This alternative is located within the City and would be subject to the Oak Tree Preservation ordinance.[94] The alternative would develop recycled water pipelines underneath existing streets. The location of the reservoir would be in an open space area on a hillside to be able to accommodate a 3.0-mg or 3.5-mg reservoir.

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93 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, Section 17.17.090, "Oak Tree Preservation."

94 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, Section 17.17.090, "Oak Tree Preservation."

The open space area would potentially contain mature trees. As the construction proceeds, these would be avoided to the degree possible. Additionally, the project is exempt from local ordinances; however, the CLWA would follow the oak tree ordinance as designated within the City. There are no other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources that would be applicable to the project. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above in **Environmental Setting**, the length of the proposed pipeline would be within the street ROW. The pump station would be located in a built, urban commercial shopping center. Therefore, there would be no impact on the removal of trees.

The hillside location of the proposed reservoir was identified to contain mature trees. As the construction proceeds, these would be avoided to the degree possible. Additionally, the project is exempt from local ordinances; however, the CLWA would follow the oak tree ordinance as designated within the City. There are no other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources that would be applicable to the project. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.4-6 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 Impacts. 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. No impacts would occur to the proposed project, the No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply, the RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative, and the North Pipeline Alignment Alternative.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Endangered Species/Invasive Species/Protection of Wetlands

Potential impacts to biological resources associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact. The Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative and certain alternatives would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts to special status species (coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, and the San Fernando Valley spineflower); avoidance of the potential habitats for each respective species, implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Under federal guidelines, the following regulations were used to analyze potential biological impacts of the alternatives under NEPA: the Endangered Species Act; the Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990; and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. After completing a site visit, the USFWS concluded that the proposed project/preferred alternative would "not likely to adversely affect," habitat for CAGN and LBV (**Appendix 4.3.4**). Impacts were found to be less than significant with mitigation.

4.3.5 Cultural Resources

Environmental Setting

The project area is within the City of Santa Clarita and urbanized residential and commercial uses. Under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966,[95] the project would be required to identify potential sites within a radius of up to 0.5 mile of the project; specifically resources that recognize the country's history and heritage. This would potentially include structures of at least 50 years old identified on the National Register.[96] As a result, a cultural resource review was conducted to determine if historical/cultural/archeological resources had the potential to exist within a 0.5-mile radius of the project area.

95 National Historical Preservation Act of 1966, United States Code, Title 16, Section 470(f).

96 Title 26, Part 63 of the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR Part 63.1)

The cultural resource review of the proposed project area included a search of the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) for potential archeological/historical/cultural records, which was conducted by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), located at California State University, Fullerton (see **Appendix 4.3.5**). The records search conducted by SCCIC identified known prehistoric and historic cultural resources that either intersect, or are within, a 0.5-mile radius of the project site.[97] Six archaeological sites have been identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site; of which two have been identified within the project site. The two identified sites within the project boundary are the Recorded Historic Los Angeles Aqueduct (19-002105) and the Los Angeles Aqueduct transmission line (19-002132).[98] One archeological site is listed on the Archaeological Determination of Eligibility list. Separate sites identified two isolates within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site while no isolates are located within the project site. One additional cultural resource has been identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site; however none are located within the project site. A Phase I Archeological report (shown in **Appendix 4.3.5**) was conducted to survey the pipeline route and surrounding area of potential effect (APE). An addendum to the Phase I Archeological report (shown in **Appendix 4.3.5**) was completed for the relocated recycled water tank pad.

The California Points of Historical Interest (2009) and California Historical Landmarks (2009), both created by the Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), Department of Parks and Recreation, lists no properties within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site. The California Register of Historical Resources and the California Historic Resources Inventory also list no properties that have been evaluated for historical significance within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site (see **Appendix 4.3.5**). The National Register of Historic Places lists no properties within 0.5-mile radius of the project site. The National Register of Historic Places includes properties determined to have a National Register of Historic Places Status of 1 or 2, a California Historical Landmark numbering 770 and higher, or a Point of Historical Interest listed after 1/1/1998.

In addition to the CHRIS search, a search of the Sacred Lands File by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was performed. The Sacred Lands File search did not indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the project area of the proposed project (see **Appendix 4.3.5**).

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97 While portions of the project site have been previously surveyed; these surveys were conducted 10 to 15 years ago.

98 Telephone communication with Joe Simon, W & S Consultants, and Chris Hampson, Impact Sciences, Inc., on October 5, 2009.

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following items to be considered when determining whether a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on cultural resources if it would

- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as identified in Section 15064.6 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*,
- cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*,
- disturb or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or
- disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries.

Impact 4.3.5-1 Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as identified in Section 15064.6 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. Design Area 1 is proposed to be located within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center and the 20-inch suction pipeline would connect to the 21-inch Newhall Lateral. According to the Phase I archeological survey (**Appendix 4.3.5**), no historic properties were identified within Design Area 1. The Valencia Mart Mall is less than 50 years old and no potentially historic structures were observed. Design Area 2 would locate the proposed 36-inch transmission main under Newhall Ranch Road within the street ROW. No historic properties were observed in the Design Area 2 APE. Development adjacent to Newhall Ranch Road is modern and no potentially historic structures were observed.[99] Design Area 3 would connect a 20-inch reservoir pipeline to the 36-inch transmission main and travel north to the proposed reservoir and then exit the reservoir and north to Central Park. Two potential pipeline routes extending from the reservoir to Newhall Ranch Road were surveyed (shown in **Figure 9**). The preferred alignment is located west of the RVWTP and follows a dirt road and cuts through non-native annual grassland. The alternative alignment follows an existing gravel/dirt road that winds through the western edge of the RVWTP. No prehistoric or historic resources were observed between Newhall Ranch Road and the reservoir site. No structures associated with the former Bouquet Canyon Boys Camp or "Drunk Farm" were observed. As a result, no historic properties were observed within Design Area 3 (as shown in **Appendix 4.3.5**).

99 Conjeo Archeological Consultants, Phase I Archeological Survey Phase 2A Recycled Water Project, 2010.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the EPA contacted the OHP seeking potential comments on the effects the proposed project would potentially have on historic properties. The EPA concluded that No Adverse Effects to historic properties would result with implementation of the proposed project (see letters dated April 27, 2011 and December 14, 2010 in **Appendix 4.3.5**). The reservoir pipeline APE between the reservoir and Bouquet Canyon Road, heads north down a steep sage scrub covered slope. The cross country trail cutting through the sage scrub area was examined during the addendum to the Phase I. The pipeline APE then continues north through the athletic fields, access roads and parking lots of Central Park. Two 33-foot-wide survey corridors were used to survey the pipeline APE through Central Park (shown in Figure 5 of the Phase I Archeological report in **Appendix 4.3.5**). No prehistoric or historic resources were observed in this area. As described in the **Environmental Setting** above, there are no registered National Historic Places within the project area or within a 0.5-mile radius. The OHP concurred that the proposed project/preferred alternative would have "No Adverse Effects," to historic properties (see letter dated December 14, 2010 and April 27, 2011 in **Appendix 4.3.5**).

There are also no known California historic places registered, or that have been evaluated for historical significance and may be considered candidates for listing in the California Historic Register that is located within the project area or a 0.5-mile radius.[100] Additionally, the California Point of Historical Interest and California Historical Landmarks of the OHP, Department of Parks and Recreation, list no properties within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site.[101] The California Historic Resources Inventory and the National Register of Historic Places list no properties within 0.5 mile of the project site. Therefore, impacts related to historical resources would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. As described in **Section 4.0, Description of Alternatives**, the project area would be supplied with potable water through the use of existing water pipelines and facilities. This would not involve new construction, and would therefore not disturb new land.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described in **Section 2.0,** the project area would provide recycled water to the existing developed area between the I-5 freeway and the

100 California Office of Historic Preservation, "California Historic Resources," http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/listed resources/, accessed August 2009.

101 South Central Coastal Information Center, Records Search for Phase 2A Recycled Water Pipeline, 2009, 2.

Valencia City Center. No cultural resources studies were conducted for Phases 2 of the RWMP because the location and construction schedule for these components are not yet known.

However, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) currently list 20 historical properties, sites, and landmarks in the area surrounding and including the City of Santa Clarita.[102] A majority of these resources is located along Main Street just south of Lyons Avenue in the City of Santa Clarita. Therefore, implementation of this alternative that would result in direct impacts to historical resources would be potentially significant. Incorporation of the adopted RWMP Program EIR mitigation measure MM 3.5-1 (conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment) would reduce potential alternative impacts to less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would construct pipeline within the street ROW, as seen in **Figure 8**. As described above under the proposed project impact analysis, there are no historic resources located within the project area.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative shall incorporate mitigation measure MM 3.5-1 (conduct a Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment) from the adopted RWMP Program EIR.

Impact 4.3.5-2 **Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. Design Area 1 is an urbanized area and contains commercial land uses, roadways, and Bouquet Canyon Park. Design Area 2 would locate the 36-inch transmission main within the Newhall Ranch Road ROW. Residential uses and commercial uses bound the majority of the length of this area of the proposed project (see **Figure 3**). Design Area 3 is located on the hillside that contains the RVWTP and is south of Central Park. This area is vacant open space that has been previously disturbed. As described above under **Environmental Setting**, the Sacred Land File

[102] City of Santa Clarita, *One Valley One Vision*, Draft Conservation and Open Space Element, Figure CO-6, October 2008.

search did not indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources within 0.5 mile of the project area. Native American consultation was undertaken with letters sent to the tribes on August 3, 2010.

The Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians concluded that "there is no immediate concern that cultural resources may be impacted," and that the proposed project site is not considered sensitive of Native American cultural resources (shown in letter dated July 15, 2010 in **Appendix 4.3.5**). In the event of any discovery a Fernandeno Tataviam representative would be immediately notified as identified in mitigation measure **3.5-4**.

The SCCIC records search did identify six archaeological sites (19-000351, 19-001829, 19-001884, 19-022105, 19-002132 and 19-003043) within a 0.5-mile radius and two archaeological sites within the project area (19-002105 and 19-002132). Site (19-002105) would be designated as the recorded Historic First Los Angeles Aqueduct and site (19-002132) would be designated as the First Los Angeles Aqueduct transmission line. The location of these sites would generally be in Design Area 2 and Design Area 3. Due to the potential alignment of the project pipelines, these sites would be avoided. One site (19-002132), listed as an Archaeological Determination of Eligibility (DOE) was identified. Two isolates (19-100133 and 19-100134) have been identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the Phase 2A project site. The known sites would not be disturbed by the proposed project during excavation and trenching activities. No known prehistoric resources were identified during the field surveys of the pipeline route and the reservoir site. However, the proposed project could uncover unknown archeological resources during grading and construction; consequently, potential impacts could occur. Mitigation measure **3.5-3** would temporarily suspend construction within the vicinity of the find and a professional archeologist would evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative would irrigate the project area with potable water. The transport and application of the potable water would use existing pipelines and water facilities. Therefore, no new construction or excavation would occur and there would be no impacts.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. This alternative would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. This area is heavily urbanized and potential archaeological impacts would be minimal. However, as the reservoir would likely be located on an area of a hillside with open space, there would be the potential to encounter unanticipated archaeological resources. Therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant.

There would be no archaeological impacts associated with the construction of the booster pump station because the site has been previously graded in association with the construction of surrounding commercial development.

There would be no archaeological impacts associated with the construction of the pipelines because they would be located beneath paved streets, which have been previously graded.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. As described above, the proposed pipeline would be located within the street ROW. As this area is already disturbed and contains sidewalks, gutters, and curbs, the likelihood that archeological and/or human remains exist is very small. Thus, there would be no impacts from construction of the pipeline. The reservoir tank would be located west of the sludge drying beds. As described in the SCCIC report, there were two identified archeological sites within this area (see **Appendix 4.3.5)**. These locations were identified to within Design Area 2 and Design Area 3. Furthermore, a Sacred Lands File search did not identify any potential archeological sites. The pump station would be located in the commercial development east of the Bouquet Canyon Road and Valencia Boulevard intersection. As this alternative pipeline alignment traverses Bouquet Canyon Road north of Newhall Ranch Road and through Central Park it would not encounter the two identified archeological sites within the area. Consequently, potential impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures were approved in the RWMP Program EIR and shall be implemented; however, mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.5-2** is not applicable for this project:

PEIR MM 3.5-3 If potential archaeological or paleontological resources are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities for any of the Design Areas of the proposed project ~~RWMP components~~, work in that location shall be temporarily diverted and a qualified specialist (Archaeologist or Paleontologist) shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the find.

The following mitigation measure, in addition to those from the Program EIR, shall apply to the applicable alternative:

MM 3.5-4 In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until a professional archaeologist has been retained to evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

- Any recovered archaeological resources should be identified, sites recorded, mapped, and artifacts catalogued as required by standard archaeological practices. Examination by an archaeological specialist should be included where necessary, dependent upon the artifacts, features, or sites that are encountered. Specialists will identify, date, and/or determine significance potential.

- A final report of findings will be prepared by the approved archaeologist for submission to the project applicant and the South Central Coastal Information Center at California State University, Fullerton. The report will describe the history of the project area, summarize field and laboratory methods used, if applicable, and include any testing or special analysis information conducted to support the resultant findings.

After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. A Tataviam representative should monitor any mitigation work associated with Native American cultural material.

Impact 4.3.5-3 **Disturb or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. Design Area 1 is an urbanized area and contains commercial land uses, roadways, and Bouquet Canyon Park. Design Area 2 would locate the 36-inch transmission main within the Newhall Ranch Road ROW. Residential uses and commercial uses bound the majority of the length of this area of the proposed project (see **Figure 3**). Design Area 3 is located on the hillside that contains the RVWTP and is south of Central Park. This area is vacant open space that has been previously disturbed and graded, as described in **Section 4.3.4 Biological Resources.**

Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 would have no impacts on paleontological resources because both areas have been disturbed and graded for the existing residential and commercial developments.

Design Area 3 contains quaternary alluvium and marine deposits from the Pliocene to Holocene age.[103] These deposits are described as consisting of gravel and sand of major stream channels; and alluvial gravel, sand, and clay of valley areas. Recent alluvium is too young geologically to contain significant fossils, though, occasionally, older buried alluvium contains fossils.

The Holocene surficial sediments are assigned a low paleontological potential, based upon the slight possibility for the discovery of buried older deposits. Therefore, construction of the proposed project could potentially encounter unknown paleontological resources (as precise areas of prior disturbance are not known), and would therefore have a potentially significant impact.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would irrigate the project area with potable water. The transport and storage of potable water would be through the use of existing facilities. As these facilities have already been constructed, and no new construction would be needed, there would be no impact on paleontological resources.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. No paleontological resources studies were conducted for this alternative because the location and construction schedule for this alternative are not yet known. Paleontological resources are present in the CLWA service area. Therefore, implementation of the RWMP components involving ground disturbance could result in direct impacts to paleontological resources, which could be potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. As described in the **Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative** analysis, the proposed pipeline would be developed within the street ROW. The recycled water pipelines would be located beneath the existing streets, which have already been disturbed and graded. As this area is already disturbed and graded, there would be no potential for paleontological resources. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center. As the shopping center has been previously disturbed, there would be no impact on paleontological resources. As described above under **Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative**, the reservoir site is located on previously disturbed and vacant land. However, the potential for uncovering paleontological resources exists during

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[103] US Geological Survey, "Mineral Resources Online Spatial data for Quaternary Alluvium and Marine deposits,"; USGS, *Reconnaissance Surficial Geologic Maps of the Newhall 7.5-minute Quadrangle*, created by Douglas Morton, 1976.

earth moving activities. Therefore, in the event that construction of the proposed project encounters unknown paleontological resources, the resulting impacts would potentially be significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.5-3** shall be implemented**.**

Impact 4.3.5-4 **Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside formal cemeteries.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with conformance to regulatory requirements. Design Area 1 is an urbanized area and contains commercial land uses, roadways, and Bouquet Canyon Park. Design Area 2 would locate the 36-inch transmission main within the Newhall Ranch Road ROW. Residential uses and commercial uses bound the majority of the length of this area of the proposed project (see **Figure 3)**. Design Area 3 is located on the hillside that contains the RVWTP and is south of Central Park. This area is vacant open space that has been previously disturbed. Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 would have no impacts on human remains because both areas have been disturbed and graded for the existing residential and commercial developments. Design Area 3 has been previously disturbed and graded, as described in **Section 4.3.4, Biological Resources**. However, construction of the proposed project could potentially encounter unknown human remains, in which case it would have a potentially significant impact.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would irrigate the project area with potable water. The transport and storage of potable water would be through existing facilities. As these facilities have already been constructed, and no new construction would be needed, there would be no impact on paleontological resources.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with conformance to regulatory requirements. No records searches have been conducted for this alternative because the location and construction schedule for this

alternative are not yet known. Archeological resources—and therefore potentially human remains—are present in the CLWA service area. Therefore, implementation of the components involving ground disturbance could result in direct impacts to human remains and/or archeological resources that could be potentially significant. In conjunction with regulatory requirement PEIR RR 3.5-2, mitigation measure **3.5—4** shall be implemented to reduce potential impacts to the discovery of human remains.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with conformance to regulatory requirements. As described in the proposed project analysis, the proposed pipeline would be developed within the street ROW. The recycled water pipelines would be located beneath the existing streets, which have already been disturbed and graded. As this area is already disturbed and graded, there would be no potential for paleontological resources. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center. The shopping center, too, has been previously disturbed, so there would be no impact on paleontological resources.

The reservoir would be located within an open space area west of the RVWTP facilities. The construction of the reservoir would include grading activities that could potentially unearth unknown human remains. Therefore, impacts would be potentially significant.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirement shall be implemented from the RWMP Program EIR; regulatory requirement **PEIR RR 3.5-1** is not applicable for the alternatives:

PEIR RR 3.5-2 If human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities for any of the Design Area's ~~RWMP components~~, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the Coroner determines that the remains are prehistoric or native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC [Native American Heritage Commission]. The NAHC will designate a Most Likely Descendent (MLD) who will make procedural determinations concerning disposition of the remains.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

The Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts related to archeological and paleontological resources, as well as to reduce impacts related to unearthing human remains. Impacts would therefore, be less than significant. The OHP concurred that the proposed project/preferred alternative would have no impact on historical resources. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would have no impacts on cultural resources. The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts related to cultural resources; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would require compliance with regulatory requirements and mitigation to reduce impacts related to archaeological, paleontological, and human remains; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant.

Based on the findings of the Phase I Archeological Survey and Addendum, the Phase 2A Project will have no effect on historic properties. Therefore, no further archaeological investigation is warranted prior to project implementation. In the unexpected event that archaeological resources are exposed during project construction, temporary halt work recommendations are described in the mitigation measures above.

Federal regulations that would apply cultural resources are the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As required under NEPA, the impacts for each alternative were analyzed and found to be less than significant with mitigation or to have no impact on cultural resources.

4.3.6 Geology and Soils

Environmental Setting

The geology within and adjacent to the CLWA service area consists of recent alluvial deposits underlain by a relatively thick sequence of Plio-Pleistocene Saugus Formation. The Saugus Formation consists primarily of semiconsolidated conglomerate and sandstone materials, which reach a maximum thickness of

approximately 7,000 feet. Shale and sandstone of the Miocene Castaic Formation underlie the Saugus Formation.[104]

The project area is largely urbanized residential and commercial land uses, as seen in Design Area 1 and Design Area 2. The Santa Clara River and the hillside of Design Area 3 are the largest open space areas. However, as described in **Section 2.4,** the hillside was observed to be disturbed except for the outfall area of the RVWTP. The soils of the hillside area of Design Area 3 consist largely of Ojai loam and Saugus loam soils. These soils consist of loam, clay loam, and sandy loam. Theses soils have a moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wet, consist of moderately deep or deep, moderately well-drained or well-drained soils that have moderately fine texture to moderately coarse texture, and a moderate rate of water transmission.[105]

The majority of the State of California, including the project area, lies within Seismic Zone 4, the highest-level hazard zone designated by the current Uniform Building Code (UBC). Two faults, including the active San Gabriel fault and the potentially active Holser fault, traverse the Santa Clarita Valley and are estimated to be capable of producing a maximum credible earthquake (MCE) of 7.5 and 7.25, respectively. The active San Andreas Fault is located approximately 18 miles northeast of the project area, and is estimated to be capable of producing an MCE of 8.25.[106]

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on geology and soils if it would

- expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist; strong seismic shaking; seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; landslides;
- result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil;
- 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;
- be located on expansive soils, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the UBC (1994); creating substantial risks to life or property; or

104 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 3.6-1.

105 US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, *Web Soil Survey, National Cooperative Soil Survey*, 2009.

106 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 3.6-2.

- have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal system where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.

Impact 4.3.6-1 **Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects including risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, (as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist); strong seismic shaking; seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; and landslides**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. The development of Phase 2A would not expose people to risks from earthquakes, ground shaking, liquefaction, or landslides because the project does not propose to construct habitable structures intended for human occupancy. However, the project would expose structures to these risks.

As depicted in Figure 3.6-1 of the *Recycled Water Master Plan Program EIR*,[107] the San Gabriel and Holser faults traverse the project area. There are also numerous regional faults that are capable of producing strong ground shaking, including the San Andreas Fault. Therefore, **Design Areas 1**, **2**, and **3** would be subject to strong, seismically induced ground shaking due to an earthquake on these and other nearby regional faults. Where these faults traverse the project area, there is also the potential for surface rupture. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act[108] restricts development within a 50-foot setback from known active faults, thereby reducing the potential for impacts to structures from surface rupture to the maximum extent practicable.

Potential impacts from strong seismic ground shaking would include fracture or rupture of reservoir tanks and/or associated pipelines. Although a localized fracture causing limited water flow would be more likely, the worst-case scenario of a reservoir tank rupture is considered in this analysis. A reservoir tank rupture would generate the greatest amount of water in one location in the shortest amount of time.

All proposed structures would be required to comply with the UBC Seismic Zone 4 standards. Implementation of appropriate engineering design measures as required by the UBC, the California Building Code (CBC), any local building code requirements, and recommendations by geotechnical consultants hired to analyze the siting and construction of Design Areas 1, 2, and 3 would minimize

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107 Castaic Lake Water Agency,2006, 3.6-3.

108 California Department of Conservation, "Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act," http://www.conservation .ca.gov /cgs/rghm/ap/Pages/Index.aspx. Accessed in August 2009.

potential seismic ground-shaking impacts to the maximum extent practicable under current engineering practice.

For critical structures (such as the reservoir tanks), stricter requirements from the California Geological Survey (CGS) that reflect local geologic and seismic conditions would be implemented to reduce the risks to the maximum extent practicable.[109] Impacts would be less than significant.

As previously stated, liquefaction is most likely to occur in areas of the project area that are saturated with water at very shallow depths, such as adjacent to the Santa Clara River or its tributaries. During earthquakes, ground shaking could cause water-saturated sediment to "liquefy," resulting in ground failure. Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 would be in the urban core of the City beneath streets and, as such, would not be subject to liquefaction. The proposed reservoir site is not located within liquefaction or landslide zones induced from seismic activity. Impacts would be less than significant.

Although the distribution system's pipelines would be located in soils near the Santa Clara River or its tributaries, it would not expose people or structures to substantial injury or hazards. There are no residential units immediately adjacent to the RVWTP; however, the potential exists for the residents south of Newhall Ranch Road to be exposed to reservoir failure should a seismic event occur. Therefore, impacts would be potentially significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would transport potable water to the project area to be used as irrigation. The existing water facilities would be used; no new construction or facilities would be required. Therefore, there would not be any new potential impacts from fault rupture, liquefaction, or landslides. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Pipelines would be located within street ROW. The potential for liquefaction along these areas is considered low or nonexistent and the area is outside of any seismically induced landslide area.[110] Therefore impacts from landslides or liquefaction would be less than significant.

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109 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 3.6-5.

110 State of California, Department of Conservation, *Seismic Hazards Zone Map, Newhall Quadrangle*, 1998.

The Valencia WRP is located near the empties effluent into the Santa Clara River and is located in a seismically induced liquefaction zone, but not located in a seismically induced landslide zone.[111] The pump station would be located at the Valencia WRP and would conform to current CBC standards. The Valencia WRP is not located in an identified seismically induced landside area. Impacts would be less than significant. However, impacts from liquefaction would potentially be significant.

The reservoir would be located in an open space area and would also conform to CBC standards. As previously described, the location of the reservoir would be on a hillside at an elevation of 1,430 feet msl and 1,650 msl. Therefore, liquefaction impacts would be less than significant. However, being located on a hillside would have the potential for seismically induced landslides. Therefore, impacts would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would have a different alignment from that of the proposed project and would follow the Bouquet Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, Seco Canyon Road, and McBean Parkway ROW. The pump station would be located in the commercial shopping center east of the Bouquet Canyon Road and Valencia Boulevard intersection. The reservoir would be located in the same location as the proposed project.

The proposed pipelines would be located beneath the existing roads. However, as identified on the Seismic Hazards Zone Map, they would be located within seismic liquefaction zones. Impacts would potentially be significant. However, they are not located within a seismic landslide zone and would have no impacts from landslides.

The pump station is located within a commercial shopping center that has already been graded and developed. Therefore, this location would have complied with CBC standards for seismically induced liquefaction and seismically induced landslides. The pump station will also be designed to CBC standards.[112] Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

The reservoir would be located in the same location as described in the proposed project. This area is not located within a seismic liquefaction or landslide zone. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

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111 State of California, Department of Conservation, 1998.

112 California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2 - California Building Code, 2007

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

All alternatives shall comply with regulatory requirement **PEIR RR 3.8-4** identified in **Section 5.3.8, Hydrology and Water Quality**.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure is incorporated from the RWMP PEIR and shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.6-1 For all ~~RWMP phases of development~~ design areas, a geotechnical engineer shall be consulted to develop a hydrogeological/soils analysis report. Prior to and during construction activities for components of ~~the RWMP~~ each Design Area, the recommendations of the geotechnical consultant shall be followed. These recommendations would include component-specific design specifications for minimizing or avoiding impacts associated with strong seismic ground shaking and liquefaction, expansive soils, and any other soil instabilities.

The following mitigation measures are applicable for the alternatives and not identified in the Program EIR (**PEIR MM 3.6-2** is applicable in the impact discussion below):

MM 3.6-3 Prior to the approval of grading permits, a report documenting an evaluation of liquefaction zones shall be prepared and contain appropriate liquefaction design recommendations for the proposed project. Identified liquefaction zones of the proposed project shall be evaluated prior to the approval of grading permits to determine if groundwater is present and if soil/alluvial conditions are conducive to liquefaction and lateral spreading considering the potential earthquake ground shaking conditions for the site. A report documenting this evaluation shall be prepared and submitted to the CLWA Engineer for review and approval. The analysis shall contain appropriate liquefaction design recommendations (if needed) for the proposed project.

MM 3.6-4 Prior to issuance of final grading permits, areas within the proposed project determined by the state to have liquefaction and/or dynamic settlement potential, shall include the removal and replacement of liquefiable soils with compacted, drained fills, ground modification, and design for potential

settlement of liquefiable materials by a licensed civil engineer would be required during the design and construction process to adhere to state policy regarding liquefaction. Proof of review shall be submitted to the CLWA Engineer.

Impact 4.3.6-2 Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 consist of urbanized commercial and residential uses. The proposed pipeline would be located within the street ROW and within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center. As both these design areas would not occur within open space areas, there would be no loss of topsoil or soil erosion. As described in the **Environmental Setting**, Design Area 3 consists of an open space located just west of the sludge drying beds. Construction would result in potential sources of erosion and would be managed to the maximum extent possible with best management practices as required under the required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Therefore, there would be potential impacts.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this alternative, the transport and supply of potable water to the project area would be through existing potable water pipelines and facilities. As there would be no construction, there would be no impact on erosion. The existing facilities would not result in erosion or the loss of topsoil.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would transport recycled water from the Valencia WRP, which would construct a new pump station, through pipelines that would be located within street ROW, and would construct a reservoir to store the recycled water. The pipelines and pump station would be constructed in already paved and urbanized areas; thus, there would be no loss of top soil or erosion.

The location of the reservoir would likely be on an open space area of a hillside. This is due to the size of the reservoir and to gravity feed the recycled water to users. As a result, impacts on soil erosion would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines that would traverse street ROW as seen in **Figure 8**. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center and the reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. The construction of the pipelines would be within paved streets and curbs, and would not result in the loss of topsoil or erosion.

The pump station would be constructed within a paved parking lot and would therefore have no erosion of topsoil, as the site is already paved. The grading of the pad for the proposed reservoir would have the potential to result in a loss of topsoil and that could result in potential erosion.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

Applicable alternatives shall comply with the regulatory requirement **PEIR RR 3.8-1** which is incorporated into the RWMP Program EIR and in the Hydrology and Water Quality section:

PEIR RR 3.8-1 Prior to the issuance of a grading permit for construction of each of the proposed project Design Area's, the CLWA shall determine whether or not the construction activities are required to obtain coverage under the NPDES General Storm Water Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ) or the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2003-0007-DWQ). If the project component meets the criteria for coverage under either of these two NPDES permits, then the CLWA will be responsible for filing a Notice of Intent, an Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) if applicable, and the appropriate fees to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality in order to obtain coverage under the applicable NPDES permit. Pursuant to the permit requirements, the CLWA shall minimize construction-related pollutants, including erosion-related sediment, in the site runoff through the implementation of Best Management Practices.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure, incorporated from the RWMP Program EIR, shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.6-2 During construction activities, excavated topsoil shall be salvaged, stockpiled, and subsequently placed over fill areas to assist in revegetation and to minimize erosion and loss of topsoil. The use of any excavated soils must be deemed appropriate by the contracted Geotechnical Consultant for use as backfill material.

Impact 4.3.6-3 **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**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 consist of urbanized commercial and residential uses. The proposed pipeline would be located within the street ROW and within commercial shopping centers. As both these design areas would not occur within open space areas and would be located within already disturbed areas, the soil would have complied with CBC standards to minimize the impact of lateral spreading, liquefaction, or subsidence. As a result impacts would be less than significant.

As described in the **Environmental Setting**, Design Area 3 consists of an open space located just west of the sludge drying beds. Construction would result in potential sources of erosion and would be managed to the maximum extent possible with best management practices, as necessary under the required NPDES permit. The site of the reservoir is not located in a liquefaction zone or a landslide zone, and the soils are well drained. However, impacts would potentially be significant because the building characteristics of the soil would have to be identified.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this the transport and supply of potable water to the project area would be through existing potable water pipelines and facilities. As there would be no construction, there would be no impacts on erosion. The existing facilities would not result in erosion or the loss of topsoil.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would transport recycled water from the Valencia WRP, which would construct a new pump station, through pipelines that would be located within street ROW, and would construct a reservoir to store the recycled water. The pipelines and pump station would be constructed in already paved and urbanized areas and would result in less than significant impacts.

The reservoir site has not yet been determined. However, the location would be in an elevation of either 1,430 feet msl or 1,650 feet msl, which would place it on a hillside within an open space area. Therefore, impacts from this alternative would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines that would traverse street ROW, as seen in **Figure 8**. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center and the reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. The construction of the pipelines would be within paved streets and curbs, and would not be located on unstable soils that would undergo landslide, liquefaction, or subsidence as a result of the recycled water pipelines. The pump station would be constructed within a paved parking lot, and would therefore not be located on an unstable soil.

The grading of the pad for the proposed reservoir would have the potential to result in a loss of topsoil and that could result in potential erosion. As indicated above, the reservoir would not be located on an unstable soil that would cause liquefaction, landslides, or lateral spreading. However, impacts would potentially be significant because the building characteristics of the soil would have to be identified.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

Applicable alternatives shall comply with regulatory requirement **PEIR RR 3.8-1**.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.6-1** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.6-4 **Be located on expansive soils, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994); creating substantial risks to life or property**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. Expansive soils shrink and expand with the absence or presence of water. Design Area 1 would locate pipelines beneath existing roadways and existing paved surfaces that are constructed on engineered fill. This fill material is not subject to significant impacts. Additionally, the impervious cover would minimize water infiltration, thereby minimizing soil expansion. The pump station would be located within the commercial Valencia Mart Shopping Center and would be designed according to UBC and CBC building standards. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 2 would largely construct pipelines beneath existing roadways. As described above, these roadway areas would contain engineered fill and the pipelines would be paved within impervious surfaces, limiting potential for soil to contact water. Therefore, impacts from expanding soils would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 would consist of constructing the reservoir pipelines and the reservoir. The pipeline construction would be approximately 6 feet in width and would trench down to a maximum of 10 feet. As noted in the project description, the area of construction would consist of a 1,000-foot clearance that extends west of the sludge drying beds. The soils identified in this area are known to have moderate infiltration rates and moderately well-drained or well-drained soils. As these soils drain water well, the potential for them to be designated as expansive would be minimal and potential impacts would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this alternative, the transport and supply of potable water to the project area would be through existing potable water pipelines and facilities. As there would be no construction, there would be no potential impacts on components of the potable water system. The existing facilities would have addressed the location of potential expansive soil. Therefore, CBC standards[113] would have been implemented and there would be no impact on this alternative from expansive soils.

[113] California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2 - California Building Code, 2007.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described previously, this alternative would construct recycled water pipelines, expand the existing recycled water pump station at the Valencia WRP, and construct a 3.0-mg or 3.5-mg reservoir.

The proposed pipelines would be located beneath existing paved streets. The construction of the streets would have replaced the soil beneath the existing location to include engineered fill that would have minimal expansion potential. Therefore, impacts from expanding soil would be less than significant.

The existing recycled water pump station would be expanded and the expansion would be located within disturbed and developed areas of the Valencia WRP. Therefore, potential impacts from soil expansion would be less than significant.

The reservoir would be located within an open space area of a hillside, as there would be little room for this size reservoir within an urban area in the City. The soils of the location of the reservoir would be unknown. Therefore, potential impacts would be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines that would traverse a street ROW, as seen in **Figure 8**. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center and the reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP.

The construction of the pipelines would be within paved streets and curbs, and would not be located on soils that would be capable of expansion. The soil beneath the roadway would have been engineered fill to minimize the potential for soil expansion. The pump station would be constructed within a paved parking lot, and would therefore not be located on an expansive soil.

As indicated above, the reservoir would not be located on an expansive soil. The soils located around the reservoir site are well-drained soils. This means that there is little water saturation of the soil and, therefore, little potential to expand and swell. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.6-1** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.6-5 **Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal system where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project consists of developing pipeline, a pump station, and a reservoir. This recycled water system would not dispose of wastewater. Therefore, there would be no impact on soils incapable of supporting the use of septic tanks.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would not generate wastewater, and thus would not need septic tanks. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative would not require the construction of septic tanks or alternative systems, and therefore would have no impact related to soils that could not support the use of such waste water disposal systems.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would not require the use of septic tanks. It transports recycled water, and therefore would have no impact on soils.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts to geology and soils associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact. The Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to seismic ground shaking and seismically induced liquefaction and soil erosion; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would have no impacts related to geology or soils. The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to seismic ground shaking, seismically induced liquefaction, seismically induced landslides, soil erosion, and unstable and expansive soils; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to seismic ground shaking and seismically induced liquefaction and soil erosion; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.3.7 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Environmental Setting

Common materials used during construction that are considered hazardous include fuels, motor oil, grease, various lubricants, solvents, smoldering equipment, and glues. A hazardous waste is any hazardous material that is discarded, abandoned, or recycled. The criteria that render a material hazardous also make a waste hazardous.[114]

Additionally, numerous commercial and industrial facilities are located in the CLWA service area that transport, handle, use, and dispose of hazardous materials and wastes. Since 1998, continued growth and development in the greater Santa Clarita Valley have increased the amount of hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes that are produced and transported around the region.[115]

The CLWA service area contains hillside areas, which would include Design Area 3, that are classified as very high fire hazard areas.[116]

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114 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Program, Draft Program EIR*, Volume I, 2006, 3.7-2.

115 Castaic Lake Water Agency. 2006, 3.7-2.

116 Castaic Lake Water Agency. 2006, 3.7-2.

Environmental Impact

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on hazards and hazardous materials if it would

- create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials;
- 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;
- emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or wastes within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school;
- be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.6 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;
- be located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not be adopted, within 2 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;
- be within the vicinity of a private airstrip, and would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working the project area;
- impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- expose people or structures to a significant risk loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands.

Impact 4.3.7-1 **Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials**

Preferred Alternative/Proposed Project

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. The proposed pipelines would carry water that has been chlorinated as part of the disinfection process. However, the concentration of chlorine in the distribution lines would not be at a level considered hazardous; therefore, no aspect of the proposed pipeline would involve the use of hazardous materials, and the proposed project would not create a hazard-related to exposure to hazardous materials. Potential impacts would be less than significant with compliance to the applicable regulatory requirements.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would not transport or dispose of hazardous materials. Potable water would be transported and stored in existing facilities. As potable water is not hazardous, there would be no impact on transported, using, or disposing of hazardous materials.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. To comply with recycled water regulations, the recycled water would carry chlorine, which was applied as part of the disinfection process, at levels that would not be hazardous to human health. As a result, the recycled water would comply with Title 17 and Title 22 regulations of the California Water Code (which protects drinking water supplies through control of cross-connections with potential contaminants and establishes the quality and/or treatment processes required for an effluent to be used for a non-potable application, respectively).[117] Therefore, the potential to transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would be less than significant with compliance to the applicable regulatory requirement.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. As discussed above, this alternative would transport recycled water from the Saugus WRP north to the RVWTP and would construct recycled water pipelines within the street ROW. The recycled water pipelines would carry water that has been chlorinated as part of the disinfection process. However, the concentration of chlorine would not be at levels considered hazardous. The recycled water would comply within Title 17 and Title 22 of the California Water Code.[118] Impacts would be less than significant with compliance to the applicable regulatory requirements.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirement has been adopted by the RWMP PEIR and shall be incorporated:

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[117] California Department of Public Health, Title 17 and Title 22, *Code of Regulations*, "Regulations related to Recycled Water."

[118] California Department of Public Health, Title 17 and Title 22, *Code of Regulations*, "Regulations related to Recycled Water."

PEIR RR 3.7-1 The CLWA shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to the handling, use, and disposal of hazardous substances as well as all applicable mandates that require the development and implementation of hazardous material-related plans (e.g., Business Plans, Emergency Response Plans, Risk Management Plans, Hazardous Waste Management Plans, Injury and Illness Prevention Plans). The project may require various plans to be modified in order to accommodate the risks associated with new hazardous materials and facilities that would be prepared in accordance with applicable regulations. Any applicable hazardous waste materials shall be transported by a properly licensed Hazardous Waste Hauler, who must be in compliance with the Department of Transportation regulations under Title 49 CFR 171-179 and under 40 CFR 263 (Subtitle C of RCRA [Resource Conservation and Recovery Act]).

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.7-2 **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**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As discussed above, liquid chlorine is a hazardous material that would be used in the operation of the proposed project. Therefore, the Saugus WRP would use and store chlorine on site within a storage tank, making this storage tank potentially significant. However, the construction and design of the chlorine tank would follow current CBC standards. During the operation of the proposed project, the chlorine tank and disinfection unit would be set with alarms in the event that there is a chlorine leak.[119] Impacts would be considered less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

Impacts would be less than significant. Under this alternative, potable water would irrigate the project area. The transport and storage of potable water would be through existing facilities. The existing potable water facilities would disinfect water sources through the use of ozone and chloramines/chlorine, which would require that oxygen, chlorine, and ammonia be stored on site. These facilities would have gone

119 California Department of Public Health, Title 22, *Code of Regulations*, Section 60353, "Disinfection process."

through the regulation and permitting process to ensure that safety requirements, for the use of disinfectants, were in place. As a result, potential impacts from the release of hazardous materials would be less than significant.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above, this alternative would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Recycled water would comply with current recycled water regulations, Title 22 and Title 17, and would therefore not be considered hazardous. Storage of chlorine for the disinfection of recycled water would be on site at the Valencia WRP and would comply with Title 22[120] regulations to ensure that alarms and back systems are in place. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above, this alternative would transport recycled water from the Saugus WRP. The recycled water would comply with Title 17 and Title 22 regulations. As discussed above, liquid chlorine is a hazardous material that would be used in the operation of the proposed project. The Saugus WRP uses and stores chlorine on site within an existing storage tank. This storage tank was constructed and designed consistent with CBC and tank requirement standards. During the operation of the proposed project, the chlorine tank and disinfection unit would have alarms that would sound in the event of a chlorine leak.[121] Impacts would be considered less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

120 California Department of Public Health, Title 22 *Code of Regulations*, "Regulations for Recycled Water." January 2009.

121 California Department of Public Health, Title 22, Section 60353, "Disinfection process."

Impact 4.3.7-3 Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or wastes within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The proposed project is divided into three design areas: Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3. Design Area 1 includes the construction of proposed pipeline from the Saugus WRP to the pump station to connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral. The 21-inch Newhall Lateral is located within the MWD ROW and crosses the Santa Clara River and Bridgeport Park to Newhall Ranch Road, north of the park. The nearest school is Bridgeport Elementary, located adjacent and to the west of Bridgeport Park; it would be within 0.25 mile of Design Area 1. Construction would be within Newhall Ranch Road and would be short term and temporary. As described above, the chlorine used to disinfect recycled water would be at concentrations that would not be hazardous. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 2 would connect the 36-inch transmission main to the 21-inch Newhall Lateral at Newhall Ranch Road and travel east to connect to the 36-inch Honby Bypass. The nearest school is Bridgeport Elementary School. The transport of recycled water would be located within the pipelines and would not be considered hazardous. Impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 would include the reservoir piping, which would connect with the 36-inch transmission main and travel north to the proposed 1.75-mg reservoir and then north to connect to Central Park. The nearest school would be Bridgeport Elementary School, located over 1.5 miles to the west. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would transport potable water to be used as irrigation using existing water facilities. As the transport of potable water is not considered hazardous and the facilities already exist, there would be no generation of hazardous emissions or waste. Under this alternative, no hazardous emissions or waste would be located within 0.25 mile of an existing school.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above, this alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water. Construction of the pipelines would be located within street ROW. Potential schools located within this area would include College of the Canyons, Valencia Elementary School, and West Ranch High School. The recycled water pipelines

and reservoir would not emit hazardous materials. The transport of recycled water, which contains chlorine at levels not considered hazardous, would not be considered significant near schools. Operation of the proposed pump station would not be located near a school. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As shown in **Figure 8**, in this alternative the proposed pipeline would pass by the Bridgeport Elementary school along Newhall Ranch Road. Potential construction emissions would be temporary and short term and it was determined in **Section 4.3.3, Air Quality,** that the construction related emissions were less than significant. Therefore, the construction related impacts would be less than significant.

The operation of the recycled water pipelines would transport recycled water to the project area. The pipelines would be located beneath the surface of existing streets, and would therefore not cause a significant impact.

The pump station would be located in a commercial shopping center approximately 0.65 mile southeast of Bridgeport Elementary School, and the reservoir would be located over 1.5 miles northeast of Bridgeport Elementary School. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.7-4 **Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.6 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment;**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project would construct pipelines within street ROW, construct a 4,500-gpm pump station within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center, and a reservoir west of the sludge drying beds

of the RVWTP. A search of the Envirostar database was conducted; it did not identify hazardous materials sites within the project boundary.[122] There would be no impact.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this the existing alternative, potable water would be transported through existing pipelines and by existing water facilities. None of the existing facilities are listed as hazardous waste site on any government lists. As a result there would be no impact.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. This alternative would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. A leaking underground fuel tank (LUFT), located at the Henry Mayo Memorial Hospital, was identified on the Envirostar database search (includes hazardous sites that would be included under the Cortese List).[123] This leak was identified in 1992, and, according to the Department of Toxic Substances, the case is still open. However, as the exact location of the pipelines and reservoir is not currently known, there would be potential for impacts.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines from the Saugus WRP to a pump station located within a commercial shopping center (see **Figure 8)**. The proposed reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. A search of the Envirostar database was conducted, and numerous LUFT sites were identified at the intersection of Seco Canyon Road and Bouquet Canyon Road and at the intersection of Valencia Boulevard and Bouquet Canyon Road.[124] As a result, there would be potentially significant impacts.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

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122 California Department of Toxic Substances, "Envirostar Database," http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/. 2009.

123 California Department of Toxic Substances, 2009.

124 California Department of Toxic Substances, 2009.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation shall be implemented and is applicable for this phase of the RWMP; mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.7-1**, is called out below in **Impact 5.3.7-8**:

MM 3.7-2 Prior to the issuance of grading permits, potential hazards waste sites shall be identified and verified to either be case closed or if the case is active. If the case is active, soil sampling shall be conducted. The results of the soil sampling shall be submitted to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Environmental Health Division (LACDPH). If sampling identifies contaminated soils, such soils shall be remediated under the supervision of—and as required by and subject to the approval of—the LACDPH.

Impact 4.3.7-5 **Be located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not be adopted, within 2 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;**

Impact 4.3.7-6 **Be within the vicinity of a private airstrip, and would result in a safety hazard for people residing or working the project area;**

Proposed Project

No Impacts. The proposed project consists of three design areas that are bounded on the south by the Saugus WRP, on the west by Bouquet Canyon Park, on the north by Central Park, and on the east by the Honby pump station, as seen in **Figure 4**. The nearest airport, private or public, is the Agua Dulce Airpark, located approximately 11 miles to the northeast.[125] As the project area is greater than 2 miles from the airport, there would be no impact on safety hazards for workers in the project area.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The project area would use the existing potable water facilities to supply the area with water for irrigation. The closest nearest airports to the Santa Clarita Valley include the Agua Dulce Airpark located approximately 11 miles northeast, and the Whiteman Airport located in Pacoima approximately 12 miles south. As both airports are located over 2 miles from the project area, there would be no impacts on workers within the project area.

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125 Google Earth, Inc., 2009.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this area would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Both the Agua Dulce Airpark and the Whiteman Airport would be located over 12 miles from the alternative area. Therefore, there would be no impacts on workers in the alternative area.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would use the same location for the reservoir tank as that of the proposed project. However, the pipeline route would be different and the supply of recycled water would reach different areas of the project area. Furthermore, the nearest airport, public or private, would be the Agua Dulce Airpark. As it is located approximately 11 miles to the northeast, there would be no impacts on workers.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.7-7 Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Proposed pipelines would be located in roadway easements; therefore, construction of the pipelines could temporarily impact traffic conditions. The roadways that would temporarily be closed would include a portion of Valencia Boulevard, east of the Bouquet Canyon Road and Valencia Boulevard intersection, and the portion of Newhall Ranch Road from Bouquet Canyon Park east to the RVWTP. Valencia Boulevard, Newhall Ranch Road, and Bouquet Canyon Road provide access to I-5 freeway, a major transportation corridor, and the lane closures could potentially impede emergency access. However, as discussed in **Section 4.3.15, Transportation and Traffic**, the CLWA will develop a traffic control plan for all construction projects that could impact traffic. Impacts would potentially be significant.

Operation of the proposed project would not impair implementation or physically interfere with an emergency response plan for the City of Santa Clarita or surrounding communities served by the CLWA.

The proposed project consists of infrastructure components, which are all below ground or on private property, and when installed would not interfere with traffic flow or otherwise hamper emergency response or evacuation plans. Periodic maintenance of components would be performed by vehicles traveling on surface roads to the proposed project facilities. The size and number of maintenance vehicles present at facilities also would not interfere with traffic flow. Impacts would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The project area would use the existing potable water facilities to supply the area with water for irrigation. Therefore, operation of this alternative would not impair or impede an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. There would be no impact.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Proposed pipelines would be located in roadway easements; therefore, construction of the pipelines could temporarily impact traffic conditions. The roadways that would potentially be temporarily closed would include portions of Valencia Boulevard, east of the I-5 freeway, portions of McBean Parkway east of the I-5 freeway, and Magic Mountain Parkway. These roadways provide access to I-5 freeway, a major transportation corridor, and unknown road or lane closures would impede emergency access to the I-5 freeway.

However, as discussed in **Section 4.3.15, Transportation and Traffic**, the CLWA will develop a traffic control plan for all construction projects that could impact traffic. Impacts would potentially be significant.

Operation of the proposed project would not impair implementation or physically interfere with any emergency response plan for the City of Santa Clarita or surrounding communities served by the CLWA. The proposed project consists of infrastructure components, which when installed would not interfere with traffic flow or otherwise hamper emergency response or evacuation plans. Periodic maintenance of components would be performed by vehicles traveling on surface roads to the proposed project facilities. RWMP facilities would be located outside of the immediate travel lanes of roadways. As a result, parked maintenance vehicles would not be located within the travel lanes of any roadway and would not interfere with traffic flow. The size, location, and small number of maintenance vehicles present at facilities also would not interfere with traffic flow. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would use the same location for the reservoir tank as that of the proposed project. However, the pipeline route would be different and the supply of recycled water would reach different areas of the project area. Proposed pipelines would be located in roadway easements; therefore, construction of the pipelines could temporarily impact traffic conditions. The roadways that would temporarily be closed would include a portions of Bouquet Canyon Road, north of the Saugus WRP until Seco Canyon Road, portions along Newhall Ranch Road from Bouquet Canyon Road west to the McBean Parkway, and finally portions along McBean Parkway from Avenue Scott north until Copper Hill Drive. Newhall Ranch Road, Bouquet Canyon Road, and McBean Parkway provide access to I-5 freeway, a major transportation corridor, and the lane closures could potentially impede emergency access. However, as discussed in **Section 4.3.15, Transportation and Traffic**, the CLWA will develop a traffic control plan for all construction projects that could impact traffic. Impacts would potentially be significant.

Operation of the proposed project would not impair implementation or physically interfere with an emergency response plan for the City of Santa Clarita or surrounding communities served by the CLWA. The proposed project consists of infrastructure components, which are all below ground or on private property, and when installed would not interfere with traffic flow or otherwise hamper emergency response or evacuation plans. Periodic maintenance of components would be performed by vehicles traveling on surface roads to the proposed project facilities. The size and number of maintenance vehicles present at facilities also would not interfere with traffic flow. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure is new and applicable for the appropriate alternatives and shall be implemented:

MM 3.7-3 Prior to construction activities, CLWA's construction contractor shall notify the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Santa Clarita Valley office and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Fire Station No. 126 (headquarters for Battalion 6) of construction activities that would impede movement (such as a lane closure) along Newhall Ranch Road, Valencia Boulevard, or Bouquet Canyon Road to allow emergency response teams to reroute traffic to alternative routes, if needed.

Impact 4.3.7-8 **Expose people or structures to a significant risk loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described, portions of the Santa Clarita Valley contain mountainous areas that are classified as high fire areas. The majority of the design areas would be located in existing urban areas; however, some the reservoir in Design Area 3 would be constructed in the hillside area adjacent to the RVWTP with naturally vegetated areas. For instance, construction of aboveground steel reservoir tanks requires welding to assemble and secure the structure. Construction activities (e.g., the use of welding torches or other tools) within these areas may increase fire danger. The use of flames/sparks in hillside brushy areas would likewise increase the risk of wildfire. Impacts would potentially be significant.

Operation of the proposed project would not exacerbate the potential for wildfires, which is an existing hazard. There are no ignitable materials or processes that would have the potential to create a fire. Therefore, there would be no impact related to exposing people or structures to adverse effects from wildfires.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

Impacts would be less than significant. The project area would use the existing potable water facilities to supply the area with water for irrigation. Therefore, operation of this alternative would contain and implement measures to limit the potential impact from wildland fires. Impacts would be less than significant.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Proposed pipelines would be located in roadway easements within urban areas of the City of Santa Clarita. As a result pipelines would not be exposed to wildland fires. The booster pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP site. As this site located within an urban area and implements wildland fire measures, impacts would be less than significant. The location of reservoirs would be on hillsides in areas that contain natural vegetation. The construction of aboveground steel reservoir tanks would require welding to assemble and secure the structure. Construction activities (e.g., the use of welding torches or other tools) within these areas may

increase fire danger. The use of flames/sparks in hillside brushy areas would likewise increase the risk of wildfire. Impacts would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would use the same location for the reservoir tank as that of the proposed project. However, the pipeline route would be different and the supply of recycled water would reach different areas of the project area. The proposed pipelines would be located within an urban area, beneath existing roadways, and would not be exposed to wildland fires. The booster pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center located in the City. As a result, the area is sparsely vegetated and would not be impacted from wildland fires. Impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed reservoir would be located on a hillside adjacent to the west of the RVWTP, which contains natural vegetation. Construction activities (e.g., the use of welding torches or other tools) within these areas may increase fire danger. The use of flames/sparks in hillside brushy areas would likewise increase the risk of wildfire. Impacts would potentially be significant.

Operation of the proposed project would not exacerbate the potential for wildfires, which is an existing hazard. There are no ignitable materials or processes that would have the potential to create a fire. Therefore, impact would be less than significant related to exposing people or structures to adverse effects from wildfires.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation from the RWMP Program EIR shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.7-1 Prior to commencement of construction activities within designated High Fire Hazard Zones, the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall be contacted regarding weed/brush removal in the project vicinity. All flammable weeds/brush within a radius specified by the Los Angeles County Fire Department shall be removed. During construction activities, the project site shall be equipped with fire-fighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers, to the satisfaction of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant, with mitigation in some cases, or have no impact. The Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to impeding an emergency evacuation plan; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would have hazards and hazardous materials impacts that would be less than significant. The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to being located on a hazardous materials site and impacts related to impeding emergency evacuation routes; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant.

The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to being located on a hazardous materials site and impacts related to impeding emergency evacuation routes; implementation of mitigation measures and compliance with regulatory requirements would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.3.8 Hydrology and Water Quality

Environmental Setting

The nearest river to the area is the Santa Clara River. The river is not designated as a wild and scenic river system under the Wild and Scenic River Act.[126]

Surface water flow conditions for the Upper Santa Clarita River (USCR) were evaluated as part of a discharge analysis for flows from the Saugus WRP.[127] The study completed hydrologic modeling that analyzed historic discharge and downstream flows from the Saugus WRP for the time of 1975 through 2005 to assess the impact of potential discharge reductions at the Saugus WRP over a wide range of hydrologic conditions, including severe drought and wet periods.

During seasonal low flow periods between 1975 and 2005, the Saugus discharges were typically 50 to 80 percent of the surface water flows present in the river downstream of the McBean dry gap at the Old Road bridge.

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126 US Code, Title 16, Section 1274, Wild and Scenic River Act.

127 ESA, *Saugus WRP Reduced Discharge Analysis, Upper Santa Clara River*, prepared for Castaic Lake Water Agency, March 2010.

Generally, results of the flow study indicate that a one-to-one correspondence between reduced discharge rates and reduced flow rates in the USCR exists during seasonal dry periods (June through October).[128] However, as previously discussed, the Saugus WRP has continuously discharged approximately 3 to 7 mgd (4 to 10 cfs) since it came on line in 1962. Further, an analysis of historic base flow volumes in the USCR, before and after the Saugus WRP came on line, determined that the daily mean bases flow from June to October has averaged 1.5 cfs prior to the Saugus WRP coming on line and increasing to 7.9 cfs during recent times. Between 1975 and 2004, discharge from the Saugus WRP to the USCR has increased from approximately 3 mgd up to 7 mgd, with an annual average discharge of 5 mgd in 2009.

The potential contribution of natural factors, such as precipitation or other watershed-level variables, to the increased daily mean flow of the USCR is estimated to be zero to 0.5 cfs.[129] Furthermore, small gains from groundwater upwelling contribute to surface water flows.

The proposed project is located in the urbanized Santa Clarita Valley. The project boundary is located in Zone D, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) for the project area. Zone D is designated as an area with possible but undetermined flood hazards.[130]

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on hydrology and water quality if it would

- violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements;
- substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted);
- substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;

128 ESA, 2010.

129 ESA, 2010.

130 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), *FEMA Map Service Center*, Flood Zone Designations Map, 2009.

- substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or a river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site;
- 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;
- otherwise substantially degrade water quality;
- placing housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map;
- place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows;
- expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam; or
- experience inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Impact 4.3.8-1 Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Design Areas 1 and 2 would be located within paved and urbanized areas. The proposed pipelines would be located within a street ROW and the pump station would be located within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center. The construction of these areas would potentially generate storm water runoff, and would therefore by regulated by the Los Angeles RWQCB NPDES General Storm Water Permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activities.[131]

According to the fact sheet for Order 99-08, construction activities associated with small linear underground projects that result in land disturbances greater than 1 acre, but less than 5 acres (referred to as linear utility projects [LUPs]), are not like traditional construction projects. Small LUPs have a lower potential to impact receiving waters because these projects are typically short in duration and are constructed within or around hard-paved surfaces that result in minimal disturbed land areas being exposed at the close of the construction day.[132] Therefore, Water Quality Order 2003-0007-DWQ,[133] and the NPDES General Permit have been adopted statewide for storm water discharges associated with

131 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ.

132 State Water Resources Control Board, *Order No. -2003 – 0007 – DWQ*, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit No. CAS000005, "Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm water runoff Associated with Small Linear Underground/Overhead Construction Projects." 2003.

133 State Water Resources Control Board, 2003.

construction activity from small linear underground/overhead projects. For construction activities that are regulated by the NPDES permit, coverage under and compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit would ensure that the impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 is located west of the RVWTP. Construction of the recycled water system reservoirs would be located within elevated open space areas. Grading activities for the construction of the reservoirs would disturb the immediately surrounding vegetation and topsoil and would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. The footprint of the reservoir would be between 0.5 acre and 1 acre, it is possible that the construction area (including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways) would total at least 1 acre for the reservoir.

Therefore, coverage under the NPDES Construction General Permit would be required and impacts would potentially be significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this alternative, existing potable water facilities would be used to supply the project area with irrigation. As these facilities are already in existence they would contain measures to minimize storm water runoff. As a result there would be no impacts on water quality.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. As described above, this alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water. The construction of this alternative would locate recycled water pipelines beneath the existing street, expand the recycled water pump station at the Valencia WRP, and locate a reservoir in an open space area, if possible. The expansion of the recycled water pump station would be within paved and constructed areas. However, there would still be potential for storm water runoff to degrade water quality. Therefore, impacts would potentially be significant.

As described above in the proposed project analysis, construction of the recycled water pipelines would be required to comply with NPDES regulations. This would include the provisions of incorporating best management practices (BMPs) to minimize storm water runoff. Impacts would potentially be significant.

Grading activities for the construction of the reservoirs would disturb the immediately surrounding vegetation and topsoil and would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES

Construction General Permit. The footprint of the reservoir would be between 0.5 acre and 1 acre, it is possible that the construction area (including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways) would total at least 1 acre for the reservoir. Therefore, coverage under the NPDES Construction General Permit would be required and impacts would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines beneath existing streets within the ROW, a pump station within a commercial shopping center, and a 1.75-mg reservoir west of the RVWTP. The construction of these areas would potentially generate storm water runoff, and would therefore by regulated by the Los Angeles RWQCB NPDES General Storm Water Permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activities.[134] The construction of the pipelines would be considered LUPs, and would potentially have significant impacts on surrounding water quality.

Construction of the recycled water system reservoirs would be located west of the RVWTP facilities. Grading activities for the construction of the reservoirs would disturb the immediately surrounding vegetation and topsoil and would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. The footprint of the reservoir would be between 0.5 acre and 1 acre, it is possible that the construction area (including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways) would total at least 1 acre for the reservoir. Therefore, coverage under the NPDES Construction General Permit would be required and impacts would potentially be significant.

Project Design Features

To the extent feasible, all distribution system pipelines shall be constructed under existing roadways and pipelines that cross the Santa Clara River and its tributaries shall be attached to existing bridges or shall utilize existing pipelines not readily in use.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirements are identified in the RWMP Program EIR, of which regulatory requirement **PEIR RR 3.8-5** is not applicable, and each alternative shall be in compliance with the following:

PEIR RR 3.8-1 Prior to the commencement of grading activities for construction of each of the proposed project ~~components~~ design areas, CLWA shall determine whether or

[134] Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ.

not the construction activities are required to obtain coverage under the NPDES General Storm Water Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ) or the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2003-0007-DWQ). If the proposed project ~~component~~ design area meets the criteria for coverage under either of these two NPDES permits, then CLWA will be responsible for filing a Notice of Intent, a SWPPP (if applicable), and the appropriate fees to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality in order to obtain coverage under the applicable NPDES permit. Pursuant to the permit requirements, CLWA shall minimize construction related pollutants, including erosion-related sediment, in the site runoff through the implementation of Best Management Practices.

PEIR RR 3.8-2 Prior to commencement of any pipeline construction activities, the CLWA shall determine whether or not the construction activities are required to obtain coverage under and comply with all requirements of Los Angeles RWQCB Order No. R4-2004-0109 "Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Low Threat Hydrostatic Test Water to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties," which is General NPDES Permit No. CAG674001. If the project meets the criteria for coverage under this NPDES permit, then the CLWA will be responsible for full compliance with the requirements of the permit.

PEIR RR 3.8-3 The ~~Recycled Water Master Plan~~ proposed project shall be implemented in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, including the California Water Code, CCR Title 22, CCR Title 17, DHS Guidelines, and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Cross-Connection and Water Pollution Control Program.

PEIR RR 3.8-6 The CLWA shall include additional chlorination capacity, if necessary, or relocate the compliance point for disinfection, to ensure that the recycled water supply is adequately chlorinated and in compliance with Title 22 requirements for the disinfection of tertiary recycled water prior to delivery to customers.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-2 **Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted).**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The proposed project would construct proposed recycled water pipelines below ground within a street ROW. The proposed pump station would be located within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center.

The proposed reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds adjacent to the RVWTP facilities. As the pipelines and the pump station would be located within existing paved areas, they would not interfere with groundwater recharge. The footprint of the reservoir would potentially range from 0.5 acre to no larger than 1 acre in size. As described in **Section 4.3.6, Geology and Soils**, the soils of the hillside adjacent to the west of the RVWTP facilities are well drained. However, as the size of the reservoir would be less than 1 acre, the potential to substantially interfere with groundwater recharge would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use existing potable water facilities and pipelines to irrigate the project area. As a result, these facilities would not interfere with groundwater recharge. As this alternative would require no construction, there would be no potential to impede groundwater recharge. The use of water as irrigation is designated within the UWMP.[135] Therefore, there would be no impacts.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water pipelines would be located within a street ROW and the pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP facilities. These areas are paved and the construction of the pipelines and pump station would not impact the recharge of groundwater supplies. The reservoir would be located within an open space area on a hillside to gravity feed stored recycled water. As the reservoir would probably be less than 1 acre in size, it would not interfere with the recharge of groundwater supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

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135 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Urban Water Management Plan*, 2005.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above, this alternative would supply the project area with recycled water from the Saugus WRP. The construction of this alternative would be located within street ROW (pipelines), a commercial shopping center (pump station), and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. As described above, the pipelines and pump station would be located on paved surfaces and would therefore not interfere with groundwater recharge or supplies. The reservoir would be less than 1 acre in size and would therefore not substantially interfere within groundwater recharge or supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features

As stated in **Impact 4.3.8-1**, pipelines shall be constructed under existing roadways and shall utilize existing bridge pipelines that cross waterways or existing pipelines beneath the Santa Clara River.

Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-3 **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Design Area 1 would propose recycled water pipelines and a pump station within street ROW and a commercial shopping center. The proposed pipelines would then connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral. Design Area 2 would construct the proposed 36-inch transmission line along Newhall Ranch Road and would locate it beneath the ROW. Operation of these areas would not alter the existing drainage pattern, as pipelines would be located beneath the street ROW and within an urbanized commercial area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 would be located west of the RVWTP within open space. Grading activities for the construction of the reservoir would disturb the immediately surrounding vegetation and topsoil and

would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. Although the footprint of the reservoirs would not be 1 acre, it is possible that the construction area (including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways) would total at least 1 acre per reservoir.

Storm water runoff from the project site during construction could contain soils and sediments from these activities. Spills or leaks from heavy equipment and machinery, construction staging areas, or building sites can also enter runoff, which typically include petroleum products such as fuel, oil and grease, and heavy metals.

Additionally, because the existing vegetation on the site would be removed, the potential for erosion and sediment-laden runoff from the project site would be increased during construction. According to the requirements of the NPDES permit, appropriate BMPs would be applied during grading and construction activities to minimize water quality impacts.

The BMPs most often used during construction activities include surrounding the construction site with sand bags and/or silt fencing (to minimize sediment-laden runoff entering the storm drain system or downstream waters), temporary desilting basins, and timing the grading activities to avoid the rainy season. Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, the preparation and implementation of an SWPPP, and implementation of erosion and treatment control BMPs would ensure that any impacts to downstream waters resulting from construction activities associated with the reservoirs would be less than significant.

Operational activities on the reservoir sites would not involve activities that could significantly impact water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The reservoirs would not generate traffic, require herbicide or pesticide use, or generate other types of polluted runoff that would require regulation. Operational activities on the reservoir sites would not be subject to the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) requirements because the project does not fall under the threshold categories for compliance. Potential impacts to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements from the operation of the reservoirs would be less than significant.

Reduced Discharge Flows

As described above under the **Environmental Setting**, the proposed project would have the potential to affect the amount of surface flow within the USCR thus potentially altering the course of the USCR. Results of the reduced discharge study suggest a one-to-one correspondence between reduced discharge

rates and reduced flow rates in the river during seasonal dry periods (June through October).[136] Depending on river flow and overall hydrologic conditions discharge reductions from the Saugus WRP would likely result in equivalent corresponding reductions in flow at the Old Road bridge (Saugus WRP reduction of one mgd would result in a reduction of one mgd at the Old Road Bridge).

The 2009 annual average discharge of the Saugus WRP was approximately 5 mgd, with the current, daily average discharge ranging as much as 1.5 mgd throughout the year depending on inflow volumes.[137]

During seasonal low-flow periods (or very dry years) when Saugus WRP discharge accounts for 100 percent of flow downstream; river base flow would be approximately 7 cfs when Saugus WRP discharge is approximately 5 mgd.

As previously noted (see **Section 2.1.2**) existing operations at the Saugus WRP include diurnal fluctuations in discharge occur in accordance with plant operations and daily water use cycles in the service area.[138] During the course of a 24-hour period, discharge from the Saugus WRP oscillates consistently every 20 minutes, typically by 0.1 mgd to 0.5 mgd. Filter backflushing occurs twice each day, during which time the Saugus WRP discharge is reduced to zero for periods that last up to an hour. Recent river flow monitoring conducted during September 2009, has revealed that river flow downstream, including water depth, and channel width in the vicinity of the Old Road bridge are not measurably affected by diurnal fluctuations in discharge from the Saugus WRP. During a 3-hour monitoring period that included a period of zero discharge from the Saugus WRP, water depth and channel width were measured every 15 minutes and continuously observed, and no measurable changes were recorded.

Implementation of the proposed project would divert 0.46 mgd of the Saugus WRP discharge for recycled water use. A 0.46 mgd reduction in discharge from the Saugus WRP would be within the range of daily variability for Saugus WRP discharges. A discharge reduction in discharge of 0.5 mgd would reduce river flow by 0.7 cfs, leaving a base flow of 6.3 cfs in the river; such a discharge reduction would reduce correspondingly channel depth and width of the river downstream. However, as the reduction in flows is within the normal range of variability for the Saugus WRP, changes in channel depth and width is not considered to be substantial relative to existing variable conditions, and any impacts would be less than significant.

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136 ESA, *Saugus WRP Reduced Discharge Analysis, Upper Santa Clara River*, prepared for Castaic Lake Water Agency, March 2010.

137 ESA, 2010, Exhibit A, Figure 2.

138 ESA, 2010.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use existing potable water facilities and pipelines to irrigate the project area. Potable water would be transported by existing pipeline and stored within existing reservoirs. As these facilities already exist and there would be no required construction, there would be no impacts with regard to substantially altering the drainage pattern of the site.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water pipelines would be located beneath the surface and within a street ROW, and the pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP facilities. These areas are paved and the construction of the pipelines would be underneath existing street surfaces. The drainage pattern of these areas would lead into the local storm drain systems. Construction impacts would potentially be significant and operation of the pipelines would have no impact because the street would be returned to its paved condition. The Valencia WRP processes an average of 15.7 mgd, or 17,500 afy, and has a capacity for 21.6 mgd. Although a reduced discharge analysis for the Valencia WRP was not completed, it is assumed that reductions in flow from the Valencia WRP would have similar impacts as that of the proposed project. Under this alternative, approximately 0.46 mgd would be diverted to the Phase 2A water recycling project. This diversion within similar operating variability for the Valencia WRP and would not be considered significant.

The reservoir would be located within an open space area on a hillside to gravity feed stored recycled water. Grading activities would potentially disturb the drainage pattern of the hillside area. As the reservoir would probably be between 0.5 acre and 1 acre in size, it would potentially have a significant impact on the drainage pattern. Impacts would be potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would propose recycled water pipelines beneath the surface and within street ROW and a pump station within a commercial shopping center. Construction of the pipelines and pump station would potentially be significant. Operation of these areas would not alter the existing drainage pattern as they would be located beneath the street ROW and within an urbanized commercial area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The reservoir would be located west of the RVWTP within open space. Grading activities for the construction of the reservoir would disturb the immediately surrounding vegetation and topsoil and would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. Although the footprint of the reservoirs would not be greater than 1 acre, it is possible that the construction area (including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways) would total at least 1 acre per reservoir.

Storm water runoff from the project site during construction could contain soils and sediments from these activities. According to the requirements of the NPDES permit, appropriate BMPs would be applied during grading and construction activities to minimize water quality impacts.

The BMPs most often used during construction activities include surrounding the construction site with sand bags and/or silt fencing (to minimize sediment-laden runoff from entering the storm drain system or downstream waters), temporary desilting basins, and timing the grading activities to avoid the rainy season. Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, the preparation and implementation of an SWPPP, and implementation of erosion and treatment control BMPs would ensure that any impacts to downstream waters resulting from construction activities associated with the reservoirs would be less than significant.

Operational activities on the reservoir sites would not involve activities that could significantly impact water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The reservoirs would not generate traffic, require herbicide or pesticide use, or generate other types of polluted runoff that would require regulation. Operational activities on the reservoir sites would not be subject to the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) requirements because the project does not fall under the threshold categories for compliance. Potential impacts to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements from the operation of the reservoirs would be less than significant.

Project Design Features

As stated in **Impact 4.3.8-1**, pipelines shall be constructed under existing roadways and shall utilize existing bridge pipelines that cross waterways or existing pipelines beneath the Santa Clara River.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirements **PEIR RR 3.8-1** and **PEIR RR 3.8-2** shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-4 **Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or a river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Design Area 1 would propose recycled water pipelines and a pump station within street ROW and a commercial shopping center. The proposed pipelines would then connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral. Design Area 2 would construct the proposed 36-inch transmission line along Newhall Ranch Road and would locate it beneath the ROW. Operation of these areas would not alter the existing drainage pattern as they would be located beneath the street ROW, under the Santa Clara River and within an urbanized commercial area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 would be located west of the RVWTP within open space. Grading activities for the construction of the reservoir would disturb the immediately surrounding vegetation and topsoil and would have the potential to generate sediment-laden runoff during rain events. Construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. Although the footprint of the reservoirs would be less than 1 acre, it is possible that the construction area (including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways) would range in size from 0.5 acre to 1 acre for the reservoir.

The BMPs most often used during construction activities include surrounding the construction site with sand bags and/or silt fencing (to minimize sediment-laden runoff from entering the storm drain system or downstream waters), temporary desilting basins, and timing the grading activities to avoid the rainy season. Compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit, the preparation and implementation of an SWPPP, and implementation of erosion and treatment control BMPs would ensure that any impacts to downstream waters resulting from construction activities associated with the reservoirs would be less than significant.

Operational activities on the reservoir sites would not involve activities that could significantly impact water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The reservoirs would not generate traffic,

require herbicide or pesticide use, or generate other types of polluted runoff that would require regulation.

Operational activities on the reservoir sites would not be subject to the Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP) requirements because the project does not fall under the threshold categories for compliance. Potential impacts to water quality standards or waste discharge requirements from the operation of the reservoirs would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use existing potable water facilities and pipelines to irrigate the project area. As a result, these facilities would not interfere with groundwater recharge. Potable water would be transported by existing pipeline and stored within existing reservoirs. As these facilities already exist, there would be no required construction and there would be no impacts with regard to substantially altering the drainage pattern of the site.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water pipelines would be located beneath the surface and within a street ROW and the pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP facilities. These areas are paved and the construction of the pipelines would be underneath existing street surfaces. The drainage pattern of these areas would lead into the local storm drain systems. Construction impacts would potentially be significant and operation of the pipelines would have no impact because the street would be returned to its paved condition.

The reservoir would be located within an open space area on a hillside to gravity feed stored recycled water. Grading activities would potentially disturb the drainage pattern of the hillside area. As the reservoir would probably be between 0.5 acre and 1 acre in size, it would potentially have a significant impact on the drainage pattern. Impacts would be potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. As described above, this alternative would supply the project area with recycled water from the Saugus WRP. The construction of this alternative would be located within street ROW (pipelines), a commercial shopping center (pump station), and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. As described above in the proposed

project analysis, the construction would temporary. The reservoir would be less than 1 acre in size, and would therefore not substantially interfere within groundwater recharge or supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features

As stated in **Impact 5.3.8-1**, pipelines shall be constructed under existing roadways and shall utilize existing bridge pipelines that cross waterways or existing pipelines beneath the Santa Clara River.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirements **PEIR RR 3.8-1** and **PEIR RR 3.8-2** shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-5 **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.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. Construction of the proposed project would potentially increase additional runoff; however, construction would be temporary, so impacts would be less than significant. Operation of Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 would not substantially increase runoff water that would exceed the capacity of the stormwater drainage systems. The pipelines would be located beneath the existing streets and the pump station would have design features, as described in **Section 2.4**, to minimize water runoff.

Design Area 3 would develop a 1.75-mg reservoir west of the RVWTP. As described above, the footprint of the reservoir would be less than 1 acre, and would not generate a substantial amount of water runoff. Impacts would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would use existing potable water facilities and pipelines to irrigate the project area. The existing pipelines and water facilities are already taken into account for water runoff. Therefore, there would be no new increase to existing storm water flows.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water pipelines would be located within a street ROW and the pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP facilities. These areas are paved and the construction of the pipelines and pump station would not impact the storm water drainage capacities. The reservoir would be located within an open space area on a hillside to gravity feed stored recycled water. As the reservoir would probably be less than 1 acre in size, the amount of water runoff would be minimal. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described above, this alternative would supply the project area with recycled water from the Saugus WRP. The construction of this alternative would be located within street ROW (pipelines), a commercial shopping center (pump station), and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. As described above, the pipelines and pump station would be located on paved surfaces, and would therefore not substantially increase the capacity of the storm water drainage facilities. The reservoir would be less than 1 acre in size and would therefore not substantially increase the amount of water runoff. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features

As stated in **Impact 4.3.8-1**, pipelines shall be constructed under existing roadways and shall utilize existing bridge pipelines that cross waterways or existing pipelines beneath the Santa Clara River.

Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-6 Otherwise substantially degrade water quality

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Design Area 1 and 2 would be located within paved and urbanized areas. The proposed pipelines would be located within street ROW and the pump station would be located within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center.

As described above in **Impact 4.3.8-1**, the construction of these areas would potentially generate storm water runoff, and would therefore be by regulated by the Los Angeles RWQCB NPDES General Storm Water Permit for storm water discharges associated with construction activities.[139] For construction activities that are regulated by the NPDES permit, coverage under and compliance with the NPDES Construction General Permit would ensure that the construction of the proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Design Area 3 is located west of the RVWTP. Construction of the recycled water system reservoirs would be located within elevated open space areas. As described in **Impact 4.3.8-1**, construction activities that impact more than 1 acre are subject to the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. Although the footprint of the reservoirs would be less than 1 acre, it is possible that the construction area (including the reservoir footprint, staging areas, and access roadways) would total at least 1 acre per reservoir. Therefore, coverage under the NPDES Construction General Permit would be required.

When recycled water is applied to land for irrigation purposes, water will be transpired into the air while salts will stay in surface soil. Salts accumulated in surface soil can be transported to the Santa Clara River by stormwater runoff or by incidental runoff, which poses water quality problems.

Recycled water that would have been discharged to the Santa Clara River would instead be beneficially reused. The recycled water would be used for landscape irrigation, replacing an equal amount of potable water that has historically been used for these same purposes. While this recycled water would have incrementally more salt than the potable water it replaces, the overall effect of the project would be a net reduction in the loading of salt from the Saugus WRP discharges and irrigation with potable water to the Santa Clara River.

It should also be noted that within the area served by the Santa Clarita Valley water reclamation plants, a number of source control programs have been implemented by the recycled water provider to reduce salt loadings from residential self-regenerating water softeners. These programs are ongoing and would be expanded in the future to only further reduce the amount of salt in the water that would be used for the proposed project. Therefore, because of these overall reductions in salt loadings (associated with reduced Saugus WRP discharges to river, reduced salt loadings from water softeners, and reduced salt loading from imported water), the impacts from stormwater runoff and/or incidental runoff are expected to be less than significant as compared to what already occurs with respect to landscape irrigation with potable water.

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139 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ.

However, the Los Angeles RWQCB continues to retain its authority to approve specific recycled water projects that are implemented. Before reuse is allowed, both the Los Angeles RWQCB and the California Department of Health Services (DHS) must approve the engineering reports for the proposed project. As such, the Los Angeles RWQCB has the authority to regulate the use of recycled water. Notwithstanding the issues discussed above, it should be also noted that the discussion of "salt" within the Santa Clara River watershed is normally in terms of chloride. As stated in mitigation measure **PEIR RR 3.8-3**, the proposed project would be implemented in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including the California Water Code,[140] DHS Guidelines, and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Cross—Connection and Water Pollution Control Program. Recycled water obtained by CLWA for use will comply with all requirements for that use imposed by the provider of the recycled water for the proposed project. The provider of the recycled water sets the terms of its use, in part, in accordance with regulatory programs under the authority of the Regional Board, such as the issuance of waste discharge requirements (i.e., NPDES permits) that contain effluent limits for salts. As set forth in Table 3.8-6 of the RWMP Program EIR,[141] a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in the Santa Clara River watershed for chloride has been established by the LARWQCB, which will determine future waste load allocations and NPDES permit limits for salt.

Under the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act,[142] the LARWQCB is required to adopt water quality control plans that establish water quality objectives for surface water and groundwater. Water quality objectives are set to protect beneficial uses and are the maximum allowable concentration of pollutants for specified water bodies. When establishing water quality objectives in basin plans, Regional Boards must take into consideration the need to recycle water. Basin plans and their water quality objectives are implemented through waste discharge requirements issued by the Regional Boards. Waste discharge requirements must also implement the State Board Antidegradation Policy.[143] In short, waste discharge requirements for projects such as the RWMP that recycle water may contain effluent limits on discharges of salts as necessary to meet water quality objectives, comply with the Anti-degradation Policy, or otherwise protect beneficial uses. Thus, the recycled water provider's compliance with NPDES permits and waste discharge requirements issued by the Regional Board will inherently ensure that the use of recycled water will be protective of surface waters in the Santa Clara River watershed, which would ensure a less than significant impact. There is no aspect of the project that would otherwise degrade water quality.

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140 California Code of Regulations, Title 17, "Drinking Water Supplies"; Title 22, "Recycled Water."

141 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft RWMP Program EIR*, Section 3.8.1, (2006) 9.8-14.

142 California Water Code, Sec. 8590 et seq.

143 Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Section 131.12, "Antidegradation policy."

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this existing potable water facilities would be utilized to supply the project area with irrigation. As these facilities are already in place, they would contain measures to minimize storm water runoff. As a result, there would be no impacts on water quality. There is no aspect of the alternative that would otherwise degrade water quality.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. As described above, this alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water. The construction of this alternative would locate recycled water pipelines within a street ROW, the pump station at the Valencia WRP, and a reservoir in an open space area, if possible. Construction would comply within NPDES regulations to minimize potential storm water runoff impacts on water quality. This would include the incremental salt increase in the application of recycled water in place of potable water. As a result, potential water quality impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines within street ROW, a pump station within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center, and a 1.75-mg reservoir west of the RVWTP. As described above, the construction of this alternative would be similar to the proposed project; however, the pipeline alignment would be different, see **Figure 8**. Construction would comply with NPDES regulations, to minimize potential construction water runoff. The recycled water provider's compliance with NPDES permits and waste discharge requirements issued by the Los Angeles RWQCB would inherently ensure that the use of recycled water will be protective of surface waters in the Santa Clara River watershed, which would ensure a less than significant impact. There would be no operational impacts from the pipelines because they will be located beneath the ground. The pump station and reservoir would have design features to minimize building runoff, as described in **Section 2.4**.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

Applicable alternatives shall comply with regulatory requirement **PEIR RR 3.8-3**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-7 **Placing housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project would develop a recycled water pipeline within the street ROW, a pump station located within a commercial shopping center, and a reservoir tank located on the hillside west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. The proposed project would not develop housing. As identified on the most recent FIRM, the proposed areas of construction—and the project as a whole—are located within Zone D. This zone is located outside of a 100-year flood zone.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would supply the project area with potable water to be used as irrigation. The potable water would be transported through existing pipelines and by existing water facilities. The pipelines are located beneath ground and would not redirect water flows. The existing facilities are not located within the 100-year flood zone because they would be located on hillsides above flood-prone areas to use gravity to transport the potable water. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water pipelines would be located within a street ROW, and the pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP facilities. These areas are paved and the construction of the pipelines and pump station would potentially be located within a 100-year flood zone. As there is no housing proposed by the project, there would be no impacts.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would supply the project area with recycled water from the Saugus WRP.

The construction of this alternative would be located within street ROW (pipelines), under the Santa Clara River, a commercial shopping center (pump station), and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. As described above, the proposed project does not include the construction of housing. No impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-8 **Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project would develop a recycled water pipeline within the street ROW, a pump station located within a commercial shopping center, and a reservoir tank located on the hillside west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. As identified on the most recent FIRM, the proposed areas of construction—and the project as a whole—is located within Zone D. This zone is located outside of a 100-year flood zone.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would supply the project area with potable water to be used as irrigation. The potable water would be transported through existing pipelines and by existing water facilities. The pipelines are located beneath ground and would not be redirect flows. The existing facilities are not located within the 100-year flood zone because they would be located on hillsides above flood-prone areas to use gravity to transport the potable water. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

RWMP Implementation

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water pipelines would be located within a street ROW and the pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP facilities.

These areas are paved and the construction of the pipelines and pump station would potentially be located within a 100-year flood zone. However, as the Valencia WRP already exists and is in operation, flood control measures would be in place to minimize the potential impact on redirecting floods or potentially becoming damaged by a 100-year flood. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The reservoir would be located within an open space area on a hillside to gravity feed stored recycled water. As the reservoir would be elevated and located away from the Santa Clara River, which would potentially flood, impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would supply the project area with recycled water from the Saugus WRP. The construction of this alternative would be located within street ROW (pipelines), a commercial shopping center (pump station), and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. As described above, the pipelines and pump station would be located on paved surfaces, and would not be located within a 100-year flood zone or redirect floods. The reservoir would be located at an elevation of 1,396 msl, and would therefore not be located within a flood zone or would redirect floods. No impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.8-9 **Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. Design Area 1 would locate recycled water pipelines beneath the street ROW. As a result they would not expose people or structures to flooding. The proposed pump station would be located in a commercial shopping center. However, as the pump station pumps the recycled water from the Saugus WRP to the RVWTP through the proposed pipelines, the pump station would not contain sufficient amounts of recycled water at any one time. Therefore, Design Area 1 would not expose people to flooding.

Design Area 2 would locate the proposed 36-inch transmission main beneath the Newhall Ranch Road ROW. As this pipeline would be located beneath the ground, the potential to expose people to significant risk would be minimal. Impacts would be less than significant.

Design Area 3 would construct a 1.75-mg reservoir on top of a hillside, just west of the RVWTP. As a result, there would be potential to expose the residential land uses to the south to flooding from structural failure. As a result, the risk of flooding that would adversely affect persons or structures in the immediate area would be minimized by the engineering design features, as specified in the most current CBC standards,[144] required in the design of the reservoir. Impacts are potentially significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would supply the project area with potable water to be used as irrigation. The potable water would be transported through existing pipelines and by existing water facilities. The pipelines are located beneath the ground and would not redirect flows. The existing facilities are not located within the 100-year flood zone because they would be located on hillsides above flood-prone areas to use gravity to transport the potable water. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water pipelines would be located within a street ROW and the pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP facilities. These areas are paved and the construction of the pipelines and pump station would not impact or cause significant flooding that would damage structures or expose people to flood risk. The reservoir would be located within an open space area on a hillside to gravity feed stored recycled water. As the Santa Clarita Valley continues to grow, locations for reservoir tanks would be within increasing urban (residential and commercial) areas. As a result, impacts would potentially be significant due to higher densities of residents near potential reservoirs.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements. As described above, this alternative would supply the project area with recycled water from the Saugus WRP.

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144 California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2 - California Building Code, 2007.

The construction of this alternative would be located within street ROW (pipelines), a commercial shopping center (pump station), and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. As described above, the pipelines would be located beneath paved streets and the pump station would be located on paved surfaces. However, the pump station would not contain significant amounts of recycled water to damage structures through flooding. Impacts would be less than significant.

The proposed reservoir site would be potential to expose the residential land uses to the south to flooding from structural failure. As a result, the risk of flooding that would adversely affect persons or structures in the immediate area would be minimized by the engineering design features, as specified in the most current CBC standards,[145] required in the design of the reservoir. Impacts would potentially be significant.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The regulatory requirement has been implemented in the RWMP Program EIR and shall be implemented for appropriate alternatives:

PEIR RR 3.8-4 ~~All~~ The proposed reservoir tank~~s~~ shall be located and designed to be in compliance with the UBC (or local codes and conditions if they are more stringent), American Water Works Association, and American National Standards Institute specifications to ensure that reservoir tank construction would be designed to withstand potential seismic activity.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

[145] California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2 - California Building Code, 2007.

Impact 4.3.8-10 Experience inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of the proposed project does not involve placing people or structures at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow for any of the design areas, as there would not be large reservoirs and because it is not located near a large body of water, such as a lake or ocean. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative does not involve placing people or structures at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow for any of the existing potable water facilities because they are not located near a large body of water, such as a lake or ocean. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of the this alternative would be located between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center and would not involve placing people or structures at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow for any of the components (pipelines, pump station, and reservoir), as there would not be large open reservoirs and because it is not located near a large body of water, such as a lake or ocean. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative would be similar to the proposed project. It would not involve placing people or structures at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow for any of the proposed pipelines, the pump station, or the reservoir as there would not be any large open reservoirs and because it is not located near a large body of water, such as a lake or ocean. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Wild Scenic Rivers Act/Floodplain Management

Potential impacts related to hydrology and water quality associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant, less than significant with mitigation or have no impact. The Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to altering drainage patterns that would result in erosion and off-site flooding, and the exposure of people to flooding as a result of the failure of the reservoir; compliance with regulatory requirements and implementation of mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would not have impacts related to hydrology and water quality. The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to altering drainage patterns that would result in erosion and off-site flooding, and the exposure of people to flooding as a result of the failure of the reservoir; compliance with regulatory requirements and implementation of mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would require mitigation to reduce impacts related to altering drainage patterns that would result in erosion and off-site flooding, and the exposure of people to flooding as a result of the failure of the reservoir; compliance with regulatory requirements and implementation of mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

A 0.46 mgd reduction in discharge from the Saugus WRP would be within the range of daily variability for Saugus WRP discharges. A discharge reduction in discharge of 0.5 mgd would reduce river flow by 0.7 cfs, leaving a base flow of 6.3 cfs in the river; such a discharge reduction would reduce correspondingly channel depth and width of the river downstream. However, as the reduction in flows is within the normal range of variability for the Saugus WRP, changes in channel depth and width is not considered to be substantial relative to existing variable conditions, and any impacts would be less than significant. Although a reduced discharge analysis for the Valencia WRP was not completed, it is assumed that reductions in flow from the Valencia WRP would have similar impacts as that of the proposed project. Under this alternative, approximately 0.46 mgd would be diverted to the Phase 2A water recycling project. This diversion within similar operating variability for the Valencia WRP and would not be considered significant.

Federal regulations that would apply to hydrology and water quality impacts would include Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11988; and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Under NEPA impacts relating to flooding where found to be less than significant. There would be no impact to a scenic river.

4.3.9 Land Use and Planning

Environmental Setting

The project area is located over 25 miles from the Pacific Ocean and the California coastline. Therefore, the Coastal Zone Management Act[146] and the Coastal Barrier Resources Act would not apply.[147] The project area general plan land use designations and zones are described in **Section 3.0, Environmental Setting**.

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on land use and planning if it would

- physically divide an established community;
- conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect; or
- conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

Impact 4.3.9-1 Physically divide an established community

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project is analyzed in three design areas. Design Area 1 would be located within a commercial shopping center, Design Area 2 would be located within the Newhall Ranch Road ROW, and Design Area 3 would be located adjacent to the RVWTP. The proposed project is considered a public infrastructure improvement project that would serve existing and future communities throughout the CLWA service area. Upon implementation, these recycled water facilities would support and enhance existing land uses by providing the opportunity for recycled water use. There are no facilities proposed by the proposed project that could physically divide an established community. No impact would occur.

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146 US Code, Title 16, Section 1453, Coast Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended through the Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1996.

147 US Code, Title 16, Section 3501, Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use existing potable water transport and storage facilities. As they are already in place and there would be no new construction, this alternative would not physically divide an established community. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would develop recycled water pipelines, which would be located beneath the street ROW, plus a pump station at the Valencia WRP and a reservoir on an open space hillside. These facilities would not physically divide an established community because they would be located within areas that are not heavily seen or used. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would be located within a street ROW, a commercial center, and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. The pipelines would be located beneath ground, the pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center, and the reservoir would be adjacent to the RVWTP facility. Each component would be consistent with the surrounding land uses, and no impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.9-2 **Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Per Section 53091 of the California Government Code, state law does not apply specific local zoning, building, or permit requirements to this type of CLWA project.[148] Development of the proposed

148 California Government Code, Section 53091(d) and (e).

project would serve locally approved development and would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations. No impact would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use existing potable water transport and storage facilities. As these facilities are already in place and in use, they would comply within local regulations, zoning, and land uses. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. As described above in the proposed project analysis, the construction and operation of this alternative would not have to comply with the local regulations. Development of the proposed project would serve locally approved development and would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would be located within a street ROW, a commercial center, and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. As previously mentioned, this alternative would be regulated under California Government Code and would not have to comply with local regulations. Development of the proposed project would serve locally approved development and would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations. No impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.9-3 Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. No habitat conservation or other natural community plans apply to the project site. No impact would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The implementation of this alternative would not conflict with applicable habitat conservation plans (HCP) or natural conservation plans (NCP). No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would be constructed and would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. The implementation of this alternative would not conflict with applicable HCPs or NCPs. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would be located within the City of Santa Clarita. The proposed pipelines would be located within a street ROW, the pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center, and the reservoir would be located west of the RVWTP sludge drying beds. The pipelines and the pump station would not be located within urban areas where there is a known HCP or NCP. The reservoir is also not known to be within an HCP or NCP and would, therefore, not conflict with one. No impacts would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Coastal Zone Management Act/Coastal Barrier Resources

Potential impacts related to land use or planning issues associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact.

Federal regulations that would specifically relate to the alternatives would include the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Under NEPA, no impacts would occur to coastal resources.

4.3.10 Mineral Resources

Environmental Setting

The mineral resources addressed in this section are those resources that are classified under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975. SMARA requires the State Mining and Geology Board to adopt state policy for the reclamation of mined lands and conservation of natural resources.[149]

There are no known oil fields located within the City of Santa Clarita.[150]

Geological survey areas known as Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) are classified according to the presence or absence of significant mineral deposits, as defined below. These classifications indicate the potential for a specific area to contain significant mineral resources.

- MRZ-1: Areas where available geologic information indicates there is little or no likelihood for presence of significant mineral resources.
- MRZ-2a: Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic data indicate that significant measured or indicated resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2a contain discovered mineral deposits as determined by such evidence as drilling records, sample analysis, surface exposure, and mine information. Land included in the MRZ-2a category is of prime importance because it contains known economic mineral deposits.
- MRZ-2b: Areas underlain by mineral deposits where geologic information indicates that significant inferred resources are present. Areas classified MRZ-2b contain discovered mineral deposits that are either inferred reserves as determined by limited sample analysis, exposure, and past mining history or are deposits that presently are sub-economic. Further exploration and/or changes in technology or economics could result in upgrading areas classified MRZ-2b to MRZ-2a.
- MRZ-3a: Areas containing known mineral occurrences of undetermined mineral resource significance. Further exploration within these areas could result in the reclassification of specific localities as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b.
- MRZ-3b: Areas containing inferred mineral occurrences of undetermined mineral resource significance. Land classified MRZ-3b represents areas in geologic settings that appear to be favorable environments for the occurrence of specific mineral deposits. Further exploration could result in the reclassification of all or part of these areas as MRZ-3a or specific localities as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b.
- MRZ-4: Areas of no known mineral occurrences where geologic information does not rule out the presence or absence of significant mineral resources.

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149 California Public Resources Code, Section 2710, "Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975."

150 City of Santa Clarita, *One Valley One Vision*, "Conservation and Open Space Element," Figure CO-9, 2008.

MRZ-2 areas are concentrated along waterways, such as the Santa Clara River within and outside the City boundaries, as well as State Route 126, Castaic Creek, and east of Sand Canyon Road**.** As of 2008, there are approximately 18,868 acres designated for mineral extraction of aggregate minerals (sand, gravel, and rock) along the banks of the Santa Clara River and some of its tributaries.[151]

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on mineral resources if it would

- result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state; or
- 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.

Impact 4.3.10-1 Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. As seen in **Figure 4**, the proposed project would be located within commercial and residential urban areas, a street ROW, and adjacent to the RVWTP facilities. Design Area 3 contains a large area of open space; however, as identified above in **Environmental Setting**, the areas of known mineral resources, MRZ-2, are primarily located along the Santa Clara River. Construction of the proposed recycled water pipeline would not occur within the Santa Clara River; therefore, no impacts would occur on loss known mineral resource areas. As described above, there are no known oil fields within the project area and, therefore, there would be no impacts on the loss of known oil resources.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use existing potable water transport and storage facilities. As there would be no new construction, potable water facilities would not impact known MRZ-2 areas.

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151 Impact Sciences. GIS-estimated acreages from Figure 3.10-1 (of the OVOV planning process) prepared by the City of Santa Clarita. 2008.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Potential mineral resources, which are located within the bed of the Santa Clara River and certain tributaries, would not be affected by this alternative because it would be constructed between the area of the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center and not within streambeds. Therefore, implementation of this alternative would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources in the project area. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would be located within a street ROW, a commercial center, and adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. Known MRZ-2 areas are located within the Santa Clara River and its tributaries. Therefore, this alternative would not impact MRZ-2 areas.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required.

Impact 4.3.10-2 **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**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. As noted previously, construction of the proposed recycled water pipeline would not occur within the Santa Clara River, so no impacts would occur on loss known mineral resource areas. As described above, there are no known oil fields within the project area; therefore, there would be no impacts on the loss of known oil resources. There are no other mineral resource recovery sites within the project area on a local land use plan. There would be no impact.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. There would be no new construction, potable water facilities would not impact known MRZ-2 areas. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. As previously noted, the potential mineral resources, which are located within the bed of the Santa Clara River and certain tributaries, would not be affected by this alternative. There are no other mineral resource recovery sites within the project area on a local land use plan. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, no known MRZ-2 areas would be impacted. There are no other mineral resource recovery sites within the project area on a local land use plan. No impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts related to mineral resources associated with each of the alternatives have no impact.

4.3.11 Noise

Environmental Setting

Background

In this impact analysis, sound is described in terms of the sound pressure (amplitude) and frequency (similar to pitch). Sound pressure is a direct measure of the magnitude of a sound without consideration for other factors that may influence its perception. The range of sound pressures that occur in the environment is so large that it is convenient to express them as sound pressure levels on a logarithmic scale. The standard unit of measurement of sound is the decibel (dB), which describes the pressure of a sound relative to a reference pressure.

The frequency (pitch) of a sound is expressed as Hertz (Hz) or cycles per second. The human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies, with some frequencies judged to be louder for a given signal than others. As a result, various methods of frequency weighting have been developed.

The most common weighting is the A-weighted noise curve (dB(A)), which approximates the sensitivity of the human ear. In the A-weighted decibel, everyday sounds normally range from 30 dB(A) (very quiet) to 100 dB(A) (very loud).

Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL), is a 24-hour, time-weighted noise level based on the A-weighted decibel. It is a measure of the overall noise experienced during an entire day. The term "time-weighted" refers to the penalties attached to noise events occurring during certain sensitive periods. In the CNEL scale, 5 dB are added to measured noise levels occurring between the hours of 7:00 PM and 10:00 PM. Ten dB are added to measured noise levels occurring between the hours of 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM. These decibel adjustments are an attempt to account for the higher sensitivity to noise in the evening and nighttime hours, and the expected lower ambient noise levels during these periods.

Groundborne vibration is generally limited to areas within a few hundred feet of certain types of construction activities, especially pile driving. Road vehicles rarely create enough groundborne vibration to be perceptible to humans unless the road surface is poorly maintained and there are potholes or bumps. If traffic, typically heavy trucks, induces perceptible vibration in buildings, such as window rattling or shaking of small loose items, then it is most likely an effect of low-frequency airborne noise or ground characteristics.

Motor vehicles currently represent the predominant noise source in the project area. Other potential noise sources would include temporary noise from construction related activities.

Existing Noise

Existing sensitive receptors adjacent to the project site include single-family residential uses and Bridgeport Park within Design Area 1, and single-family residential uses such as Bridgeport Village and River Village within portions of Design Area 2. Stationary source noises in the City are regulated under the municipal code and are not expected to result in significant impacts. Design Area 3 would include Central Park, located north of the RVWTP. The topography of the site varies from 1,430 feet msl at the RVWTP facility to 1,230 feet msl at Central Park, for a change in elevation of 200 feet.

The existing measure for sound within the City is based on dB(A). The ambient noise levels for three different locations, as seen in **Figure 10, Noise Locations**, were determined to be 50 dB(A) for a 24-hour period at Location 1, 66 dB(A) for a 24-hour period at Location 2, and 54 dB(A) for a 24-hour period at Location 3 (see **Appendix 4.3.11**).[152]

[152] Noise monitors were used to determine the 24-hour dB(A) during the time period of July 22 to July 23 by Impact Sciences, Inc.

SOURCE: Google Earth - 2009; Impact Sciences, Inc. - August 2009

FIGURE **10**

Noise Locations

1035-001•10/10

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on noise if it would

- expose people to or generate of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies;
- expose people to or generate excessive groundborne vibration of groundborne noise levels;
- cause a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project;
- cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project;
- be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, which would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels; or
- be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, which would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Impact 4.3.11-1 **Expose people to or generate of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described in **Section 2.0,** the proposed project passes near multiple land uses, including commercial, residential, parks, and open space uses. The project would use typical construction devices, such as a trenching equipment, pavers, etc., that would potentially impact the surrounding land uses. The ambient noise levels for three locations were determined to be 50 dB(A) for a 24-hour period at Location 1, 66 dB(A) for a 24-hour period at Location 2, and 54 dB(A) for a 24-hour period at Location 3.[153] The area along Newhall Ranch Road has a high ambient noise level due to the amount of traffic that travels along this area.

[153] Noise monitors were used to determine the 24-hour CNEL during the time period of July 22 to July 23 by Impact Sciences, Inc.

As identified in **Section 3.2, Applicable Planning Documents**, the City of Santa Clarita has developed standards for construction noises. The City guidelines for residential land uses are 65 dB(A) during the day and 55 dB(A) during the night. Commercial noise limits are 80 dB(A) during the day and 70 dB(A) during the night. Adherence to these noise guidelines would minimize construction noise impacts.

During the Design Area 1 and Design Area 2 implementation process, adjacent sensitive receptors would be exposed to sporadic high noise levels and groundborne vibration associated with construction activities. **Table 6, Typical Construction Equipment**, indicates the noise levels associated with common construction equipment.

Construction activities would occur during normal workday time frames except where the pipeline would need to cross streets. For those portions of the project that would require crossing the street, construction activities may occur after 7:00 PM and before 7:00 AM to avoid conflicts and delays in traffic. As such, construction equipment would operate and generate noise that may exceed the City's thresholds. Construction noise would therefore be potentially significant, but temporary.

Table 6
Typical Construction Equipment

Equipment	Weighted Sound Level (dB(A) at 50 feet)
Front Loaders	71–96
Backhoes	71–94
Tractors	73–96
Scrapers, graders	76–96
Trucks	69–96
Generators	69–96
Pneumatic wrenches	83–89
Jackhammers and drills	76–98

Source: Castaic Lake Water Agency, Recycled Water Master Plan, Volume 1, (2006) 3.11-6.

Noise levels associated with the construction of Design Area 3 would vary during the construction period, depending upon the location of the proposed project. Site preparation is generally the noisiest stage with the shortest duration, and would include excavation, earth moving, and soils compaction. High groundborne noise levels and other miscellaneous noise levels could be generated by the operation of heavy-duty trucks, backhoes, bulldozers, excavators, front-end loaders, compactors, scrapers and other heavy-duty construction equipment.

As this area does not require construction within streets or other areas that would need to be temporarily closed, construction would occur during the hours as limited by the City's noise ordinance. Impacts would be less than significant.

In addition to construction noise from the reservoir site, the construction periods would also cause increased noise along access routes to the site due to the movement of equipment and workers to and from on the site. The primary heavy construction equipment and vehicles are expected to be moved on site during the initial construction period, and would have a less than significant short-term noise impact on nearby roadways. Daily transportation of construction workers would not be a substantial percentage of current daily traffic volumes in the area and would not be anticipated to increase traffic noise levels by more than 1 dB(A). This would be considered less than significant and temporary.

The operation of the proposed project would include pumping the recycled water from the Saugus WRP to the RVWTP. The only operational noise source would be generated by the pump station. As described in **Section 2.3**, the pump station would located within a commercial shopping center and would be constructed and housed in a single story building made of split-face concrete masonry block. Therefore, the pump station would be designed and constructed to not exceed 80 dB(A) during the day and 70 dB(A) during night. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would supply the project area with potable water for irrigation. It would make use of existing water pipelines and water facilities. As a result, there would be no construction or increase in the ambient noise levels.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Implementation of this alternative would develop recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir. As a result, temporary noise impacts would result during the construction of all three components. As the pipelines would be located within the street ROW, the pipeline route could potentially be located near sensitive noise receptors. The pump station would be located in the Valencia WRP and would be constructed similar to the rest of the plant. Impacts would be potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would be constructed within a street ROW and would be located near sensitive receptors Bridgeport Elementary and Bridgeport Park. As such, potential construction noise impacts would result. Impacts would be potentially significant.

The proposed pump station would be constructed in a single-story masonry building within a commercial shopping center. The pump station would therefore have less than significant impacts.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures, adopted in the RWMP Program EIR, are applicable to the appropriate alternatives and shall be implemented:

PEIR MM 3.11-1 For facilities being constructed within the City of Santa Clarita, the construction contractor shall limit exterior construction related activities to the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM Monday through Friday, and 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM on Saturday. Construction shall not occur on Sundays or Federal holidays. Operation of the proposed pump station ~~all RWMP components~~ shall be in compliance with the City's Municipal Code, Chapter 11.44, Noise Limits.

PEIR MM 3.11-2 The contractor shall locate all stationary noise-generating equipment as far as possible from nearby noise-sensitive receptors. Where possible, noise-generating equipment shall be shielded from nearby noise-sensitive receptors by noise-attenuating buffers. Stationary noise sources located less than 500 feet from noise-sensitive receptors shall be equipped with noise reducing engine housings. Portable acoustic barriers shall be placed around noise-generating equipment that is located less than 200 feet from noise-sensitive receptors.

PEIR MM 3.11-3 The contractor shall assure that construction equipment powered by gasoline or diesel engines have sound control devices at least as effective as those provided by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). No equipment shall be permitted to have an unmuffled exhaust.

PEIR MM 3.11-4 The contractor shall assure that noise-generating mobile equipment and machinery are shut-off when not in use.

PEIR MM 3.11-5 Residences within 500 feet of a construction area shall be notified of the construction schedule in writing, at least 24 hours prior to construction. The CLWA and the contractor shall designate a noise disturbance point of contact who would be responsible for responding to complaints regarding construction noise. The point of contact shall determine the cause of the complaint and ensure that reasonable measures are implemented to correct the problem. A contact number for the noise disturbance shall be conspicuously placed on construction site fences and written into the construction notification schedule sent to nearby residences.

Impact 4.3.11-2 **Expose people to or generate excessive groundborne vibration of groundborne noise levels.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The proposed project would develop recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir. The primary and most intensive vibration source associated with the development of the project would be the use of jack hammers during construction. These types of equipment can create intense noise that is disturbing and can result in ground vibrations. The results from vibration can range from no perceptible effects at the lowest vibration levels to low rumbling sounds and perceptible vibrations at moderate levels, and to slight structural damage at the highest levels. Ground vibrations from construction activities rarely reach the levels that can damage structures, but they can achieve the audible and perceptible ranges in buildings close to the construction site. As a result, temporary vibration impacts would result during the construction of all three project components.

As the pipelines would be located within the street ROW, groundborne vibration would not result in increases beyond several tens of feet impacts would be less than significant on nearby receptors. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center and housed within a single-story building. The operation of the pump station would occur over the long term and would generate minimal vibration, but its location would not result in increases that would be noticeable to off-site receptors. Off-site receptors would include residential dwelling units, hospitals, and schools. There are no other operational aspects of the project that would generate substantial amounts of noise.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would supply the project area with potable water for irrigation. It would make use of existing water pipelines and water facilities. As a result, there would be no construction or increase in the ambient vibration levels.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Implementation of this alternative would develop recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir. Temporary vibration impacts would result during the construction of all three project components. As described in **Impact 4.3.11-2**, the pipelines would be located within the street ROW, groundborne vibration would not result in increases beyond several tens of feet and would not impact nearby receptors. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center and housed within a single-story building. The operation of the pump station would generate minimal vibration during operation over the long term, but its location would not result in increases that would be noticeable to off-site receptors. Construction impacts would potentially be significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would be constructed within a street ROW and would be located near sensitive receptors Bridgeport Elementary and Bridgeport Park. As such, potential groundborne vibration impacts could result. The results from vibration can range from no perceptible effects at the lowest vibration levels to low rumbling sounds and perceptible vibrations at moderate levels, and to slight structural damage at the highest levels. Ground vibrations from construction activities rarely reach the levels that can damage structures, but they can achieve the audible and perceptible ranges in buildings close to the construction site. As a result, potential construction noise impacts could occur near sensitive receptors.

The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center and housed within a single-story building. The operation of the pump station would occur over the long term and would generate minimal vibration, but its location would not result in increases that would be noticeable to off-site receptors including residential dwelling units, hospitals, and schools. There are no other operational aspects of the project that would generate substantial amounts of noise.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.11-1** through **PEIR MM 3.11-5** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.11-3 **Cause a permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The proposed project would construct recycled water pipelines beneath a street ROW. Therefore, there would not be a permanent increase in ambient noise levels within these areas. The pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center and would be placed within a small one-story building. This structure would comply with the zoning ordinance for Community Commercial land uses. As the pump station would operate intermittently over a 24-hour period, there could be a permanent increase in ambient noise levels. However, as the pump station would be housed in a one-story structure, noise would be minimal. The proposed reservoir would be located west of the RVWTP facility. This reservoir would store up to 1.75 mg of recycled water and would not increase permanent ambient noise levels. Impacts are less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would transport potable water to the project area using existing water pipelines and facilities. As a result there would be no increase in permanent ambient noise levels because there would be no new construction of potable water facilities to supply this area. No impact will occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water. As described above, the pipelines would be located beneath the street ROW and would not increase permanent ambient noise levels. The pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP and would therefore not substantially increase permanent noise levels within this facility. The reservoir would be located on a hillside and would not produce permanent ambient noise. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described in **Section 2.4**, this alternative would located the pipelines beneath the street ROW, the pump station in a commercial shopping center, and the reservoir west of the RVWTP sludge drying beds.

The pipelines and reservoir would not produce additional ambient noise levels. As the pump station would operate intermittently over a 24-hour period, there could be a permanent increase in ambient noise levels. However, as the pump station would be housed in a one story structure, noise would be minimal. The proposed reservoir would be located west of the RVWTP facility. This reservoir would store up to 1.75 mg of recycled water and would not increase permanent ambient noise levels. Impacts are less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.11-4 Cause a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As previously discussed, the proposed project would create a temporary and periodic increase in ambient noise levels. However, as the proposed project would locate pipelines beneath the street ROW and a pump station in a community commercial shopping center, these impacts would not be noticeable.

For areas of the pipeline that are adjacent to sensitive receptors (such as the school site and residences), activities would occur during normal working hours as allowed by the City's noise ordinance. For areas that would require after-hours construction (such as street crossings), noise impacts during construction could exceed the City's thresholds; however, these would be temporary and short term. Because the potential exists for construction activities to exceed the City's noise threshold, impacts are potentially significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would supply the project area with potable water for irrigation. It would make use of existing water pipelines and water facilities. As a result, there would be no construction or increase in the ambient noise levels.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Implementation of this alternative would develop recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir. Temporary noise impacts would result during the construction of all three components. As the pipelines would be located within the street ROW, the pipeline route could potentially be located near sensitive noise receptors. The pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP and, therefore, not near sensitive noise receptors.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As seen in **Figure 8**, this alternative would be constructed within a street ROW and located near sensitive receptors Bridgeport Elementary and Bridgeport Park. As such, potential temporary construction noise impacts would result. Once operational, the project would not generate substantial noise in the area.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures **PEIR MM 3.11-1** through **PEIR MM 3.11-5** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.11-5 **Be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, which would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. As previously discussed in the **Hazards and Hazardous Materials** section, the proposed project is located 11 miles west of the Agua Dulce Airpark. As the Agua Dulce Airpark is over 2 miles from the project area, there would be no impact.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The nearest airports to the Santa Clarita Valley are the Agua Dulce Airpark (located in Agua Dulce) northeast 11 miles of the project area, and the Whiteman Airport located 12 miles south of the project area. As this alternative is over 2 miles from either of these airports, there would be no impact.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative would supply recycled water to users located between the Valencia City Center and the I-5 freeway. The nearest airport is located 12 miles south of this area. Therefore, there would be no excessive noise impacts on workers within 2 miles of an airport. There would be no impact.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative is located over 11 miles southwest of the Agua Dulce Airpark. As the distance is greater than 2 miles, there would be no impact.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.11-6 Be located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, which would expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. As previously discussed in the **Hazards and Hazardous Materials** section, the proposed project is located 11 miles west of the Agua Dulce Airpark. As the proposed project area is over 2 miles from the airpark, there would be no impact.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The nearest airports to the Santa Clarita Valley are the Agua Dulce Airpark (located in Agua Dulce) northeast 11 miles of the project area, and the Whiteman Airport located 12 miles south of the project area. As this alternative is over 2 miles from either airport, there would be no impact.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative would supply recycled water to users located between the Valencia City Center and the I-5 freeway. The nearest airport is located 12 miles south of this area.

Therefore, there would be no excessive noise impacts on workers within 2 miles of an airport. There would be no impact.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative is located over 11 miles southwest of the Agua Dulce Airpark. As the distance is greater than 2 miles, there would be no impact.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Impacts related to noise during construction of the proposed project and certain alternatives may result; however, implementation of mitigation mitigations would reduce these impacts to less than significant.

4.3.12 Population and Housing

Environmental Setting

The 2009 population for the City of Santa Clarita is 177,150.[154] The 2015 projected population for the City is 193,886.[155] As seen in **Figure 3**, the majority of the project would be constructed through a street ROW and bounded by urban development. River Village is a residential community that is partially developed and is located south of the RVWTP across Newhall Ranch Road.

Environmental justice[156] issues are related to a minority or low-income population that has or will be exposed to more than its fair share of pollution or environmental degradation if a project is implemented. The project site is located in an area where the existing community population had a median income over $84,000 in 2008. Development is primarily single-family residential.

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154 California Department of Finance, *E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2001-2009, with 2000 Benchmark*, May 2009.

155 Southern California Association of Governments, *2008 Adopted Growth Forecast, City of Santa Clarita*, accessed in August 2009.

156 Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, 1994.

The project site is not located within a neighborhood that suffers from exposure to adverse human health or environmental conditions (Refer to the discussion under **Section 4.3.12, Population and Housing**). This project is considered a benefit to the existing population in that it will provide supplement the use of potable water supplies for irrigation with recycled water which would meet health and safety requirements for the use of recycled water.

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on population and housing if it would

- 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);
- displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere; or
- displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Impact 5.3.12-1 **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)**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described in the RWMP, the population of the City of Santa Clarita is expected to grow. With this growth the use of potable water as irrigation would be supplemented with recycled water. The proposed project would supply 511 afy, or 0.46 mgd, of recycled water to users within the project area. The 511 afy of recycled water would contribute to the previously approved 17,400 afy, or 3 percent of the total approved, of recycled water for the CLWA service area.[157] The proposed project would meet the objective of the RWMP and the 2005 UWMP to supplement potable water supplies with recycled water supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

It is assumed that the RWMP could make additional potable water available to a portion of the CLWA service area. Because 1,700 afy has already been approved for use through previously certified environmental documents, the RWMP would account for the use of 15,700 additional afy of recycled water that had not previously been available (17,400 acre-feet (af) – 1,700 af = 15,700 af). This would

157 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 4-13.

supply potable water for approximately 43,960 persons and 13,443 housing units over the course of approximately 30 years.[158] Impacts would be significant because the proposed project could indirectly induce population growth in the CLWA service area. However, this potential indirect impact could be reduced to less than significant through regulation by the local City land use plans and policies and subsequent CEQA analysis to determine growth of the City.[159]

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

Impacts would be less than significant. Under this alternative, all water needs of the service area of Phase 2A would have to be met with potable water supplies, not with recycled water. As the project area is almost entirely urbanized the, of potable water supplies would not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth. The River Village residential area is currently under construction with lots completed.[160] Impacts would be less than significant.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The implementation of this alternative would include 62,000 feet of pipeline, a 6,500-gpm pump at the Valencia recycled water pump station, and a 3.5-mg reservoir. The alternative would provide approximately 1,236 afy of recycled water. The location of this alternative would be between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. This area is urbanized and contains residential and commercial uses.

As described in the approved RWMP, the implementation of the RWMP would potentially indirectly induce population growth through the supplement of potable water use with recycled water use.[161] This alternative would contribute to achieving the goal of providing 17,400 afy of recycled water to the CLWA service area, and it would be up to the local City land use plans and policies to determine growth of the City. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described in the RWMP, the population of the City of Santa Clarita is expected to grow. With this growth the use of potable water as irrigation would be supplemented with recycled water.

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158 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 4-13.

159 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 3.12-2.

160 The SCV Agents.com, "River Village," http://www.thescvagent.com/Santa_Clarita_New_Homes/page_1507808.html, accessed in August 2009.

161 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 4-13.

This alternative would supply 511 afy of recycled water to users within the project area. The 511 afy of recycled water would contribute to the previously approved 17,400 afy of recycled water for the CLWA service area.[162] This alternative would meet the objective of the RWMP and the 2005 UWMP to supplement potable water supplies with recycled water supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.12-2 Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Design Area 1 would construct pipelines and a pump station within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center and would connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral, which crosses the Santa Clara River. Design Area 2 would locate the proposed 36-inch transmission main beneath the Newhall Ranch Road ROW and would connect to the 36-inch Honby Bypass and then the 33-inch Honby Lateral pipeline. Design Area 3 would connect a 20-inch reservoir pipeline to the proposed 36-inch transmission main and would travel north to connect to the proposed reservoir and then further north to connect to Central Park. Construction and operation of Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3 would not displace any housing because no existing housing structures would be impacted. No impact would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this alternative, irrigation of the project area would through the use of potable water. As the potable water facilities already exist for this area, there would be no impact on displace any housing necessitating the construction of replacement of housing.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would expand the 6,000 gpm of the Valencia recycled water pump station, and construct 62,000 feet of pipelines and a 3.5-mg reservoir.

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162 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 4-13.

Pipeline construction would be located within existing street ROW and the 3.5-mg reservoir would be constructed on a vacant hillside. Construction of this alternative would not displace housing. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described in **Section 2.4.4, North Pipeline Alignment Alternative,** and seen in **Figure 8**, the distribution pipelines would be located within the street ROW. The reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds and the pump station would be located within the commercial shopping center located southeast of the Valencia Boulevard/Bouquet Canyon Road intersection. As a result, there would be no displacement of housing that would necessitate the construction of housing elsewhere. No impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.12-3 Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Design Area 1 would construct pipelines and a pump station within the Valencia Mart Shopping Center and would connect to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral, which crosses the Santa Clara River. Design Area 2 would locate the proposed 36-inch transmission main beneath the Newhall Ranch Road ROW and would connect to the 36-inch Honby Bypass and then the 33-inch Honby Lateral pipeline. Design Area 3 would connect a 20-inch reservoir pipeline to the proposed 36-inch transmission main and would travel north to connect to the proposed reservoir and then further north to connect to Central Park. Construction and operation of Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3 would not displace any persons. No impact would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. Under this alternative, irrigation of the project area would be through the use of potable water. As the potable water facilities already exist for this area, there would be no displacement of any persons. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would expand the 6,000 gpm of the Valencia recycled water pump station, and construct 62,000 feet of pipelines and a 3.5-mg reservoir. Pipeline construction would be located within an existing street ROW, and the 3.5-mg reservoir would be constructed on a vacant hillside. Construction of this alternative would not displace persons. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described in **Section 2.4.4, North Pipeline Alignment Alternative**, and seen in **Figure 8**, the distribution pipelines would be located within the street ROW. The reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds, and the pump station would be located within the commercial shopping center located southeast of the Valencia Boulevard/Bouquet Canyon Road intersection. As a result, there would be no displacement of persons. No impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Environmental Justice

As described in the approved RWMP, the implementation of the proposed project would potentially indirectly induce population growth through the supplement of potable water use with recycled water use.[163] The proposed project and alternatives would contribute to achieving the goal of providing 17,400 afy of recycled water to the CLWA service area; 1,700 afy of recycled water has already been approved for use through previously certified environmental documents.[164] Impacts would be

163 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 4-13.

164 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 3.12-2.

significant because the proposed project could indirectly induce population growth in the CLWA service area. However, this potential indirect impact could be reduced to less than significant through regulation by the local City land use plans and policies and subsequent CEQA analysis to determine growth of the City.[165]

There would be no impact with regard to displacing population or housing associated with the proposed project and each of the alternatives.

The following federal regulation, Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice was used to analyze impacts in regard to population and housing. Under NEPA, no impacts were found in regard to population and housing.

4.3.13 Public Services

Environmental Setting

The law enforcement services for project area are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The fire protection for the project area is provided by Battalion 6 of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.[166] The Saugus Union School District provides education for kindergarten through grade 6 and the William S. Hart Union High School District provides education for grade 7 through grade 12. Other public facilities that serve the City would include the libraries. The County of Los Angeles Public Library operates three libraries within the City (Newhall Library, Canyon Country Jo Anne Darcy Library, and Valencia Library).

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on population and housing.

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

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165 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 3.12-2.

166 Los Angeles County Fire Department, "Hometown Fire Stations, Battalion 6," http://www.fire.lacounty.gov /HometownFireStations/HometownFireStations.asp#Battalion06, 2009.

– Other governmental services?

Impact 4.3.13-1 **Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, and libraries?**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The implementation of the proposed project would not result in direct population growth requiring additional public facilities, as the recycled water supply would not be used for potable residential purposes. Implementation of the proposed project would not require the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities.

As described in **Section 4.3.12, Population and Housing**, the proposed project has a potential for indirect population growth. Increased demand for services from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (which also contracts with the City of Santa Clarita to provide services), the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol could occur. This would include additional staffing, facilities and equipment, and could affect response times to handle calls for service.[167] Indirect impacts could be significant since the new development could require new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

Increased demand for services from the Los Angeles and Ventura County Fire Departments and from private providers of emergency response and paramedic services for additional staffing, facilities, and equipment could occur and could affect response times to handle calls for service. In addition, state and County fire codes, standards, and guidelines exist to which all developments must adhere.[168] Indirect impacts could be significant, since the new development could require new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

Growth could generate increased enrollments and the need for additional staffing, facilities, and resources in some or all school districts in the CLWA service area.

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167 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft RWMP Program EIR*, 2006, 4-14.

168 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 4-14.

The school districts, as of 2010, educate 48,744 students from kindergarten to grade 12.[169] The school districts design capacity is 53,276 students. There are 10 schools over capacity with the William S. Hart School District the only school district over capacity. New schools built since 2006 have eased the overcrowding to some degree. Additional enrollments would be considered at the time new development is reviewed, and would include input from affected school districts. Indirect impacts could be significant, since new schools would likely have to be built, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts.

Growth could generate increased demand for library services and associated need for staffing, facilities, and resources (books, magazines, periodicals, etc.) in some or all libraries in the CLWA service area. The County of Los Angeles Public Library has guidelines of service which include 2.75 library items per capita and 0.5 square feet per capita. Indirect impacts on libraries are considered to be significant based on current shortages (since additional libraries would likely have to be built) and could cause significant environmental impacts.

Indirect impacts to public services could be mitigated to less than significant if the local government implements the policies of the City of Santa Clarita General Plan since it contains adequate measures to reduce or avoid such impacts. These policies are identified in the Land Use Element (policy 1.2 to 1.5) and Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element (policies 1.2 to 1.5, 1.14, 1.16 to 1.18, 2.1, and 2.2). Specific mechanisms for implementing these policies would be determined in the course of project specific environmental review, as required by CEQA. Implementation of the adopted City of Santa Clarita General Plan policies would reduce adverse but less than significant indirect project impacts.[170]

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative consists of using potable water to irrigate the project area. The transport and storage of potable water would be through existing facilities and pipelines. As this would not directly induce population growth, there would be no impact on police protection, fire protection, or other governmental facilities.

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169 Information from a electronic communication between Mike Clear, Asst. Superintendent to Business Services, and Chris Hampson, Impact Sciences, Inc. on December 12, 2010; Information via electronic communication between Harold Pierre, Director of Facilities Services, and Chris Hampson, Impact Sciences, Inc. on February 24, 2010; Information from Dianna Harden, Secretary, Sulphur Springs School District, February 11, 2010; Information per electronic communication between Lorna Baril, William S. Hart School District, and Chris Hampson, Impact Sciences, Inc., on May 7, 2010; California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, October 22, 2010.

170 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Land Use Element," (1991); "Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element," 1991.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The implementation of the proposed project would not result in direct population growth requiring additional public facilities, as the recycled water supply would not be used for potable residential purposes. Implementation of the proposed project would not require the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities.

Indirect impacts from induced population growth would potentially be significant on public services due to recycled water supplementing potable water supplies. However with implementation of policies from the Land Use Element (policy 1.2 to 1.5) and Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element (policies 1.2 to 1.5, 1.14, 1.16 to 1.18, 2.1, and 2.2) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[171]

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. The implementation of the proposed project would not result in direct population growth requiring additional public facilities, as the recycled water supply would not be used for potable residential purposes. Implementation of the proposed project would not require the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities or result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities.

Indirect impacts from induced population growth would potentially be significant on public services due to recycled water supplementing potable water supplies. However with implementation of policies from the Land Use Element (policy 1.2 to 1.5) and Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element (policies 1.2 to 1.5, 1.14, 1.16 to 1.18, 2.1, and 2.2) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[172]

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

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171 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Land Use Element," 1991; "Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element," 1991.

172 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Land Use Element,"(1991; "Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element," 1991.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts related to public services associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact.

4.3.14 Parks and Recreation

Environmental Setting

Recreational resources in the CLWA service area consist of state, county/regional, and local parks and designated regional and local recreational trails. The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation provides local parks and recreation facilities for northwestern Los Angeles County residents and provides regional parks for all residents of the County. The City of Santa Clarita provides local parks within the City boundaries. 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.[173]

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on population and housing.

- Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Impact 5.3.14-1 **Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The implementation of the proposed project would not directly result in short-term growth in the project area, and therefore would not directly increase the use of recreational facilities. There would be no impact.

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[173] Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 3.14-1.

However, as described in **Section 4.3.12, Population and Housing**, the proposed project has the potential for indirect population growth. Therefore, significant growth-related impacts to recreational resources may include increased demand for recreational resources, such as public parks and trails and other recreation areas. This demand could exacerbate existing shortfalls in local parkland and may outpace the ability of public agencies to provide these resources. However, the City is required by the Quimby Act to meet the guideline of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.[174] However with implementation of policies from the Parks and Recreation Element (policy 1.4) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[175]

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water. This alternative would not directly induce population into the project area. The project would use recycled water for non-potable uses thereby freeing potable to meet future demands consistent with the 2005 UWMP. There would be no impact.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative would not directly induce population growth; thus, the alternative would not place additional demands and parks and recreational facilities. There would be no impact. However, as described in **Section 4.3.12, Population and Housing**, this alternative has the potential for indirect population growth. Therefore, significant growth-related impacts to recreational resources may include increased demand for recreational resources, such as public parks and trails and other recreation areas. This demand could exacerbate existing shortfalls in local parkland and may outpace the ability of public agencies to provide these resources. However, the City is required by the Quimby Act to meet the guideline of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.[176] However with implementation of policies from the Parks and Recreation Element (policy 1.4) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[177]

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174 California Government Code, Section 66477(2), "Quimby Act."

175 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Parks and Recreation Element," 1991.

176 California Government Code, Section 66477(2), "Quimby Act."

177 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Parks and Recreation Element," 1991.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. The implementation of the proposed project would not directly result in short-term or long-term population growth in the project area, and therefore would not directly increase the use of recreational facilities. There would be no impact. However, as described in **Section 4.3.12, Population and Housing**, the proposed project has the potential for indirect population growth. Therefore, significant growth-related impacts to recreational resources may include increased demand for recreational resources, such as public parks and trails and other recreation areas. This demand could exacerbate existing shortfalls in local parkland and may outpace the ability of public agencies to provide these resources. However, the City is required by the Quimby Act to meet the guideline of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.[178] However with implementation of policies from the Parks and Recreation Element (policy 1.4) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[179]

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.14-2 **Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The implementation of the proposed project would not directly result in short-term growth in the project area, and therefore would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Upon completion, the proposed project would provide recycled water to a future pump station at Central Park; however, this future pump station is not part of this project. Construction to install the pipeline connection to the future pump station site would require temporary excavations in areas of the park but would not interfere with park activities or displace any park structures. Additionally, the pipeline, as part of the connection from the proposed pump station, would cross Bridgeport Park using the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral within the MWD right-of-way that is located on the eastern side of the park to a connection point at the southern side of Newhall Ranch Road.

178 California Government Code, Section 66477(2), "Quimby Act."

179 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Parks and Recreation Element," 1991.

As this portion of the alignment would use existing buried pipelines, there would be no impact to park facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

As described in **Section 4.3.12, Population and Housing**, the proposed project has the potential for indirect population growth. Therefore, significant growth-related impacts to recreational resources may include increased demand for recreational resources, such as public parks and trails and other recreation areas. However with implementation of policies from the Parks and Recreation Element (policy 1.4) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[180]

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water. This alternative would not directly induce population into the project area.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. Implementation of this alternative would not directly induce population growth; thus, it would not place additional demands and parks and recreational facilities. As described in above, this alternative has the potential for indirect population growth. Therefore, significant growth-related impacts to recreational resources may include increased demand for recreational resources, such as public parks and trails and other recreation areas. This demand could exacerbate existing shortfalls in local parkland and may outpace the ability of public agencies to provide these resources. However with implementation of policies from the Parks and Recreation Element (policy 1.4) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[181]

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. The implementation of the proposed project would not directly result in short-term growth in the project area, and therefore would not directly increase the use of recreational facilities. However, as described in **Impact 4.3.14-1**, this alternative has the potential for indirect population growth. Therefore, significant growth-related impacts to recreational resources may include increased demand for recreational resources, such as public parks and trails and other recreation areas.

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180 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Parks and Recreation Element," 1991.

181 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Parks and Recreation Element," 1991.

This demand could exacerbate existing shortfalls in local parkland and may outpace the ability of public agencies to provide these resources. However, the City is required by the Quimby Act to meet the guideline of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.[182] However with implementation of policies from the Parks and Recreation Element (policy 1.4) adopted by the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, potential indirect impacts would be less than significant.[183]

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts related to parks and recreation associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact.

4.3.15 Transportation and Traffic

Environmental Setting

The primary agency responsible for the planning, design, construction, and operation of regional transportation systems in the Santa Clarita Valley is Caltrans District 7. Local roadways are under the jurisdiction of the City of Santa Clarita. Two regional freeways serve the Santa Clarita Valley area. The I-5 freeway traverses the area in a north-south direction on the west side of the City of Santa Clarita and continues south through the Los Angeles metropolitan area. SR-14 serves the eastern part of the area and beyond, connecting the area to the communities of Palmdale and Lancaster.[184]

The nearest airport to the project area is the Agua Dulce Airpark, located approximately 11 miles to the northeast.[185] The closest commercial airport to the project area is the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport, approximately 15 miles from Valencia.

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182 California Government Code, Section 66477(2), "Quimby Act".

183 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Parks and Recreation Element," 1991.

184 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 3.15-1.

185 Google Earth, Inc., 2009.

Passenger bus service is available to most of the service area and is provided by Greyhound, Amtrak, and Santa Clarita Transit. Santa Clarita Transit provides transportation services connecting the communities of Castaic, Val Verde, Valencia, Saugus, Friendly Valley, Canyon Country, and Newhall as well as express service to downtown Los Angeles. In addition, three Metrolink rail stations are located within the CLWA service area.[186]

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on transportation and traffic if it would

- cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections);
- exceed either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways;
- result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks;
- substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment);
- result in inadequate emergency access;
- result in inadequate parking capacity; or
- conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).

Impact 4.3.15-1 **Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. There would be no increase in traffic associated with the operation of the proposed project (with the exception of occasional maintenance-related traffic).

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186 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 3.15-1.

The proposed project is not a substantial trip-generating project, and would therefore not increase the number of trips on existing roadways. The vehicle trips associated with the proposed project would primarily include scheduled maintenance of pipelines, pump station, or the reservoir occasionally throughout the year. These limited trips would not pose a significant impact related to increased traffic or the capacity of the street systems.

Construction-related traffic would be generated during construction of the design areas. Such traffic includes worker vehicles traveling to and from the work site and construction vehicles entering and exiting the site. However, the amount of construction-related traffic required to construct the various components of the proposed project would not significantly contribute to the existing traffic flow and would not significantly impact traffic loads or capacity of the street system. For example, construction of a reservoir tank, which would be one of the largest construction projects in the implementation of the proposed project, would likely generate approximately 150–250 construction-related truck trips over the course of construction (approximately six to eight months).[187] The average daily amount of construction related truck trips would be 2 daily trips [250 trips divide by (the sum of 5 days a week times 4 weeks a month times 6 months) = 2.1]. Daily transportation of construction workers would not be a substantial percentage of current daily traffic volumes in the area and would not be anticipated to increase traffic above current levels of service. The reservoir site would generate less than 15 workers which translates into approximately 30 additional daily trips (one trip each to and from work), resulting in 15 AM and 15 PM peak hour trips. This amount of traffic would not be enough to significantly impact street capacity, volume-to-capacity ratios, or congestion at intersections. Therefore, although the project's construction activities would result in a temporary increase in existing traffic, it would not constitute a substantial increase, so impacts would be less than significant. Once construction activities are complete, traffic would revert to the current conditions.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water for irrigation of the project area. The potable water facilities exist and would be used to implement this alternative. As described above, the water facilities do not generate a significant number of vehicle trips. Occasional maintenance-related trips would be associated with this alternative throughout the year. As a result, there would be no impact.

187 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, Volume I, 2006, 3.15-2.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As described in **Section 2.4**, this alternative would construct recycled water pipeline within the street ROW that would extend from the Valencia WRP to the proposed reservoir tank that would be located on a hillside. The pump station would be located within the Valencia WRP. As previously mentioned, the recycled water components and facilities do not generate additional vehicle trips, except for the occasional maintenance trip. Construction of the reservoir would have the largest amount of generated worker trips. However, as construction is temporary, there would be no permanent increase in vehicle trips. As described above in **Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative**, the average number of construction-related truck trips would be 2 trips per day (one trip each to and from work) with less than 30 additional daily trips by construction workers or 15 AM and 15 PM peak hour trips. This would not substantially impact the existing traffic patterns, and impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As seen in **Figure 8**, the implementation of this alternative would construct recycled water pipelines within a street ROW, a pump station in a commercial shopping center, and a reservoir west of the RVWTP facilities. These facilities do not generate vehicle trips during operation of the recycled water facilities, except for occasional maintenance trips. As described above in **Proposed Project**, the average number of construction-related truck trips would be 2 trips per day (one trip each to and from work) with less than 30 additional daily trips by construction workers or 15 AM and 15 PM peak hour trips. Construction would generate the largest number of worker trips, particularly for the reservoir. However, as this is short term and temporary, impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.15-2 **Exceed either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. As previously discussed, the operation of the proposed project design areas would not be trip generating, with the exception of occasional maintenance trips. Therefore, the project would not individually or cumulatively affect level-of-service standards. Construction activities would temporarily increase traffic associated with worker trips and construction equipment entering and exiting the work sites. The City's ultimate capacity value is an estimate of the physical limit of daily traffic flows (level of service "E") based upon typical suburban peak hour characteristics. This value can vary significantly depending upon volume demand characteristics (i.e., volume of off-peak travel and duration of peak periods) as well as roadway design features (access, spacing, intersection geometrics, etc.). The level of service ranges from 15,000 average daily trips for a collector road to 72,000 average daily trips for a major arterial highway.[188] However, this temporary increase in traffic (2 construction-related truck trips per day [one trip each to and from work] and 30 construction worker related daily trips (or 15 AM and 15 PM peak hour trips) would not be enough to exceed level-of-service thresholds for roads or highways. Impacts would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would use potable water resources in place of recycled water for irrigation in the project area. As previously discussed, the operation of this alternative would not be trip generating, with the exception of occasional maintenance trips. Therefore, the project would not individually or cumulatively affect level-of-service standards. Construction activities would temporarily increase traffic associated with worker trips and construction equipment entering and exiting the work sites (two construction-related truck trips per day). However, this temporary increase in traffic would not be enough to exceed level-of-service thresholds (E) for roads or highways within the City. Impacts would be less than significant.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would provide recycled water to users located between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. As previously discussed, the operation of this alternative would not be trip generating, with the exception of occasional maintenance trips.

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188 *City of Santa Clarita General Plan*, "Circulation Element," Table C-1, "Levels of Service," 1997.

Therefore, the project would not individually or cumulatively affect level-of-service standards. Construction activities would temporarily increase traffic associated with worker trips and construction equipment entering and exiting the work sites. However, this temporary increase in traffic would not be enough to exceed level-of-service thresholds (E) for roads or highways within the City. Impacts would be less than significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. Under this alternative, the recycled pipeline would have a different route than that of the proposed project. Additionally, a different pump station location would be required and would be located within a commercial shopping center. The same location for the reservoir would be used.

As with the proposed project, operation of this alternative would not be trip generating, with the exception of occasional maintenance trips. Therefore, traffic increases resulting from this alternative would not individually or cumulatively affect level-of-service standards. Construction activities would temporarily increase traffic associated with worker trips and construction equipment entering and exiting the work sites (2 average daily construction-related truck trips [one trip each to and from work] and 30 additional worker daily trips or 15 AM and 15 PM peak hour trips). However, this temporary increase in traffic would not be enough to exceed level-of-service thresholds (E) for roads or highways within the City. Impacts would be less than significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.15-3 Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The nearest public use airport to the proposed project is the Agua Dulce Airpark, approximately 11 miles northeast of the project area. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires review of any construction plans and specifications for development proximate to airports that exceed certain height criteria. These minimum height requirements include any construction or alteration of more

than 200 feet above ground level and/or a height greater than an imaginary surface extending outward and upward at a slope of 100 to 1 for a horizontal distance of 20,000 feet from the nearest point of the nearest runway.[189]

The tallest structures proposed in the proposed project would be the reservoir tanks, which at approximately 46 feet in height would not be tall enough to interfere with airport operations or air traffic patterns. The operation of the recycled water system would not involve substantial night lighting, smoke-producing activities, or other facets of a project's operation that could conceivably interfere with air traffic. No impacts would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water for use as irrigation in the project area. The potable water facilities are already in place and would not require additional construction to meet the demands of the project area. These structures would comply with FAA building safety regulations. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Implementation of this alternative would develop recycled water pipelines, a pump station in the Valencia WRP, and a reservoir tank in an elevated open space area, which would be determined during the preliminary design phase for this area. As the reservoir tank would be the tallest structure, it would have to conform to FAA building safety regulations. However, as the reservoir would be less than the 200-foot-structure guideline, there would be no impact.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would provide recycled water to potentially more users than that of the proposed project. The proposed pipelines would extend farther north along street ROW, as described in **Section 2.4**. The pump station would be located in a commercial shopping center and would be housed in a single-story structure. The proposed reservoir would be located west of the RVWTP sludge drying beds and would be 46 feet tall. As this would be the tallest structure for this alternative, which is less than 200 feet in height, there would be no impact on air traffic patterns and safety.

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189 Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics, *California Airport Land Use Planning Handbook*, http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/planning/aeronaut/landuse.html. Accessed in August 2009.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.15-4 **Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment).**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The operation of the proposed project would not generate any hazards due to design features or incompatible uses because the facilities would not alter roadway alignments or generate traffic. The construction of the proposed project design areas could create roadway conditions that could be hazardous due to temporary construction activities within roadways that would impact normal traffic flow. For example, construction of the distribution system would require excavations and trenching within existing roadways, which would require traffic to be rerouted around the construction site. Therefore, construction activities could temporarily create roadway hazards that are potentially significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water for irrigation of the project area. This alternative would use the existing potable water facilities to transport and store potable water. Therefore, there would be no construction and safety hazards would not increase.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. This alternative would supply recycled water to users of the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center through the construction of recycled water pipelines. As previously discussed, the construction of these pipelines within street ROW could create potentially hazardous roadway conditions due to temporary construction activities within roadways that would impact normal traffic flow. Impacts are potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As previously discussed, this alternative would supply the project area with recycled water from the Saugus WRP through pipelines that would be located beneath streets in the ROW. The construction of these pipelines could create potentially hazardous roadway conditions due to temporary construction activities within roadways that would impact normal traffic flow. Impacts are potentially significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure, adopted by the RWMP Program EIR, shall be implemented for the applicable alternatives:

PEIR MM 3.15-1 Prior to construction activities for any phase of the proposed project that would require the diversion of traffic, the CLWA shall prepare a traffic control plan and implement construction zone traffic control measures in compliance with the *Work Area Traffic Control Handbook* (WATCH) manual or the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* (MUTCD) standards. If project construction requires special measures outside the WATCH Manual or MUTCD standards, then the traffic control plan shall be prepared by, stamped, and signed by a registered traffic engineer.

Impact 4.3.15-5 Result in inadequate emergency access

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The operation of the proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access because the facilities would not alter roadway alignments. The construction of the project design areas could temporarily impact emergency access from construction activities within roadways could impact normal traffic flow and create roadway conditions that may delay emergency response times due to temporary construction activities within roadways that would impact normal traffic flow. Impacts are potentially significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water. This alternative would use existing water facilities to supply the project area. Furthermore, this alternative would not result in inadequate emergency access because the facilities would have existing emergency access. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The operation of this alternative would not result in inadequate emergency access because the facilities would not alter roadway alignments. The construction activities within roadways could create roadway conditions that may delay emergency response times due to temporary construction activities within roadways that would impact normal traffic flow. Impacts are potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The operation of this alternative would not result in inadequate emergency access because the facilities would not alter roadway alignments. The alignment would construct recycled water pipelines within the street ROW. As a result, the construction activities within roadways could create roadway conditions that may delay emergency response times due to temporary construction activities within roadways that would impact normal traffic flow. Impacts are potentially significant.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measure **PEIR MM 3.15-1** shall be implemented.

Impact 4.3.15-6 Result in inadequate parking capacity

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Construction activities for the project would require parking for workers. Public parking is available on most City streets in the vicinity of all design areas. Therefore, street parking may be temporarily impacted by worker vehicles occupying available on-site parking spaces.

Parking availability impacts would only be temporary in areas immediately adjacent to the project site(s) and only during working hours. No construction would take place on Sundays or holidays. Nevertheless, depending on the number of worker vehicles required for a construction project and the length of construction, parking availability could be significantly impacted.

Operational activities of the project design areas would not require additional parking because the project is not trip generating, with the exception of occasional maintenance operations. Therefore, no changes in long-term parking requirements would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water. This alternative would not require any new construction. Operational activities of this alternative would not require additional parking because the project is not trip generating, with the exception of occasional maintenance operations. Therefore, no impact in parking requirements would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Construction activities for this alternative would require parking for workers. Public parking is available on most City streets in the vicinity of all design areas. Therefore, street parking may be temporarily impacted by worker vehicles. Parking availability impacts would only be temporary in areas immediately adjacent to the project site(s), occupying available on-site parking spaces, and only during working hours. No construction would take place on Sundays or holidays. Nevertheless, depending on the amount of worker vehicles required for a construction project and the length of construction, parking availability could be significantly impacted.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Construction activities for this alternative would require on-site or off-site parking for workers. Public parking is available on most City streets in the vicinity of all alternative components. Therefore, street parking may be temporarily impacted by worker vehicles. Parking availability impacts would only be temporary in areas immediately adjacent to the project site(s) and only during working hours. No construction would take place on Sundays or holidays. Nevertheless, depending on the amount of worker vehicles required for a construction project and the length of construction, parking availability could be significantly impacted.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure, included in the RWMP Program EIR, shall be implemented by the applicable alternative:

PEIR MM 3.15-2 Prior to commencement of construction activities on any phase of the proposed project that would require substantial amounts of Construction Worker parking for long periods of time, the CLWA shall consult with the applicable jurisdiction (City of Santa Clarita) about the availability of off-site parking. When feasible and appropriate, Construction Worker parking shall be consolidated in an off-site location and workers shall be shuttled to the work site to minimize parking impacts near the work site(s).

Impact 4.3.15-7 **Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks).**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. Because the operation of the project design areas would not be trip generating, with the exception of occasional maintenance traffic, and the project would not result in a permanent physical change to any transportation facilities, there would be no impact to adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. No impact would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply would use potable water resources in place of recycled water. This alternative would not require any new construction. Operational activities of this alternative would not conflict with any adopted plans, policies, or programs affecting alternative transportation. No impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. Operational activities of this alternative would not require additional parking because the project is not trip generating and does not generate a need for alternative transportation programs, and the project would not result in a permanent physical change to any transportation facilities,. Therefore, no impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. Operational activities of this alternative would not require additional parking because the alternative is not trip generating and does not generate a need for alternative transportation programs, and the project would not result in a permanent physical change to any transportation facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts to traffic and circulation associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact. Certain alternatives would require mitigation to reduce impact related to emergency access and construction worker parking; implementation of mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

4.3.16 Utilities and Service Systems

Environmental Setting

As described in **Section 1.2, Project History**, the Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (SCVSD) (a consolidation of Sanitation Districts No. 26 and No. 32) provides wastewater conveyance, treatment, and disposal services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in the Santa Clarita Valley. The SCVSD operates two water reclamation plants (WRPs), the Saugus WRP and the Valencia WRP. This joint system has a design capacity of 28.1 mgd and currently processes an average flow of 20.0 mgd.

The Saugus WRP is a tertiary treatment plant and consists of comminution (cutting up), grit removal, primary sedimentation, activated sludge biological treatment, secondary sedimentation, coagulation, nitrification and denitrification, duel filtration, chlorination, and dechlorination. The reclaimed water is then discharged into the Santa Clara River downstream of Bouquet Canyon Road. Solids are conveyed to the Valencia WRP for processing. In 2009, the Saugus WRP produced an average effluent flow of 5 mgd or 5,600 afy which is at its current capacity.[190] The maximum capacity for future treatment at the Saugus WRP is projected would be 6.5 mgd.

The Valencia WRP processes an average of 15 mgd, or 16,800 afy, and has a capacity for 20 mgd. The proposed project would use the Saugus WRP for recycled water use instead of the Valencia WRP as designated in the RWMP. Upon approval by the SCVSD, the amount of recycled water requested by CLWA would be supplied by the SCVSD from the Saugus WRP.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LADPW) provides storm water services for the Santa Clarita Valley and unincorporated Los Angeles County. The Department of Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, operation, maintenance, and repair of roads, bridges, airports, sewers, water supply, flood control and water conservation facilities, and for the design and construction of capital projects. Additional responsibilities include regulatory and ministerial programs for the County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, other special districts, and contact cities that request services. A 24-hour Emergency Operation Center is maintained to respond to problems reported by the public and other agencies to respond to major emergencies (such as floods, windstorms, snowstorms, earthquakes, etc.) and to monitor various LADPW facilities.[191]

Surface water and groundwater are treated prior to distribution for potable use. Treatment of groundwater within the CLWA service area is generally limited to disinfection and is completed at individual wellhead facilities. Surface water (such as from imported sources) is filtered and disinfected (in compliance with applicable regulations) at the RVWTP and the Earl Schmidt Water Treatment Plant (ESWTP). The RVWTP was constructed in the early 1990s with a rated capacity of 30 mgd and is currently undergoing expansion to 60 mgd. The RVWTP is located in Santa Clarita, near Bouquet Canyon Road.[192] The ESWTP is located immediately east of Castaic Lake was constructed in the 1980s and has rated capacity of 56 mgd.

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190 Communication between Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District and Jason Yim of Castaic Lake Water Agency. One million gallons per day equals 1,120 acre-feet per year; http://www.irwd.com/MediaInfo/water_equivalents.php

191 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 3.15-1.

192 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 3.15-1.

Water treatment capacity is based on peak demand. Current and anticipated operations of the existing and proposed water projection and treatment facilities have a great deal of flexibility to meet peak (summer) demands and non-peak (baseload or winter) demands by coordinated use of imported and local groundwater resources and associated treatment facilities. Based on the operations and peaking factors used by the CLWA, the combined capacity of the existing facilities is sufficient to treat approximately 48,200 afy of water for potable use. If these facilities were operated at peak capacity for a full year they would have the capacity to treat approximately 96,300 afy.[193] However, the routine operation of the treatment plants at full-rated capacity would not follow sound engineering or operational practices.

The Santa Clarita Valley uses three landfills within or near the area. They include the Chiquita Canyon Landfill, Antelope Valley Landfill, and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Landfills throughout the state have permitted maximum capacities. Nearby landfills are approaching full capacity for waste disposal and the projected amount of landfill capacity for the City's planning area would be in a shortfall of 22,626 tons per day, six days per week in the year 2021.[194]

Southern California Edison (Edison) provides electricity to the CLWA service area. Edison generates electricity from a variety of energy resources, including solar, geothermal, hydroelectric, natural gas, and nuclear. Edison also purchases electricity from independent producers and is part of the Pacific Intertie and the western power supply grid.[195]

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact on transportation and traffic if it would

- exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;
- require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects;

193 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2006, 3.15-2.

194 Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, *Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan 2006 Annual Report* – Part II: Siting Element Assessment, Appendix E-2.7, May 2008.

195 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Recycled Water Master Plan Draft Program EIR*, 2006, 3.15-3.

- have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new and expanded entitlements needed;
- 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;
- be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs; or
- comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Impact 4.3.16-1 Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project would construct recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to the wastewater flows that would require treatment at the Saugus WRP or Valencia WRP.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would supply the project area with potable water for irrigation. This alternative would use existing facilities, and would therefore not contribute to wastewater flows at the Saugus WRP or Valencia WRP.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to the wastewater flows that would require treatment at the either the Valencia WRP or the Saugus WRP or Valencia WRP.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would construct recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to the wastewater flows that would require treatment at the Saugus WRP or Valencia WRP.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.16-2 **Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project would not result in the expansion of wastewater treatment facilities other than those proposed. The proposed project would construct recycled water pipelines, a pump station, and a reservoir to transport and supply the project area with recycled water for use as irrigation. There would be no additional construction at the Saugus WRP or Valencia WRP or any new water facilities. There would be no additional impact.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would use potable water for irrigation. The transport and use of potable water would be through existing water facilities. As a result there would be no new construction of water or wastewater facilities and there would be no impact on the expansion of water or wastewater facilities.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would use recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The recycled water would be transported in recycled water pipelines within a street ROW. A pump station would be constructed to transport the recycled water and a reservoir tank would be constructed for storage of recycled water. As a result, there would be no additional construction of wastewater facilities, and therefore there would be no impact.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. As described above, this alternative would use recycled water from the Saugus WRP. A pump station would be constructed in a commercial shopping center, and a reservoir tank to be used as storage would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. There would be no additional construction at the Saugus WRP or Valencia WRP or any new water facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.16-3 **Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project would not produce substantial amounts of additional runoff to the existing storm water drainage facilities. There would not be a substantial increase in impervious surfaces from implementation of the proposed project, as discussed in **Section 4.3.8, Hydrology and Water Quality**. Further, runoff from irrigation would not be increased by the use of recycled water. The proposed project replaces the use of potable water with recycled water, but would not increase the quantity of water used for irrigation and other non-potable purposes. No impact would occur.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. This alternative would supply the project area with potable water to use as irrigation. This alternative would not produce substantial amounts of additional runoff to the existing storm water drainage facilities. There would not be a substantial increase in impervious surfaces from implementation of this alternative. Further, runoff from irrigation would not be increased by the use of recycled water. Therefore, no impact would occur.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would continue the implementation of Phase 2 of the RWMP, which would construct recycled water pipeline, a pump station, and a reservoir to supply the area in between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. This area is already urbanized with streets, residential uses, and commercial uses. There would not be a substantial increase in impervious surfaces from implementation of this alternative because the majority of the pipelines would be below ground and the footprint of the remaining facilities would be minimal. This alternative would not produce substantial amounts of additional runoff to the existing storm water drainage facilities. Therefore, this alternative would not add substantial amount of impervious area which would increase runoff. No impact would occur.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would be constructed primarily within street ROW, which is already an impervious surface. As discussed above, there would be no new substantial increase in the amount of impervious area. This alternative would not produce substantial amounts of additional runoff to the existing storm water drainage facilities. There would not be a substantial increase in impervious surfaces from implementation of this alternative. The use of recycled water would not increase the amount of runoff as recycled water is replacing the use of potable water. No impact would occur.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.16-4 Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new and expanded entitlements needed?

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project would not require a potable water supply. Therefore, there would be no direct impacts to water supply.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. As described in the 2005 UWMP,[196] the CLWA service area would be able to supply the projected water demands until 2030. In the event that the CLWA is not approved for use of 511 afy of additional recycled water, then the use of 511 afy of potable water would be needed. However, the 511 afy of potable water is not identified in the 2005 UWMP. As a result, the 511 afy of potable water would come from increased surface water supplies (i.e., State Water Project), from increased conservation, or decrease the amount of potable water supplies available. If potable water supplies were decreased the potential impact would not be substantial. As described in the 2005 UWMP, the total amount for projected potable water demand in the CLWA service area is 99,690 afy for 2015.[197] As a result the use of

196 Castaic Lake Water Agency, CLWA Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, Valencia Water Company, *2005 Urban Water Management Plan*, 2005.

197 Castaic Lake Water Agency, 2005, 2-3.

potable water as irrigation in the project area would be less than 1 percent of the projected potable water demand. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would not require a potable water supply. Therefore, there would be no impact to water supply.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. The North Pipeline Alignment Alternative would not require a potable water supply. Therefore, there would be no impact to water supply.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Impact 4.3.16-5 **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?**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation. The implementation of the proposed project would not contribute to the wastewater stream. Therefore, there would be no impact to wastewater treatment capacity.

The proposed project would, upon approval by the SCVSD, request 511 afy or 0.46 mgd of recycled water to the CLWA service area which would be supplied by the SCVSD from Saugus WRP. This diversion of 0.46 mgd would be 9 percent of 5 mgd of the average daily effluent produced by the Saugus WRP. As a result, potential impacts would be less than significant.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The use of potable water for irrigation would not impact the total inflow or demand of the Saugus WRP. Therefore, there would be no impact.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with incorporation of regulatory requirements and mitigation. This alternative would not create additional inflow or demand on the Saugus WRP or the Valencia WRP. This alternative would supply recycled water to the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center. Therefore, there would be no impact on the wastewater treatment capacity. As described in the RWMP Program EIR, this alternative would use the Valencia WRP as the source of recycled water. As described in the RWMP Program EIR, the potential impacts would be potentially significant.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant. This alternative would supply the project area with recycled water through new pipeline, a pump station located in the commercial shopping center east (see **Figure 8**), and a reservoir west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. This alternative would not generate additional wastewater requiring treatment and, therefore, exceed the capacity of either the Valencia WRP or the Saugus WRP. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

Project Design Features

None.

Regulatory Requirements

The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative shall comply with regulatory requirements **RR 3.8-1** and **RR 3.4—1**.

Mitigation Measures

The RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative shall incorporate mitigation measures **PEIR MM 3.1-4**, **PEIR MM 3.4-1** through **PEIR MM 3.4-3**.

Impact 4.3.16-6 Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Construction of the proposed project would result in a small amount of construction debris from the disposal of excess soils or other debris. However, demolition activities are not required.

The nominal amount of construction debris generated by the proposed project would not be expected to exceed the permitted capacity of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, the Antelope Valley Landfill, and the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Operation of the RWMP would not generate solid waste. Impacts would be less than significant. However, as landfill space is becoming less available, steps should be taken to reduce waste and dispose of it properly.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The use of potable water to supply the project area with irrigation would not construct or demolish new water facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact on the surrounding landfill capacities.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Construction of the pump station, reservoir, and recycled water pipelines would result in a small amount of construction debris from the disposal of excess soils or other debris. However, demolition activities are not required. The small amount of construction debris generated by this alternative would not be expected to exceed the permitted capacity of available landfills. Operation of the recycled water system would not generate solid waste. Impacts would be less than significant. However, as landfill space is becoming less available, steps should be taken to reduce waste and dispose of it properly.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As described above, there would be a small amount of construction debris; however, it would not be substantial enough to exceed the permitted capacities of the three nearby landfills. As a result, impacts would be less than significant. However, as landfill space is becoming less available, steps should be taken to reduce waste and dispose of it properly.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measure, adopted by the RWMP Program EIR, shall be implemented by the applicable alternative:

PEIR MM 3.16-1 The disposal of all construction debris from the implementation of the project shall be conducted in accordance with City of Santa Clarita codes and ordinances related to the disposal of construction and demolition debris, including City of Santa Clarita Code Chapter 15.46, Construction and Demolition Materials Management.

Impact 4.3.16-7 **Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

No Impacts. The proposed project/preferred alternative will comply with all applicable regulations regarding solid waste disposal during construction. Operation of the proposed project/preferred alternative involves the delivery of recycled water to CLWA customers, which would not generate solid waste. There would be no impacts related to violation of solid waste regulations.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

No Impacts. The project area irrigation would be supplied with potable water. The existing facilities would not be subject to construction or demolition debris. Operation of the use of potable water would not generate solid waste. Therefore, there would be no impact on violating federal, state, or local statutes and regulations.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

No Impacts. The implementation of the RWMP will comply with all applicable regulation regarding solid waste disposal during construction.[198] Operation of the RWMP would not generate solid waste. There would be no impact related to violation of solid waste regulations.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

No Impacts. This alternative would be similar to the proposed project except for the alignment of the proposed recycled water pipelines and the pump station site. The recycled water pipelines would be located within the street ROW and the pump station would be located within a commercial shopping center.

198 California Government Code, Division 2, Article 5, Section 53091(d) and (e), "Regulation of Local Agencies by Counties and Cities."

The alternative will comply with all applicable regulation regarding solid waste disposal during construction.[199] Operation of the RWMP would not generate solid waste. There would be no impact related to violation of solid waste regulations.

Project Design Features/Regulatory Requirements

None.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

Summary Analysis

Potential impacts to utilities and service systems associated with each of the alternatives would be less than significant or have no impact. Certain alternatives would incorporate mitigation to reduce impacts to local landfills and reduce construction-generated debris.

4.3.17 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Environmental Setting/Environmental Justice

Environmental justice issues relate to a minority or low-income population that has or will be exposed to more than its fair share of pollution or environmental degradation if a project is implemented.[200] The project is located in an area of north Los Angeles County where the existing population had a median income over $84,000 in 2008.[201] Development in this area is primarily single-family residential. Therefore, the project is not located within a neighborhood that suffers from exposure to adverse human health or environmental conditions. (Refer to the discussion under **Section 4.3.12, Population and Housing**.)

This project is considered a benefit to the existing population in that it will provide recycled water to supplement the use of potable water supplies for irrigation.

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199 California Government Code, Division 2, Article 5, Section 53091(d) and (e), "Regulation of Local Agencies by Counties and Cities."

200 Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, 1994.

201 City of Santa Clarita, Economic Development Department, "Community Profile," http://www.santa-clarita.com /cityhall/cd/ed/community_profile/index.asp, accessed in August 2009.

Environmental Impacts

Appendix G of the *State CEQA Guidelines* (Environmental Checklist Form) lists the following thresholds, under which a project may be deemed to have a significant impact:

- Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?

- 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.)

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

Impact 4.3.17-1 **Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

As described in **Section 2.4**, the project has been divided into Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3, and would construct recycled water pipelines within street ROWs, a pump station in the Valencia Mart Shopping Center, and a reservoir adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. The proposed project would not be located within the Santa Clara River, and there would therefore be no potential for adverse impacts on the habitat of a fish or wildlife species. As described in **Section 4.3.4, Biological Resources**, a site visit identified habitat for the federally Endangered least Bell's vireo and for the federally Threatened coastal California gnatcatcher within the northern portion of Design Area 3. The site visit did not identify the presence of either species. Based on the reservoir piping design route (utilize existing cross country trail and paved access road), the marginal habitat for CAGN, the time of year of construction (outside of the breeding season), and the length of construction (less than 30 days) potential adverse impacts would be minimized. However, there is still the potential for the presence of CAGN. USFWS conducted a field visit of the known potential habitat and concluded that the proposed project/preferred alternative would "not likely to adversely affect" the California gnatcatcher and the least Bell's vireo (**Appendix 4.3.4**).

Mitigation has been identified, including provisions for pre-construction field surveys to determine the presence or absence of the least Bell's vireo or the coast California gnatcatcher and the provision for a qualified biologist on-site during construction of the reservoir pipeline in Design Area 3. If the pre-construction surveys identify the presence of either LBV or CAGN, then construction would stop and consultation with USFWS would begin. Impacts would be less than significant.

As discussed in **Section 4.3.5, Cultural Resources**, the South Central Coastal Information Center conducted a records search of cultural resources on the project site and within a 0.5-mile radius (area of potential effects) of the project boundary. Two archaeological sites were identified (**Appendix 4.3.5**) within the project boundary, however, the likelihood that the proposed pipeline would degrade the sites is less than significant. A sacred lands file search was also conducted by the NAHC. No archeological sites were identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the project boundary, shown in **Appendix 4.3.5**. The OHP concurred that there will be "No Adverse Effects" to historic properties with implementation of the proposed project/preferred alternative (**Appendix 4.3.5**). The addendum to the Phase I Archeological report did not identify any cultural resources. Additionally, mitigation was identified that would provide for the evaluation and recovery of any cultural resources, including Native American remains, should any be discovered during construction activities.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

This alternative would supply the project area's irrigation needs with potable water. As previously discussed the transportation and storage of potable water would use existing pipelines, pump stations, and reservoirs. There would be no new construction and therefore no impacts to the quality of the environment would occur. The operation of this alternative would not impact the habitat of a federally Threatened or federally Endangered species or the species itself. As the potable water facilities already exist, there would be no potential for this alternative to impact historic resources.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

As described in **Section 2.4**, this alternative would supply the area between the I-5 freeway and the Valencia City Center with recycled water from the Valencia WRP. The construction of the recycled water pipelines would be located in street ROWs, the construction of the pump station would be within the Valencia WRP, and the 3.5-mg reservoir would be located on a hillside with open space. The construction of this alternative would not impact historical resources because it would be conducted in existing paved streets. Although there are no known cultural resource sites, the area of the reservoir would have the potential to potential contain cultural resources.

Mitigation was identified that would provide for the evaluation and recovery of any cultural resources, including Native American remains, should any be discovered during construction activities.

As this area is urbanized with residential and commercial uses, the potential for this alternative to impact sensitive biological resources would be minimal.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

As described in **Section 2.4,** the project has been divided into Design Area 1, Design Area 2, and Design Area 3, and would construct recycled water pipelines within street ROWs, a pump station in the Valencia Mart Shopping Center, and a reservoir adjacent to the west of the RVWTP. The proposed project would not be located within the Santa Clara River, and there would therefore be no potential for adverse impacts on the habitat of a fish or wildlife species. As described in **Section 4.3.4, Biological Resources**, a site visit identified habitat for the federally Endangered least Bell's vireo and for the federally Threatened coastal California gnatcatcher within the northern portion of Design Area 3. The site visit did not identify the presence of either species. USFWS conducted a field visit of the known potential habitat and concluded that the proposed project/preferred alternative would "not likely to adversely affect" the California gnatcatcher and the least Bell's vireo (**Appendix 4.3.4**). Therefore, as discussed under the Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative impact analysis avoidance and proposed mitigation have been identified, including provisions for pre-construction field surveys, to determine the presence or absence of the least Bell's vireo or the coastal California gnatcatcher and the presence of a qualified biologist on-site during the construction of the reservoir pipeline within Design Area 3 to minimize potentially adverse impacts. Impacts would be less than significant.

As discussed in **Section 4.3.5, Cultural Resources**, the South Central Coastal Information Center conducted a records search of cultural resources on the project site and within a 0.5-mile radius (area of potential effects) of the project boundary. Two archaeological sites were identified (**Appendix 4.3.5**), but the proposed project would not conflict with these sites. A sacred lands file search was also conducted by the NAHC. No archeological sites were identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the project boundary, see **Appendix 4.3.5**. The OHP concurred that there will be "No Adverse Effects" to historic properties with implementation of the proposed project/preferred alternative (**Appendix 4.3.5**). The addendum to the Phase I Archeological report did not identify any cultural resources. Additionally, mitigation was identified that would provide for the evaluation and recovery of any cultural resources, including Native American remains, should any be discovered during construction activities.

Impact 4.3.17-2 **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.**

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

The use of recycled water would remove an obstacle to growth by freeing up for other uses potable water currently used for irrigation, and the proposed project may therefore indirectly foster economic growth, population growth, or the construction of additional housing within the CLWA service area. *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.2(d) states that it must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

No significant and unavoidable impacts were identified in the analysis prepared for this document Impacts were found to be less than significant with and without mitigation, or there were no impacts. Potential cumulative impacts were analyzed by the RWMP Program EIR. As this phase is a component of the RWMP the following impacts had no impacts on the environment and would therefore have no cumulative impacts: agricultural resources, land use planning, mineral resources, public services, and utilities and infrastructure.

Solid Waste. Growth could generate increased demand for solid waste disposal services due to construction-related and operational impacts of new land development. Los Angeles County and Ventura County operate several landfills that serve the CLWA service area. The location and volume of waste generation, including cumulative demands, provision of recycling programs, and existing landfill capacity and expansion plans, would be considered at the time new development is reviewed. However, impacts are considered significant because an adequate supply of landfill space has not been ensured for the future and would remain so unless additional landfill space or other disposal alternatives are approved.

Water Treatment. Growth would increase the need for potable water and consequently create an increased demand for water treatment facilities operated by the four local purveyors and the CLWA. The current combined capacity of the existing facilities (ESWTP at 56 mgd and RVWTP at 30 mgd) is sufficient to treat approximately 54,000 afy for potable use on an average annual basis and 96,000 afy while operating at peak capacity. During an average year, the total amount of water that could be treated at the two plants, based on the maximum amount of water that would be delivered from the State Water Project (SWP), would be 81,000 afy.

During average years, the water supply requiring treatment would be less than the peak capacity of the two facilities. SWP deliveries have never exceeded 41,800 af, and demand for water treatment would increase incrementally as development is approved. Given the current capacity of the CLWA treatment plants, impacts would be less than significant because adequate capacity is available to treat the total amount of water available.[202]

Wastewater. Growth would result in an increase in wastewater generation and demand for wastewater treatment primarily at facilities operated by the SCVSD, which service the Santa Clarita Valley. These two districts jointly operate a regional system. The SCVSD has a current combined capacity (from the Saugus and Valencia treatment plants) of 28.1 mgd. The 2015 Joint Sewerage System Facilities System Plan (System Plan) identified the need for further expansion to the practical site capacity of 34.1 mgd.[203] The deadline for the final expansion capacity has been extended from 2010 to 2015.[204]

Storm Water Drainage. The proposed project would not require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. However, as the Santa Clarita Valley builds out, new development would potentially require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, which could cause significant environmental impacts. These projects would conform to the existing General Plan policies and local, State, and federal regulations regarding storm water drainage. Potential cumulative impacts would therefore be less than significant.

Impact Summary

Implementation of policies (1.2 through 1.4; 1.7, 1.8, 2.7, and 5.1) from the Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element would reduce potential cumulative utilities and infrastructure impacts to less than significant.[205]

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

This alternative would supply the project area with potable water to be used for irrigation. As there were no environmental impacts from implementation of this alternative, there would be no potential for cumulative impacts.

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202 Castaic Lake Water Agency, *Draft RWMP Program EIR*, 2006, 4-16.

203 County of Los Angeles Sanitation District, *2015 Joint Sewerage System Facilities Plan*, 1998.

204 City of Santa Clarita, *Draft RWMP Program EIR*, 2006, 4-17.

205 City of Santa Clarita, *General Plan*, "Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element," 1996.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

The use of recycled water would remove an obstacle to growth by freeing up for other uses potable, water currently used for irrigation, and the proposed project may therefore indirectly foster economic growth, population growth, or the construction of additional housing within the CLWA service area. *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.2(d) states that it must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

No significant and unavoidable impacts were identified in the analysis prepared for this document. Impacts were found to be less than significant with and without mitigation, or there were no impacts. Potential cumulative impacts were analyzed by the RWMP. As described above in the **Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative** analysis, potential cumulative impacts related to utilities and infrastructure would be similar under this alternative.

Because the use of recycled water would remove an obstacle to growth (by freeing up previously used potable water), this alternative may indirectly foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing within the CLWA service area.

Impact Summary

In summary, implementation of this alternative would result in less than significant impacts to all impacts through the implementation of applicable policies of the City of Santa Clarita general plans, as described above in **Recreation** (policy 1.4) and **Utilities and Infrastructure** (policies 1.2 through 1.5; 1.14, 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 5.1, and 5.6).

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

The use of recycled water would remove an obstacle to growth by freeing up for other uses potable water currently used for irrigation, and the proposed project may therefore indirectly foster economic growth, population growth, or the construction of additional housing within the CLWA service area. *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.2(d) states that it must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

No significant and unavoidable impacts were identified in the analysis prepared for this document. Impacts were found to be less than significant with and without mitigation, or there were no impacts. Potential cumulative impacts were analyzed by the RWMP. This phase is a component of the RWMP, thus cumulative impacts were previously analyzed with the implementation of the RWMP.

Impact Summary

As described above in the **Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative** impact discussion, implementation of policies (1.2 through 1.5; 1.14, 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 5.1, and 5.6) from the Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element would reduce potential utilities and infrastructure impacts to less than significant.[206]

Impact 4.3.17-3 Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly

Proposed Project/Preferred Alternative

The proposed project/preferred alternative would construct recycled water pipelines that would extend from the Saugus WRP to the existing 21-inch Newhall Lateral and then along Newhall Ranch Road to connect to the existing 36-inch Honby Bypass. A pump station would be constructed in the Valencia Mart Shopping Center. The reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. Construction of the project would occur over 1 to 1.5 years. All three design areas would be constructed simultaneously and construction impacts would be short-term and less than significant.

The proposed project would not displace any housing nor would it degrade the environmental quality of the project site. The operation of the project would not cause a direct or indirect impact because the pipelines would be located beneath the surface of existing streets; the pump station would be housed in a one-story building which would conform to the CC—Z zone; and the reservoir would not have operational impacts. This project would not adversely impact the surrounding economy of the Santa Clarita Valley. It would bring temporary construction jobs to the local area.

The operation of the proposed project and future phases of the RWMP would be subject to several federal and state regulations and other mitigations including recycled water's compliance with Title 22 requirements for the disinfection of tertiary recycled water prior to delivery to customers. Related projects would also be subject to federal and state water quality regulations and would need to mitigate for their own water quality impacts. Cumulative water quality impacts may still result from the development in the Santa Clarita Valley area; however, compliance with all federal and state requirements for water quality by the proposed project and the related projects would ensure that impacts to water quality would not be cumulatively considerable.

206 City of Santa Clarita, "General Plan, Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element," 1996.

No Action Alternative – Potable Water Supply

This alternative would supply irrigation water to the project area in the form of potable water. The alternative would use existing potable water pipelines and storage reservoirs. There would be no new construction to implement this alternative. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect impacts to the project area.

RWMP Implementation (No Action) Alternative

This alternative would supply the area between the I-5 and the Valencia City Center with recycled water. It would consist of new recycled water pipelines, expansion of the recycled water pump station at the Valencia WRP, and the construction of a reservoir. The implementation of this alternative would not directly impact human beings. This alternative would not adversely impact the surrounding economy of the Santa Clarita Valley. It would bring temporary construction jobs to the local area.

The operation of the proposed project and future phases of the RWMP would be subject to several federal and state regulations and other mitigations including recycled water's compliance with Title 22 requirements for the disinfection of tertiary recycled water prior to delivery to customers. Related projects would also be subject to federal and state water quality regulations and would need to mitigate for their own water quality impacts. Cumulative water quality impacts may still result from the development in the Santa Clarita Valley area; however, compliance with all federal and state requirements for water quality by the proposed project and the related projects would ensure that impacts to water quality would not be cumulatively considerable.

North Pipeline Alignment Alternative

This alternative would construct recycled water pipelines that would extend from the Saugus WRP along Bouquet Canyon Road to Newhall Ranch Road, Seco Canyon Road, and McBean Parkway. A pump station would be constructed in the commercial shopping center east of the intersection of Bouquet Canyon Road and Valencia Boulevard (see **Figure 8**). The reservoir would be located west of the sludge drying beds of the RVWTP. The construction time of the project would occur over 1 to 1.5 years. All three components would be constructed simultaneously and construction impacts would be short-term and less than significant.

No housing would be displaced nor would this alternative degrade the environmental quality of the project site. Operations would not cause a direct or indirect impact because the pipelines would be located beneath the surface of existing streets; the pump station would be housed in a one-story building, which would conform to the CC—Z zone; and the reservoir would not have operational impacts.

This alternative would not adversely impact the surrounding economy of the Santa Clarita Valley. It would bring temporary construction jobs to the local area.

The operation of the proposed project/preferred alternative and future phases of the RWMP would be subject to several federal and state regulations and other mitigations including recycled water's compliance with Title 22 requirements for the disinfection of tertiary recycled water prior to delivery to customers. Related projects would also be subject to federal and state water quality regulations and would need to mitigate for their own water quality impacts. Cumulative water quality impacts may still result from the development in the Santa Clarita Valley area; however, compliance with all federal and state requirements for water quality by the proposed project and the related projects would ensure that impacts to water quality would not be cumulatively considerable.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Consistent with the requirements of NEPA and CEQA, this section provides an analysis of overall cumulative impacts of the project taken together with other past, present, and probable future projects producing related impacts. Cumulative impacts are defined in *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15355 as two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts. A cumulative impact occurs from the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time.[207]

5.1 AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

The reservoir tanks would be the only component that would have the potential for a long-term significant impact to visual resources prior to mitigation. Landform grading, non-reflective camouflaging paint, and revegetation would reduce direct impacts to a less than significant.

Where a related project would be constructed in close proximity to the location of the reservoir tank, the potential exists for cumulative aesthetic impacts. However, the incremental contribution of the presence of a reservoir tank in the viewshed of an existing or proposed related project would not be cumulatively considerable. The reservoir tanks would only be one prominent feature (adjacent ridgelines, RVWTP, etc.) to those land uses directly adjacent to the structure. Second, the tank would be approximately two stories high (i.e., approximately 46 feet) and would not be large enough to cumulatively influence the aesthetic character of an area. Third, the RWMP would not introduce permanent new sources of light and glare. In summary, the geographic location of the reservoir and relatively small size of the structure relative to adjacent natural and developed features would ensure that aesthetic impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

5.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES/FARMLAND PROTECTION

The proposed project/preferred alternative would have no direct impact to farmland. Buildout of the RWMP would potentially be construct reservoir tanks near or within Prime Farmland. Construction of a reservoir tank would generally impact between 0.5 and 1 acre of land. Impacts to this small amount of acreage would not result in a significant direct or cumulative impact because any incremental impact to farmland from the proposed reservoir would be very small in geographic area.

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207 State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15355(b); 40 CFR Section 1508.7

Additionally, because the exact locations of the additional booster pump station(s) are not known, there is the potential for adverse impacts to farmlands; however, these impacts would also be less than significant due to the small amount of acreage subject to development and would not be cumulatively considerable.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

Air Quality

The South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) is a non-attainment area for O_3, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ for State and federal standards, any additional emissions of ROG and NO_x (precursors to O_3), CO, and PM_{10} would be considered significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts. However, SCAQMD standards would be implemented for the construction of the three design areas of the proposed project/preferred alternative as well as for other related projects. The proposed project/preferred alternative would be consistent with SCAQMD standards for operational conditions, as the proposed project/preferred alternative is not a trip-generating project such as a residential or commercial development (i.e., would not conflict with the Regional Transportation Plan). As described in the RWMP Program EIR, the implementation of the RWMP would result in significant unavoidable impacts for short-term construction activities, while long-term operational impacts would not be cumulatively considerable for several reasons. Both the proposed project/preferred alternative and the RWMP analysis assumed the worst-case scenario of constructing all components together. The proposed project/preferred alternative would be built out over 1.5 years while the RWMP components would be built out gradually over a 25-year period. In the event that the proposed project/preferred alternative was being constructed at the same time and in the immediate vicinity of a related project, the limited, short-term emissions from the proposed project/preferred alternative component would not be cumulatively considerable because the air quality impacts would short-term, intermittent, and localized. Long-term air quality impacts would not be cumulatively considerable because the project's operational emissions would be minimal.

Climate Change and Impacts from Greenhouse Gas

Theories concerning climate change and global warming existed as early as the late 1800s. It wasn't until the late 1900s that understanding of the earth's atmosphere had advanced to the point where many climate scientists began to accept that the earth's climate is changing. Today, many climate scientists agree that some warming has occurred over the past century and will continue through this century.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that changes in the earth's climate will continue through the 21st century and that the rate of change may increase significantly in the future because of human activity.

Many researchers studying California's climate believe that changes in the earth's climate have already affected California and will continue to do so in the future.

Climate change may seriously affect the State's water resources. Temperature increases could affect water demand and aquatic ecosystems.[208] Changes in the timing and amount of precipitation and runoff could occur. Sea level rise could adversely affect the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and coastal areas of the State. Some of the projected effects of climate change on California's water resources and the consequences of those effects are summarized in **Table 7, Potential Effects of Climate Change on California's Water Resources and Expected Consequences**. Climate change is identified in the 2005 update of the California Water Plan (Bulletin 160-05) as a key consideration in planning for the state's future water management.[209] The 2005 Water Plan update qualitatively describes the effects that climate change may have on the state's water supply. It also describes efforts that should be taken to quantitatively evaluate climate change effects for the next Water Plan update.

In the draft "Statewide Assessment of Energy Used to Manage Water," the California Energy Commission estimated that an average of about 44 million tons of carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere each year to provide water in California.[210] Any reductions in energy consumption related to water will help the State meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals. Significant uses of electrical power related to water in California include:

- pumping groundwater from wells,
- treating drinking water,
- delivering of water to consumers through local distribution systems, and
- treating wastewater and wastewater reclamation.

Diesel, gasoline, and natural gas-powered pumps are used for some water supply and treatment operations. Diesel-powered pumps are most prevalent in agriculture.

End uses of water also result in the consumption of electrical energy and natural gas, such as heating of water for domestic, commercial, and industrial operations. Various industrial processes that use water also result in energy consumption.

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208 California Department of Water Resources, Progress on incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources, July 2006.

209 California Department of Water Resources, Progress on incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources, July 2006, California Water Plan, Bulletin 160-05, 2005.

210 California Energy Commission, Statewide Assessment of Energy Used to Manage Water, draft.

Table 7
Potential Effects of Climate Change on California's Water Resources and Expected Consequences

Potential Water Resource	Expected Consequence
Reduction of the State's average annual snowpack	• Potential loss of 5 million acre-feet or more of average annual water storage in the State's snowpack • Increased challenges for reservoir management and balancing the competing concerns f flood protection and water supply
Changes in the timing, intensity, location, amount, and variability of precipitation	• Potential increased storm intensity and increased potential for flooding • Possible increased potential for droughts
Long-term changes in watershed vegetation and increased incidence of wildfires	• Changes in the intensity and timing of runoff • Possible increased incidence of flooding and increased sedimentation
Sea level rise	• Inundation of coastal marshes and estuaries • Increased salinity intrusion into the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta • Increased potential for Delta levee failure • Increased potential for salinity intrusion into coastal aquifers (groundwater) • Increased potential for flooding near the mouths of rivers due to backwater effects
Increased water temperatures	• Possible critical effects on listed and endangered aquatic species • Increased environmental water demand for temperature control • Possible increased problems with foreign invasive species in aquatic ecosystems • Potential adverse changes in water quality, including the reduction of dissolved oxygen levels
Changes in urban and agricultural water demand	• Changes in demand patterns and evapotranspiration rates

California Department of Water Resources, Progress on incorporating Climate Change into Management of California's Water Resources, July 2006, Table 2-1.

Construction of the project would result in short term increases in emission from construction equipment. However, as these impacts would occur only during the construction period, they are considered less than significant. Implementation and ongoing operation of the proposed project would allow CLWA to utilize water that flows through the Saugus WRP as a source for recycling instead of importing state water.

As a result, the proposed project/preferred alternative would decrease the use of relatively energy intensive imported water, thereby reducing energy related emissions. Consequently, impacts to climate change resulting from greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would indirectly decrease as a result of the proposed project/preferred alternative.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The mitigation program provides for the protection of potential biological resources that are present in Design Area 3, including sensitive plant and wildlife species, protected trees, nesting raptors and migratory birds, and jurisdictional waters. Upon finalization of plans and specifications for the location of RWMP components and prior to the initiation of grading, all necessary biological surveys, documentation, and mitigation for direct impacts would be completed. Therefore, the proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in significant direct impacts to biological resources.

Related projects in the CLWA service area would have the potential to affect various biological resources. All related projects would be required to mitigate for biological impacts and would be subject to the same State and federal laws and regulations governing the protection of sensitive biological resources that would apply development projects. However, all impacts may not be reduced to less than significant depending on the magnitude and specific location of development. Nevertheless, because the proposed project/preferred alternative would avoid or minimize construction impacts through the mitigation measures discussed in the impact analysis and because there would be no operational impacts to biological resources, the incremental contribution of the proposed project/preferred alternative on biological resources would not be cumulatively considerable.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The majority of earth-disturbing activity related to project implementation would occur within previously developed areas (e.g., pipelines beneath existing roadways). Impacts upon cultural and paleontological resources tend to be site specific and are assessed on a site-by-site basis. Where resources exist, implementation of cumulative development in the region would represent an incremental adverse impact to cultural resources. However, provided that proper mitigation, as defined by *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.4(b), as defined in regulatory requirements **PEIR RR 3.5-2**, and as defined in mitigation measures **PEIR MM 3.5-1**, **PEIR MM 3.5-3**, and **MM 3.5-4** is implemented in conjunction with development of related projects in the CLWA service area, no significant cumulative impacts are anticipated.

5.6 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The proposed project/preferred alternative would not include habitable structures, nor would the proposed project/preferred alternative create or exacerbate any geologic or seismic conditions. Generally, geotechnical issues are site-specific and are usually limited to areas within the development boundaries of the project site. Additionally, any incremental contribution of the proposed project/preferred alternative to soils and geological impacts is not considered cumulatively considerable because (1) development of the RWMP, and therefore the proposed project/preferred alternative, is consistent with the goals and policies of the applicable General Plans; (2) the proposed project/preferred alternative would comply with the applicable requirements of the CBC; and (3) the mitigation requirements identified in **Section 4.3.6** above would be implemented. These requirements would avoid any cumulative geotechnical impacts that may occur from implementation of the proposed project.

5.7 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in significant impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials with implementation of the mitigation measures stated above. Proposed project/preferred alternative operations would require the periodic delivery of small amounts of liquid chlorine for disinfection and would not require the use of any additional hazardous materials. The CLWA will comply with all applicable federal and state regulations pertaining to the handling, use, and disposal of hazardous substances as well as all applicable mandates that require the development and implementation of hazardous material-related plans. The majority of related projects considered in this analysis would not involve the routine transport or use of hazardous materials. Although those related projects with industrial land uses may require the handling of hazardous materials, these projects would be required to comply with the same federal and state regulations as the proposed project/preferred alternative. Therefore, the proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts related to hazards or the handling of hazardous materials.

5.8 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

The proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in significant direct impacts to hydrology and water quality with implementation of the mitigation measures stated in **Section 4.8**. Temporary construction-related water quality impacts would be reduced through compliance with the NPDES General Storm Water Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ)[211] or the NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity from Small Linear Underground Projects (Water Quality Order 2003-0007-

[211] Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Water Quality Order 99-08-DWQ.

DWQ).[212] Related projects would also be required to obtain coverage under these permits for construction activities or would be required to obtain coverage under an individual permit, which would specify more stringent requirements. However, all impacts may not be reduced to less than significant depending on the magnitude and specific location of development. Nevertheless, because compliance with the NPDES permits for construction activities, which are short-term and temporary in nature, would ensure that cumulative water quality impacts from project-related construction activities would not be cumulatively considerable.

The operation of the proposed project/preferred alternative and future phases of the RWMP would be subject to several federal and state regulations and other mitigations including recycled water's compliance with Title 22 requirements for the disinfection of tertiary recycled water prior to delivery to customers. Related projects would also be subject to federal and state water quality regulations and would need to mitigate for their own water quality impacts. Cumulative water quality impacts may still result from the development in the Santa Clarita Valley area; however, compliance with all federal and state requirements for water quality by the proposed project/preferred alternative and the related projects would ensure that impacts to water quality would not be cumulatively considerable.

The proposed project/preferred alternative would not connect to any existing storm drain system; therefore, the proposed project/preferred alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts on the capacities of downstream storm drain facilities to accommodate storm flows. Development or related projects would be required to comply with the Los Angeles County Flood Control standards[213] and requirements; therefore, impacts to hydrology would not be cumulatively considerable.

5.9 LAND USE AND PLANNING

The proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in significant impacts to land use and planning. Development of the proposed project/preferred alternative would not divide established communities or conflict with plans, policies, or regulations and would not contribute to any impacts from other projects that might have land use and planning impacts. Therefore, the proposed project/preferred alternative would not contribute to cumulative impacts to land use and planning.

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212 State Water Resources Control Board, *Order No. -2003 – 0007 – DWQ*, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit No. CAS000005, "Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Storm water runoff Associated with Small Linear Underground/Overhead Construction Projects." 2003.

213 County of Los Angeles, *County Code*, Title 12, Chapter 12.80, "Stormwater and Runoff Pollution Control."

5.10 MINERAL RESOURCES

The proposed project/preferred alternative would have less than significant impacts on mineral resources. The RWMP would not develop facilities that would prohibit the development or exploration of mineral resources in the Santa Clarita Valley area. Therefore, there would be no cumulative impacts.

5.11 NOISE

Construction activities would be the primary source of noise generated by implementation of the proposed project/preferred alternative. Construction noise impacts would be temporary and would cease upon completion of construction. In the event that the proposed project/preferred alternative was being constructed at the same time and in the immediate vicinity of a related project, the limited, short-term noise from the proposed project/preferred alternative would not be cumulatively considerable because the impacts would be short-term, intermittent, and localized. Because noise impacts would be either temporary (for construction) or eliminated by project design (for operations), the proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in cumulatively considerable noise impacts.

5.12 POPULATION AND HOUSING

The proposed project/preferred alternative would have no impacts on population and housing. Therefore, it would not contribute to cumulative impacts to population and housing.

5.13 PUBLIC SERVICES

The proposed project and alternatives discussed would have no impacts on public services. Therefore, it would not contribute to cumulative impacts on public services.

5.14 PARKS AND RECREATION

The proposed project/preferred alternative would have no direct impacts on parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, it would not contribute to a cumulative impact.

5.15 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

The proposed project/preferred alternative distribution pipelines would be located in roadway ROW. Therefore, construction would require the temporary diversion of traffic. Construction-related traffic impacts would be minimized through the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined above. If related projects would be constructed in the vicinity of any of the design area construction activities, then cumulative construction-related traffic impacts could result.

However, these impacts would not be cumulatively considerable because construction-related impacts would be temporary and all construction-related traffic impacts from the related projects would require mitigation similar to those in the RWMP.

Long-term operational impacts of the RWMP would be related to maintenance vehicles periodically accessing the various RWMP components. The proposed project is not considered to be "trip generating" because traffic generated by maintenance activities would be negligible and widely distributed throughout the CLWA service area. Therefore, the proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in cumulatively considerable traffic impacts.

5.16 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

The proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in significant direct impacts to utilities and service systems. Construction of the proposed project/preferred alternative would generate some construction-related solid waste; however, the disposal of all construction debris from the implementation of the proposed project would comply with all applicable City of Santa Clarita codes and ordinances. Operation of the proposed project/preferred alternative would not generate solid waste nor would it have significant impacts on any utilities. Related projects in the CLWA service area would generate solid waste during construction and operation. Because the proposed project/preferred alternative construction-related impacts to solid waste would be temporary and would comply with applicable agency requirements, the proposed project/preferred alternative would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts.

6.0 CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

6.1 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The following agencies and parties were consulted during the development of this document:

- Federal agencies:
  - US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
- State agencies:
  - Native American Heritage Commission
  - State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO)
- Local agencies:
  - Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District
  - South Central Coastal Information Center, California State University, Fullerton

6.2 RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

A "Responsible Agency" under CEQA are those state and local agencies, other than the lead agency, which have responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. The Responsible Agencies for the proposed project include:

- Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District,
- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and
- City of Santa Clarita.

6.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A public review period and a public hearing by the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) Board of Directors to adopt the document.

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