

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
PLANT F20 RESERVOIRS PROJECT**

Prepared for:

State Water Resources Control Board
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
ADI	Area of Direct Impacts
ADT	Average Daily Trips
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
AWWA	American Water Works Association
BMP	Best management practice
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CASQA	California Stormwater Quality Association
CBC	California Building Code
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CH ₄	Methane
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CMP	Corrugated metal pipe
CNDDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Equivalent Noise Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CNSPEI	California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
Corps	Army Corps of Engineers
CY	Cubic yards
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DPM	Diesel particulate matter
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
END	Endangered
EO	Executive Order
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FGC	California Fish and Game Code
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FP	Fully Protected

FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FWC	Fontana Water Company
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GPM	Gallons per minute
I-10	Interstate 10
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
Leq	Equivalent noise level
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LST	Localized significance threshold
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MG	Million-gallon
MM	Mitigation Measure
MTCO ₂ e	Metric tons of CO ₂ equivalent
N ₂ O	Nitrous oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Nitrogen oxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O ₃	Ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PM ₁₀	Coarse particulate matter
PM _{2.5}	Fine particulate matter
PPV	Peak particle velocity
ROG	Reactive organic gases
RTP/SCS	Regional Transportation Plan/sustainable Communities Strategy
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
SoCal Gas	Southern California Gas Company
SSC	Species of Special Concern
TAC	Toxic air contaminants
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resource
THR	Threatened
TIA	Traffic Impact Analysis
US EPA	Environmental Protection Agency

USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VdB	Vibration decibels
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
W	Watts
WL	Watch List
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
YSMN	Yuhaaviatam of San Manual Nation

1.0 INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE OF THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

1.1 Project Overview

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared by Tom Dodson & Associates in partnership with Kimley-Horn and Associates (Kimley-Horn) for the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for the implementation of the proposed Plant F20 Reservoirs Project ("Project or proposed Project"), located in proximity to 15151 Long View Drive, in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California. This IS/MND was prepared pursuant with the requirements set forth in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine significant impacts on specific environmental areas. Where a potentially significant impact may occur, appropriate mitigation measures have been identified to avoid or mitigate the potential impact to a less than significant level.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

This IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.) and its Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR], Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.), to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the Plant F20 Reservoirs Project. Pursuant to Section 15367 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the State Water Board is the lead agency for the Project. The lead agency is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project. In this case, the State Water Board is the agency that will carry forth the first decision on the Plant F20 Reservoirs Project pursuant to 15051(c), in that it must consider the Project under CEQA in order for Fontana Water Company ("Fontana Water" or "FWC") to obtain permits to operate from the State Water Resources Control Board.

As set forth in the State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, an IS/MND can be prepared when the Initial Study has identified potentially significant environmental impacts, but revisions have been made to a project, prior to public review of the Initial Study, that would avoid or mitigate the impacts to a level considered less than significant; and there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the public agency that the project, as revised, may have a significant effect on the environment.

1.3 Summary of Findings

Section 3.0 of this document contains the Environmental Checklist that was prepared for the proposed Project pursuant to CEQA requirements. The Environmental Checklist indicates whether the proposed Project would result in significant impacts with the implementation of mitigation measures, as identified throughout this document.

1.4 Mitigation Measures

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15041, *Authority to Mitigate*, gives the lead agency for a project the authority to require feasible changes in any or all activities involved in the project in order to substantially lessen or avoid significant effects on the environment, consistent with applicable constitutional requirements such as the “nexus” and “rough proportionality” standards. CEQA Guidelines Section 15364 defines “feasible” as capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, considering economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors. Mitigation measures will be adopted to reduce the environmental impacts to less than significant levels and must be consistent with all applicable constitutional requirements, including the following:

- There must be an essential nexus (i.e., connections) between the mitigation measure and legitimate governmental interest.
- The mitigation measure shall be “roughly proportional” to the impacts of the project.

Several forms of mitigation under CEQA Section 15370 are summarized as follows:

- **Avoiding** the impact by not taking a certain action(s);
- **Minimizing** impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- **Rectifying** the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impact environment;
- **Reducing** or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and
- **Compensating** for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environment.

Avoiding impacts is the preferred form of mitigation, followed by minimizing or rectifying the impact to less than significant levels. Compensating for impacts would be pursued if no other form of mitigation is not feasible.

1.5 Environmental Resource Topics

This IS/MND evaluates the proposed Project's impacts on the following resource topics:

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

1.6 Initial Study Public Review Process

The Initial Study and a Notice of Intent to adopt this MND will be distributed to responsible and trustee agencies, other affected agencies, and other parties for a 30-day public review period.

Written comments regarding this MND should be addressed to:

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State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
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2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

2.1 Background

Fontana Water Company ("Fontana Water" or "FWC") is a division of the San Gabriel Valley Water Company. Fontana Water owns and operates water facilities throughout the City that produce, treat, store, and distribute drinking water to its customers. Fontana Water is an investor-owned utility company subject to the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission and serves most of the City of Fontana, portions of the cities of Rialto, Rancho Cucamonga, and Ontario, and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County.

The City of Fontana owns an expansive open space area (approximately 176 acres), consisting of Assessor's Parcel Number (APN 0237-411-15) at the terminus of Long View Drive in the Jurupa Hills in the Southridge Village Specific Plan (Specific Plan). Fontana Water is in the process of purchasing a 1.0-acre portion of APN 0237-411-15, which is adjacent to the existing Plant F20 Reservoir. Fontana Water plans to construct two potable water reservoirs that would serve the community of Southridge Village together with the existing Plant F20 Reservoir located on a 0.8-acre parcel (APN 0237-411-17).

2.2 Project Location

The Project site is made up of the existing 0.8-acre site APN 0237-411-17 and a 1.0-acre site consisting of a portion of the adjacent APN 0237-411-15, located in proximity to 15151 Long View Drive, in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California; refer to **Exhibit 1, Regional Location**. The Project site is in the Specific Plan area, on the slopes of the Jurupa Hills, at approximately 34.0775901 North Latitude and -117.5060206 West Longitude, S35 T1S R6W Section and T1S R6W Township, at an elevation of 1,219 feet above mean sea level. Slopes descend approximately 200 feet in elevation from the Project site. Regional access is provided via Interstate 10 (I-10) at the Cherry Avenue and Citrus Avenue ramps. Local access is provided via Long View Drive; refer to **Exhibit 2, Local Vicinity**.

2.3 Existing Conditions

The Project site includes the existing 3.42-million-gallon (MG) Plant F20 South Reservoir approximately 148 feet in diameter and 40 feet high, the (to be acquired) vacant 1.0-acre portion of APN 0237-411-15, and the paved access road; refer to **Exhibit 3, Existing Plant F20 Reservoir Site**.

The Project site consists of a north/northwest trending large gravel/boulder-strewn ridge and rock and boulder out-crops. Ground elevations at the Project site range from approximately 1,215 feet in the southern extreme of the development area to approximately 1,180 feet in the north/northwest extreme of the area. Drainage is by sheet flow to the north/northwest. The proposed development area is vegetated with a light covering of grasses forbs, and small brush.

Access to the Project site is provided via an asphalt concrete paved access road to the existing Plant F20 Reservoir along the southwest side of the proposed development area. An unpaved dirt road is located adjacent to the north and west sides of the proposed development area. A V-shaped gutter runs along this unpaved dirt road. Numerous dirt trails trend around the Project site.

The Project site is currently only accessible through a gated access driveway bounded by chain link fencing. Ground cover consists of concrete/asphalt pavement and native scrub vegetation and approximately 10 ornamental trees including pine (*Pinus* sp.) and gum tree (*Eucalyptus* sp.), which will remain in place. The Project site presently contains the following facilities:

Physical Components of the Existing Reservoir Facility

- a) One 3.42 million gallon (MG) welded steel storage reservoir (148 feet in diameter by 40 feet high);
- b) Piping;
- c) Pavement around existing reservoir;
- d) Electronic control equipment and a
- e) paved access road

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The General Plan land use designation in and around the Project site is Southridge Village Specific Plan Open Space and the zoning district is Regional Park/Open Space. The Project site (APN: 0237-411-17) land use is water utility (existing reservoir site) and vacant open space. The land surrounding the Project site is also vacant open space with the same General Plan land use designation and zoning district (City of Fontana. 2021).

Major land uses surrounding the Project site, beyond the open space designation includes single-family residential to the west and east, park space, and commercial space

2.4 Project Description

The Project consists of the construction and operation of two new 1.28 MG reservoirs (East Reservoir and West Reservoir) to be used for potable water services within FWC's service area. The new Plant F20 East and West reservoirs would be designed in accordance with the latest California Building Code (CBC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), American Concrete Institute, and American Water Works Association (AWWA) design standards for reservoirs including those requiring that reservoirs be operated at fill levels below their maximum physical height to prevent roof damage which may be caused by a "sloshing wave" during a seismic event. Design and construction of the reservoirs would also comply with all municipal, county, state and federal requirements, including building codes, and fire codes. The proposed Project will follow CALGreen Standards, appliance efficiency regulations, and green building standards set by the California Energy Commission. The Project would be developed in accordance with the current California Fire Code. The transport, removal, and disposal of hazardous materials on the Project site would be conducted by a permitted and licensed service provider consistent with federal, state, and local requirements including the U.S. EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA), Caltrans, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the San Bernardino County Fire Department (the Certified Unified Program Agency for San Bernardino County) or through the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Program.

California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Section 13000 et seq., of the California Water Code), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972 (also referred to as the Clean Water Act) require comprehensive water quality control plans be developed for all waters within the State of California. The Project's WQMP was created to comply with the requirements of the City of Fontana as the City within which the Project is proposed, and the NPDES Areawide Stormwater Program ensuring that the Project manages runoff in conformance with the Clean Water Act. The Project would also adhere to stormwater management practices required under City of Fontana Municipal Code, Section 28 -111.

Further, standards established under the Fontana Municipal Code are used to analyze noise impacts originating from the Project. Operational noise impacts are typically governed by the Municipal Code Sections 18-61 through 18-67. Noise standards for non-transportation and stationary noise source impacts from operations at private

properties are found in the Zoning and Development Code in Section 30-543 of the Municipal Code.

Per City Municipal Code, access for emergency vehicles are incorporated into the project design. Paved fire access roads shall be provided between residential development and wildland fire areas subject to approval by the local fire authority (Municipal Code Sec. 30-429).

As shown in **Exhibit 4, Proposed Plant F20 Reservoirs Site Plan**, the future East Reservoir and proposed West Reservoir would be located contiguous to the existing Plant F20 Reservoir. The East and West Reservoirs would be constructed of welded steel, each measuring 74 feet in diameter and 40 feet in height and would show decorative elements similar to other reservoirs within the City; refer to **Exhibit 5, Elevations**. The Project would occur in two phases. As noted below, the installation of the West Reservoir would occur during Phase 1, while the installation of the East Reservoir would occur in the future under Phase 2. Total Project activities are anticipated to disturb a total of 0.98 acre. At the culmination of the Project construction and maintenance, the Project site would include the three Plant F20 Reservoirs, with a total combined storage volume of approximately 5.98 MG.

Additionally, the portion of the existing access road located within the newly acquired 1.0-acre portion of land would be subject to a slight adjustment. The road adjustment would be limited to realignment west of the existing paved roadway to allow for adequate service and emergency vehicle access. The Project would occur in two phases. As noted below, the installation of the West Reservoir would occur during Phase 1, while the installation of the East Reservoir would be occurring in the future under Phase 2. Total Project activities are anticipated to disturb a total of 0.98 acre.

The proposed foundation system for the East and West reservoirs would be a structural concrete slab supported by a drilled-hole cast-in pile foundation system, retaining walls around them to support the tanks on an elevated pad. Associated site improvements would consist of new storm drain inlets, outlets, drainpipes, new site pavement improvements, block walls and/or wrought iron fencing with pilasters, lighting, and other miscellaneous site improvements.

Grading

Plant F20 South Reservoir

Maintenance procedures associated with the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir would be limited to internal and external aesthetic updates/maintenance. No grading activities would occur.

Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs

Grading associated with the new Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs would cover an area of less than one acre, and would include over-excavation, import and/or export of soil and compaction of soil beneath the new reservoir foundations with crushed rock base for the proposed reservoirs with 4-inch-thick asphalt concrete pavement. Grading of the site would require 8,500 cubic yards (CY) of soil import and no soil export; refer to **Exhibit 6, Grading Plan**. The site would also be precisely graded to direct storm water runoff away from both the existing and proposed reservoirs to the on-site drainage system and water quality Best Management Practices would be implemented, which would drain to an existing public storm drain system. A small portion of the existing V-shaped gutter occurring on the northeast portion of the site would be removed. The small portion to be removed occurs within a portion of the site that would be graded.

Perimeter Fencing

The proposed Project would install a 7-foot-tall perimeter wrought iron fence with one 26-foot wide by 7-feet tall wrought iron gate. The fence would include a Knox padlock to be used by emergency personnel in case of emergencies, refer to **Exhibit 7, Proposed Fence**.

Hydrology

The site development includes implementation of corrugated metal pipe (CMP) storm water detention system to collect, treat and control discharge. Runoff will be collected by a series of on-site drainpipes and conveyed to an underground CMP system for storage and treatment. Runoff will exit the site via storm drainpipe and will be discharged into an existing concrete v-gutter. The installation of the CMP storm water detention system will provide a storage capacity of 6,929 cubic feet at a water surface elevation of 1,216 feet. The storm drain system design will include a Continuous Deflective Separation® hydrodynamic separator that will trap trash, debris, sediment, and hydrocarbons to ensure storm water quality prior to entering the detention system.

Construction

Construction activities are anticipated to require four construction workers per day, and no Fontana Water Company employees would be on-site full-time once construction

activities are completed. Construction hours, as decreed in the City Codes, would be between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, with no work outside those hours allowed without a permit from the City (City of Fontana Code of Ordinances Sec. 18-63(b)(7). No oversized vehicles will be used on state highways. Project construction equipment will comply with the latest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) engine emissions standards. The Project will implement CARB's idling regulations, which restrict idling diesel vehicles and equipment to five minutes, and all construction equipment would meet CARB Tier 3 In-Use Off-Road Diesel Engine Standards. The Project will implement Chapter 9, Article II of the Fontana Municipal Code for the purpose of controlling blowing sand and preventing soil erosion.

Plant F20 South Reservoir

No construction activities would be associated with the maintenance of the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir.

Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs

Construction of the new 1.28-MG Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs will be supported by a structural concrete slab and pile foundation. The new reservoirs would be ground-based welded steel storage reservoirs and would operate in conjunction with the existing welded steel South Reservoir. The proposed reservoirs would be constructed to allow Fontana Water to provide necessary water storage to meet the existing demands for domestic usage, fire suppression, and emergencies from the City of Fontana. With either one of the Plant F20 East or West Reservoirs in service, the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir could also be taken out of service when required for routine maintenance.

The type of construction equipment utilized during construction would include but is not limited to the following: heavy equipment including scrapers, dozers, excavators, backhoes and dirt trucks, and vertical construction including the following: backhoes, tractors, pettibones, air compressors, jackhammers, and other power tools.

2.5 Phase 1 – West Reservoir

Phase 1 includes the installation of the Plant F20 West Reservoir, and all work associated with this reservoir. Further, Phase 1 would include the site work, but no work associated with the Plant F20 East Reservoir will be undertaken in Phase 1. Phase 1 site work includes grading, wall and fences, pavement, on site lighting and storm drain improvements. Access road work will be constructed as part of Phase 1. The fence will be along the

perimeter of the site (both tanks). The West Reservoir would be located just northwest of Plant F20 South Reservoir and would be the first reservoir to be installed on-site. The installation of the West Reservoir would allow Fontana Water to meet the necessary water storage required for the community to meet existing water demands for domestic uses, fire suppression, and emergency needs, and would allow the South Reservoir to be taken out of service when required for routine maintenance.

Phase 1 of the Project would also consist of maintenance work associated with the interior recoating and exterior patchwork and paint of the Plant F20 Reservoir South. The maintenance work for the Plant F20 Reservoir South is necessary as the existing coating system has exceeded its 20- to-25-year life expectancy.

2.6 Phase 2 – East Reservoir

Installation of the proposed Plant F20 East Reservoir is anticipated to occur in the future. The timeframe for installation of the East Reservoir is to be determined, but technical and environmental analysis has been conducted to analyze construction and operational activities associated with the East Reservoir and results are provided in this IS/MND.

2.7 Construction Overview

Site construction would require grading for the reservoir foundations, installation of related piping, asphalt pavement, gravel paved surface, light pole foundations, wrought iron fencing, landscape improvements, storm drains and a concrete perimeter retaining wall. These activities are discussed in detail below and are depicted in the site plan provided as **Exhibit 4**.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) and landscape improvements would be provided. For specific details on BMPs and inspection and maintenance, refer to Tables 7-1 and 10-1.

Design, Permitting and Construction Timing

Design and permitting are anticipated to take place during Capital Budgeted Years 2025 and 2026. Construction activities are anticipated to take place during Capital Budgeted Years 2027 and 2028, as follows:

Year 2025:

- Design, Permitting and Related Work

Year 2026:

- Land Acquisition
- Lot Line Adjustment

Year 2027:

- Fencing
- Grading
- Retaining Wall

Year 2028:

- Infrastructure Improvements
- Piping
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
- Site and Street Improvements
- Paving
- Construction of one 1.28 MG West Reservoir
- Refurbish the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir

It is expected that Phase 1 would occur over approximately 12 months, with Phase 2 occurring over a period of 5 months, for a total construction duration of 17 months.

2.8 Operations

Routine maintenance visits would be approximately once per month, which is a continuation of FWC's existing operations at this site. No significant noise would be generated during visits as maintenance visits typically require one service truck and a couple of people. No full-time employees would be necessary on-site.

2.9 Other agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)

The FWC would be required to receive all applicable approvals and permits from the City for development of the Project, including but not limited to the lot line adjustment. No other permits are known to be required.

Table 2-1 Other Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permit or Approval
Southern California Edison Company	Letter of authorization/consent for proposed improvements to provide electrical supply connection to new development.

Agency	Permit or Approval
City of Fontana	Grading permit, Retaining Wall Permit, Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Hydrology approval, and purchase of the 1.0-acre site (APN 0237-411-15)
City of Fontana Fire Protection District	Approval of the Fire Management/Fuel Modification Plan

2.10 Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures

Fontana Water Company is responsible for the implementation of best management practices and mitigation measures. The State Water Board is responsible for enforcing mitigation.

Table 2-2 Best Management Practices

BMPs	Timing
BMP-AQ-1: The Grading Plan, Construction Plans and Specifications shall require all construction contractors to comply with South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) Rules 402 and 403 to minimize construction emissions of dust and particulates. The measures include, but are not limited to, the following: • Portions of a construction site to remain inactive longer than a period of three months will be seeded and watered until grass cover is grown or otherwise stabilized. • All on-site roads will be paved as soon as feasible or watered periodically or chemically stabilized. • All material transported off-site will be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust. • The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation operations will be minimized at all times. • Where vehicles leave a construction site and enter adjacent public streets, the streets will be swept daily or washed down at the end of the workday to remove soil tracked onto the paved surface.	Prior to Issuance of Grading Permits

BMPs	Timing																				
BMP-GEO-1 Table 7-1: Water Quality Management Plan Best Management Practices <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="217 443 678 478">Best Management Practice (BMP)</th><th data-bbox="678 443 1144 478">Description of BMP Implementation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2" data-bbox="217 478 1144 514">Non-Structural Source Controls BMPs</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 514 678 825">Education of Property Owners, Tenants and Occupants on Stormwater BMPs</td><td data-bbox="678 514 1144 825">The FWC shall familiarize himself/herself with the Water Quality management Plan (WQMP) document content, including BMP educational materials provided in Sections 5 and 6 of the WQMP, and shall ensure that all site occupants are also familiar with it. Refer to Appendix F: Hydrology and Water Quality Management Report.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 825 678 1100">Activity Restrictions</td><td data-bbox="678 825 1144 1100">FWC shall control the discharge of stormwater pollutants from the site by restricting the activity that dictates what can or cannot be done on or around features like rain gardens, infiltration basins, and silt fences to prevent pollution and flooding, and providing training for employees.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1100 678 1341">BMP Maintenance</td><td data-bbox="678 1100 1144 1341">The owner (or their Maintenance Contractor) shall inspect all proposed BMPs on a regular basis for any signs of erosion or sediment and debris build-up. Those should be cleaned/repared as needed; refer to Form 5-1 of the WQMP (Appendix F).</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1341 678 1446">Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Compliance (How development will comply)</td><td data-bbox="678 1341 1144 1446">On site storage of hazardous materials or waste, must comply with Title 22 CCR regulations.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1446 678 1551">Local Water Quality Ordinances</td><td data-bbox="678 1446 1144 1551">The owner shall comply with the City of Fontana Stormwater Ordinance through the implementation of BMPs.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1551 678 1688">Litter/Debris Control Program</td><td data-bbox="678 1551 1144 1688">The owner shall be responsible for trash and litter to be swept from the site and deposited into an approved disposal facility.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1688 678 1793">Employee Training</td><td data-bbox="678 1688 1144 1793">The owner shall be responsible for providing employee training for site personnel.</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="217 1793 678 1894">Vacuum Sweeping of Private Streets and Parking Lots</td><td data-bbox="678 1793 1144 1894">The owner shall be responsible for vacuum sweeping of any areas draining to an infiltration BMP.</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Best Management Practice (BMP)	Description of BMP Implementation	Non-Structural Source Controls BMPs		Education of Property Owners, Tenants and Occupants on Stormwater BMPs	The FWC shall familiarize himself/herself with the Water Quality management Plan (WQMP) document content, including BMP educational materials provided in Sections 5 and 6 of the WQMP, and shall ensure that all site occupants are also familiar with it. Refer to Appendix F: Hydrology and Water Quality Management Report .	Activity Restrictions	FWC shall control the discharge of stormwater pollutants from the site by restricting the activity that dictates what can or cannot be done on or around features like rain gardens, infiltration basins, and silt fences to prevent pollution and flooding, and providing training for employees.	BMP Maintenance	The owner (or their Maintenance Contractor) shall inspect all proposed BMPs on a regular basis for any signs of erosion or sediment and debris build-up. Those should be cleaned/repared as needed; refer to Form 5-1 of the WQMP (Appendix F).	Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Compliance (How development will comply)	On site storage of hazardous materials or waste, must comply with Title 22 CCR regulations.	Local Water Quality Ordinances	The owner shall comply with the City of Fontana Stormwater Ordinance through the implementation of BMPs.	Litter/Debris Control Program	The owner shall be responsible for trash and litter to be swept from the site and deposited into an approved disposal facility.	Employee Training	The owner shall be responsible for providing employee training for site personnel.	Vacuum Sweeping of Private Streets and Parking Lots	The owner shall be responsible for vacuum sweeping of any areas draining to an infiltration BMP.	During Operation
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Page 15

BMPs				Timing
		occurs. Inspect for standing water within 48 hours of heavy rain events to ensure proper drawdown. Clean and flush underground systems to restore free drainage.		
Title 22 CCR Compliance	By owner & future owner	On site storage of hazardous materials or waste, will comply with the Title 22 CCR regulations.	Annually	
Local Water Quality Ordinances	By owner & future owner	The Owner will comply with the City of Fontana Storm Water Ordinance by implementing the BMPs.	Annually	
Litter/Debris Control Program	By owner & future owner	The Owner will provide educational materials to FWC personnel performing maintenance activities and outline procedures for spill cleanup, litter control, and material storage.	Once	
Employee Training	By owner & future owner	The Owner should ensure that the employees are trained and familiar with BMPs.	Once	
Catch Basin/Filter Insert Inspection	By owner & future owner	Inspect for illegal dumping and/or debris accumulation. Clean filters whenever 25 percent of filter capacity is exceeded by debris accumulation.	Inspect minimum 2 times per year and after every major storm	
Parking Lot Sweeping	By owner & future owner	Parking lots and drive aisles shall be vacuumed and swept. Debris collected to be despised off-site or in the on-site dumpster.	Monthly	
Other Non-Structural Measures for	By owner & future owner	The Site is a Public Facility – Water Treatment Plan (San Gabriel Valley Water	Monthly	

BMPs				Timing
Public Agency Projects		Company). Non-structural measures as required by the Owner will be implemented.		
Signage & Stencil	By owner & future owner	Clean the stencil/signage surface to remove any excess dirt. Re-paint if necessary.	Annually	
Protect slope channels and provide energy dissipation	By owner & future owner	Existing slopes and channels will be protected and maintained to the maximum extent practicable. No major grade changes are anticipated.	Annually	
Hillside landscaping	By owner & future owner	Owner will install landscaped Verdura retaining wall.	Once	
Source: San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Engineering Department. 2022. <i>Water Quality Management Plan for Plant F20 Water Storage Project</i> ; page 5-1 through 5-2.				
BMP-HYD-2 Based on the recommendations of the Project-specific infiltration feasibility study conducted by MTG _L , Inc., BMP facilities (e.g., catch basins, Corrugated Metal Pipe storm water detention system, etc.) required by the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) shall be kept at least 10-feet from structural foundations of the proposed Plant F20 Reservoirs and not allowed to infiltrate into the slope. Therefore, stormwater shall be collected in a pipe and be transported offsite to a suitable outlet. At a minimum, BMP facilities shall be lined with an impermeable geomembrane on the bottom and sides to reduce the potential for water-related distress from later migration of infiltrated stormwater to adjacent structures or improvements.				During project design
BMP-HYD-3 A subdrain system shall be installed in BMP facilities to transport collected water.				During project design

Table 2-3 Mitigation Measures

MITIGATION MEASURE	Timing
BIO-1 Protection Plan. Wildlife shall be protected or allowed to move away on its own (non-invasive, passive relocation) to adjacent appropriate habitat within the open space on site or in suitable habitat adjacent to the Project area (either way, at least 200 feet from the grading limits). Special status wildlife shall be captured only by a qualified biologist with proper handling permits (i.e. Scientific Collection). The qualified biologist shall prepare a protection plan that includes a species- specific list with proper handling and passive relocation protocols. The plan shall be implemented during Project construction. BIO-2 Nesting Birds. A pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than three (3) days prior to the initiation of site preparation and construction activities. The nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted with binoculars in the disturbance footprint and a 250-foot buffer for passerines and a 500-foot buffer for raptors and listed avian species. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in the region including coastal California gnatcatcher. An additional survey shall be conducted following any lapse in construction activity of seven or more days during the bird breeding season. If no active nests are found during the preconstruction surveys, then no additional mitigation is required. If nests are found, an avoidance buffer of 250 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors and listed species shall be established by the qualified biologist. The buffer shall be established to ensure nesting activity is	Prior to Commencement of Construction

MITIGATION MEASURE	Timing
not disturbed by construction activity and determined by the qualified biologist based on the species' known tolerances, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the project site. The buffer(s) shall be demarcated by the biologist and the boundary marked with bright construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No work shall be allowed within these avoidance buffers until the avian biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest, or the nest has become otherwise inactive. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist and with monitoring of the active nest to ensure construction activities are not disrupting nesting behavior.	
CUL-1 In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior Standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the Project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department and the Gabrieleno Band of Indians-Kizh Nation shall be contacted, as detailed within MM TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.	During construction

MITIGATION MEASURE	Timing
If significant pre-contact cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to YSMN and the Kizh Nation for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly. If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.	
GEO-1 Compliance with the Geotechnical Investigation. All grading, construction and operations shall be conducted in conformance with the recommendations included in the Geotechnical Investigation for the Project site prepared by MTG_L, Inc. (Appendix E) or an update thereof, and incorporated into the plans and specifications for the proposed construction. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the Geotechnical Investigation are based on the site conditions as they existed at the time of the MTG_L, Inc.'s investigation, and further assume that the subsurface conditions encountered during MTG_L, Inc.'s investigation are representative of conditions throughout the site. Should subsurface conditions be encountered during construction that are different from those described in the Geotechnical Investigation, as specified in the construction contract, the Applicant shall immediately notify MTG_L, Inc. so	During, grading, construction, and operation

MITIGATION MEASURE	Timing
that the provided recommendations may be re-evaluated	
TCR-1 The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department and the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation (The Tribes) shall be contacted, as detailed in CR-1, if any pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources are discovered during project implementation and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resource Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with the Lead Agency and the Tribes, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents one or both of the Tribes for the remainder of the Project, should the Tribes elect to place a monitor on-site. Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the Project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to the Tribes. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with the Tribes throughout the life of the Project, as appropriate.	During construction
TCR-2 The FWC shall contact each of the Tribes before Phase 1 and future Phase 2 and offer to them the opportunity to provide a Native American Monitor (Monitor) to monitor “ground-disturbing activity” for the subject Project. “Ground-disturbing activity” shall include, but is not limited to, demolition, pavement removal, potholing, auguring, grubbing, tree removal, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching.	During construction

MITIGATION MEASURE	Timing
The Monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground-disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe(s). Monitoring logs will identify and describe any discoveries, including but not limited to, Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitoring logs will be provided to the lead agency upon completion of monitoring. On-site tribal monitoring shall conclude when FWC sends written confirmation to the Tribes that all ground-disturbing activities on the project site for the current phase are complete; or when the monitoring Tribe(s) sends a written notification to the FWC of their determination that the project phase no longer has the potential to impact TCRs.	
WF-1 Prior to construction, fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into a fire management plan/fuel modification plan for the proposed facility and shall be implemented during construction and over the long-term for protection of the site. These measures shall address all staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development that are planned to use spark-producing equipment. These areas shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other material that could ignite. Any construction equipment that can include a spark arrestor shall be equipped with a spark arrestor in good working order. During the construction of the Project, all vehicles and crews working at the project site shall have access to functional fire extinguishers and related fire prevention equipment (such as emergency sand bags,	Prior to construction

MITIGATION MEASURE	Timing
etc.) at all times. In addition, construction crews shall have a spotter during welding activities to look out for potentially dangerous situations, including accidental sparks. This plan shall be provided to the City of Fontana Fire Protection District for review and comment and approved prior to construction and implemented by FWC once approved. The fire management plan shall also include sufficient defensible space or other measures at the Project site to minimize fire exposure and damage over the long-term.	

Exhibit 1: Regional Location

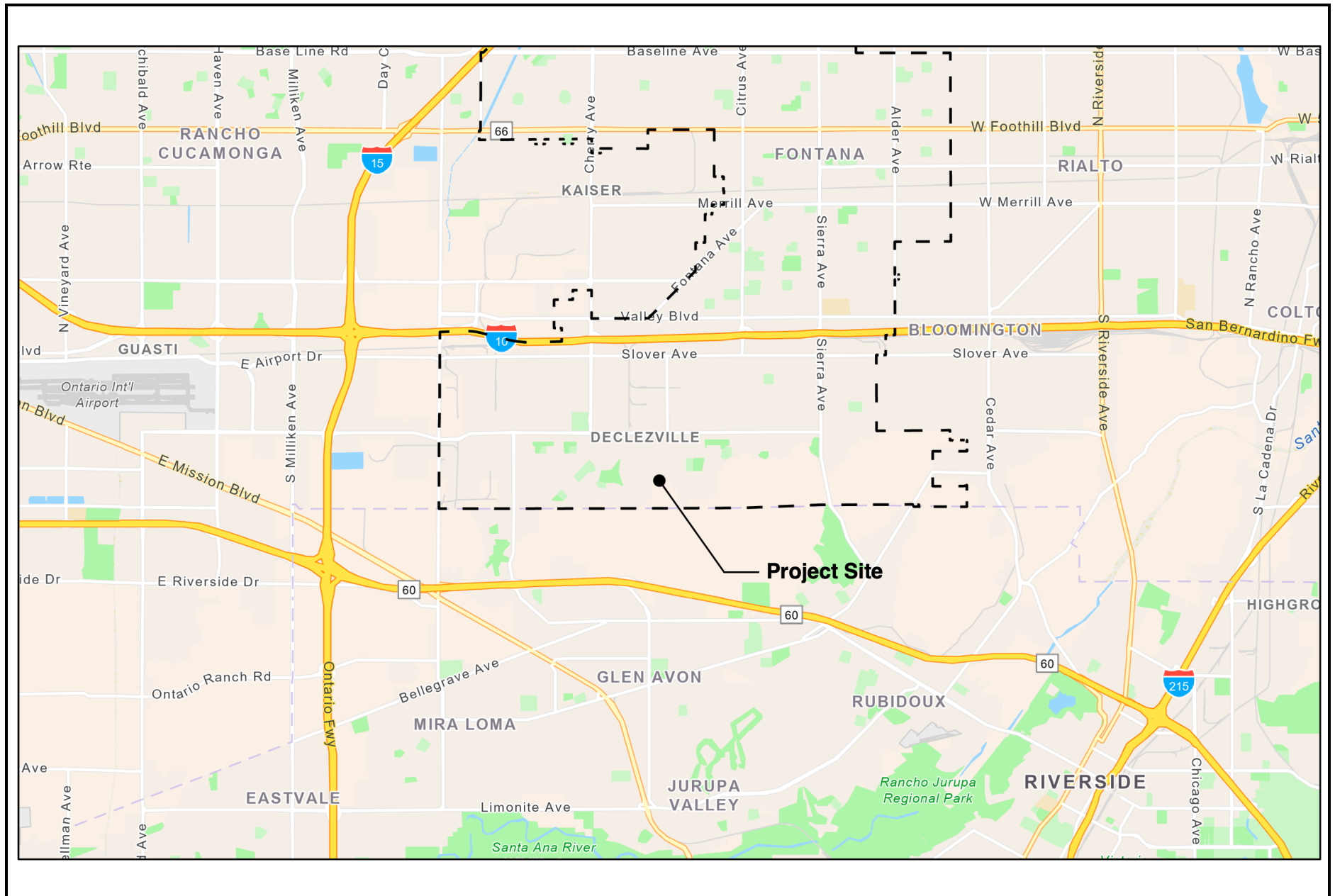


EXHIBIT 1

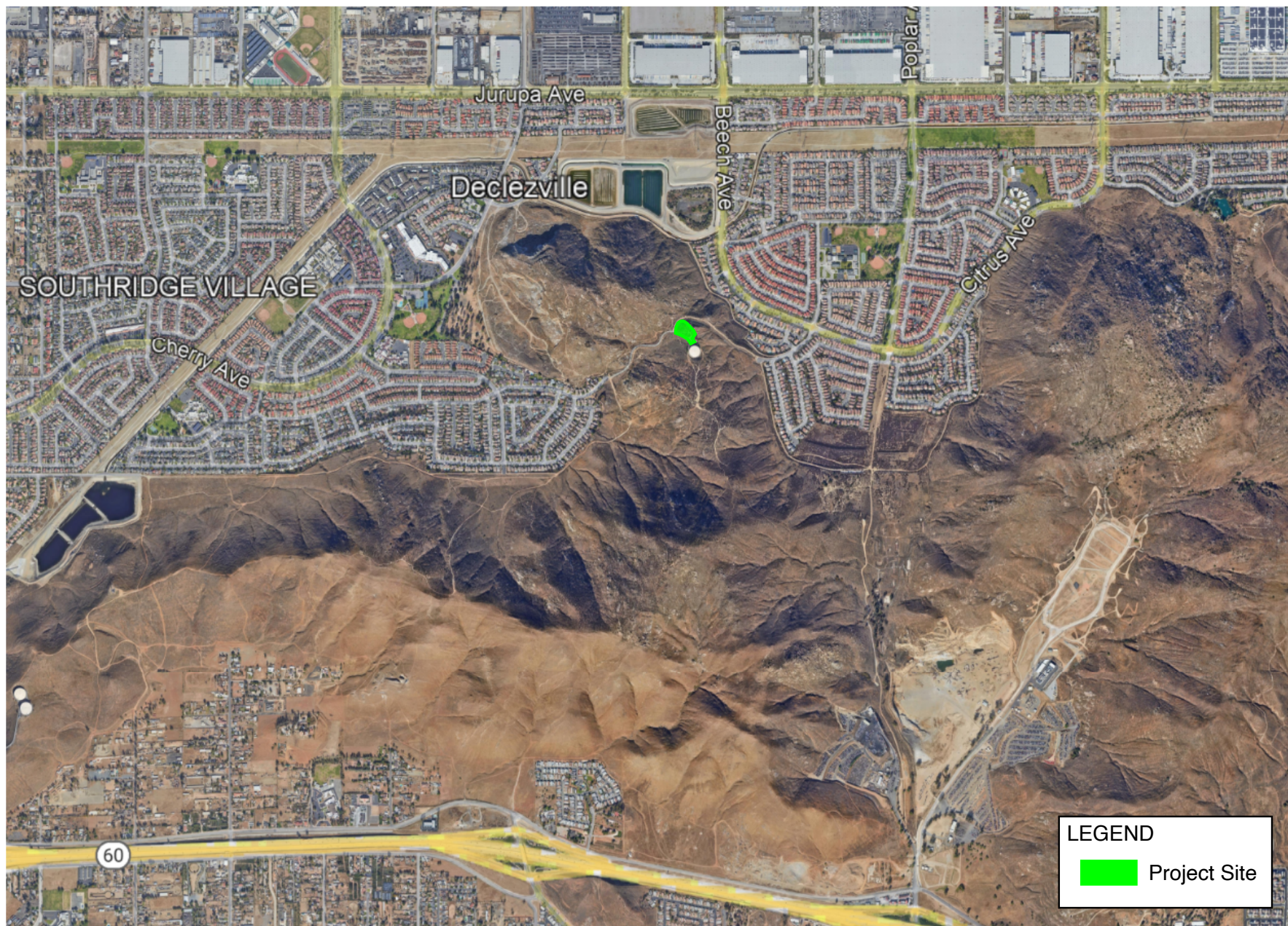


EXHIBIT 2



EXHIBIT 3

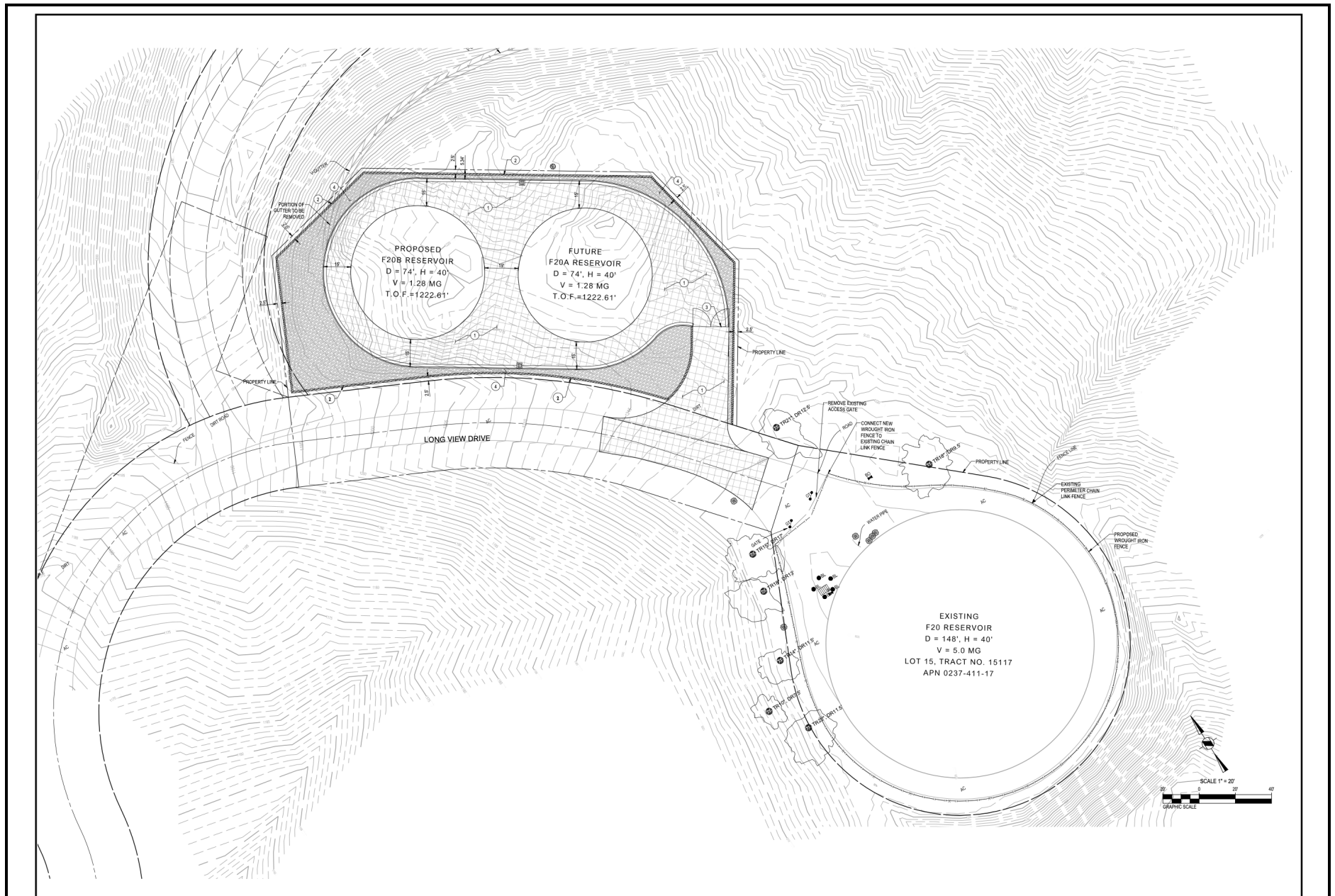


EXHIBIT 4

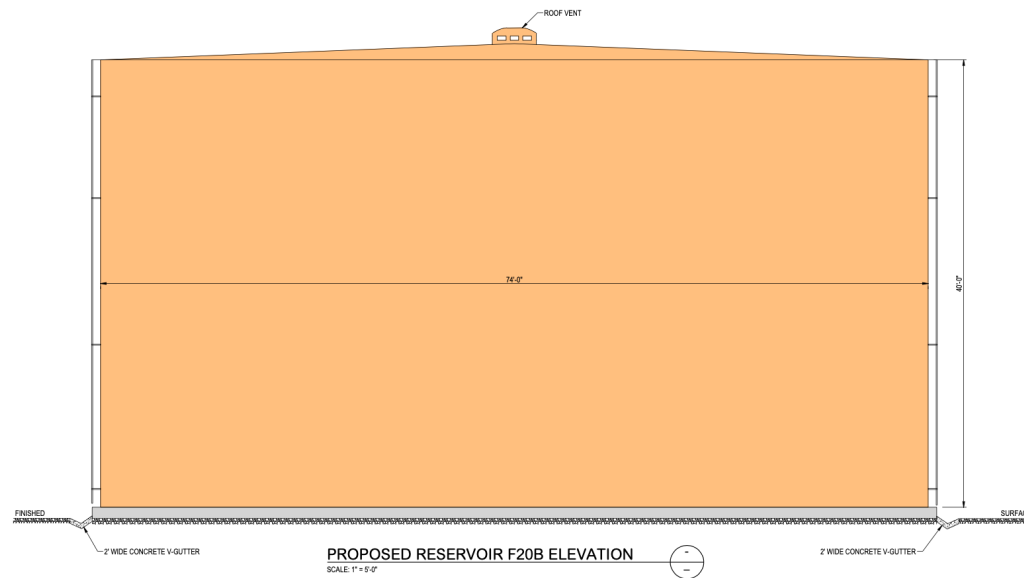
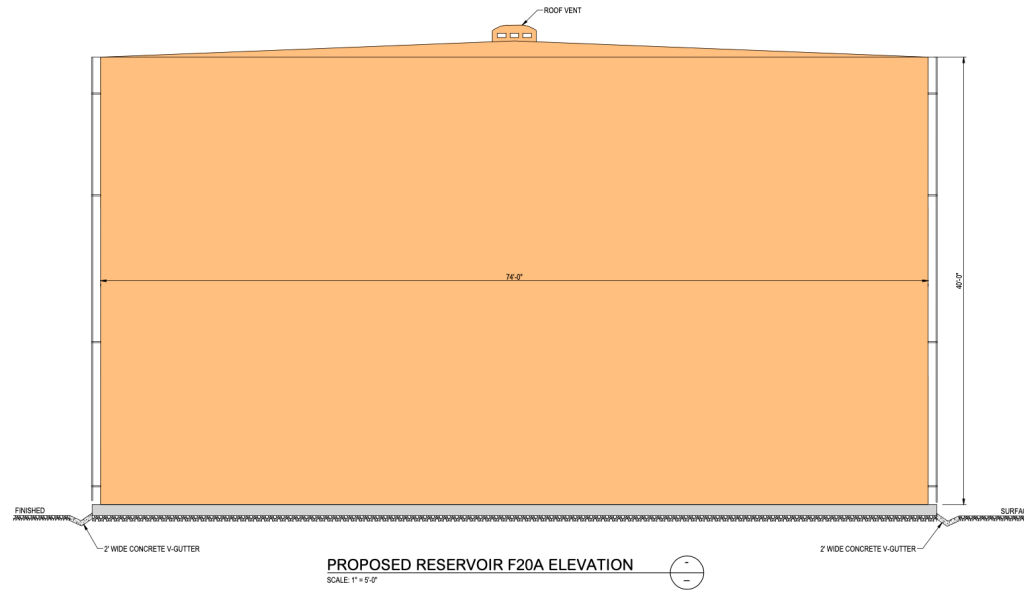


EXHIBIT 5

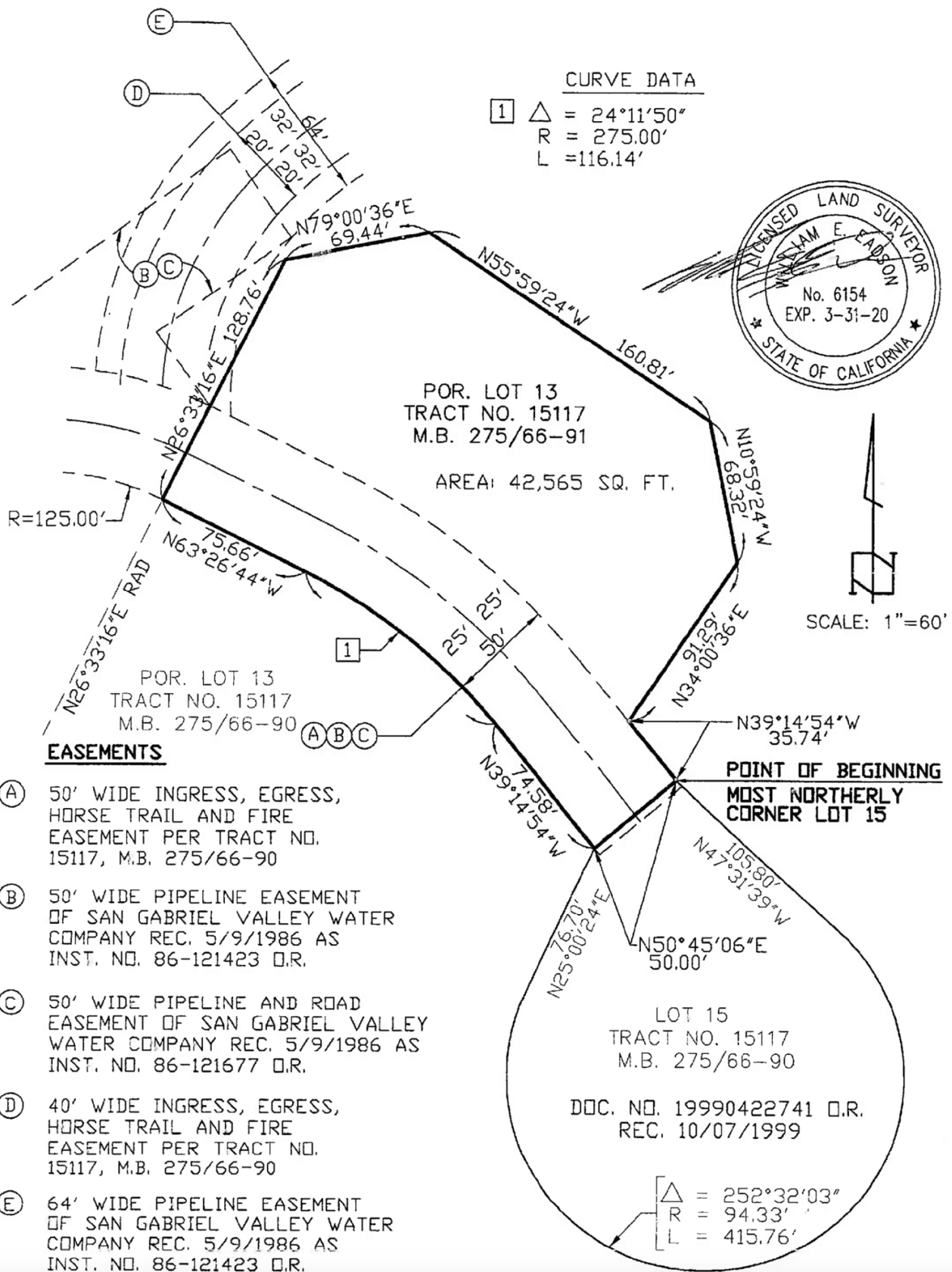
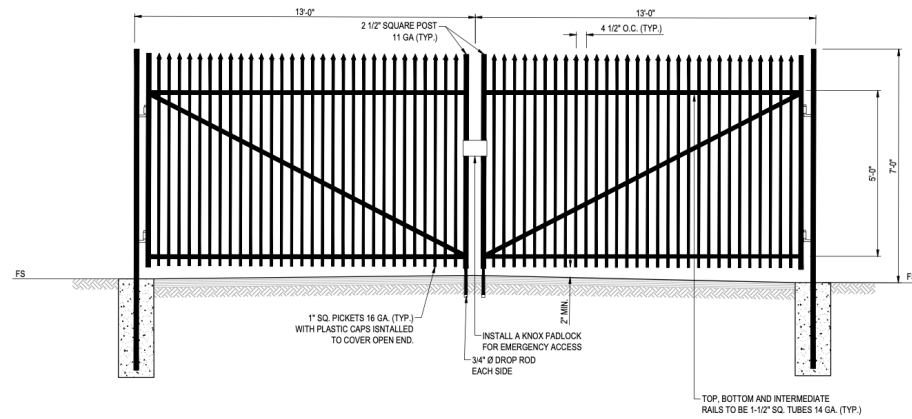


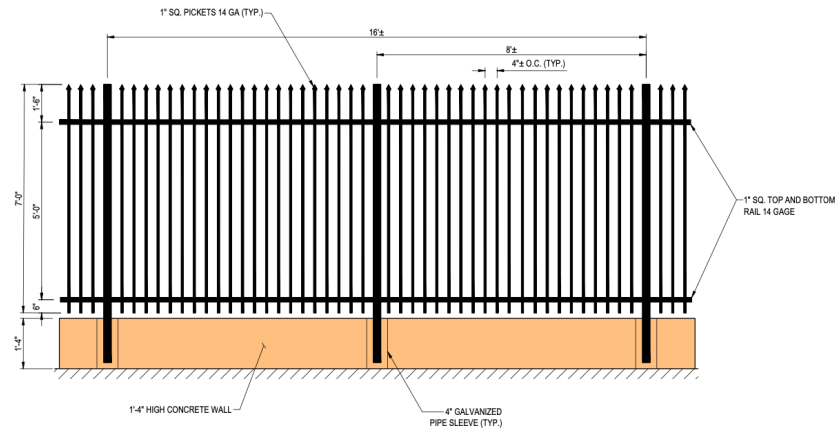
EXHIBIT 6



WROUGHT IRON GATE DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

1
3



CONCRETE WALL AND WROUGHT IRON FENCE DETAIL

NOT TO SCALE

2
3

EXHIBIT 7

2.11 Initial Study Checklist

Project Title San Gabriel Valley Water Company Plant F20 Reservoirs Project

Lead Agency Name State Water Resources Control Board
Address Attn: Wendy Pierce
 P.O. Box 100 Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Contact Person Wendy Pierce
Phone Number (916) 449-5178, Wendy.Pierce@waterboards.ca.gov

Project Location The Project site is made up of the existing 0.8-acre site Assessor's Parcel Number APN 0237 411 17 and 1.0-acre site consisting of a portion of the adjacent APN 0237-411-15, located in proximity to 15151 Long View Drive, in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California; refer to Exhibit 1, Regional Location. The Project site is located in the Specific Plan area, on the slopes of the Jurupa Hills, at approximately 34.0775901 North Latitude and -117.5060206 West Longitude, S35 T1S R6W Section and T1S R6W Township, at an elevation of 1,219 feet above mean sea level. Slopes descend approximately 200 feet in elevation from the Project site. Regional access is provided via I-10 at the Cherry Avenue and Citrus Avenue ramps. Local access is provided via Long View Drive; refer to Exhibit 2, Local Vicinity.

Project Sponsor Name San Gabriel Valley Water Company
Address 15966 Arrow Route, Fontana, California 92335

Land Use Designation Southridge Village Specific Plan
 Open Space

Zoning Classification Regional Park/Open Space

Project Summary

Phase 1 – West Reservoir

The Plant F20 West Reservoir would be located just northwest of existing Plant F20 South Reservoir and would be the first reservoir to be installed on-site. The installation of the West Reservoir would allow Fontana Water to meet the necessary water storage required for the community to meet existing water demands for domestic uses, fire suppression, and emergency needs, and would allow the Plant F20 South Reservoir to

be taken out of service when required for routine maintenance. Phase 1 of the Project would also consist of maintenance work associated with the interior recoating and exterior patchwork and paint of the Plant F20 South Reservoir. The maintenance work for the South Reservoir is necessary as the existing coating system has exceeded its 20-to-25-year life expectancy.

Phase 2 – East Reservoir

Installation of the proposed Plant F20 East Reservoir is anticipated to occur in the future. Timeframe for installation of the East Reservoir is to be determined, but technical and environmental analysis has been conducted to analyze construction and operational activities associated with the East Reservoir and results are provided in this IS/MND.

Other agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

Refer to Table 2-1, presented under Section 2.9, above.

Assembly Bill 52 Consultation

Have California Native American tribes traditionally and cultural affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

Yes. See Section 3.0-18 Tribal Cultural Resources.

2.12 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

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

☐ Utilities/Service
Systems

☐ Wildfire

☐ Mandatory Findings
of Significance

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

The State Water Resources Control Board finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

3.1 AESTHETICS

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

Regional Context

The City of Fontana is located within southwestern San Bernardino County and is adjacent to major highways, including I-10, Interstate 15, and State Route 60. The City encompasses approximately 52 square miles including the City's Sphere of Influence. The City is bordered by the City of Rancho Cucamonga to the west, City of Rialto to the east, City of Riverside to the southeast, and City of Jurupa Valley to the south.

Scenic Views

Under CEQA, a scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the public. The City is located on the desert valley floor between the San Gabriel Mountains – the highest point in the City – to the north and the Jurupa Hills to the south. Panoramic scenic view corridors towards the

mountains and views of the City from the mountains dominate the City's visual landscape character. Fontana's open space consists of a mix of foothill natural areas, utility corridors, and parks.¹

Scenic Resources within Scenic Highways

A highway is designated as "scenic" depending on how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler's enjoyment of the view. The California Scenic Highway Program was created by the Legislature in 1963 to protect and enhance scenic highway corridors from change which would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways. This program provides guidance for signage, aesthetics, grading, and screening to help maintain the scenic value of the roadway. No highways within the City are eligible or are officially designated state or county scenic highways.² Therefore, the provisions of the California Scenic Highway Program do not apply.

a) *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The General Plan does not officially designate any scenic vistas near the Project site, but the San Bernardino Mountains, San Gabriel Mountains, and Jurupa Hills are visible from the City. The Project site is situated on a north/northwest trending ridge of the northern slopes of the Jurupa Hills. Although the Project site is located on the Jurupa Hills, there is limited visibility of the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir from roads within the Southridge community. Visibility is limited to roadways that approach the base of the Jurupa Hills open space areas. Namely, the existing reservoir is visible from Long View Drive to the west. The Project proposes the installation of two additional Plant F20 reservoirs (East and West) to a low relief, low visibility area upon the Jurupa Hills, adjacent to the existing reservoir. The new reservoirs would measure 74 feet in diameter and 40 feet in height, while the existing reservoir is 148 feet in diameter and 40 feet in height.

Views of the Jurupa Hills from Long View Drive would not be impaired compared to existing conditions, and views of the Jurupa Hills from the north and south, as well as the majority of the Southridge community to the east and west, would not be affected. Therefore, due to the limited visibility of the existing and proposed reservoirs to

¹ City of Fontana. 2018. *Fontana Forward General Plan Update 2015-2035; Draft Environmental Impact Report*. Available at <https://www.fontana.org/2632/General-Plan-Update-2015---2035>. Accessed July 11, 2022.

² California Department of Transportation. 2021. State Scenic Highway Map. Available at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed July 11, 2022.

neighbors or pass-by traffic and the proposed reservoir heights, impacts associated with scenic vistas would be less than significant.

- b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

Less Than Significant Impact. According to the City General Plan, there are no scenic highways officially designated by Caltrans within or adjacent to the Project site. There are no scenic highways in the City that are currently eligible for scenic highway designation. Additionally, the Project site does not include any type of buildings that could be affected as part of the Project. The Project site consists of a north/northwest trending large gravel/boulder strewn ridge and rock and boulder outcrops. Although rock outcroppings/formations are part of the Jurupa Hills, none are located in the area to be disturbed by the proposed Project, and none would be affected due to grading or construction activities. Therefore, the proposed Project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway resulting in a less than significant impact.

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

According to PRC Section 21071, which presents a legal definition of “urbanized area”, the Project site is within an urbanized area because it is within the boundaries of an incorporated city that has a population of at least 100,000 persons. While the Project site is surrounded by undeveloped open space, it is within the City of Fontana which has a current population of approximately 208,000 residents.³ Additionally, the Project site is contiguous to surrounding residential communities (i.e., Southridge Village). Therefore, the Project location meets the definition of an urbanized area. The following analysis will assess whether the Project conflicts with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

Short-Term Construction Impacts

Construction activities would be temporary (17 months), and equipment, vehicles, and materials would either be staged within a designated area or removed from the Project

³ U.S. Census. 2024. Available at https://data.census.gov/profile/Fontana_city_California?g=160XX00US0624680. Accessed August 2024.

site at the end of the day. Furthermore, all construction activity and equipment staging would cease upon buildout of the Project. Therefore, short-term construction impacts associated with the existing visual character and quality are not expected to be permanent, resulting in a less than significant impact.

Long-Term Operation Impacts

The Project consists of the addition of two new 1.28 MG reservoirs (East and West Reservoirs) located contiguous to the existing South Reservoir. The existing Plant F20 South Reservoir is partially visible from Long View Drive within the Southridge community. The proposed Project would not substantially alter the visual character of the area, as the existing South Reservoir is located on the same site and does not significantly affect or degrade views of the Jurupa Hills. The change from the existing conditions to the proposed conditions is minimal as the site already contains a reservoir twice the size of each of the proposed East and West reservoirs. Therefore, the change in visual character would not significantly impact the site or the surrounding area.

The Project site has a current land use designation of Southridge Village Specific Plan Open Space and a zoning district of Regional Park/Open Space. The proposed Project is an infrastructure project, and such projects as the proposed Project are considered land use/zone independent (Per Government Code Section 53091). Any conflicts with local General Plan land use designations would not be subject to a conditional use permit or general plan amendment. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality and a less than significant impact would occur.

Impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Existing sources of light and glare in the Project area include streetlights, outdoor safety and security lighting associated with residential development to the east and west of the Project site, on either side of the Jurupa Hills. The Project would include light poles for security purposes, but lighting would be consistent with Section No. 30-184 (light and Glare) of the City's Zoning and Development Code and not constitute a source of substantial light or glare. Additionally, the proposed reservoirs would be painted in non-reflective materials.

Short-Term Construction Impacts

Pursuant to Section 18-63 of the Fontana Municipal Code, construction activities would be limited to daytime hours from the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekdays, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturdays, and no construction on Sundays or Holidays. Nighttime lighting would not be required until the Project is operational. Therefore, no short-term impacts associated with light or glare would occur.

Long-Term Operational Impacts

Consistent with Section No. 30-184 (Light and Glare) of the City's Zoning and Development Code, all lighting used on the Project site is required to be directed away and/or shielded to minimize the light from adversely affecting adjacent properties, and no structures or features that create adverse glare effects are permitted.⁴ This would require all exterior lighting to be shielded/hooded to prevent light trespass onto nearby properties. This would include on-site safety and security lighting that would face downwards. Additionally, the Project design would include the use of non-reflective building materials as to not be a source of glare in the Project area; refer to **Exhibits 5, Elevations**.

Due to the nature of the Project, operational hours are anticipated to be 24 hours per day/7 days per week/365 days per year. The Project would adhere to the City's Municipal Code associated with light and glare and would result in a less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The Project would not significantly impact any aesthetic resources. Additionally, no other projects are anticipated near the Project site on the Jurupa Hills. As such, the Project would not cumulatively impact aesthetic resources.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the Project:				

⁴ City of Fontana. 2019. Chapter 30 – Zoning and Development Code. Available at https://library.municode.com/ca/fontana/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CO_CH30ZODECO. Accessed on July 11, 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

- a) *Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*
- b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*
- c) *Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*
- d) *Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

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

No Impact (a-e). Based on historical aerial imagery, the Project site is not currently used, nor has it been used in the past for agricultural purposes. The Project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). The Project site is designated as Grazing Land based on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program.⁵ However, as the site is presently utilized by FWC for the existing Plant F20 (South) Reservoir, the Project site is not presently utilized for Grazing Land purposes.

Furthermore, the Project site is not subject to a Williamson Act Contract. Implementation of the Project would be consistent with existing land use designations and zoning, and no change of zoning is proposed. The Project site is not on forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g)). Therefore, the Project would not propose any changes in the existing environment which would result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impacts related to the loss of agricultural resources would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

The Project would not impact on any agricultural or forestry resources. As such, the Project would not cumulatively impact on agricultural and forestry resources.

⁵ California Department of Conservation. (2018). *California Important Farmland Finder*. Available at <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed May 31, 2022.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
3. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people)?			X	

An Air Quality Assessment and Greenhouse Gas Technical Memorandum was prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates in October 2022. The memorandum is included as **Appendix A (1), Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Memorandum**. In the time that has passed since this Memorandum a follow-on Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment has been prepared by Urban Crossroads to update the modeling assumptions based on the project as described in Sections 1.0 and 2.0 of this Initial Study. This Assessment is included as **Appendix A (2), Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment** and the results are summarized herein.

The original Project assumptions for the preparation of the Air Quality assumed an approximately one-acre Project site for installation and operation of two new 1.28 MG reservoirs (Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs) to be used for potable water services within Fontana Water Company's service area. The model output with the original assumptions resulted in a less than significant impact on all aspects regarding potential impacts on Air Quality. The proposed reservoir Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs would be located adjacent to the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir. The new F20 Reservoirs

would be constructed of welded steel, measuring 74 feet in diameter and 40 feet in height.

Air Pollutants of Concern

The air pollutants emitted into the ambient air by stationary and mobile sources are regulated by state and federal laws. These regulated air pollutants are known as “criteria air pollutants” and are categorized into primary and secondary pollutants.

Primary air pollutants are emitted directly from sources. Carbon monoxide (CO), reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), coarse particulate matter (PM₁₀), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and lead are primary air pollutants. Of these, CO, NO_x, SO₂, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} are criteria pollutants. ROG and NO_x are criteria pollutant precursors and form secondary criteria pollutants through chemical and photochemical reactions in the atmosphere. For example, the criteria pollutant ozone (O₃) is formed by a chemical reaction between ROG and NO_x in the presence of sunlight. O₃ and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are the principal secondary pollutants.

Toxic Air Contaminants

Toxic air contaminants (TACs) are airborne substances that can cause short-term (acute) or long-term (i.e., chronic, carcinogenic, or cancer-causing) adverse human health effects (i.e., injury or illness). TACs include both organic and inorganic chemical substances. They may be emitted from a variety of common sources including gasoline stations, automobiles, dry cleaners, industrial operations, and painting operations. The current California list of TACs includes more than 200 compounds, including particulate emissions from diesel-fueled engines.

Hazardous Air Pollutants is a term used by the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) that includes a variety of pollutants generated or emitted by industrial production activities. Identified as TACs under the California Clean Air Act (CCAA), ten have been singled out through ambient air quality data as being the most substantial health risk in California. Direct exposure to these pollutants has been shown to cause cancer, birth defects, damage to the brain and nervous system, and respiratory disorders. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) provides emission inventories for only the larger air basins.

TACs do not have ambient air quality standards because no safe levels of TACs can be determined. Instead, TAC impacts are evaluated by calculating the health risks associated with a given exposure. The requirements of the Air Toxic “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act (Assembly Bill [AB] 2588) apply to facilities that use,

produce, or emit toxic chemicals. Facilities subject to the toxic emission inventory requirements of the act must prepare and submit toxic emission inventory plans and reports and periodically update those reports.

CARB identified diesel particulate matter (DPM) as a TAC. DPM differs from other TACs in that it is not a single substance but rather a complex mixture of hundreds of substances. Diesel exhaust is a complex mixture of particles and gases produced when an engine burns diesel fuel. DPM is a concern because it causes lung cancer; many compounds found in diesel exhaust are carcinogenic. DPM includes the particle-phase constituents in diesel exhaust. The chemical composition and particle sizes of DPM vary between different engine types (heavy-duty, light-duty), engine operating conditions (idle, accelerate, decelerate), fuel formulations (high/low sulfur fuel), and the year of the engine. Some short-term (acute) effects of diesel exhaust include eye, nose, throat, and lung irritation, and diesel exhaust can cause coughs, headaches, light-headedness, and nausea. DPM poses the greatest health risk among the TACs. Almost all diesel exhaust particle mass is 10 microns or less in diameter. Due to their extremely small size, these particles can be inhaled and eventually trapped in the bronchial and alveolar regions of the lung.

Ambient Air Quality

CARB monitors ambient air quality at approximately 250 air monitoring stations across the State. These stations usually measure pollutant concentrations ten feet above ground level; therefore, air quality is often referred to in terms of ground-level concentrations. Existing levels of ambient air quality, historical trends, and projections near the Project are documented by measurements made by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the air pollution regulatory agency in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) that maintains air quality monitoring stations which process ambient air quality measurements.

Pollutants of concern in the SCAB include O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. The closest air monitoring station to the Project that monitors ambient concentrations of these pollutants is the Fontana-Arrow Monitoring Station (located approximately 4.3 miles to the northwest).

Sensitive Receptors

Receptors in the Project study area are described below and shown in **Exhibit 8**. Localized air quality impacts were evaluated at sensitive receptor land uses nearest the Project site. All distances are measured from the Project site boundary to the outdoor

living areas (e.g., backyards) or at the building façade, whichever is closer to the Project site.

- R1: Location R1 represents the existing residence located at 15377 Ridgecrest Dr, approximately 726 feet east of the Project site. Receptor R1 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.
- R2: Location R2 represents the existing residence located at 15321 Daybreak Ln, approximately 624 feet east of the Project site. Receptor R2 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.
- R3: Location R3 represents the existing residence located at 15024 Long View Dr, approximately 1,329 feet west of the Project site. Receptor R3 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.
- R4: Location R4 represents the Michael D'Arcy Elementary located at 11645 Elm Ave, approximately 2,176 feet east of the Project site. Receptor R4 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.

The SCAQMD recommends that the nearest sensitive receptor be considered when determining a Project's impact. The nearest land use where an individual could remain for 24 hours to the Project site has been used to determine localized construction and operational air quality impacts for emissions of PM10 and PM2.5 (since PM10 and PM2.5 thresholds are based on a 24-hour averaging time).

As previously stated, and consistent with Localized Significance Threshold (LST) Methodology, the nearest industrial/commercial use to the Project site is used to determine construction and operational LST air impacts for emissions of NOX and CO as the averaging periods for these pollutants are shorter (8 hours or less) and it is reasonable to assume that an individual could be present at these sites for periods of one to 8 hours.

Methodology (Air Quality)

The California Air Pollution Control Officers Association in conjunction with other California air districts, including SCAQMD, released CalEEMod 2022 in May 2022. The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) periodically releases updates, as such the latest version available at the time of this report has been utilized in this analysis. The purpose of this model is to calculate construction-source and operational-source criteria pollutant (VOCs, NOX, SOX, CO, PM10, and PM2.5) and GHG emissions from direct and indirect sources; and quantify applicable air quality and GHG reductions achieved from mitigation measures. Accordingly, the latest version of CalEEMod has been used for this Project to determine construction and operational air quality and GHG emissions.

The localized effects from the Project's on-site emissions were evaluated in accordance with the SCAQMD's LST Methodology, which uses on-site mass emissions rate look-up tables and Project-specific modeling. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that are not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standards and are developed based on the ambient concentrations of that pollutant for each source receptor area and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. As part of its enforcement responsibilities, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) requires each state with nonattainment areas to prepare and submit a State Implementation Plan that demonstrates the means to attain the federal standards. The State Implementation Plan must integrate federal, state, and local plan components and regulations to identify specific measures to reduce pollution in nonattainment areas, using a combination of performance standards and market-based programs. Similarly, under State law, the CCAA requires an air quality attainment plan to be prepared for areas designated as nonattainment regarding the state and federal ambient air quality standards. Air quality attainment plans outline emissions limits and control measures to achieve and maintain these standards by the earliest practical date.

The Project site is located within the SCAB, which is characterized by relatively poor air quality. The SCAQMD has jurisdiction over an approximately 10,743 square-mile area consisting of the four-county Basin and the Los Angeles County and Riverside County portions of what use to be referred to as the Southeast Desert Air Basin. In these areas, the SCAQMD is principally responsible for air pollution control, and works directly with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), county transportation commissions, local governments, as well as state and federal agencies to reduce emissions from stationary, mobile, and indirect sources to meet state and federal ambient air quality standards. Currently, these state and federal air quality standards are exceeded in most parts of the SCAB. In response, the SCAQMD has adopted a series of AQMPs to meet the state and federal ambient air quality standards. AQMPs are updated regularly in order to more effectively reduce emissions, accommodate growth, and to minimize any negative fiscal impacts of air pollution control on the economy.

In December 2022, the SCAQMD released the Final 2022 AQMP (2022 AQMP). The 2022 AQMP continues to evaluate current integrated strategies and control measures to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), as well as explore new and

innovative methods to reach its goals. Some of these approaches include utilizing incentive programs, recognizing existing co-benefit programs from other sectors, and developing a strategy with fair-share reductions at the federal, state, and local levels. Similar to the 2016 AQMP, the 2022 AQMP incorporates scientific and technological information and planning assumptions, including the 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS), a planning document that supports the integration of land use and transportation to help the region meet the federal CAA requirements. The Project's consistency with the AQMP will be determined using the 2022 AQMP as discussed below.

It should be noted that although SCAG has released an updated 2024-2050 RTP/SCS, the 2022 AQMP is based on the 2020-2045 RTP/SCS. Criteria for determining consistency with the AQMP are defined in Chapter 12, Section 12.2 and Section 12.3 of the 1993 CEQA Handbook. These indicators are discussed below:

Consistency Criterion No. 1

Potential to result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations or cause or contribute to new violations or delay the timely attainment of air quality standards or the interim emissions reductions specified in the AQMP.

The violations that Consistency Criterion No. 1 refer to are the California ambient air quality standards (CAAQS) and national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). CAAQS and NAAQS violations would occur if regional or localized significance thresholds were exceeded.

Construction Impacts – Consistency Criterion 1

As evaluated, the Project's regional and localized construction-source emissions would not exceed applicable regional significance threshold and LST thresholds. As such, a less than significant impact is expected.

Operational Impacts – Consistency Criterion 1

As evaluated, the Project's regional and localized operation-source emissions would not exceed applicable regional significance threshold and LST thresholds. As such, a less than significant impact is expected.

On the basis of the preceding discussion, the Project is determined to be consistent with the first criterion.

Consistency Criterion No. 2

Potential to exceed the assumptions in the AQMP based on the years of Project build-out phase.

The 2022 AQMP demonstrates that the applicable ambient air quality standards can be achieved within the timeframes required under federal law. Growth projections from local general plans adopted by cities in the district are provided to the SCAG, which develops regional growth forecasts, which are then used to develop future air quality forecasts for the AQMP. Development consistent with the growth projections in City of Fontana is considered to be consistent with the AQMP.

Construction Impacts – Consistency Criterion 2

Peak day emissions generated by construction activities are largely independent of land use assignments but rather are a function of development scope and maximum area of disturbance. Irrespective of the site's land use designation, development of the site to its maximum potential would likely occur, with disturbance of the entire site occurring during construction activities. As such, when considering that no emissions thresholds will be exceeded, a less than significant impact would result.

Operational Impacts – Consistency Criterion 2

Since the Project's proposed land uses are consistent with the City of Fontana and as the Project's construction and operational-source air pollutant emissions would not exceed the regional or localized significance thresholds, the Project is determined to be consistent with the second criterion.

On the basis of the preceding discussion, the Project is determined to be consistent with the second criterion.

Consistency Conclusion

The proposed Project includes the installation and operation of two new 1.28-MG reservoirs (Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs) to be used for portable water services within Fontana Water Company's service area. The Project is therefore considered to be consistent with the AQMP.

- b) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction Emissions

Construction associated with the Project would generate short-term emissions of criteria air pollutants. The criteria pollutants of primary concern within the Project area include O₃-precursor pollutants (i.e., ROG and NO_x), PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. Construction-generated emissions are short term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur, but would be considered a significant air quality impact if the volume of pollutants generated exceeds the SCAQMD's thresholds of significance.

Construction results in the temporary generation of emissions resulting from site grading, road paving, motor vehicle exhaust associated with construction equipment and worker trips, and the movement of construction equipment, especially on unpaved surfaces. Emissions of airborne particulate matter are largely dependent on the amount of ground disturbance associated with site preparation activities as well as weather conditions and the appropriate application of water.

Construction activities associated with the Project would result in emissions of VOCs, NO_x, SO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. Construction related emissions are expected from the following construction activities:

- Site preparation
- Grading (import/export)
- Infrastructure and reservoir installation
- Paving
- Architectural coating

Construction-Related Dust Emissions

Dust is typically a major concern during demolition and grading activities. Because such emissions are not amenable to collection and discharge through a controlled source, they are called "fugitive emissions." Fugitive dust emissions rates vary as a function of many parameters (soil silt, soil moisture, wind speed, area disturbed, number of vehicles, depth of disturbance or excavation, etc.). CalEEMod was utilized to calculate fugitive dust emissions resulting from these phases of activity.

Grading Activities

Grading quantities were conservatively assumed using provided pipeline measurements and as such, it is anticipated that approximately 8,000 CY of import is needed.

On-Road Trips

Construction generates on-road vehicle emissions from vehicle usage for workers and

vendors commuting to and from the site. Information on the anticipated number of workers on-site was provided and modeled accordingly as shown on Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: Trips and Vehicle Miles Traveled

Construction Activity	Worker Trips Per Day	Vendor Trips Per Day	Hauling Trips Per Day
Site Preparation	5	0	0
Grading	8	0	23
Infrastructure and Reservoir Installation	0	0	0
Paving	18	0	0
Architectural Coating	0	0	0

Construction Duration

For purposes of analysis, construction of the Project is expected to commence in February 2026 and would last through July 2027. Construction assumes development of Phases 1 and 2 concurrently as demonstrated in Table 3-2, Construction Activities, below. The construction schedule utilized in the analysis represents a “worst-case” analysis scenario should construction occur any time after the respective dates since emission factors for construction decrease as time passes and the analysis year increases due to emission regulations becoming more stringent.⁶ The duration of construction activity and associated equipment represents a reasonable approximation of the expected construction fleet as required per the CEQA Guidelines.

Table 3-2: Construction Activities

Construction Activity	Start Date	End Date	Days
Site Preparation	2/2/2026	3/2/2026	21
Grading	3/3/2026	4/30/2026	43
Infrastructure and Reservoir Installation	5/1/2026	2/2/2027	198
Paving	2/3/2027	3/31/2027	41
Architectural Coating	4/1/2027	7/1/2027	66

⁶ As shown in the CalEEMod User’s Guide Version 2022, Appendix G “Table G-11. Statewide Average Annual Offroad Equipment Emission Factors” as the analysis year increases, emission factors for the same equipment pieces decrease due to the natural turnover of older equipment being replaced by newer less polluting equipment and new regulatory requirements.

Construction Equipment

Associated equipment was based on information provided by the Project Description. A detailed summary of construction equipment is provided on **Table 3-3**.

Table 3-3: Construction Equipment

Construction Activity	Equipment/Info	Quantity
Site Preparation	Graders	1
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	1
Grading	Graders	1
	Rubber Tired Dozers	1
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	1
Infrastructure and Reservoir Installation	Cranes	1
	Forklifts	2
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	2
	Excavators	1
	Off-Highway Trucks	1
Paving	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	1
	Cement and Mortar Mixers	4
	Pavers	1
	Rollers	1
Architectural Coating	Air Compressors	1

Regional Construction Emissions Summary

The estimated maximum daily construction emissions without mitigation are summarized in **Table 3-4**. Under the assumed scenarios, emissions resulting from the Project construction at either site would not exceed thresholds established by the SCAQMD for emissions of any criteria pollutant. Project construction-source emissions impacts would therefore be less-than-significant. Detailed construction model outputs are presented in **Appendix A(2)** for more information regarding the construction assumptions used in this analysis. Predicted maximum daily construction-generated emissions for the Project are summarized in **Table 3-4**, below.

Table 3-4: Overall Regional Construction Emissions Summary

Year	Emissions (lbs/day)					
	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Summer						
2026	1.08	11.08	11.29	0.03	2.35	1.22

Year	Emissions (lbs/day)					
	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
2027	0.29	0.83	1.13	0.00	0.02	0.02
Winter						
2026	1.08	11.16	11.17	0.03	2.35	1.22
2027	0.74	6.18	8.89	0.02	0.40	0.21
Maximum Daily Emissions	1.08	11.16	11.29	0.03	2.35	1.22
SCAQMD Regional Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Threshold Exceeded?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

Fugitive dust emissions may have a substantial, temporary impact on local air quality. In addition, fugitive dust may be a nuisance to those living and working in the Project vicinity. Uncontrolled dust from construction can become a nuisance and potential health hazard to those living and working nearby. SCAQMD Rules 402 and 403 (prohibition of nuisances, watering of inactive and perimeter areas, track out requirements, etc.) are applicable to the Project and were applied in CalEEMod to minimize fugitive dust emissions. Standard Condition (SC) **SC-AQ-1** requires the implementation of Rule 402 and 403 dust control techniques to minimize PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations.

As shown in **Table 3-4** above, all criteria pollutant emissions would remain below their respective thresholds. While impacts would be considered less than significant, the Project would be subject to **BMP AQ-1**. The proposed Project construction emissions would not worsen ambient air quality, create additional violations of federal and State standards, or delay SCAB's goal for meeting attainment standards.

Regional Operational Emissions Summary

Operational activities associated with Projects would result in emissions of CO, VOCs, NOX, SOX, PM10, and PM2.5. Operational related emissions are from the following primary sources: area source emissions, energy source emissions, and mobile source emissions.

The proposed Project includes the installation and operation of two new 1.28-MG reservoirs (Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs) to be used for portable water services within Fontana Water Company's service area, which does not include any of the primary sources discussed previously. Additionally, implementation of the proposed project would improve the Fontana Water Company's service regarding existing water demands for domestic uses, fire suppression, and emergency needs. The project would serve existing and planned future development and would not generate growth. Furthermore,

no stationary sources are proposed and the ongoing inspections and maintenance for the proposed project would generate minimal vehicle trips. Therefore, there are no quantifiable operational emissions associated with the proposed Project and no further analysis is required. Therefore, operational emissions are less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Cumulative Short-Term Emissions

The SCAB is designated nonattainment for O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} for State standards and nonattainment for O₃ and PM_{2.5} for Federal standards. Appendix D of the SCAQMD White Paper on Potential Control Strategies to Address Cumulative Impacts from Air Pollution (2003) notes that projects that result in emissions that do not exceed the Project-specific SCAQMD regional thresholds of significance should result in a less than significant impact on a cumulative basis unless there is other pertinent information to the contrary. The mass-based regional significance thresholds published by the SCAQMD are designed to ensure compliance with both NAAQS and CAAQS and are based on an inventory of projected emissions in the SCAB. Therefore, if a project is estimated to result in emissions that do not exceed the thresholds, the Project's contribution to the cumulative impact on air quality in the SCAB would not be cumulatively considerable. As shown in **Table 3-4** above, Project construction-related emissions by themselves would not exceed the SCAQMD significance thresholds for criteria pollutants. Therefore, the proposed Project would not generate a cumulatively considerable contribution to air pollutant emissions during construction.

The SCAQMD has developed strategies to reduce criteria pollutant emissions outlined in the AQMP pursuant to the FCAA mandates. The analysis assumed that fugitive dust controls would be utilized during construction, including frequent water applications. SCAQMD rules, mandates, and compliance with adopted AQMP emissions control measures would also be imposed on construction projects throughout the SCAB, which would include related projects. Compliance with SCAQMD rules and regulations would further reduce the Project construction-related impacts. Therefore, Project-related construction emissions, combined with those from other projects in the area, would not substantially deteriorate local air quality. Construction emissions associated with the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative air quality impacts.

Cumulative Long-Term Impacts

The SCAQMD has not established separate significance thresholds for cumulative

operational emissions. The nature of air emissions is largely a cumulative impact. As a result, no single project is sufficient in size to, by itself, result in nonattainment of ambient air quality standards. Instead, individual project emissions contribute to existing cumulatively significant adverse air quality impacts. The SCAQMD developed the operational thresholds of significance based on the level above which individual project emissions would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to the SCAB's existing air quality conditions. Therefore, a project that exceeds the SCAQMD operational thresholds would also be a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact.

As discussed above, the Project operational emissions would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds. As a result, operational emissions associated with the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative air quality impacts. Additionally, adherence to SCAQMD rules and regulations would alleviate potential impacts related to cumulative conditions on a project-by-project basis. Project operations would not contribute a cumulatively considerable net increase of any nonattainment criteria pollutant.

Standard Conditions and Requirements:

BMP-AQ-1 The Grading Plan, Construction Plans and Specifications shall require all construction contractors to comply with South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD's) Rules 402 and 403 to minimize construction emissions of dust and particulates. The measures include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Portions of a construction site to remain inactive longer than a period of three months will be seeded and watered until grass cover is grown or otherwise stabilized.
- All on-site roads will be paved as soon as feasible or watered periodically or chemically stabilized.
- All material transported off-site will be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earthmoving, or excavation operations will be minimized at all times.

- Where vehicles leave a construction site and enter adjacent public streets, the streets will be swept daily or washed down at the end of the workday to remove soil tracked onto the paved surface.

The Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. A less than significant impact would occur.

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

Background on Localized Significance Threshold (LST) Development

The SCAQMD has established that impacts to air quality are significant if there is a potential to contribute or cause localized exceedances of the federal and/or state ambient air quality standards (NAAQS/CAAQS). Collectively, these are referred to as Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs).

The SCAQMD established LSTs in response to the SCAQMD Governing Board's Environmental Justice Initiative I-4.⁷ LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that would not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard at the nearest residence or sensitive receptor. The SCAQMD states that lead agencies can use the LSTs as another indicator of significance in its air quality impact analyses.

LSTs were developed in response to environmental justice and health concerns raised by the public regarding exposure of individuals to criteria pollutants in local communities. To address the issue of localized significance, the SCAQMD adopted LSTs that show whether a project would cause or contribute to localized air quality impacts and thereby cause or contribute to potential localized adverse health effects. The analysis makes use of methodology included in the LST Methodology.

Emissions Considered

⁷ The purpose of SCAQMD's Environmental Justice program is to ensure that everyone has the right to equal protection from air pollution and fair access to the decision-making process that works to improve the quality of air within their communities. Further, the SCAQMD defines Environmental Justice as "...equitable environmental policymaking and enforcement to protect the health of all residents, regardless of age, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, socioeconomic status, or geographic location, from the health effects of air pollution."

Based on SCAQMD's LST Methodology, emissions for concern during construction activities are on-site NO_x, CO, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀. The LST Methodology clearly states that "off-site mobile emissions from the Project should not be included in the emissions compared to LSTs." As such, for purposes of the construction LST analysis, only emissions included in the CalEEMod "on-site" emissions outputs were considered.

Maximum Daily Disturbed Acreage

The "acres disturbed" for analytical purposes are based on specific equipment type for each subcategory of construction activity and the estimated maximum area a given piece of equipment can pass over in an 8-hour workday (as shown on **Table 3-6**). The equipment-specific grading rates are summarized in the SCAQMD's Fact Sheet for Applying CalEEMod to Localized Significance Thresholds and CalEEMod User's Guide Appendix A: Calculation Details for CalEEMod. The disturbed area per day is representative of a piece of equipment making multiple passes over the same land area. In other words, one Rubber Tired Dozer can make multiple passes over the same land area totaling 0.5 acres in a given 8-hour day. The Project's construction activities could disturb a maximum of approximately 1.5 acre per day.

Localized Thresholds for Construction Activity

Since the total acreage disturbed is less than five acres per day for construction activities, the SCAQMD's screening look-up tables are utilized in determining impacts. It should be noted that since the look-up tables identifies thresholds at only 1 acre, 2 acres, and 5 acres, linear regression has been utilized to determine localized significance thresholds. Consistent with SCAQMD guidance, the thresholds presented in **Table 3-5** were calculated by interpolating the threshold values for the Project's disturbed acreage.

Table 3-5: Maximum Daily Localized Construction Emissions Thresholds

Construction Activity	Pollutant			
	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
All Construction Activity	342 lbs/day	3,737	85 lbs/day	17 lbs/day

Receptors

The analysis makes use of methodology included in the SCAQMD LST Methodology. The SCAQMD has established that impacts to air quality are significant if there is a potential to contribute or cause localized exceedances of the federal and/or state ambient air quality standards (NAAQS/CAAQS). Collectively, these are referred to as

LSTs. The SCAQMD established LSTs in response to the SCAQMD Governing Board's Environmental Justice Initiative I-4. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard at the sensitive receptor. The SCAQMD states that lead agencies can use the LSTs as another indicator of significance in its air quality impact analyses.

The SCAQMD recommends that the nearest sensitive receptor be considered when determining the Project's potential to cause an individual or cumulatively significant impact. The nearest land use where an individual could remain for 24 hours to the Project site has been used to determine localized construction and operational air quality impacts for emissions of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} (since PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} thresholds are based on a 24-hour averaging time). The nearest receptor used for evaluation of localized impacts of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} is location R2, represented by the existing residence at 15321 Daybreak Ln, approximately 624 feet (190 meters) east of the Project site.

As previously stated, and consistent with LST Methodology, the nearest industrial/commercial use to the Project site is used to determine construction and operational LST air impacts for emissions of NO_x and CO as the averaging periods for these pollutants are shorter (8 hours or less) and it is reasonable to assume that an individual could be present at these sites for periods of one to 8 hours. It should be noted that the existing residence (R2) is located at a closer distance than the nearest industrial/commercial use. As such, the same receptor will be used for evaluation of localized NO_x and CO. Receptors in the Project study area shown on **Exhibit 8**.

Construction-Source Localized Emissions

Emissions during the peak construction activity will not exceed the SCAQMD's localized significance thresholds at the maximally exposed receptor location, as illustrated in **Table 3-6**. All other modeled locations in the study area would experience lower concentrations, resulting in a reduced impact. As such, the Project's localized impacts during construction activity would be less than significant. Outputs from the model runs for construction LSTs are provided in **Appendix A(2)**.

Table 3-6: Construction Localized Significance Summary

Construction Activity	Year	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Site Preparation	2026	3.74	5.54	0.32	0.19

Construction Activity	Year	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Maximum Daily Emissions		3.74	5.54	0.32	0.19
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds		342	3,737	85	17
Threshold Exceeded?		NO	NO	NO	NO
Grading	2026	9.19	9.69	1.80	1.05
Maximum Daily Emissions		9.19	9.69	1.80	1.05
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds		342	3,737	85	17
Threshold Exceeded?		NO	NO	NO	NO
Infrastructure and Reservoir Installation	2026	6.49	8.90	0.25	0.23
	2027	6.18	8.89	0.22	0.20
Maximum Daily Emissions		6.49	8.90	0.25	0.23
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds		342	3,737	85	17
Threshold Exceeded?		NO	NO	NO	NO
Paving	2027	4.15	5.31	0.17	0.15
Maximum Daily Emissions		4.15	5.31	0.17	0.15
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds		342	3,737	85	17
Threshold Exceeded?		NO	NO	NO	NO
Architectural Coating	2027	0.83	1.13	0.02	0.02
Maximum Daily Emissions		0.83	1.13	0.02	0.02
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds		342	3,737	85	17
Threshold Exceeded?		NO	NO	NO	NO

Operation-Source Localized Emissions

According to SCAQMD localized significance threshold methodology, LSTs would apply to the operational phase of a proposed project if the project includes stationary sources or attracts mobile sources that may spend extended periods queuing and idling at the site (e.g., warehouse or transfer facilities). The Project would generate a nominal number of traffic trips in the context of on-going maintenance resulting in a negligible amount of new mobile source emissions. Therefore, the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts would be less than significant.

Criteria Pollutant Health Impacts

On December 24, 2018, the California Supreme Court issued an opinion identifying the need to provide sufficient information connecting a project's air emissions to health impacts or explain why such information could not be ascertained (*Sierra Club v. County of Fresno* (2018) 6 Cal 5th 502). The SCAQMD has set its CEQA significance threshold

based on the FCAA, which defines a major stationary source (in extreme O₃ nonattainment areas such as the SCAB) as emitting 10 tons per year. The thresholds correlate with the trigger levels for the federal New Source Review (NSR) Program and SCAQMD Rule 1303 for new or modified sources. The NSR Program was created by the FCAA to ensure that stationary sources of air pollution are constructed or modified in a manner that is consistent with attainment of health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The NAAQS establish the levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the public health. Therefore, projects that do not exceed the SCAQMD's LSTs and mass emissions thresholds would not violate any air quality standards or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation and no criteria pollutant health impacts.

NO_x and ROG are precursor emissions that form O₃ in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight where the pollutants undergo complex chemical reactions. It takes time and the influence of meteorological conditions for these reactions to occur, so O₃ may be formed at a distance downwind from the sources. Breathing ground-level O₃ can result in health effects that include reduced lung function, inflammation of airways, throat irritation, pain, burning, or discomfort in the chest when taking a deep breath, chest tightness, wheezing, or shortness of breath. In addition to these effects, evidence from observational studies strongly indicates that higher daily O₃ concentrations are associated with increased asthma attacks, increased hospital admissions, increased daily mortality, and other markers of morbidity. The consistency and coherence of the evidence for effects upon asthmatics suggest that O₃ can make asthma symptoms worse and can increase sensitivity to asthma triggers.

According to the SCAQMD's 2016 AQMP, O₃, NO_x, and ROG have been decreasing in the SCAB since 1975 and are projected to continue to decrease in the future. Although vehicle miles traveled in the SCAB continue to increase, NO_x and ROG levels are decreasing because of the mandated controls on motor vehicles and the replacement of older polluting vehicles with lower-emitting vehicles. NO_x emissions from electric utilities have also decreased due to the use of cleaner fuels and renewable energy. The 2016 AQMP demonstrates how the SCAQMD's control strategy to meet the 8-hour O₃ standard in 2023 would lead to sufficient NO_x emission reductions to attain the 1-hour O₃ standard by 2022. In addition, since NO_x emissions also lead to the formation of PM_{2.5}, the NO_x reductions needed to meet the O₃ standards will likewise lead to improvement of PM_{2.5} levels and attainment of PM_{2.5} standards.

The SCAQMD's air quality modeling demonstrates that NO_x reductions prove to be much more effective in reducing O₃ levels and will also lead to significant improvement in PM_{2.5} concentrations. NO_x-emitting stationary sources regulated by the SCAQMD include Regional Clean Air Incentives Market facilities (e.g., refineries, power plants, etc.), natural gas combustion equipment (e.g., boilers, heaters, engines, burners, flares) and other combustion sources that burn wood or propane. The 2016 AQMP identifies robust NO_x reductions from new regulations on Regional Clean Air Incentives Market facilities, non-refinery flares, commercial cooking, and residential and commercial appliances. Such combustion sources are already heavily regulated with the lowest NO_x emissions levels achievable but there are opportunities to require and accelerate replacement with cleaner zero-emission alternatives, such as residential and commercial furnaces, pool heaters, and backup power equipment. The AQMD plans to achieve such replacements through a combination of regulations and incentives. Technology-forcing regulations can drive development and commercialization of clean technologies, with future year requirements for new or existing equipment. Incentives can then accelerate deployment and enhance public acceptability of new technologies.

The 2016 AQMD also emphasizes that beginning in 2012, continued implementation of previously adopted regulations will lead to NO_x emission reductions of 68 percent by 2023 and 80 percent by 2031. With the addition of 2016 AQMP proposed regulatory measures, a 30 percent reduction of NO_x from stationary sources is expected in the 15-year period between 2008 and 2023. This is in addition to significant NO_x reductions from stationary sources achieved in the decades prior to 2008.

As previously discussed, the Project's construction-related and operational emissions would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds, and thus, would be less than significant; see **Table 3-1**. The onsite Project emissions' localized effects on nearby receptors were also found to be less than significant; see **Table 3-2**. The LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that are not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable NAAQS or CAAQS. The LSTs were developed by the SCAQMD based on the ambient concentrations of that pollutant for each source receptor area and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor. The ambient air quality standards establish the levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect public health, including protecting the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. As shown above, Project-related emissions would not exceed the regional thresholds or the LSTs, and therefore would not exceed the ambient air quality standards or cause an increase in the frequency or severity of existing

violations of air quality standards. Therefore, sensitive receptors would not be exposed to criteria pollutant levels more than the health-based ambient air quality standards.

Carbon Monoxide Hotspots

Localized high levels of CO (CO hotspot) are associated with traffic congestion and idling or slow-moving vehicles. Impacts related to CO hotspots would be less than significant because the proposed project is anticipated to generate approximately one vehicle trip per month for maintenance activities and would only have short-term temporary traffic impacts during construction. The primary purpose of the project is to meet necessary water storage required for the community to meet existing water demands for domestic uses, fire suppression, and emergency needs. Nearby residents would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations, and the impact would be less than significant.

Toxic Air Contaminants

Project construction would generate DPM emissions from the use of off-road diesel equipment required. The amount to which the receptors are exposed (a function of concentration and duration of exposure) is the primary factor used to determine health risk (i.e., potential exposure to TAC emission levels that exceed applicable standards). Health-related risks associated with diesel exhaust emissions are primarily linked to long-term exposure and the associated risk of contracting cancer.

The use of diesel-powered construction equipment would be temporary and episodic. The duration of exposure would be short and exhaust from construction equipment is highly dispersive and concentrations of DPM dissipates rapidly. Current models and methodologies for conducting health risk assessments are associated with longer-term exposure periods of 9, 30, and 70 years, which do not correlate well with the temporary and highly variable nature of construction activities. Project construction involves phased activities in several areas across the site, and the Project would not require the extensive use of heavy-duty construction equipment or diesel trucks in any one location over the duration of development, which would limit the exposure of any proximate individual sensitive receptor to TACs. The sensitive receptor nearest the Project site is a single-family residence located approximately 624 feet east/northeast of the Project site.

Additionally, construction activities would occur in an area of less than five acres. CARB generally considers construction project sites of such size to represent less than significant health risk impacts due to (1) limitations on the off-road diesel equipment able to operate and thus a reduced amount of generated DPM; (2) the reduced amount of dust-generating ground disturbance possible compared to larger construction sites; and

(3) the reduced duration of construction activities compared to the development of larger sites. Additionally, construction is subject to and would comply with California regulations (e.g., CCR, Title 13, Division 3, Article 1, Chapter 10, Sections 2485 and 2449), which reduce DPM and criteria pollutant emissions from in-use off-road diesel-fueled vehicles and limit the idling of heavy-duty construction equipment to no more than five minutes. These regulations would further reduce nearby sensitive receptors' exposure to temporary and variable DPM emissions. Given the temporary and intermittent nature of construction activities likely to occur within specific locations in the Project site (i.e., construction is not likely to occur in any one location for an extended time), the dose of DPM of any one receptor is exposed to would be limited. Therefore, considering the relatively short duration of DPM-emitting construction activity at any one location of the Project area and the highly dispersive properties of DPM, sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial concentrations of construction-related TAC emissions.

The proposed Project would not involve the use, storage, or processing of carcinogenic or non-carcinogenic TAC, and no significant toxic airborne emissions would result from Project operations. Therefore, Project impacts concerning the release of TACs would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Construction

Odors that could be generated by construction activities are required to follow SCAQMD Rule 402 to prevent odor nuisances on sensitive land uses. SCAQMD Rule 402, Nuisance, states:

A person shall not discharge from any source whatsoever such quantities of air contaminants or other material which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which endanger the comfort, repose, health or safety of any such persons or the public, or which cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury or damage to business or property.

During construction-related activities, some odors (not substantial pollutant concentrations) that may be detected are those typical of construction vehicles (e.g., diesel exhaust from grading and construction equipment). These odors are a temporary

short-term impact that is typical of construction projects, are not expected to affect a substantial number of people and would disperse rapidly. Furthermore, odors that could be generated by construction activities are required to follow SCAQMD Rule 402 (Nuisance) to prevent odor nuisances on sensitive land uses. Therefore, impacts related to odors associated with the Project's construction-related activities would be less than significant.

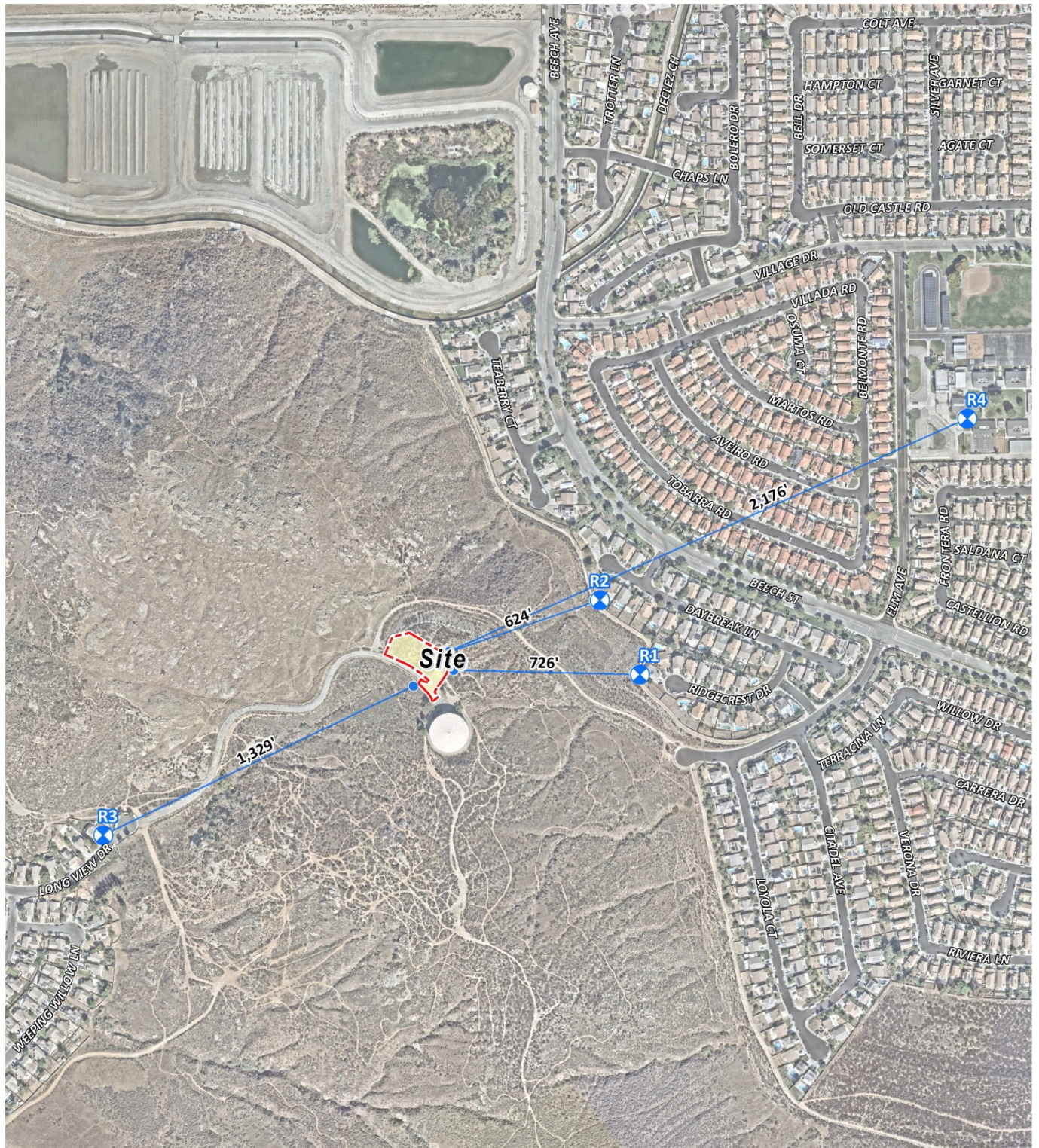
Operations

The SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook identifies certain land uses as odor sources (i.e., agriculture (farming and livestock), wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting facilities, refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding). The Project proposes installation and operation of water reservoirs, which would not involve the types of uses that would emit objectionable odors affecting substantial numbers of people. The proposed Project would not include any of the land uses that have been identified by the SCAQMD as odor sources. Therefore, Project operations would not create objectionable odors. No impact would occur, and no mitigation is required.

Cumulative Impacts

The cumulative setting for air quality includes the City of Fontana and SCAB. SCAB is designated as a nonattainment area for State standards of O₃, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. The SCAB is designated as a nonattainment area for federal standards of O₃ and PM_{2.5}, attainment and serious maintenance for federal PM₁₀ standards, and is designated as unclassified or attainment for all other pollutants. Cumulative growth in population and vehicle use could inhibit efforts to improve regional air quality and attain the ambient air quality standards.

The SCAQMD's approach to assessing cumulative impacts is based on the AQMP forecasts of attainment of ambient air quality standards in accordance with requirements of the FCAA and CCAA. As discussed above, the proposed Project would be consistent with the AQMP, which is intended to bring SCAB into attainment for all criteria pollutants. Since the Project's estimated construction and operational emissions would not exceed the applicable SCAQMD daily significance thresholds that are designed to assist the region in attaining both NAAQS and CAAQS, cumulative impacts would be less than significant.



LEGEND:

 Site Boundary

⊗ Receptor Locations

—●— Distance from receptor to Project site boundary (in feet)

EXHIBIT 8

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

A Biological Resources Assessment was prepared for the proposed Project by ELMT Consulting, Inc., on July 8, 2022. The report is included as **Appendix B, Biological Resources Assessment** and the results are summarized herein. A new CNDDDB list was generated as an update to Appendix B on April 11, 2025.

Methodology

Prior to conducting the field study, species and habitat information was gathered from the reports related to the specific project and relevant databases for the Fontana USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle to determine which species and/or habitats would be expected to occur on-site. These sources include:

- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Rarefind 5.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) QuickView Tool in the Biogeographic Information and Observation System.
- Compendia of special-status species published by CDFW.
- California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) database.
- Calflora Database.
- Google Earth Pro historic aerial imagery (1985-2021).
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species listings.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Critical Habitat designations for Threatened and Endangered Species.
- USFWS Endangered Species Profiles.
- USFWS National Wetland Inventory.
- US EPA Water Program "My Waters" data layers.

On May 20, 2022, ELMT Consulting biologist inventoried and evaluated the condition of the habitat within the Project site including a buffer of 300 feet. Plant communities and land cover types identified on aerial photographs during the literature review were verified by walking meandering transects throughout the Project site. In addition, aerial photography was reviewed prior to the site investigation to locate potential natural corridors and linkages that may support the movement of wildlife through the area. These areas identified on aerial photographs were then walked during the field investigation.

Wildlife species were detected during field investigation by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other signs. In addition to species observed, expected wildlife usage of the site was determined according to known habitat preferences of regional wildlife species and knowledge of their relative distributions in the area.

The site was also assessed for habitat type and structure and, for jurisdictional drainage features potentially subject to Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code (FGC). Regarding jurisdictional waters, the biologist looked for indicators of active surface flow and corresponding physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, and the presence of litter and debris. Aerial photography was reviewed prior to conducting a field investigation in order to locate and inspect any potential natural drainage features, ponded areas, or water bodies that may fall under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), or CDFW. Suspected jurisdictional areas were checked for the presence of definable channels, soils, and hydrology.

Results

Critical Habitat

According to the database review, the Project site is located within federally designated Critical Habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliioptila californica californica*). The fragmented Riversidean sage scrub supported on-site provides limited foraging habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher but is *unlikely* to provide suitable nesting opportunities due to the limited plant species diversity and small stature of the dominant species. No evidence of coastal California gnatcatcher was observed on site during the site visit, and it is unlikely that this species will occur on site, due to the limited foraging habitat, and unlikely suitability for nesting opportunities onsite.⁸ Refer to **Exhibit 9, Critical Habitat**.

General Habitat

The Project site supports one plant community: Riversidean sage scrub. On-site development and disturbance have contributed to high species heterogeneity within site boundaries, resulting in a lower overall diversity and dominance by relatively fast-growing woody perennial species such as California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*). Other common plant species observed within the Project site include chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), dodder (*Cuscuta californica*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), common cryptantha (*Cryptantha intermedia*),

⁸ ELMT Consulting. 2022. *Biological Resources Assessment for the Plant F20 Water Storage Project Located in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California*, page 4.

Mediterranean mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), filaree (*Erodium spp.*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and non-native grasses (*Bromus spp.* & *Eragrostis cilianensis*).

Disturbed portions of the site are routinely impacted by weed abatement activities, off-highway recreation vehicle use, and cycling and hiking activities. As such, these areas tend to be unvegetated or support hardy weedy/early successional species, primarily non-native species. In addition, several ornamental trees are present along the boundary of the existing reservoir, including pine (*Pinus sp.*) and gum tree (*Eucalyptus sp.*). These trees will remain in place as part of project implementation.

The Project site is underlain by interbedded silty sands, relatively clean sands, and slightly silty sands with variable amounts of gravel.⁹ Access to the Project site is provided via an asphalt concrete paved access road to the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir along the southwest side of the proposed development area. An unpaved dirt road is located adjacent to the north and west sides of the proposed development area. Numerous dirt trails trend through the Project site. On-site topography is generally flat with the exception of the north and northwest boundaries, which extend beyond the ridgeline that supports the majority of the site. The Project site consists of a north/northwest trending large gravel/boulder-strewn ridge and rock and boulder out-crops. Drainage is by sheet flow to the north/northwest. Overall, the site generally slopes south to north.

Wildlife Species Observed On-Site

Wildlife Species observed or otherwise detected on-site during the surveys and field investigation included: Great Basin fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*), savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*).

Special-Status Species

Special-status species herein are defined as any species granted status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as Federally Threatened (THR), Endangered (END), Proposed, Candidate (CE), or Birds of Conservation Concern; additionally, species granted status by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as California

⁹ MTGL 2020. *Geotechnical Investigation*, page 4.

Endangered or Threatened (includes Candidates), Species of Special Concern (SSC), Fully Protected (FP), or CDFW Watchlist (WL); and CNPS Listed Species identified as rare or endangered in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, particularly 1A, 1B, and 2A, 2B.

Additionally, although threatened and endangered species are protected by specific federal and state statutes, CEQA Guidelines section 15380 provides that a species not listed on the federal or state list of protected species may be considered rare, threatened, or endangered if the species can be shown to meet the specified criteria in section 15380. These criteria have been modeled after the definition in the ESA and the section of the Fish and Game Code dealing with rare or endangered plants or animals. This section was included in the Guidelines primarily to deal with situations in which a public agency is reviewing a project that may have a significant effect on a species of concern that has not yet been listed by either the USFWS or CDFW. Thus, CEQA provides an agency with the ability to protect a species from a project's potential impacts until the respective government agencies have an opportunity to designate the species as protected, if warranted. However, these are not typically considered special status species.

Table 4-1, Potentially Occurring Special-Status Biological Resources, represents a compiled list of results from the CNDDB and CNPS databases of species which have been documented within the Fontana USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle and therefore have the potential to occur within the Project site.

The database searches identified *47 special-status wildlife species, 15 special-status plant species, and 1 special status plant community*, that have the potential to occur within the Fontana USGS 7.5-minute series quadrangle. CDFW Sensitive Natural Habitat, Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub and federally designated Coastal Gnatcatcher Critical habit were identified in the Project area.

One special status species, Cooper's Hawk (Watch List), was observed during the field investigation.

Special Status Wildlife

The project site has been subject to anthropogenic disturbances from ongoing land uses and on-site and surrounding development. These disturbances have diminished, if not eliminated, potential foraging and nesting/denning opportunities for local wildlife species. However, the areas immediately bordering the project site primarily support

Riversidean sage scrub communities that have the potential to provide suitable habitat for some special-status plant species known to occur in the area. Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of onsite habitats, it was determined that the proposed project site has a high potential to support sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) and Cooper's hawk (*Astur cooperii*); and moderate potential to support red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*) and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*); and a low potential to support southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), Bell's sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli belli*), orangethroat whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperthra*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*). It was further determined that the project site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the other special-status wildlife species known to occur in the area.

Of the aforementioned species, only coastal California gnatcatcher is federally listed as threatened. None of the other species are state or federally listed as endangered or threatened. The majority of local avian species are not expected to nest on-site due to the lack of suitable nesting opportunities.

Due to regional concern, listing status, and documentation in close proximity to the project site, coastal California gnatcatcher is discussed in further detail below.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher

California gnatcatcher is a federally threatened species with restricted habitat requirements, being an obligate resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush. This species generally occurs below 750 feet elevation in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet inland. On-site elevation range from approximately 1,180 to 1,215 feet above mean sea level. According to J. Atwood and J. Bolsinger (1992), 99 percent of all California gnatcatcher observations are in areas with elevations below 950 feet. There are reported occurrences of California gnatcatcher at 1,600 feet elevation (500 meters). The closest occurrence recorded on the CNDDDB was documented in 2024 approximately 600 feet (0.1 mile) southeast of the project site. The occurrence for the CNDDDB encompasses sage scrub habitat(s) in the area.

California gnatcatcher ranges from Ventura County south to San Diego County and northern Baja California and is less common in sage scrub with a high percentage of tall shrubs. It prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation. California gnatcatchers breed between mid-February and the end of August, with peak activity from mid-March to mid-May. Population estimates indicate that there are approximately 1,600 to 2,290

pairs of coastal California gnatcatcher remaining. Declines are attributed to loss of sage scrub habitat due to development, as well as cowbird nest parasitism.

California gnatcatchers are ground and shrub-foraging insectivores. They feed on small insects and other arthropods. A California gnatcatcher's territory is highly variable in size and seems to be correlated with distance from the coast, ranging from less than one hectare to over nine hectares. In a 1998 study, biologist Patrick Mock concluded that California gnatcatcher in the inland region require a larger territory than those on the coast to meet the nutritional requirements needed for survival and breeding.

The primary constituent elements essential to support the biological needs of foraging, reproducing, rearing of young, intra-specific communication, dispersal, genetic exchange, or sheltering for California gnatcatcher that were surveyed for include:

1. Dynamic and Successional sage scrub Habitats and Associated Vegetation (Riversidean Coastal Sage Scrub, Coastal Sage-Chaparral Scrub, etc.) that provide space for individual and population growth, normal behavior, breeding, reproduction, nesting, dispersal, and foraging; and
2. Non-sage scrub habitats such as chaparral, grassland, and riparian areas, in proximity to sage scrub habitats have the potential to provide linkages to help with dispersal, foraging and nesting.

The Riversidean sage scrub supported by the Project site, while fragmented and altered by historic and ongoing disturbances, provides suitable foraging habitat for California gnatcatcher. Given the aforementioned increased heterogeneity and decreased species evenness of the on-site Riversidean sage scrub, the Project site itself is not expected to provide the dynamic and successional habitat required by California gnatcatcher for nesting purposes. Since Project activities would not impact plant communities that provide suitable nesting opportunities for California gnatcatcher, no long-term impacts to suitable nesting habitat are expected.

Sharp-shinned hawk

This species listed as a Watch List species has a moderate potential to occur with no formal listing status. This species does not nest in this region, and a nesting bird clearance survey would ensure no impact. Therefore, no further investigation is warranted.

Cooper's hawk

Cooper's hawk is a California Watch List Species. It is a medium-sized raptor native to North America that commonly inhabits woodland, riparian, and suburban environments throughout California. This species occurs in a wide variety of habitats including oak woodlands, mixed riparian forests, eucalyptus groves, coniferous forests, and urban areas with mature trees. Cooper's hawks are generally associated with habitats that provide dense tree cover for nesting and open areas for foraging. In southern California, this species occurs from sea level to montane habitats exceeding 8,000 feet in elevation.

The Cooper's hawk ranges throughout much of the continental United States, southern Canada, and northern Mexico. In California, it is a year-round resident in many regions, although some northern populations migrate south during winter months. Cooper's hawks breed between March and August, with peak nesting activity generally occurring from April through July. Nests are typically constructed in dense stands of mature trees, often near watercourses or woodland edges.

Suitable habitat for Cooper's hawk is typically characterized by mature trees and woodland habitats that provide nesting substrate, perching opportunities, cover, and adequate prey availability. Riparian woodlands and oak woodland habitats are particularly valuable due to their structural complexity and abundance of prey species. Urban and suburban landscapes containing mature ornamental trees may also support nesting Cooper's hawks.

The project site provides suitable foraging habitat for Cooper's hawk but does not support tall trees that have the potential to provide suitable nesting opportunities for Cooper's hawk.

Red-diamond rattlesnake

This species listed as a California Species of Special Concern has a moderate potential to occur. There is no habitat for this species on site that would support a den within which this species would live. This species would be expected to move off-site if found onsite. Therefore, no further investigation is warranted and no impacts are expected.

Heritage Trees

There are no trees on-site that meet the City of Fontana's Municipal Code (Chapter 28, Section 63) definition of a Heritage Tree. Therefore, no further investigation is warranted.

Nesting Birds

A field investigation conducted during the breeding season found that no active nests or birds displaying nesting behavior were observed on the Project site. Nesting birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) which provides protection for nesting birds that are both residents and migrants whether they are considered sensitive by resource agencies. The MBTA makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed under 50 CFR 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR 21). The direct injury or death of a migratory bird, due to construction activities or other construction-related disturbance that causes nest abandonment, nestling abandonment, or forced fledging would be considered take under federal law. The USFWS, in coordination with the CDFW administers the MBTA. CDFW's authoritative nexus to MBTA is provided in FGC Sections 3503.5 which protects all birds of prey and their nests and FGC Section 3800 which protects all non-game birds that occur naturally in the State. No nesting birds, nor nests, were found on the Project site during the survey.¹⁰

Jurisdictional Waters

No aspect of the Project site presents any evidence of federal or state jurisdictional waters, discernible drainage courses, inundated areas, or wetland features/obligate plant species that would be considered jurisdictional by the Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW.

¹⁰ ELMT Consulting. 2022. *Biological Resources Assessment for the Plant F20 Water Storage Project Located in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California*, page 6.

Table 4-1: Potentially Occurring Biological Resources

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES				
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i> Cooper's hawk	Fed: None CA: WL	Common yearlong resident of California. Typically forages in broken woodland and habitat edges with dense stands of coast live oak (<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>), riparian deciduous, or other forest habitat near water. Usually nests in dense riparian areas, usually near streams.	Yes	Present Suitable foraging habitat is present within and surrounding the project site. Suitable nesting opportunities occur nearby in tall trees.
<i>Accipiter striatus</i> sharp-shinned hawk	Fed: None CA: WL	Found in pine, fir and aspen forests. They can be found hunting in forest interior and edges from sea level to near alpine areas. Can also be found in rural, suburban and agricultural areas, where they often hunt at bird feeders. Typically found in southern California in the winter months.	No	High Suitable foraging habitat is present within and surrounding the project site. This species does not nest in the region.
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	Fed: None CA: THR/SSC	Range is limited to the coastal areas of the Pacific coast of North America, from Northern California to upper Baja California. Can be found in a wide variety of habitat including annual grasslands, wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands, agricultural fields, cattle feedlots, and dairies. Occasionally forage in riparian scrub habitats along marsh borders. Basic habitat requirements for breeding include open accessible water, protected nesting substrate (freshwater marsh dominated by cattails, willows, and bulrushes [<i>Schoenoplectus</i> sp.]), and either flooded or thorny or spiny vegetation and suitable foraging space providing adequate insect prey.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i> southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	Fed: None CA: WL	Typically found between 3,000 and 6,000 feet in elevation. Breed in sparsely vegetated scrubland on hillsides and canyons. Prefers coastal sage scrub dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>), but they can also be found breeding in coastal bluff scrub, low-growing serpentine chaparral, and along the edges of tall chaparral habitats.	No	Low There is limited foraging habitat present within the project site. Suitable foraging and nesting habitat are present in open space nearby.
<i>Anniella stebbinsi</i> southern California legless lizard	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in sparsely vegetated habitat types including coastal sand dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodland, desert scrub, open grassland, and riparian areas. Requires sandy or loose loamy substrates conducive to burrowing.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. Suitable sandy or loose loamy soils and sparsely vegetated habitats necessary for burrowing and cover are absent or highly limited.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> golden eagle	Fed: None CA: FP/WL	Occupies nearly all terrestrial habitats of the western states except densely forested areas. Favors secluded cliffs with overhanging ledges and large trees for nesting and cover. Hilly or mountainous country where takeoff and soaring are supported by updrafts is generally preferred to flat habitats. Deeply cut canyons rising to open mountain slopes and crags are ideal habitat.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks secluded cliffs, large nesting trees, and the hilly or mountainous terrain with strong updrafts that are typically required for nesting, cover, and soaring.
<i>Ardea alba</i> great egret	Fed: None CA: None	Yearlong resident throughout California, except for the high mountains and deserts. Feeds and rests in fresh, and saline emergent wetlands, along the margins of estuaries, lakes, and slow-moving streams, on mudflats and salt ponds, and in irrigated croplands and pastures.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. Suitable wetland, open water, or irrigated habitats used for foraging and resting are absent.
<i>Ardea herodias</i> great blue heron	Fed: None CA: None	Fairly common all year throughout most of California, in shallow estuaries and fresh and saline emergent wetlands. Less common along riverine and rocky marine shores, in croplands, pastures, and in mountains about foothills.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. Shallow estuaries, emergent wetlands, and other aquatic foraging habitats are absent.
<i>Arizona elegans occidentalis</i> California glossy snake	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in a wide variety of habitat types including open desert, grasslands, shrublands, chaparral, and woodlands. Prefers areas where the soil is loose and sandy which allows for burrowing.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks loose, sandy soils that allow for burrowing and does not provide suitable open habitat conditions favored by the species
<i>Artemisiospiza belli belli</i> Bell's sparrow	Fed: None CA: WL	Generally prefers semi-open habitats with evenly spaced shrubs 1 – 2 meters in height. Dry chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Less common in tall, dense, mature chaparral.	No	Low Limited habitat is present within the project site. Suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area.
<i>Aspidoscelis hyperythra</i> orangethroat whiptail	Fed: None CA: WL	Semi-arid brushy areas typically with loose soil and rocks, including washes, streamsides, rocky hillsides, and coastal chaparral.	No	Low Limited habitat is present within the project site. Suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area.
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in a variety of ecosystems, primarily hot and dry open areas with sparse foliage - chaparral, woodland, and riparian areas.	No	Low Limited habitat is present within and surrounding to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	Fed: None CA: CE	Primarily a grassland species, but it persists and even thrives in some landscapes highly altered by human activity. Occurs in open, annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. The overriding characteristics of suitable habitat appear to be burrows for roosting and nesting and relatively short vegetation with only sparse shrubs and taller vegetation.	No	Presumed Absent While disturbed portions of the project site support line-of-sight opportunities favored by burrowing owl, no suitable burrows (>4 inches) were observed in these areas. In addition, numerous perching opportunities for predators of burrowing owls are present on-site.
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	Fed: None CA: CE	Exclusive to coastal California east towards the Sierra-Cascade Crest; less common in western Nevada. Found in open grassland and scrub habitats and is adapted to semi-natural habitats surrounded by intensely modified landscapes. Food plants include <i>Asclepias</i> , <i>Chaenactis</i> , <i>Lupinus</i> , <i>Medicago</i> , <i>Phacelia</i> , and <i>Salvia</i> .	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks suitable open grassland or scrub habitat and does not support sufficient flowering plant resources needed to provide forage for the species. No suitable burrows were present.
<i>Bombus pensylvanicus</i> American bumble bee	Fed: None CA: None	Prefers habitats in open farmland, prairies, and agricultural fields. Nests below grass or underground. Forages for pollen and nectar in meadows, parks, open fields, gardens, and sometimes forests.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks open farmland, prairie, or meadow habitats and does not provide suitable nesting substrates or sufficient floral resources to support the species.
<i>Botarus lentiginosus</i> American bittern	Fed: None CA: None	Often breed in shallow wetlands dominated by tall emergent vegetation, including cattail marshes, wet meadows, bogs, and shrubby marshes and occasionally hayfields.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks shallow wetlands with tall emergent vegetation, such as marshes or wet meadows, required for breeding and foraging.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	Fed: None CA: THR	Typical habitat is open desert, grassland, or cropland containing scattered, large trees or small groves. Breeds in stands with few trees in juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, and in oak savannah in the Central Valley. Forages in adjacent grassland or suitable grain or alfalfa fields or livestock pastures.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks open grassland or cropland with scattered large trees or small groves and does not provide suitable adjacent foraging habitat such as pasture or agricultural fields.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Calypte costae</i> Costa's hummingbird	Fed: None CA: None	Desert and semi-desert, arid brushy foothills and chaparral. A desert hummingbird that breeds in the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. Departs desert heat moving into chaparral, scrub, and woodland habitats.	No	Presumed Absent The site consists of Riversidean sage scrub but is highly disturbed and adjacent to development, limiting habitat quality and reducing its suitability for regular use by the species.
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i> Santa Ana sucker	Fed: THR CA: SSC	Occur in the watersheds draining the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains of southern California. Steams that Santa Ana Sucker inhabit are generally perennial streams with water ranging in depth from a few inches to several feet and with currents ranging from slight to swift.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks perennial stream habitat with flowing water and suitable depths and currents required to support the species.
<i>Chaetodipus fallax fallax</i> northwestern San Diego pocket mouse	Fed: None CA: None	Occurs in desert and coastal habitats in southern California, Mexico, and northern Baja California, from sea level to at least 1,400 meters above msl. Found in a variety of temperate habitats ranging from chaparral and grasslands to scrub forests and deserts. Requires low growing vegetation or rocky outcroppings, as well as sandy soils for burrowing.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks suitable sandy soils for burrowing and sufficient low-growing vegetation or rocky cover, and existing disturbance and nearby development reduce habitat suitability for the species.
<i>Chaetura vauxi</i> Vaux's swift	Fed: None CA: SSC	Prefers redwood and Douglas-fir habitats with nest-sites in large hollow trees and snags, especially tall, burned-out snags. Fairly common migrant throughout most of the state in April and May, and August and September.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks large hollow trees or snags suitable for nesting and does not provide appropriate forest habitat to support regular use by the species.
<i>Cicindela tranquebarica viridissima</i> greenest tiger beetle	Fed: None CA: None	Normally occurs in sand flats along streams but can occur in sandy areas with active irrigation. Known from a few small colonies within the Santa Ana River watershed.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks sandy streamside flats or actively irrigated sandy areas and is outside the limited known colony locations within the Santa Ana River watershed.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> northern harrier	Fed: None CA: SSC	Frequents meadows, grasslands, open rangelands, desert sinks, fresh and saltwater emergent wetlands; seldom found in wooded areas. Mostly found in flat, or hummocky, open areas of tall, dense grasses moist or dry shrubs, and edges for nesting, cover, and feeding.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks extensive open grasslands, meadows, or wetland habitats with tall, dense vegetation and does not provide the flat, open conditions typically used by the species for foraging and nesting.
<i>Coleonyx variegatus abbotti</i> San Diego banded gecko	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in coastal and cismontane southern California from interior Ventura County south, although it is absent from the extreme outer coast. It is uncommon in coastal scrub and chaparral, most often occurring in granite or rocky outcrops in these habitats.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. Disturbed site conditions combined with the species' uncommon occurrence in coastal sage scrub and chaparral likely preclude its presence.
<i>Contopus cooperi</i> olive-sided flycatcher	Fed: None CA: SSC	Uncommon to common, summer resident in a wide variety of forest and woodland habitats below 9,000 ft throughout California exclusive of the deserts, the Central Valley, and other lowland valleys and basins. Preferred nesting habitats include mixed conifer, montane hardwood-conifer, Douglas-fir, redwood, red fir, and lodgepole pine.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks forested or woodland habitats with mature conifer or mixed hardwood-conifer vegetation and does not provide the structural conditions typically used by the species for breeding and foraging.
<i>Crotalus ruber</i> red-diamond rattlesnake	Fed: None CA: SSC	It can be found from the desert, through dense chaparral in the foothills (it avoids the mountains above around 4,000 feet), to warm inland mesas and valleys, all the way to the cool ocean shore. It is most commonly associated with heavy brush with large rocks or boulders. Dense chaparral in the foothills, cactus or boulder associated coastal sage scrub, oak and pine woodlands, and desert slope scrub associations are known to carry populations of the northern red-diamond rattlesnake; however, chamise and red shank associations may offer better structural habitat for refuges and food resources for this species than other habitats.	No	Moderate Limited habitat is present within the project site. Suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area. This species is reported as occurring nearby.
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i> San Bernardino ringneck snake	Fed: None CA: None	Common in open, relatively rocky areas within valley-foothill, mixed chaparral, and annual grass habitats.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks intact valley-foothill, chaparral, or annual grassland habitats needed to support this species.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i> San Bernardino kangaroo rat	Fed: END CA: END	Primarily found in Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub (RAFSS) and sandy loam soils, alluvial fans and flood plains, and along washes with nearby sage scrub. May also occur at lower densities in Riversidean upland sage scrub, chaparral and grassland in uplands and tributaries in proximity to RAFSS habitat. Tends to avoid rocky substrates.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks sandy alluvial soils, washes, and Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub habitat and is characterized by rocky substrates that are typically avoided by the species.
<i>Dipodomys simulans</i> Dulzura kangaroo rat	Fed: None CA: None	Relatively common in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub, and peninsular juniper woodland habitats with sandy and gravelly soils. Sometimes found in forests of pine, oak and fir.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks sandy or gravelly soils and does not provide intact chaparral, coastal sage scrub, or alluvial fan habitats typically used by the species.
<i>Egretta thula</i> snowy egret	Fed: None CA: None	Widespread in California along shores of coastal estuaries, fresh and saline emergent wetlands, ponds, slow-moving rivers, irrigation ditches, and wet fields. In southern California, common yearlong in the Imperial Valley and along the Colorado River.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks aquatic and wetland features such as estuaries, ponds, slow-moving waters, or wet fields that are typically used by the species for foraging.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite	Fed: None CA: FP	Widespread in California along shores of coastal estuaries, fresh and saline emergent wetlands, ponds, slow-moving rivers, irrigation ditches, and wet fields. In southern California, common yearlong in the Imperial Valley and along the Colorado River.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks open foraging areas such as grasslands or agricultural fields and does not contain wetland or open landscapes typically used by the species for hunting.
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> willow flycatcher	Fed: None CA: END	A rare to locally uncommon, summer resident in wet meadow and montane riparian habitats (2,000 to 8,000 ft) in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range. Most often occurs in broad, open river valleys or large mountain meadows with lush growth of shrubby willows.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks wet meadow or montane riparian habitat with dense shrubby willows and does not provide the broad, moist valley conditions typically used by the species for breeding.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i> California horned lark	Fed: None CA: WL	Occurs in meadows, grasslands, open fields, prairie, and alkali flats. This subspecies is typically found in coastal regions.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks open, flat meadows or grassland habitats and does not provide the sparsely vegetated conditions typically used by the species for foraging and nesting.
<i>Eugnosta busckana</i> Busck's gallmoth	Fed: None CA: None	Found primarily in coastal sand dune habitats across California.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. No coastal sand dunes are present within the project site.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily a cliff-dwelling species, roost generally under exfoliating rock slabs. Roosts are generally high above the ground, usually allowing a clear vertical drop of at least 3 meters below the entrance for flight. In California, it is most frequently encountered in broad open areas including dry desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, and agricultural areas.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks suitable high cliff faces with exfoliating rock slabs and sufficient vertical drop needed for roosting and does not provide the broad, open landscape conditions typically used by the species.
<i>Falco columbarius</i> merlin	Fed: None CA: WL	Nest in forested openings, edges, and along rivers across northern North America. Found in open forests, grasslands, and especially coastal areas with flocks of small songbirds or shorebirds.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks open forest edges and coastal habitats and does not provide the conditions typically used by the species.
<i>Gila orcuttii</i> arroyo chub	Fed: None CA: SSC	Warm streams of the Los Angeles Plain, which are typically muddy torrents during the winter, and clear quiet brooks in the summer, possibly drying up in places. They are found both in slow-moving and fast-moving sections, but generally deeper than 40 cm.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks perennial or seasonal stream channels with sufficient depth, flow, and aquatic conditions required to support the species.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Icteria virens</i> yellow-breasted chat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily found in tall, dense, relatively wide riparian woodlands and thickets of willows, vine tangles, and dense brush with well-developed understories. Nesting areas are associated with streams, swampy ground, and the borders of small ponds. Breeding habitat must be dense to provide shade and concealment. It winters south the Central America.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks tall, dense riparian woodland or willow thicket habitat with a well-developed understory and associated wet features needed to support breeding by the species.
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> loggerhead shrike	Fed: None CA: SSC	Common yearlong resident of California. Prefers open habitats with bare ground, scattered shrubs, and areas with low or sparse herbaceous cover. Requires suitable perches including trees, posts, fences, utility lines, or other perches.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. Although the species can occur in open habitats, site disturbance and adjacency to development has reduced habitat quality and availability of suitable foraging areas, shrub structure, and perches needed to support the species.
<i>Larus californicus</i> California gull	Fed: None CA: WL	Require isolated islands in rivers, reservoirs and natural lakes for nesting, where predations pressures from terrestrial mammals are diminished. Uses both fresh and saline aquatic habitats at variable elevations and degrees of aridity for nesting and for opportunistic foraging.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks open water features and isolated island nesting habitat required by the species.
<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i> western yellow bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occurs in valley/foothill riparian, desert riparian, desert wash, and palm oasis habitats. Roosts under palm trees and feeds in, and near, palm oases and riparian habitats.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks palm oases and riparian habitat with suitable roosting and foraging conditions.
<i>Lepus californicus bennettii</i> San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit	Fed: None CA: None	Occupies many diverse habitats, but primarily is found in arid regions supporting short-grass habitats, agricultural fields, or sparse coastal scrub.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks extensive short-grass, agricultural, or sparse coastal scrub habitat, and disturbed conditions reduce habitat quality for supporting the species.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Nannopterum auritum</i> double-crested cormorant	Fed: None CA: WL	Common yearlong resident in southern California. Occurs widely in freshwater and marine habitats along coastlines. Require open water where they can forage for schooling fish.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Neolarra alba</i> white cuckoo bee	Fed: None CA: None	Found in dry, sandy areas (particularly deserts) in the American southwest near the host plants for <i>Perdita</i> bee species, of which it is a nest parasite.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks dry, sandy substrate and associated host plants.
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> black-crowned night heron	Fed: None CA: None	Found in a variety of wetland habitats including marshes, swamps, ponds, lakes and coastal areas. Known to nest in colonies and build stick nests, often over water	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i> pocketed free-tailed bat	Fed: None CA: SSC	Often found in pinyon-juniper woodlands, desert scrub, desert succulent shrub, desert riparian, desert wash, alkali desert scrub, Joshua tree, and palm oasis.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks desert scrub, pinyon-juniper, palm oasis, or desert wash habitats and does not provide suitable roosting or foraging conditions for the species.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10</i> steelhead – southern California DPS	Fed: END CA: CE	Found in permanent coastal streams from San Diego to the Smith River.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> osprey	Fed: None CA: WL	Associated strictly with large, fish-bearing waters, primarily in ponderosa pine through mixed conifer habitats. Uses large trees, snags, and dead-topped trees in open forest habitats for cover and nesting. Requires open, clear waters for foraging and uses rivers, lakes, reservoirs, bays, estuaries, and surf zones.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	Fed: None CA: SSC	Found in a wide variety of vegetation types including coastal sage scrub, annual grassland, chaparral, oak woodland, riparian woodland and coniferous forest. The key elements of such habitats are loose, fine soils with a high sand fraction; an abundance of native ants or other insects; and open areas with limited overstory for basking and low, but relatively dense shrubs for refuge.	No	Low Limited habitat is present within the project site. Suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area.
<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	Fed: THR CA: SSC	Common yearlong resident of southern California in sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>). Prefers scrub habitat with more low-growing vegetation. Species generally occurs below 750 feet above mean sea level (msl) along the coast and below 1,500 feet above msl within inland regions.	No	Moderate Limited habitat is present within the project site. Suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i> vermillion flycatcher	Fed: None CA: SSC	Occupies desert riparian habitat, particularly cottonwoods, willows, mesquite, and other large desert riparian trees, in habitat adjacent to irrigated fields, irrigation ditches, pastures, and other open, mesic areas where it can forage.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis</i> Delhi Sands flower-loving fly	Fed: END CA: None	DSF habitat is limited to areas that include Delhi fine sand, an aeolian (wind-deposited) soil type. The highest density of DSF have been found in habitat that includes a variety of plants including California buckwheat, California croton, deerweed, and telegraph weed.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks Delhi fine sand soils and associated aeolian habitat required to support the species.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	Fed: None CA: SSC	Nests over all of California except the Central Valley, the Mojave Desert region, and high altitudes and the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Winters along the Colorado River and in parts of Imperial and Riverside Counties. Nests in riparian areas dominated by willows, cottonwoods, sycamores, or alders or in mature chaparral. May also use oaks, conifers, and urban areas near stream courses.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks riparian woodland with willows or other mature riparian trees and does not provide the moist, stream-associated nesting habitat typically used by the species.
<i>Spea hammondi</i> western spadefoot	Fed: PT CA: SSC	Prefers open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washed, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Rainpools which do not contain bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are necessary for breeding.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks sandy or gravelly soils and seasonal rainpools required for breeding, and disturbed conditions further reduce habitat suitability for supporting the species.
<i>Spinus lawrencei</i> Lawrence's goldfinch	Fed: None CA: None	Open woodlands, chaparral, and weedy fields. Closely associated with oaks. Nests in open oak or other arid woodland and chaparral near water.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Fed: None CA: SSC	Primarily occupy grasslands, parklands, farms, tallgrass and shortgrass prairies, meadows, shrub-steppe communities and other treeless areas with sandy loam soils where it can dig more easily for its prey. Occasionally found in open chaparral (with less than 50% plant cover) and riparian zones.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	Fed: END CA: END	Primarily occupy Riverine riparian habitat that typically feature dense cover within 1 -2 meters of the ground and a dense, stratified canopy. Typically it is associated with southern willow scrub, cottonwood-willow forest, mule fat scrub, sycamore alluvial woodlands, coast live oak riparian forest, arroyo willow riparian forest, or mesquite in desert localities. It uses habitat which is limited to the immediate vicinity of water courses, 2,000 feet elevation in the interior.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable riparian habitat present within or adjacent to the project site.
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT SPECIES				
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i> marsh sandwort	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Grows mainly in wetlands and freshwater marshes in arid climates. The plant can grow in saturated acidic bog soils and soils that are sandy with a high organic content. Found at elevations ranging from 33 to 558 feet. Blooming period is from May to August.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The project site occurs outside of the known elevation range for this species.
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i> Plummer's mariposa-lily	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Prefers openings in chaparral, foothill woodland, coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest and yellow pine forest. Often found on dry, rocky slopes and soils and brushy areas. Can be very common after a fire. From 328 to 5,577 feet in elevation. Blooming period is from May to July.	No	Low Limited habitat is present within the project site. Suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area. This species is reported as occurring nearby.
<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>maritimum</i> salt marsh bird's-beak	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.2	Upper terraces and higher edges of coastal salt marshes where tidal inundation is periodic. Found at elevations ranging from 0 to 99 feet. Blooming period is from May to October.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The project site occurs outside of the known elevation range for this species.
<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>parryi</i> Parry's spineflower	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs on sandy and/or rocky soils in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and sandy openings within alluvial washes and margins. Found at elevations ranging from 951 to 3,773 feet. Blooming period is from April to June.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks suitable sandy or alluvial wash openings with intact chaparral or coastal sage scrub conditions needed to support the species.
<i>Deinandra paniculata</i> paniculate tarplant	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Typically found in vernal mesic, sometimes sandy soils in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grasslands, and vernal pools. Found at elevations ranging from 82 to 3,084 feet. Blooming period is from April to November.	No	Low Limited habitat is present within the project site. Suitable habitat is present in the surrounding area. This species is reported as occurring nearby.
<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i> Santa Ana River woollystar	Fed: END CA: END CNPS: 1B.1	Grows in sandy or gravelly soils within chaparral and coastal scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 299 to 2,001 feet. Blooming period is from April to September.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks suitable soil conditions needed to support the species.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> mesa horkelia	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.1	Occurs on sandy or gravelly soils in chaparral, woodlands, and coastal scrub plant communities. Found at elevations ranging from 230 to 2,657 feet. Blooming period is from February to September.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks suitable soil conditions needed to support the species.
<i>Juglans californica</i> southern California black walnut	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.2	Found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 164 to 2,953 feet. Blooming period is from March to August.	No	Low Suitable habitat is present within and surrounding the project site. This conspicuous species was not observed during the field investigation.
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i> Robinson's pepper-grass	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 4.3	Dry soils on chaparral and coastal sage scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 3 to 2,904 feet. Blooming period is from January to July.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. Disturbed site conditions reduce habitat quality and likely preclude the establishment of suitable chaparral or coastal sage scrub habitat needed to support the species.
<i>Lycium parishii</i> Parish's desert-thorn	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.3	Habitats include coastal scrub and Sonoran desert scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 443 to 3,281 feet. Blooming period is from March to April.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks intact coastal scrub or Sonoran desert scrub habitat with appropriate soil and vegetation conditions needed to support the species.
<i>Malacothamnus parishii</i> Parish's bush-mallow	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1A	Grows in chaparral and coastal scrub habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 1,001 to 1,493 feet. Blooming period is from June to July.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks intact chaparral or coastal scrub habitat with suitable soil and vegetation conditions needed to support the species.
<i>Monardella pringlei</i> Pringle's monardella	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1A	Prefers sandy soils within coastal scrub habitat. Found at elevations ranging from 984 to 1,312 feet. Blooming period is from May to June.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks intact coastal scrub habitat with suitable soil and vegetation conditions needed to support the species.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat	Observed On-site	Potential to Occur
<i>Senecio aphanactis</i> chaparral ragwort	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Found in sometimes alkaline soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Found at elevations ranging from 425 to 2,165 feet. Blooming period is from January to April.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks intact chaparral, cismontane woodland, or coastal scrub habitat with suitable soil conditions needed to support the species.
<i>Sphenopholis obtusata</i> prairie wedge grass	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 2B.2	Prefers cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps. Found at elevations ranging from 984 to 6,562 feet. Blooming period is from April to July.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks cismontane woodland, meadow, or seep habitats with persistent moisture conditions needed to support the species.
<i>Symphyotrichum defoliatum</i> San Bernardino aster	Fed: None CA: None CNPS: 1B.2	Grows in cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic) habitats. Can be found growing near ditches, streams, and springs within these habitats. Found at elevations ranging from 7 to 6,693 feet. Blooming period is from July to November.	No	Presumed Absent There is no suitable habitat present within or adjacent to the project site. The site lacks mesic habitats such as meadows, seeps, marshes, or stream- and spring-associated environments needed to support the species.
SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT COMMUNITIES				
Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub	CDFW Sensitive Habitat	Occur within broad washes of sandy alluvial drainages that carry rainfall runoff sporadically in winter and spring, but remain relatively dry through the remainder of the year. Is restricted to drainages and floodplains with very sandy substrates that have a dearth of decomposed plant material. These areas do not develop into riparian woodland or scrub due to the limited water resources and scouring by occasional floods.	No	Absent

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) - Federal

END - Federally Endangered
THR - Federally Threatened
PT - Proposed Threatened

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - California

END - State Endangered
CE - State Candidate Endangered
SSC - Species of Special Concern
WL - Watch List
FP - Fully Protected

California Native Plant Society (CNPS)

California Rare Plant Rank
1A Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but More Common Elsewhere
4 Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List

Threat Ranks

0.1 - Seriously threatened in California
0.2 - Moderately threatened in California
0.3 - Not very threatened in California

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

Less than significant Impact with Mitigation. The database searches identified 47 special-status wildlife species, 15 special-status plant species, and 1 special status plant community, that have the potential to occur within the Fontana USGS 7.5-minute series quadrangle. Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of onsite habitats, it was determined that the proposed project site has a high potential to support Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) and sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*); and moderate potential to support red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*) and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*); and a low potential to support southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), Bell's sparrow (*Artemisiospiza belli belli*), orangethroat whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperthra*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*). It was further determined that the project site does not provide suitable habitat for any of the other special-status wildlife species known to occur in the area.

Due to the potential for the project to support red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), the Project may, but is not likely to, require capture, handling, and relocation of this species and other wildlife listed in the above paragraph (orangethroat whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperthra*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)). Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 650, the SGVWC/qualified biologist must obtain appropriate handling permits to capture, temporarily possess, and relocate wildlife to avoid harm or mortality in connection with Project construction and activities.

CDFW has the authority to issue permits for the take or possession of wildlife, including mammals; birds, nests, and eggs; reptiles, amphibians, fish, plants; and invertebrates (Fish & G. Code, §§ 1002, 1002.5, 1003). Effective October 1, 2018, a Scientific Collecting Permit is required to monitor project impacts on wildlife resources, as required by environmental documents, permits, or other legal authorizations; and, to capture, temporarily possess, and relocate wildlife to avoid harm or mortality in connection with otherwise lawful activities (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 650). Thus, a wildlife protection plan shall be developed to ensure protection of the wildlife species that may occur onsite as part of project construction. This shall be enforced through the implementation of Mitigation Measure **(MM) BIO-1**.

Of the aforementioned species, only coastal California gnatcatcher is federally listed as threatened. None of the other species are state or federally listed as endangered or threatened. The majority of local avian species are not expected to nest on-site due to the lack of suitable nesting opportunities. However, the project site provides suitable foraging habitat for Cooper's hawk but does not support tall trees that have the potential to provide suitable nesting opportunities for Cooper's hawk. With implementation of a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey, impacts to Cooper's hawk would be less than significant. Thus, mitigation presented below to ensure protection of nesting birds is ensured upon project implementation (**MM BIO-2**).

Although the Project site is located near the southern outskirts of the City immediately surrounded by open space, as previously noted, the site itself is largely composed of existing disturbed areas consisting of the existing South Reservoir site and the road that leads up to the Project site, while other portions surrounding the Project site is undeveloped open space. The Project site is currently disturbed and is characterized by open space areas routinely impacted by off-highway recreational vehicle use, mountain biking, and hiking activities. The East and West reservoirs area is undisturbed containing native habitat. As noted in **Table 4-1**, most species noted to occur in the Project's quadrangle have a low probability of occur onsite due to the Project site's condition. Regarding coastal California gnatcatcher, given the increased heterogeneity and decreased species evenness of the on-site Riversidean sage scrub, the project site itself is not expected to provide the dynamic and successional required by California gnatcatcher for nesting purposes. Since project activities will not impact plant communities that provide suitable nesting opportunities for California gnatcatcher, no long-term impacts to suitable nesting habitat are expected. While the proposed Project is located within federal Designated Critical Habitat of the coastal California gnatcatcher, the habitat within the site is unlikely to support this sensitive species, the modification of the habitat within the site is not anticipated to adversely affect this special status species. A pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey focusing on California gnatcatcher should be conducted prior to ground disturbing activities to ensure no California gnatcatcher are nesting within 500 feet of the project site. As a result, the following **MM BIO-2** shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measures:

BIO-1 Protection Plan. Wildlife shall be protected or allowed to move away on its own (non-invasive, passive relocation) to adjacent appropriate habitat within the open space on site or in suitable habitat adjacent to the Project

area (either way, at least 200 feet from the grading limits). Special status wildlife shall be captured only by a qualified biologist with proper handling permits (i.e. Scientific Collection). The qualified biologist shall prepare a protection plan that includes a species- specific list with proper handling and passive relocation protocols. The plan shall be implemented during Project construction.

BIO-2 Nesting Birds. A pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than three (3) days prior to the initiation of site preparation and construction activities. The nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted with binoculars in the disturbance footprint and a 250-foot buffer for passerines and a 500-foot buffer for raptors and listed avian species. The survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in the region including coastal California gnatcatcher. An additional survey shall be conducted following any lapse in construction activity of seven or more days during the bird breeding season. If no active nests are found during the preconstruction surveys, then no additional mitigation is required.

If nests are found, an avoidance buffer of 250 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors and listed species shall be established by the qualified biologist. The buffer shall be established to ensure nesting activity is not disturbed by construction activity and determined by the qualified biologist based on the species' known tolerances, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the project site. The buffer(s) shall be demarcated by the biologist and the boundary marked with bright construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No work shall be allowed within these avoidance buffers until the avian biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest, or the nest has become otherwise inactive. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist and with monitoring of the active nest to ensure construction activities are not disrupting nesting behavior.

With the completion of a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey (**MM BIO-2**), and development of a Wildlife Protection Plan (**MM BIO-1**) impacts to California

gnatcatcher and other special status species will be less than significant and no mitigation will be required. As such, a less than significant impact with the implementation of mitigation would occur.

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

Less than significant Impact with Mitigation. There is no riparian habitat in the Project area. The Project site occurs within federally designated Critical Habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher. Additionally, Riversidean sage scrub,¹¹ a sensitive natural habitat typically sought after by the coastal California gnatcatcher, is present on site, but this plant community has been fragmented and altered by historic and ongoing land uses (Exhibit 5, Appendix B). On-site development and disturbance have contributed to high species heterogeneity within site boundaries, resulting in a lower overall diversity and dominance by relatively fast-growing woody perennial species such as California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*). Riversidean sage scrub does occur in surrounding areas of the Jurupa Hills. However, due to the degraded nature of on-site habitats compared to habitat surrounding the site, coastal California gnatcatcher is *not* expected to nest within site boundaries. Since the Project does not bear a federal nexus, consultation with the USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will *not* be required for the Project. Additionally, no jurisdictional drainage and/or wetland features were observed on the Project site during the field investigation, and no further surveys are recommended. With the completion of a pre-construction nesting bird survey (**MM BIO-2**), provided below, less than significant impacts to year-round, seasonal, or special-status avian residents or special-status species will occur from implementation of the proposed Project.

- c) *Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological?*

No Impact. No signs of jurisdictional waters or other traces of wetlands or riparian habitat occur on site. Furthermore, the current habitat is not suitable for species generally found in wetland ecosystems; therefore, no impact would occur.

¹¹ Riversidean Sage scrub is a sensitive plant community, and is a separate plant community from Riversidian Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub. Note that Riversidean Sage scrub is not listed in Table 4-1 because it is widespread and is too broad of a category for occurrence level tracking, and is therefore not included in the CBDDDB database.

- d) *Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

Less than Significant with Mitigation. Nesting birds are protected pursuant to the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code (Sections 3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3513) prohibit the take, possession, or destruction of birds, their nests or eggs. In order to protect migratory bird species, a nesting bird clearance survey would be conducted prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities that may disrupt the birds during the nesting season. Project activities including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside of the bird breeding season (typically September 1 through January 31), if practicable.

The majority of local avian species are not expected to nest on-site due to the lack of suitable nesting opportunities.¹² In order to ensure impacts to special-status avian species do not occur from implementation of the proposed Project, a pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey shall be conducted prior to ground disturbance. With implementation of the pre-construction nesting bird clearance survey **MM BIO-2**, impacts to such species would be less than significant.

With implementation of **MM BIO-2**, a less than significant impact would occur.

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

Less than Significant Impact. Several ornamental trees are present along the boundary of the existing reservoir, including pine and gum trees, which will remain in place as part of Project implementation. There are no heritage or specimen trees on site, and the existing trees located on site do not meet the City of Fontana's Municipal Code (Chapter 28, Section 63) definition of a Heritage Tree which states that a Heritage tree "is representative of a significant period of the city's growth or development (windrow tree, European Olive tree)." As such, a less than significant impact is anticipated to occur, and no mitigation is required.

- f) *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

¹² ELMT Consulting. July 8, 2022. *Biological Resources Assessment for the Plant F20 Water Storage Project Located in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California.*

No Impact. The Project is not located within an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project would result in no significant impacts to biological resources with the implementation of **MM BIO-1 and BIO-2**. Cumulative impacts are not likely to occur as a result of Project implementation plus other projects since all projects within the surrounding region are planned for industrial and residential uses. Furthermore, all projects would be subject to individual project-level environmental review. Since there would be no project-specific significant impacts, and due to existing laws and regulations in place to protect biological resources and Project mitigation measures in place to determine the presence/absence of a candidate, sensitive, and special species, the potential incremental effects of the proposed Project would not be cumulatively considerable.

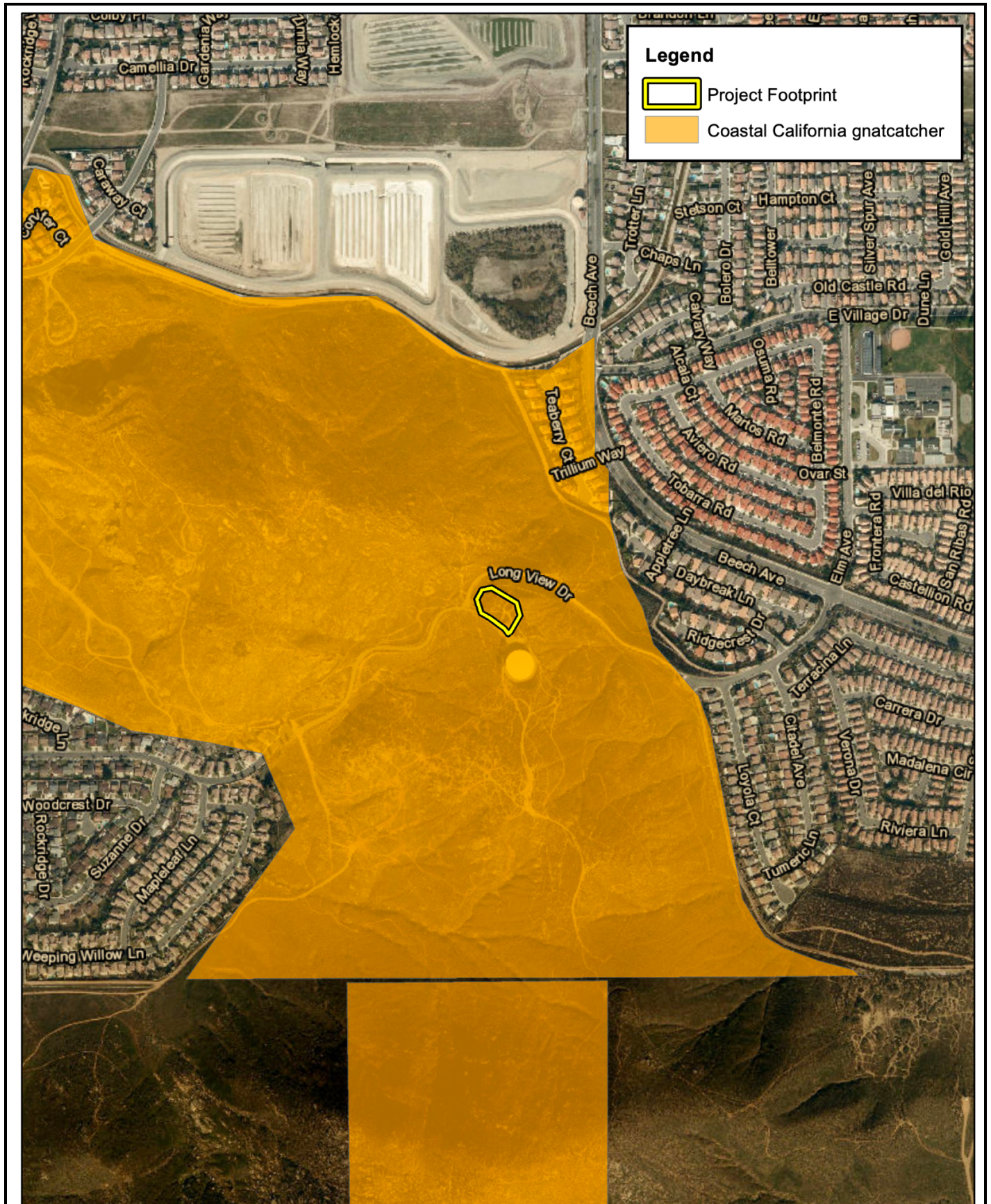


EXHIBIT 9

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
5. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?		X		
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?		X		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?		X		

The cultural report was completed pursuant to CEQA, the PRC Chapter 2.6, Section 21083.2, and CCR Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 5, §15064.5. The pedestrian cultural resources survey was intended to locate and document previously recorded or new cultural resources, including archaeological sites, features, isolates, and historic-period buildings that exceed 45 years in age within defined Project boundaries.

BCR Consulting, LLC., conducted a cultural resources study of the project area (Appendix C, Cultural Resources Assessment). The study includes a records search of files at the South-Central Coastal Information Center, a Sacred Lands File search at the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and field inspection. An archaeological literature and records search was conducted at the South-Central Coastal Information Center, of the California Historical Resources Information System housed at California State University, Fullerton with a half-mile buffer around the Project's area of direct impacts (ADI). The results of this search indicated that 11 cultural resource studies were completed within a half mile of the ADI. No cultural resources are recorded within the ADI and six are recorded within a half mile of the ADI. The closest recorded resources are three isolated pre-colonial artifacts a quarter mile away from the Project area. The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) search also included searching the lists of resources on or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historical Landmarks, California State Points of Historical Interest.

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

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. The Cultural Resources Assessment completed for the proposed Project site by BCR Consulting revealed that the Project site had not been previously subject to cultural resources assessments and no cultural resources have been identified within its boundaries.

The records search and field survey did not identify any historical or archaeological resources within the Project site, and no historic-period structures or artifacts were found on the site. The Project site also does not involve restoration, rehabilitation, alteration, or demolition of a historical resource as defined under Section 15064.5 (a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Furthermore, the geological context indicates there is very low to no potential to encounter buried archaeological resources. Based on these results, no additional cultural resources work, or monitoring are necessary for proposed Project activities.¹³

Although the current study has not indicated sensitivity for archaeological resources within the Project site boundaries, ground disturbing activities may have the potential to reveal archaeological deposits and artifacts not observed on the surface during pedestrian field surveys. To prevent impacts to cultural resources, **MM CUL-1** is applicable.

Mitigation Measure:

CUL-1 In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior Standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the Project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN) Cultural Resources Department and the Gabrieleno Band of Indians-Kizh Nation shall be contacted, as detailed within MM TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.

¹³ BCR Consulting, LLC. July 7, 2022. *Cultural Resources Assessment*.

If significant pre-contact cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to YSMN and the Kizh Nation for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.

If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.

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

Less than Significant with Mitigation. No human remains were identified onsite and there was no evidence found in the course of preparing the cultural resources assessment that the area has been used as a cemetery or burial ground in the past. Regardless, it is possible that human remains may be present at subsurface levels. State law prescribes protective measures that must be taken in the event that human remains are discovered. Specifically, Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code requires that the County Coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery and no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area may continue until the County Coroner has determined, within two working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she is required to notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete their inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains. Compliance with state and federal law would ensure that less than significant impacts occur to any human remains that may be discovered on site.

With implementation of **MM CUL-1**, impacts on historical and archaeological resources would be less than significant with mitigation.

3.6 ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
6. ENERGY. Would the Project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation?			X	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X

An Energy Assessment was prepared for the proposed Project by Kimley-Horn and Associates, on October 11, 2022. The report is included as **Appendix D, Energy Assessment Memorandum** and the results are summarized herein.

Building Energy Conservation Standards

The California Building Standard Codes (Title 24, Part 6, of the CCR) are updated every three years by the California Energy Commission to help reduce wasteful and unnecessary energy consumption in newly constructed and existing buildings.¹⁴ The 2019 California Building Standards Codes standards aim to increase energy efficiency, save consumers money, and improve air quality both indoors and outdoors. On August 11, 2021, the California Energy Commission adopted the 2022 Energy Code. In December, it was approved by the California Building Standards Commission for inclusion into the California Building Standards Code. Among other updates like strengthened ventilation standards for gas cooking appliances, the 2022 Energy Code includes updated standards in three major areas:

- Senate Bill 350 New electric heat pump requirements for residential uses, schools, offices, banks, libraries, retail, and grocery stores.
- The promotion of electric-ready requirements for new homes includes the addition of circuitry for electric appliances, battery storage panels, and dedicated infrastructure to allow for the conversion from natural gas to electricity.

¹⁴ California Energy Commission. (2021) Building Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. Available at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/building-energy-efficiency-standards/2019-building-energy-efficiency>. Accessed January 14, 2021.

- The expansion of solar photovoltaic and battery storage standards to additional land uses including high-rise multifamily residences, hotels and motels, tenant spaces, offices, (including medical offices and clinics), retail and grocery stores, restaurants, schools, and civic uses (including theaters auditoriums, and convention centers).

Senate Bill 350

SB 350, also known as the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act, established clean energy, clean air, and GHG reduction goals, including reducing GHG to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Senate Bill 100

On September 10, 2018, Governor Brown signed SB 100. Under SB 100 or the California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program, the Public Utilities Commission is required to establish a renewables portfolio standard requiring all retail sellers, as defined, to procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources, as defined, so that the total kilowatt-hours of those products sold to their retail end-use customers achieve 25% of retail sales by December 31, 2016, 33% by December 31, 2020, 40% by December 31, 2024, 45% by December 31, 2027, and 50% by December 31, 2030. The program additionally requires each local publicly owned electric utility, as defined, to procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy resources to achieve the procurement requirements established by the program. The Legislature has found and declared that its intent in implementing the program is to attain, among other targets for sale of eligible renewable resources, the target of 50% of total retail sales of electricity by December 31, 2030.¹⁵

State CEQA Guidelines Appendix F

Pursuant to Section 15126.2(b), Section 15126.4 (a)(1)(C), and Appendix F of the State CEQA Guidelines, the environmental setting may include “existing energy supplies and energy use patterns in the region and locality.” Energy usage is analyzed in this document due to the potential direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with the Project. Refer to Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions for additional regulatory background and environmental setting regarding the Project’s energy use.

¹⁵ State of California. (2018). *Sb-100 California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: Emissions of Greenhouse Gases*. Available at https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB100. Accessed January 14, 2021.

Electricity

Electricity is the flow of electrical power or charge and is both a basic part of nature and one of the most widely used forms of energy. Electricity as a utility is considered a secondary energy source that is made by consuming or converting of energy resources, including water, wind, oil, gas, coal, solar, geothermal, and nuclear resources, into energy. Electricity can be supplied through a number of system components including substations and transformers that lower transmission line power (voltage) to a level appropriate for on-site distribution and use. The electricity generated is distributed through a network of transmission and distribution lines commonly called a power grid. Conveyance of electricity through transmission lines is typically responsive to market demands. Southern California Edison currently services the City of Fontana and would provide electrical service to the Project site.

Energy capacity, or electrical power, is generally measured in watts (W) while energy use is measured in watt-hours (Wh). For example, if a light post on-site has a capacity rating of 250 W, the energy required to power the light post on for one hour would be 250 Wh. If multiple light bulbs at 250 W were on for one hour, the energy required would be 2,500 Wh or 2.5 kilowatt-hour. On a utility-scale, a generator's capacity is typically rated in megawatts, which is one million watts, while energy use is measured in megawatt-hours or gigawatt-hours, which is one billion watt-hours.

Natural Gas

The Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas), which would be the Project's service provider, services approximately 21.8 million people through 5.9 million meters in more than 500 communities. SoCalGas's service territory encompasses approximately 24,000 square miles throughout central and southern California. SoCal Gas buys natural gas throughout the year and stores it in four storage fields: Aliso Canyon, Honor Rancho, La Goleta, and Playa del Rey. These fields have a combined storage capacity of 134.1 billion cubic feet.

Energy Use

Energy usage is typically quantified using the British Thermal Unit. Total energy usage in California was 6,922.8 trillion British Thermal Units in 2020 (the most recent year for which this specific data is available).¹⁶ Of California's total energy usage, the breakdown by sector is 34.0 percent transportation, 24.6 percent industrial, 19.6 percent commercial,

¹⁶ U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Table F33: Total energy consumption, price, and expenditure estimates, 2019*, https://www.eia.gov/state/seds/data.php?incfile=/state/seds/sep_fuel/html/fuel_te.html&sid=CA, accessed October 2022.

and 21.8 percent residential.¹⁷ Electricity and natural gas in California are generally consumed by stationary users such as residences, commercial, and industrial facilities, whereas petroleum consumption is generally accounted for by transportation-related energy use. In 2022, taxable gasoline sales (including aviation gasoline) in California accounted for 13,919,678,835 gallons of gasoline.¹⁸

Energy consumption is calculated based on four main sectors which are: residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation. Total electrical system energy losses are apportioned to each end-use sector according to each sector's share of total annual U.S. electricity purchases with industrial being the highest energy consumer.

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction-Related Energy

During construction, the Project would consume energy in two general forms: (1) the fuel energy consumed by construction vehicles and equipment; and (2) bound energy in construction materials, such as asphalt, steel, concrete, pipes, and manufactured or processed materials such as lumber and glass.

Fossil fuels used for construction vehicles and other energy-consuming equipment would be used during grading, paving, and building construction. Fuel energy consumed during construction would be temporary in nature and would not represent a significant demand on energy resources. Some incidental energy conservations would occur during construction through compliance with State requirements that equipment not in use for more than five minutes be turned off. Project construction equipment would also be required to comply with the latest EPA and CARB engine emissions standards. These emissions standards require highly efficient combustion systems that maximize fuel efficiency and reduce unnecessary fuel consumption. Due to increasing transportation costs and fuel prices, contractors and owners have a strong financial incentive to avoid wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy during construction.

¹⁷ U.S. Energy Information Administration, *California State Profile and Energy Estimates, California Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector, 2019*, <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CA#tabs-2>, accessed October 2022.

¹⁸ California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, *January 2022 – Motor Vehicle Fuel 10 Year Reports*, <https://www.cdtfa.ca.gov/taxes-and-fees/spftrpts.htm>, accessed October 2022.

Substantial reductions in energy inputs for construction materials can be achieved by selecting building materials composed of recycled materials that require substantially less energy to produce than non-recycled materials. The incremental increase in the use of energy bound in construction materials such as asphalt, steel, concrete, pipes and manufactured or processed materials (e.g., lumber and gas) would not substantially increase demand for energy compared to overall local and regional demand for construction materials. It is reasonable to assume that production of building materials such as concrete, steel, etc., would employ all reasonable energy conservation practices in the interest in minimizing the cost of doing business.

While construction activities would consume fuels, Project-related consumption of such resources would be temporary and would cease upon the completion of construction. In addition, mobile equipment energy usage during construction would be minimized as the Project would comply with CARB's idling regulations, which restrict idling diesel vehicles and equipment to five minutes. Additionally, consistent with state requirements, all construction equipment would meet CARB Tier 3 In-Use Off-Road Diesel Engine Standards. Engines are required to meet certain emission standards, and groups of standards are referred to as Tiers. A Tier 0 engine is unregulated with no emission controls, and each progression of standard level (i.e., Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, etc.) generates lower emissions, use less energy, and are more advanced technologically than the previous tier. CARB's Tier 3 In-Use Off-Road Diesel Engine Standards requires that construction equipment fleets become cleaner and use less energy over time. **Table 6-1, Project and Countywide Energy Consumption** shows the Project's construction-related energy consumption.

Table 6-1: Project Construction and Countywide Energy Consumption

Energy Type	Project Annual Energy Consumption	San Bernardino County Annual Energy Consumption ¹	Percentage Increase Countywide
Automotive Fuel Consumption²			
Project Construction ^{3,4}			
Diesel	28,182 gallons	128,632,715 gallons	0.0219%
Gasoline	2,270 gallons	489,187,977 gallons	0.0005%
Notes:			
1. The project increases in automotive fuel consumption are compared with the countywide fuel consumption (projected) in 2025.			
2. Countywide fuel consumption is from the California Air Resources Board EMFAC2021 model.			
3. Construction fuel consumption is based equipment and load factors from California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod version 2020.4.0).			
4. The estimated construction fuel consumption is based on the project's construction equipment list timing/phasing, and hours of duration for construction equipment, as well as vendor, hauling, and construction worker trips.			
Refer to Appendix A: Energy Data for assumptions used in this analysis.			

As indicated in **Table 6-1**, the overall diesel fuel consumption during construction of the Project would be 28,182 gallons and gasoline consumption would be 2,270 gallons, which would result in a nominal increase (0.0219 percent and 0.0005 percent, respectively) in fuel use in the County. As such, Project construction would have a minimal effect on the local and regional energy supplies. It is noted that construction fuel use is temporary and would cease upon completion of construction activities. There are no unusual Project characteristics that would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy-efficient than at comparable construction sites in the region or State. Therefore, construction fuel consumption would not be any more inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary than other similar development projects of this nature. A less than significant impact would occur in this regard.

Operational Energy

The proposed Project is the construction and operation of two additional water reservoirs with associated improvements to enhance the service to existing local communities. The proposed reservoirs would be located just northwest of the existing 3.42 MG Reservoir. The required electricity for the new proposed water reservoirs would be provided by the existing onsite generator which feeds the existing South Reservoir. However, any pump that feeds the Juniper Pressure Zone can pump to the new Reservoirs, and this occurs on a frequent as needed basis depending on system demand. The water stored in the new Reservoirs would be gravity fed into the existing FWC system. Therefore, the required energy to operate the Project represents a negligible increase. However, energy would be required to operate construction equipment during construction of the new water storage reservoirs.

As such, it is not anticipated that the Project would either result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project's operations, or conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Impacts under these issues are considered less than significant.

Operational fuel usage would be negligible and would consist of approximately one trip per month for maintenance worker vehicle trips. The Project would therefore not use energy in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary manner. Thus, operation of the Project would not result in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and impacts would be less than significant.

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

No Impact. The Project is not within a state or local renewable energy or energy-efficiency plan area. The Project would be consistent with all applicable codes and regulations set by the state and City. The proposed Project would comply with CALGreen Standards, appliance efficiency regulations, and green building standards set by the California Energy Commission. As discussed above, the Project would not cause inefficient energy consumption resulting in a less than significant impact.

Title 24, Part 11, contains voluntary and mandatory energy measures that are applicable to the project under the California Green Building Standards Code. As discussed above, the Project would result in an increased demand for petroleum during construction. In accordance with Title 24 Part 11 mandatory compliance, the Applicant would have (a) 50 percent of its construction and demolition waste diverted from landfills; (b) mandatory inspections of energy systems to ensure optimal working efficiency; (c) and low pollutant emitting exterior and interior finish materials, such as paints. Compliance with all of these mandatory measures would decrease the consumption of petroleum.

The Project would not conflict with any of the federal, state, or local plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Because the Project would comply with Parts 6 and 11 of Title 24 and with City of Fontana CAP goals and General Plan policies, no conflict with existing energy standards and regulations would occur. Therefore, impacts associated with renewable energy or energy efficiency plans would be considered less than significant.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	

A Geotechnical Investigation was prepared for the proposed Project by MTGL, Inc., on October 23, 2022. The report is included as **Appendix E, Geotechnical Investigation and Geotechnical Addendum #3 – Infiltration Feasibility Study**, and the results are summarized herein.

California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act (Act) purpose is to mitigate the hazards of fault rupture by prohibiting the location of structures for human occupancy across the trace of an active fault. The Act dictates that cities and counties withhold development permits for projects within an Earthquake Fault Zone within their jurisdiction until geologic investigations demonstrate that the projects are not threatened by surface displacements from future earthquakes. However, local agencies can be more restrictive than the State.¹⁹

Ground Shaking

Ground shaking is a general term referring to all aspects of motion of the earth's surface resulting from an earthquake that can cause major damage in seismic events. The extent of ground shaking results from the magnitude and intensity of the earthquake, distance from the epicenter, and local geologic conditions. Magnitude is a measure of the energy released by an earthquake; it is assessed by seismographs. Intensity is a subjective measure of the perceptible effects of seismic energy at a given point and varies with distance from the epicenter and local geologic conditions. Ground shaking can primarily cause property damage and injury during earthquakes and can result in other natural phenomenon such as surface rupture, liquefaction, landslides, lateral spreading, differential settlement, tsunamis, building failure, and broken gas and other utility lines, leading to fire and other collateral damage Areas underlain by thick, saturated,

¹⁹ City of Fontana. 2017. *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*, Page 62. Available at <https://fontana.org/DocumentCenter/View/28274/2017-Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>. Accessed June 3, 2022.

unconsolidated soils will experience greater shaking motion than those areas underlain by firm bedrock.²⁰

Seismicity and Seismic Hazards

The City generally lies within the northern and northwestern portion of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province of southern California, which is characterized by northwest-southeast trending faults, folds, and mountain ranges. The faulting and seismicity of the Inland Empire generally is characterized by the San Andreas Fault zone. The zone separates two of the major tectonic plates that comprise the earth's crust. The relative movement between the Pacific Plate and North American Plate is the driving force of fault ruptures in western California. There are numerous faults in surrounding area that are categorized as active, potentially active, and inactive. According to the USGS U.S. Quaternary Faults GIS map, the City has several Late Quaternary, Middle and Late Quaternary, and Latest Quaternary Faults throughout the City's boundary.²¹

A fault is classified as active by the state if it has either moved during the Holocene epoch (during the last 11,000 years) or is included in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (as established by the California Geological Survey [CGS]). A fault is classified as potentially active if it has experienced movement within the Quaternary period (during the last 1.6 million years). Faults that have not moved in the last 1.6 million years generally are considered inactive.

Earthquake Induced Liquefaction

Liquefaction occurs when loosely packed sandy or silty materials saturated with water are shaken hard enough to lose strength and stiffness. Liquefied soils behave like a liquid and are responsible for tremendous damage in an earthquake. For example, it can cause buildings to collapse, pipes to leak, and roads to buckle.²² Liquefaction potential is the highest in areas with shallow groundwater and saturated soils. Specifically, liquefaction occurs at depths less than 50 feet below ground surface (bgs), with the most susceptible conditions occurring in sandy soils with less than 15 percent silt and clay at depths

²⁰ Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Page 61.

²¹ United States Geological Survey. 2020. U.S. Quaternary Faults GIS Map. Available at <https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a6038b3a1684561a9b0aadf88412fcf>. Accessed June 2, 2022.

²² Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; Page 59. <https://www.fontana.org/3196/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-LHMP>. Accessed August 10, 2022.

shallower than 30 feet bgs. Saturated deposits that are deeper than 50 feet bgs generally are stable regardless of their grain-size distribution.²³

- a) *Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:*
 - i) *Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.*

Less Than Significant Impact. The nearest Alquist-Priolo fault zone is the San Jacinto Fault located approximately 10.0 miles east of the Project site.²⁴ The site is not within a Seismic Special Studies Zone as currently mapped by the California Division of Mines and Geology.²⁵ Since the Project site is not located near a designated fault, earthquake fault zone or on an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone, a less than significant impact associated with fault rupture would occur.

- ii) *Strong seismic ground shaking?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Inland Empire, within which the Project site is located, is generally prone to seismic ground shaking. Consequently, the Project site's design and construction would comply with the latest CBC, the OSHA, American Concrete Institute, and American Water Works Association (AWWA's) design standards which would minimize the potential of strong seismic ground shaking impacts. The CBC provides procedures for earthquake-resistant structural design based on the buildings risk or seismic design category that include considerations for on-site soil conditions, occupancy, and the configuration of the structure including the structural system and height. AWWA's design standards require that reservoirs be operated at fill levels below their maximum physical height in order to prevent roof damage which may be caused by a "sloshing wave" during a seismic event. Therefore, with the Project conforming to the latest CBCs and AWWA design standards, impacts due to strong seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.

- iii) *Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is not within a Seismic Special Studies

²³ City of Fontana. 2018. *Fontana Forward General Plan Update 2015-2035; General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report*; Page 5.5-5. Available at <https://www.fontana.org/DocumentCenter/View/29524/Draft-Environmental-Impact-Report-for-the-General-Plan-Update>. Accessed June 3, 2022.

²⁴ U.S. Quaternary Faults GIS Map. <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/earthquake-hazards/faults>. Accessed July 6, 2022.

²⁵ MTGL, Inc. 2022. *Geotechnical Investigation*, page 5.

Zone as currently mapped by the California Division of Mines and Geology.²⁶ Based on the high relative density/consistency of the subsurface soils and anticipated presence of relatively shallow bedrock, the potential for ground failure or liquefaction is very low. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

iv) And Landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The site is not in a California Geological Survey mapped landslide zone, no reported occurrences of landslides or mudflows are known to have recently affected the site, and the geotechnical investigation determined that the potential for landslides and mudflows is very low at the site (Appendix E). However, because it is located on a hillside where earthquake induced landslides, exacerbated by wildfire risk, could cause permanent ground displacements, in abundance of caution, geotechnical mitigation measure **MM GEO-1** is recommended to further protect the Project against landslides. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur with incorporation of **MM GEO-1**.

Mitigation Measure

GEO-1 Compliance with the Geotechnical Investigation. All grading, construction and operations shall be conducted in conformance with the recommendations included in the Geotechnical Investigation for the Project site prepared by MTG_L, Inc. (Appendix E) or an update thereof, and incorporated into the plans and specifications for the proposed construction. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the Geotechnical Investigation are based on the site conditions as they existed at the time of the MTG_L, Inc.'s investigation, and further assume that the subsurface conditions encountered during MTG_L, Inc.'s investigation are representative of conditions throughout the site. Should subsurface conditions be encountered during construction that are different from those described in the Geotechnical Investigation, as specified in the construction contract, the Applicant shall immediately notify MTG_L, Inc. so that the provided recommendations may be re-evaluated.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. General construction activities would include over-

²⁶ MTG_L, Inc. 2022. *Geotechnical Investigation*, page 5.

excavation²⁷, import of 8,500 CY of soil and compaction of soil beneath the new reservoir foundations for the proposed reservoirs. The site would also be precisely graded to direct storm water runoff away from both the existing and proposed reservoirs to the on-site drainage system and water quality BMPs would be implemented during construction.

Depending on the time of year when construction occurs, short-term erosion by wind and water could occur. The Project is subject to comply with Chapter 9, Article II of the Fontana Municipal Code for the purpose of controlling blowing sand and preventing soil erosion.

Moreover, as documented in the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP), the Project would comply with the State Water Board and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process consistent with the San Bernardino County's Municipal Storm Water Management Program. The WQMP includes structural and non-structural erosion-control and sediment-control BMPs, refer to **Table 7-1, Water Quality Management Plan Best Management Practices**, that would meet or exceed measures required by the Construction General Permit to control potential construction-related pollutants. This shall be enforced through the implementation of BMP-GEO-1. The Project site would implement BMP's specifications and utilize expansive soil guidelines to minimize erosion on-site to help minimize soil erosion.

BMP- GEO-1:

Table 7-1: Water Quality Management Plan Best Management Practices

Best Management Practice (BMP)	Description of BMP Implementation
Non-Structural Source Controls BMPs	
Education of Property Owners, Tenants and Occupants on Stormwater BMPs	The FWC should familiarize himself/herself with the Water Quality management Plan (WQMP) document content, including BMP educational materials provided in Sections 5 and 6 of the WQMP, and shall ensure that all site occupants are also familiar with it. Refer to Appendix F: Hydrology and Water Quality Management Report .
Activity Restrictions	FWC shall control the discharge of stormwater pollutants from the site by restricting the activity that dictates what can or cannot be done on or around features like rain gardens, infiltration basins, and silt fences to prevent pollution and flooding, and providing training for employees.

²⁷ The term 'over excavation' refers to an excavation that goes beyond the depth required for the formation of a below-ground structure. The removal of unsuitable soils below plan excavation level is called Over-Excavation

Best Management Practice (BMP)	Description of BMP Implementation
BMP Maintenance	The owner (or their Maintenance Contractor) shall inspect all proposed BMPs on a regular basis for any signs of erosion or sediment and debris build-up. Those should be cleaned/repared as needed; refer to Form 5-1 of the WQMP (Appendix F).
Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Compliance (How development will comply)	On site storage of hazardous materials or waste, must comply with Title 22 CCR regulations.
Local Water Quality Ordinances	The owner shall comply with the City of Fontana Stormwater Ordinance through the implementation of BMPs.
Litter/Debris Control Program	The owner shall be responsible for trash and litter to be swept from the site and deposited into an approved disposal facility.
Employee Training	The owner shall be responsible for providing employee training for site personnel.
Vacuum Sweeping of Private Streets and Parking Lots	The owner shall be responsible for vacuum sweeping of any areas draining to an infiltration BMP.
Other Non-structural Measures for Public Agency Projects	The FWC shall implement procedures for inspection and maintenance of all non-structural BMPs in accordance with the recommendations of the WQMP.
Structural Source Control BMPs	
Catch Basin Inspection Program	The owner shall be responsible for inspection of all catch basin grates and filter assemblies.
Other structural Measures for Public Agency Projects	The San Gabriel Valley Water Company shall implement procedures for inspection and maintenance of all structural BMPs in accordance with the recommendations of the WQMP.
Provide storm drain system stenciling and signage (California Stormwater Quality Association New Development BMP Handbook SD-13)	A "No Dumping – Drains to River" stencil shall be painted onto each basin inlet. Legibility of stencil will be maintained on an annual basis.
Protect slopes and channels and provide energy dissipation (CASQA New Development BMP Handbook SD-10)	There are no proposed slopes within the project site, with exception of Verdura mechanically stabilized wall.
Hillside landscaping (CASQA New Development BMP Handbook SD-30)	Slopes are landscaped with Verdura retaining wall.
Source: San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Engineering Department. 2022. <i>Water Quality Management Plan for Plant F20 Water Storage Project</i> ; pages 4-2 through 4-5.	

Based on the above, as loss of topsoil would be temporary, impacts would be less than significant. No additional activities would cause a loss of topsoil and therefore, the potential for substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil during construction and operations is considered less than significant.

- c) *Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project site is situated on a north/northwest trending ridge of the northern slopes of the Jurupa Hills. The Project would adhere to the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) which lists the types of geologic hazards known to occur in the City regarding slope instability, leading to possible mudflow, liquefaction, and collapsible or expansive soils. The Project site is not located in an area sensitive to liquefaction as shown in Appendix E of the LHMP, Map 7.²⁸ However, the Project site is in a region that is designated as being generally sensitive to slope instability or occurrence of landslides. Based on this, the Project site is on a hillside area of the City where earthquake induced landslides could cause permanent ground displacement. According to the City of Fontana 2017 LHMP, there have been no reported historical occurrences of landslides in the City of Fontana.

Additionally, no reported occurrences of landslides or mudflows are known to have recently affected the Project site. Based on the Geotechnical Investigation, the potential for landslides and mudflows is very low at the site.²⁹

According to the City's General Plan, compliance with federal, state, and local regulations would minimize the risks associated with the potential risk from subsidence, lateral spreading, or collapse relative to existing conditions. San Bernardino County has adopted the latest CBC to regulate development in the hillside areas in the City and County. Reservoirs are regulated by the California Building Code, the California Fire Code, the Zoning Code, and other regulations enforced by the City. In consideration of these requirements, impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils are soils with a significant amount of clay particles that can give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). Fine-grained soils, such as silts and clays, may contain variable amounts of expansive clay minerals. When these soils swell, the change in volume exerts significant pressures on loads that are placed on

²⁸ City of Fontana. 2017. *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Appendix E - Geologic Hazard Overlays – Landslide & Liquefaction Susceptibility*, Map 7. Available at <https://fontana.org/3196/Local-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan-LHMP#:~:text=The%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan%20below%20is%20an%20update,14%2C%202018%20%E2%80%93%20City%20Council%20Resolution%20No.%202018-072>. Accessed June 3, 2022.

²⁹ MTGL, Inc. 2022. *Geotechnical Investigation*, page 5.

them. As part of the Project's Geotechnical Investigation, three borings were drilled to a maximum depth of 21.5 feet below existing grades. All borings were terminated due to encountering large gravels, boulders, or granitic bedrock.

The Project site is located adjacent to a hillside that is characterized by large gravels, boulders, and granitic bedrock. Additionally, the Project site is mapped as Cieneba-Rock outcrop complex which are composed of material weathered from granite rock and somewhat excessively drained; low to high runoff; moderately rapid permeability in the soil and much slower in the weathered bedrock.³⁰ Although soil sample borings were terminated due to encountering large gravels and bedrock, the soils encountered in the borings consisted of interbedded silty sands, relatively clean sands, and slightly silty sands with variable amounts of gravel. According to the Geotechnical Investigation, the near surface soils have an expansion index classification of "very low."³¹ Additionally, if import soils are necessary, the soils should have a "very low" expansion index potential and should be approved by the Geotechnical Engineer prior to importing to the site. Compliance with the design recommendation in the Geotechnical Investigation, and the latest CBC regarding soil hazards, impacts associated with unstable and expansive soils would be less than significant.

- e) *Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

No Impact. The proposed Project does not include a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system. Thus, no impacts associated with the use of septic tanks would occur as part of the proposed Project's implementation and no mitigation is required.

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

No Impact. In geologically diverse California, vertebrate, invertebrate, and plant fossils are usually found in sedimentary and metasedimentary deposits. Consultation with the Western Science Center conducted on May 27, 2022, resulted in the determination that the geologic units underlying the Project area are mapped entirely as tonalite deposits dating from the Cretaceous period. Tonalite is an intrusive igneous rock formed

³⁰ USDA. 2020. *Websoil Survey*. Available at <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed June 3, 2022.

³¹ MTGL, Inc. 2022. *Geotechnical Investigation*, pages 3-4.

underground by magma cooling. There would not be any fossils formed or preserved under those conditions. Tonalite units are of low paleontological value, and the Western Science Center does not have localities within the Project area or within a 1.0-mile radius. No impact on paleontological resources would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

The potential cumulative impact related to earth and geology is typically site-specific. Implementation of the proposed Project would not create a significant adverse impact related to landform modification, grading, or the destruction of a geologically significant landform or feature with conformance with the current CBC code and due to the soil properties being able to support the proposed Project features. Moreover, existing State and local laws and regulations are in place to protect people and property from substantial adverse geological and soils effects, including fault rupture, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-induced ground failure (including liquefaction), and landslides. These regulations would ultimately protect life and property from adverse effects related to soil erosion, expansive soils, loss of topsoil, development on an unstable geologic unit or soil type that could result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

An Air Quality Assessment and Greenhouse Gas Technical Memorandum was prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates in October 2022. The memorandum is included as **Appendix A(1), Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Memorandum**. In the time that has passed since this Memorandum a follow-on Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment has been prepared by Urban Crossroads to update the modeling assumptions based on the project as described in Sections 1.0 and 2.0 of this Initial Study. This Assessment is included as **Appendix A(2), Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment** and the results are summarized herein.

The original Project assumptions for the preparation of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Assessment assumed approximately one acre Project site for installation and operation of two new 1.28 MG Plant F20 Reservoirs to be used for potable water services within Fontana Water Company's service area. The model output with the original assumptions resulted in a less than significant impact on all aspects regarding potential impacts to GHG emissions. The proposed reservoir Plant F20 East and West Reservoirs would be located adjacent to the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir.

Background

Certain gases in the earth's atmosphere classified as GHGs, play a critical role in determining the earth's surface temperature. Solar radiation enters the earth's atmosphere from space. A portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth's surface, and a smaller portion of this radiation is reflected back toward space. This absorbed radiation is then emitted from the earth as low-frequency infrared radiation. The frequencies at which bodies emit radiation are proportional to temperature. Because the

earth has a much lower temperature than the sun, it emits lower-frequency radiation. Most solar radiation passes through GHGs; however, infrared radiation is absorbed by these gases. As a result, radiation that otherwise would have escaped back into space is instead “trapped,” resulting in a warming of the atmosphere. This phenomenon, known as the greenhouse effect, is responsible for maintaining a habitable climate on earth.

The primary GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O). Fluorinated gases also make up a small fraction of the GHGs that contribute to climate change. Examples of fluorinated gases include chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride ; however, it is noted that these gases are not associated with typical land use development. Human-caused emissions of GHGs exceeding natural ambient concentrations are believed to be responsible for intensifying the greenhouse effect and leading to a trend of unnatural warming of the Earth’s climate, known as global climate change or global warming.

GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants and TACs, which are pollutants of regional and local concern. Whereas pollutants with localized air quality effects have relatively short atmospheric lifetimes (about one day), GHGs have long atmospheric lifetimes (one to several thousand years). GHGs persist in the atmosphere for long enough time periods to be dispersed around the globe. Although the exact lifetime of a GHG molecule is dependent on multiple variables and cannot be pinpointed, more CO₂ is emitted into the atmosphere than is sequestered by ocean uptake, vegetation, or other forms of carbon sequestration. Of the total annual human-caused CO₂ emissions, approximately 55 percent is sequestered through ocean and land uptakes every year, averaged over the last 50 years, whereas the remaining 45 percent of human-caused CO₂ emissions remains stored in the atmosphere.

Regulations and Significance Criteria

State

Former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order (EO) S-3-05 in June 2005, which established the following GHG emission reduction targets: (a) by 2010: Reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels; (b) by 2020: Reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels; and (c), by 2050: Reduce GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels.

AB 32 Statutes of 2006, Health and Safety Code Section 38500 et seq. require that CARB determine what the Statewide GHG emissions level was in 1990 and approve a Statewide

GHG emissions limit that is equivalent to that level, to be achieved by 2020. CARB has approved a 2020 emissions limit of 427 MTCO₂e. Additionally, issued in April 2015, EO B-30-15 requires Statewide GHG emissions to be reduced 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

EO B-30-15, which was issued in April 2015, requires statewide GHG emissions to be reduced 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. SB 32, signed into law in September 2016, codifies the 2030 GHG reduction target in EO B-30-15. SB 32 authorizes CARB to adopt an interim GHG emissions level target to be achieved by 2030 and to adopt rules and regulations in an open public process to achieve the maximum, technologically feasible, and cost-effective GHG reductions. With SB 32, the California Legislature passed companion legislation AB 197, which provided additional direction for developing an updated Scoping Plan. CARB released the second update to the Scoping Plan to reflect the 2030 target set by EO B-30-15 and codified by SB 32 in November 2017.

Due to the nature of global climate change, it is not anticipated that the proposed Project would have a substantial effect on global climate change. GHG emissions from the proposed Project would combine with emissions emitted across California, the United States, and the world to cumulatively contribute to global climate change.

Addressing GHG emissions generation impacts requires an agency to determine what constitutes a significant impact. The CEQA Guidelines specifically allow lead agencies to determine thresholds of significance that illustrate the extent of an impact and are a basis from which to apply mitigation measures. This means that each agency is left to determine whether a project's GHG emissions would have a "significant" impact on the environment. The guidelines direct that agencies are to use "careful judgment" and "make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate" the project's GHG emissions (14 CCR § 15064.4(a)).

Regional

South Coast Air Quality Management District Thresholds

The SCAQMD formed a GHG CEQA Significance Threshold Working Group to provide guidance to local lead agencies on determining significance for GHG emissions in their CEQA documents. As of the last Working Group meeting (Meeting 15) held in September 2010, the SCAQMD is proposing to adopt a tiered approach for evaluating GHG emissions for development projects where SCAQMD is not the lead agency.

With the tiered approach, the Project is compared with the requirements of each tier sequentially and would not result in a significant impact if it complies with any tier. Tier 1 excludes projects that are specifically exempt from SB 97 from resulting in a significant impact. Tier 2 excludes projects that are consistent with a GHG reduction plan that has a certified final CEQA document and complies with AB 32 GHG reduction goals. Tier 3 excludes projects with annual emissions lower than a screening threshold. The SCAQMD has adopted a threshold of 10,000 metric tons of CO₂e (MTCO₂e) per year for industrial projects and a 3,000 MTCO₂e threshold was proposed for non-industrial projects but has not been adopted. SCAQMD concluded that projects with emissions less than the screening threshold would not result in a significant cumulative impact.

Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)

On September 3, 2020, SCAG's Regional Council adopted Connect SoCal (2020 - 2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy [RTP/SCS]). The RTP/SCS charts a course for closely integrating land use and transportation so that the region can grow smartly and sustainably. The strategy was prepared through a collaborative, continuous, and comprehensive process with input from local governments, county transportation commissions, tribal governments, non-profit organizations, businesses, and local stakeholders within the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. The RTP/SCS is a long-range vision plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental, and public health goals. The SCAG region strives toward sustainability through integrated land use and transportation planning. The SCAG region must achieve specific federal air quality standards and is required by state law to lower regional GHG emissions.

Local

City of Fontana General Plan

The City of Fontana's General Plan outlines the concerns of the community and the means of addressing those concerns. Chapters 9 and 12 (Community Mobility and Circulation and Sustainability and Resilience) focus on connecting neighborhoods and City destinations by expanding transportation choices in Fontana.

General Plan policies that relate to GHG impacts include the following:

Goal 4: ***Fontana meets the greenhouse gas reduction goals for 2030, and subsequent goals set by the state.***

Policy 4-1: Continue to collaborate with the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, infrastructure agencies, and utilities on greenhouse gas reduction studies and goals.

Goal 7: *The City of Fontana participates in shaping regional transportation policies to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions*

Policy 7-3: Participate in the efforts of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to coordinate transportation planning and services that support greenhouse gas reductions.

San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan

In response to statewide GHG reduction initiatives, the San Bernardino Associated Governments (formerly SANBAG, now known as San Bernardino Council of Governments), cooperated to compile an inventory of GHG emissions and an evaluation of reduction measures to be adopted by the cities partnering within the San Bernardino Council of Governments. Reduction measures in the GHG Reduction Plan are targeting GHG goals for the year 2020. Several of the measures and policies mentioned in the GHG Reduction Plan for the City of Fontana are from the General Plan. The policies listed in the GHG Reduction Plan range from broadly supporting energy efficiency and sustainability to policies closely tied to specific GHG reduction measures. Application of these policies has been assumed to reduce local GHGs by an estimated 387,998 MTCO_{2e} from “business as usual” levels in 2020. This would equate to a 28.0 percent reduction in GHGs from the 2008 levels of 1,238,926 MTCO_{2e} annually.

Discussion on the Establishment of Significance Thresholds

The City of Fontana has not adopted its own numeric threshold of significance for determining impacts with respect to GHG emissions. A screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO_{2e}/yr to determine if additional analysis is required is an acceptable approach. This approach is a widely accepted screening threshold used by numerous cities and counties in the SCAB and is based on the SCAQMD staff’s proposed GHG screening threshold for stationary source emissions for non-industrial projects, as described in the SCAQMD’s Interim CEQA GHG Significance Threshold for Stationary Sources, Rules and Plans (SCAQMD Interim GHG Threshold). The SCAQMD Interim GHG Threshold identifies a screening threshold to determine whether additional analysis is required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

Short-Term Construction Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Project would result in direct emissions of GHGs from construction. The approximate quantity of daily GHG emissions generated by construction equipment utilized to build the Project is depicted in the following **Table 8-1, Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions**.

Table 8-1: Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Source	Emissions (MT/yr)				
	CO ₂ T	CH ₄	N ₂ O	R	Total CO ₂ E
Annual construction emissions amortized over 30 years	9.41	4.37E-04	2.39E-04	1.23E-03	9.49
Total CO ₂ E (All Sources)	9.49				
Screening Threshold (CO ₂ E)	3,000				
Threshold Exceeded?	NO				

Construction GHG emissions are typically summed and amortized over the lifetime of the Project (assumed to be 30 years), then added to the operational emissions.³² The amortized Project construction emissions would be 9.49 MTCO₂e per year. Once construction is complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease. Detailed construction model outputs are presented in **Appendix A(2)**.

Long-Term Operational Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Operational or long-term emissions occur over the life of the project. Total GHG emissions associated with the project are summarized in **Table 8-2, Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions**. The Project proposes the installation and operation of two water reservoirs at an existing water reservoir site to enhance the service to existing local communities. Routine maintenance visits occur approximately once per month which generate negligible GHG emissions, particularly given that these maintenance visits constitute FWC's existing operations at the Project site. The required electricity for the new proposed water reservoirs would be provided by the existing generator onsite which feeds the existing water reservoir to the south of the proposed Project site, thus there would be no new GHG emissions regarding area sources. The Project would not result in the consumption of water, as the Project would store water for consumption by the end user. Therefore, the Project would not generate GHG emissions associated with

³² The project lifetime is based on the standard 30-year assumption of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Minutes for the GHG CEQA Significance Threshold Stakeholder Working Group #13*, August 26, 2009).

water use. The Project is not anticipated to be an operational solid waste generator, therefore, there would be no GHG emissions associated with solid waste disposal.

As summarized above, operational GHG emissions would be negligible. Therefore, the primary source of project GHG emissions would be construction activities. As shown in **Table 8-2**, total project GHG emissions would be 10.27 MTCO₂e annually. This would not exceed the SCAQMD's 3,000 MTCO₂e per year screening threshold. Therefore, GHG impacts from construction and operation of the proposed Project would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required. As the proposed Project's GHG emissions would be well below the SCAQMD's 3,000 MTCO₂e/yr threshold, it would not interfere with the State's goals for reducing GHG emissions.

Table 8-2: Project Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emissions Source	MTCO₂e per Year
Construction Amortized Over 30 Years	9.49
Area Source	0
Energy	0
Mobile	0
Waste	0
Water and Wastewater	0
Total	9.49
<i>SCAQMD Threshold</i>	<i>3,000</i>
Exceeds Threshold?	No
Source: CalEEMod version 2020.4.0. Refer to Appendix AIR for model outputs.	

In general, most of the operational GHG emissions for any project come from mobile sources. However, these emissions would decline in the future due to statewide measures including the reduction in the carbon content of fuels, CARB's advanced clean car program, CARB's mobile source strategy, fuel efficiency standards, cleaner technology, and fleet turnover. Additionally, the SCAG's 2020-2045 RTP/SCS (Connect SoCal) is also expected to help California reach its GHG reduction goals, with reductions

in per capita transportation emissions of 19 percent by 2035.³³ Accordingly, the Project would not interfere with the State's efforts to reduce GHG emissions in 2030.

The required electricity for the East and West Reservoirs would be provided by the existing generator onsite which feeds the existing South Reservoir. The proposed operations would benefit from the implementation of current and potential future energy regulations including the SB 100 renewable electricity portfolio target of 60 percent renewable energy by 2030. SB 100 also established a further goal to have an electric grid that is entirely powered by clean energy by 2045.

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

The City of Fontana has not adopted its own numeric threshold of significance for determining impacts with respect to GHG emissions. A screening threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂e/yr to determine if additional analysis is required is an acceptable approach. This approach is a widely accepted screening threshold used by numerous cities and counties in the SCAB and is based on the SCAQMD staff's proposed GHG screening threshold for stationary source emissions for non-industrial projects, as described in the SCAQMD's Interim CEQA GHG Significance Threshold for Stationary Sources, Rules and Plans (SCAQMD Interim GHG Threshold). The SCAQMD Interim GHG Threshold identifies a screening threshold to determine whether additional analysis is required.

The Project will result in approximately 9.49 MTCO₂e/yr from construction activities. As such, the Project would not exceed the SCAQMD's recommended numeric threshold of 3,000 MTCO₂e/yr if it were applied. Thus, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact with respect to GHG emissions.

2022 Scoping Plan Consistency

The Project would not impede the State's progress towards carbon neutrality by 2045 under the 2022 Scoping Plan. The Project would be required to comply with applicable current and future regulatory requirements promulgated through the 2022 Scoping Plan. As such, the Project would be consistent with the 2022 Scoping Plan.

As discussed above, the Project involves construction activity and does not propose a trip-generating land use or facilities that would generate any substantive amount of on-

³³ Southern California Association of Governments, *SB 375 Regional Plan Climate Targets*, <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/sustainable-communities-program/regional-plan-targets>.

going GHG emissions. As presented in Table 8, the Project's GHG emissions are below the 3,000 MTCO₂e/yr threshold. As concluded in Impact Statement GHG-1 the proposed project would not have the potential to generate a significant amount of GHGs emissions. As such, the proposed Project will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Impacts are considered less than significant in this regard.

Cumulative Impacts

Climate change is a global problem. GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants and TACs, which are pollutants of regional and local concern. Whereas pollutants with localized air quality effects have relatively short atmospheric lifetimes (about 1 day), GHGs have much longer atmospheric lifetimes of 1 year to several thousand years that allow them to be dispersed around the globe.

It is generally the case that an individual project of this size and nature is of insufficient magnitude by itself to influence climate change or result in a substantial contribution to the global GHG inventory. GHG impacts are recognized as exclusively cumulative impacts; there are no non-cumulative GHG emission impacts from a climate change perspective. The additive effect of project-related GHGs would not result in a reasonably foreseeable cumulatively considerable contribution to global climate change. In addition, the Project as well as other cumulative related projects would also be subject to all applicable regulatory requirements, which would further reduce GHG emissions. The Project would not conflict with the RTP/SCS, or the CARB Scoping Plan. Therefore, the Project's cumulative contribution of GHG emissions would be less than significant and the Project's cumulative GHG impacts would also be less than cumulatively considerable.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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

- a, b) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? And, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Both phases of the Project would include interior and exterior coatings for the existing South Reservoir. Any potentially hazardous materials used during Project construction would be handled on-site. This generally includes paints and solvents and other petroleum-based products, usually used for on-site construction equipment and for building exterior finishes. The use or handling of these potentially hazardous materials would be short-term only during the construction phases of Project. Although these materials could be stored on-site, FWC has developed safety standards and operational procedures for safe transport, use, and storage of its operational and maintenance materials that are potentially hazardous and that might be temporarily required at the new reservoir site in the future. These procedures will comply with all federal, state and local regulations and will ensure that the project operates in a manner that poses no substantial hazards to the public or the environment. The transport, removal, and disposal of hazardous materials on the Project site would be conducted by a permitted and licensed service provider consistent with federal, state, and local requirements including the U.S. EPA, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA), Caltrans, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the San Bernardino County Fire Department (the Certified Unified Program Agency for San Bernardino County) or through the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) Program. Therefore, the management of hazardous materials during the Project's construction phase would not result in a significant impact. Direct hazardous waste would not be generated from Project operation. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The nearest school is Canyon Crest Elementary School, located approximately 0.76 mile west of the proposed Project site. Given the safety measures in place for the potentially hazardous materials that may be required to construct the proposed reservoirs, it is not anticipated that the Project would emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste during construction or operation in a quantity that would pose any danger to

people adjacent to, or in the general vicinity of, the project site, including schools. No long-term handling of hazardous materials would occur because the Project does not propose industrial or manufacturing uses. Impacts would be less than significant.

- d) *Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

No Impact. The Project site and the surrounding vicinity are not included on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (also known as the Cortese list) prepared pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.³⁴ A 5,000 feet radius search was conducted using the EnviroStor and the closest clean up location to the Project site is located in the Southridge Plaza – Alpha Cleaners (60002338), located approximately 4,500 feet northwest of the Project site. This location has a status of voluntary cleanup, and no further action is required. No additional location is identified in the vicinity of the Project site. Therefore, no impacts associated with hazardous materials sites would occur.

- e) *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

No Impact. The Project site is not located within an airport land use plan, nor is it located within 2.0 miles of a public airport or public use airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The closest airport to the Project site is the Flabob Airport in the City of Riverside approximately 4.8 miles southeast of the Project site. Additionally, the Plant F20 Reservoirs would all be painted with non-reflective paint as to not create a reflective hazard. Therefore, no impact would occur.

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

³⁴ State of California; Department of Toxic Substances Control (EnviroStor). 2022. *Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (Cortese)*. Available at

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search.asp?PAGE=3&CMD=search&ocieerp=&business_name=&main_street_number=&main_street_name=&city=&zip=&county=&branch=&status=ACT%2CBKLG%2CCOM&site_type=CSITES%2CFUDS&cleanup_type=&npl=&fund_ing=&reporttype=CORTESE&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST+%28CORTESE%29&federal_superfund=&state_response=&voluntary_cleanup=&school_cleanup=&operating=&post_closure=&non_operating=&corrective_action=&tiered_permit=&evaluation=&spec_prog=&national_priority_list=&senate=&congress=&assembly=&critical_pol=&business_type=&case_type=&display_results=&school_district=&pub=&hwmp=False&permitted=&pc_permitted=&inspections=&complaints=&censustract=&cesdecile=&ORDERBY=city&next=Next+50. Accessed June 11, 2022.

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project would not compromise emergency vehicle access to the Project site and the northwesterly adjacent Southridge Village Open Space Reserve. Vehicle access to these open space areas is provided via a paved segment of Long View Drive that is currently used as an access road. A portion of this existing access road, located within the Project footprint, would be subject to a slight adjustment. The road adjustment would be limited to realignment west of the existing paved roadway to allow for adequate service and emergency vehicle access, if necessary. Additionally, a Knox padlock would be installed on the new gate that would allow emergency personnel access the East and West Reservoirs in case of an emergency. Because the Project implementation would not affect a public right-of-way, the Project would not conflict with an emergency evacuation plan applicable to the nearby Southridge communities. Therefore, a less than significant impact is anticipated to occur.

Refer to Wildfire threshold (a) for additional response regarding the impairment of an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

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

Less Than Significant Impact Northwest Fontana has high chaparral vegetation, steep slopes, and is subject to hot Santa Ana winds blowing down the Cajon Pass. The Jurupa Hills have high grasses and steep slopes. According to CalFire, the Project site is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), as designated in the VHFHSZ Map. However, the Project increases water storage for fire flow capacity and is viewed as a benefit to fire protection.

Refer to the wildfire thresholds In Section 3.20 for more information regarding the exposure of people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. A less than significant impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

The incremental effects of the proposed Project related to hazards and hazardous materials, if any, are anticipated to be minimal, and any effects would be site-specific. Though the Project is located within an area classified as a VHFHSZ, the Project does not propose land uses that would exacerbate risk of wildland fires. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in incremental effects to hazards or hazardous materials that could be compounded or increased when considered together with similar effects from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. The proposed

Project would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts to or from hazards or hazardous materials.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

A Hydrology and Water Quality Management Report (Hydrology Report) was prepared by the San Gabriel Valley Water Company to demonstrate that the Project site can be designed to provide adequate flood protection without adversely impacting existing off-site drainage systems or adjacent properties. The report is included as **Appendix F, Hydrology and Water Quality Management Report**. Additionally, this section also references **Appendix E, Geotechnical Investigation and Geotechnical Addendum #3 – Infiltration Feasibility Study**, and the results are summarized herein.

The Project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Project includes the existing 3.42-MG Plant F20 Reservoir (South) which would be maintained. Additionally, the Project includes the development of two new 1.28-MG reservoirs which would be implemented in two phases. Grading activities would occur at the location where the proposed East and West Reservoirs are to be located and approximately 8,500 CY of soil would be imported. The site's drainage is by sheet flow to the north/northwest. Overall, the site generally slopes south to north. All rainwater would flow into the proposed underground chambers which would collect and draw water down the hillside via a V-shaped culvert. The Hydrology and Water Quality Management Report are included in this IS/MND as **Appendix F**, and the results are summarized herein.

Surface Water Hydrology

The City is located within the Lower Lytle Creek Watershed, which forms the northwest portion of the Santa Ana River Watershed and drains the eastern portion of the San Gabriel Mountains. Daytime temperatures in the summer months frequently exceed 100 degrees in the lower watershed and are about 10 to 15 degrees cooler in the upper watershed. Winter temperatures can fall below freezing throughout the entire watershed. The lower watershed averages 15 to 20 inches of rain annually while the upper watershed averages 35 inches annually. The Lower Lytle Creek Watershed covers an area of approximately 186 square miles with a mean annual runoff of roughly 31,720-acre-feet. Lytle Creek is a tributary of Warm Creek, which in turn is a tributary to the Santa Ana River, joining the main stem of the river in the vicinity of Prado Dam.³⁵

Ground Water

Fontana Water Company's water supplies predominately come from groundwater

³⁵ City of Fontana. 2018. *Fontana Forward General Plan Update 2015-2035; Draft Environmental Impact Report; Hydrology and Water Quality*. Available at <https://www.fontana.org/DocumentCenter/View/29524/Draft-Environmental-Impact-Report-for-the-General-Plan-Update>. Accessed September 2022.

supplied by the Chino Basin, Rialto-Colton Basin, and Lytle Basin. FWC also purchases imported water supplies from the Inland Empire Utilities Agency and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. According to FWC 2020 Urban Water Management Plan, their groundwater wells have a total pumping capacity of approximately 50,000 gallons per minute (gpm) and booster pumping facilities with a total design pumping capacity of +115,000 gpm.³⁶

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Section 13000 et seq., of the California Water Code), and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972 (also referred to as the Clean Water Act) require comprehensive water quality control plans be developed for all waters within the State of California. The Project's WQMP was created to comply with the requirements of the City of Fontana as the City within which the Project is proposed, and the NPDES Areawide Stormwater Program ensuring that the Project manages runoff in conformance with the Clean Water Act. FWC is responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this plan and would ensure that this plan is amended as appropriate to reflect up-to-date conditions on the site consistent with San Bernardino County's Municipal Storm Water Management Plan and the intent of the NPDES Permit for San Bernardino County and the incorporated cities of San Bernardino County within the Santa Ana Region. Consistent with the NPDES Areawide Stormwater Program, as previously noted, the WQMP was updated to reflect the proposed Project which includes two new 1.28-MG water reservoirs (East and West), and the existing South Reservoir (South) would remain in place.

Construction of the proposed Project would involve filling in the Project site with engineered fill soil at grade, utility installation, paving, water reservoirs construction, and landscaping activities, which would result in the generation of potential water quality pollutants such as sediment, silt, debris, chemicals, paints, pesticides/herbicides, and other solvents with the potential to adversely affect water quality. As such, short-term water quality impacts have the potential to occur during construction of the Project in the absence of any protective or avoidance measures. Operational water quality impacts

³⁶ Fontana Water Company. (2020). *Urban Water Management Plan*; Page 3-2. Available at www.sgwater.com/water-quality-supply/uwmp-wscpl/. Accessed September 2022.

would arise directly from landscaping maintenance and indirectly from stormwater pollutants such as nitrogen, oil and grease, trash/debris, and other organic compounds.

To minimize water quality impacts during construction and operation, the Project would comply with the WQMP via the San Bernardino County's Municipal Storm Water Management Plan. The WQMP identifies non-structural and structural source control BMPs to minimize, prevent, and/or appropriately treat stormwater runoff flows before they are discharged from the site; refer to **Table 7-1**. Mandatory compliance with the WQMP BMPs, as required by the City of Fontana in order to obtain a grading permit, Retaining Wall Permit, and Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) and Hydrology approval, as shown on **Table 10-1 (BMP-HYD-1), BMP Inspection and Maintenance**, would ensure that the Project does not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements during long-term operation. This shall be enforced through **BMP-HYD-1**.

BMP-HYD-1:

Table 10-1: BMP Inspection and Maintenance

BMP	Responsible Party(ies)	Inspection/Maintenance Activities Required	Minimum Frequency of Activities
Education of Property Tenants	By owner & future owner	The FWC should familiarize him/herself with the WQMP document.	Once
Activity Restrictions	By owner & future owner	Control Discharge of storm drain water pollutants from the Site by restricting activity and training employees.	Monthly
BMP Maintenance	By owner & future owner	Inspect the underground CMP via the access manhole, for accumulated sediment and debris levels and cleanout solids when >6" build up occurs. Inspect for standing water within 48 hours of heavy rain events to ensure proper drawdown. Clean and flush underground systems to restore free drainage.	Annually, and after heavy rains
Title 22 CCR Compliance	By owner & future owner	On site storage of hazardous materials or waste, will comply with the Title 22 CCR regulations.	Annually
Local Water Quality Ordinances	By owner & future owner	The Owner will comply with the City of Fontana Storm Water Ordinance by implementing the BMPs.	Annually
Litter/Debris	By owner &	The Owner will provide educational	Once

BMP	Responsible Party(ies)	Inspection/Maintenance Activities Required	Minimum Frequency of Activities
Control Program	future owner	materials to FWC personnel performing maintenance activities and outline procedures for spill cleanup, litter control, and material storage.	
Employee Training	By owner & future owner	The Owner should ensure that the employees are trained and familiar with BMPs.	Once
Catch Basin/Filter Insert Inspection	By owner & future owner	Inspect for illegal dumping and/or debris accumulation. Clean filters whenever 25 percent of filter capacity is exceeded by debris accumulation.	Inspect minimum 2 times per year and after every major storm
Parking Lot Sweeping	By owner & future owner	Parking lots and drive aisles shall be vacuumed and swept. Debris collected to be despised off-site or in the on-site dumpster.	Monthly
Other Non-Structural Measures for Public Agency Projects	By owner & future owner	The Site is a Public Facility – Water Treatment Plan (San Gabriel Valley Water Company). Non-structural measures as required by the Owner will be implemented.	Monthly
Signage & Stencil	By owner & future owner	Clean the stencil/signage surface to remove any excess dirt. Re-paint if necessary.	Annually
Protect slope channels and provide energy dissipation	By owner & future owner	Existing slopes and channels will be protected and maintained to the maximum extent practicable. No major grade changes are anticipated.	Annually
Hillside landscaping	By owner & future owner	Owner will install landscaped Verdura retaining wall.	Once
Source: San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Engineering Department. 2022. <i>Water Quality Management Plan for Plant F20 Water Storage Project</i> ; page 5-1 through 5-2.			

The final Project WQMP would identify all BMP incorporated into the final site design and provide other detailed information to minimize water quality impacts. Therefore, with adherence to BMPs in **Table 10-1** above, water quality impacts associated with construction and operation of the Project would be less than significant and no mitigation measures would be required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 2.1, Project Description, the proposed Project would construct two 1.28-MG water storage reservoirs to store and distribute potable water to the surrounding community. During construction, water may be required on a temporary basis (i.e., for the preparation of cement, dust suppression, tool washing, etc. and initial filling of the tanks). Due to the intermittent and temporary nature of construction, construction-related water demand is not likely to substantially decrease groundwater supplies.

The Project would implement a storm drain system based on proposed flow patterns to capture stormwater runoff. The stormwater would be conveyed to underground chambers for pre-treatment for water quality volume infiltration. The WQMP notes that the infiltration BMP does not pose significant risk for groundwater and the proposed infiltration would contribute to groundwater recharge.

After the tanks are initially filled, water storage will be maintained during operation. The Project does not Increase water use and would not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant. Please refer to the following impact analysis for more information about the proposed drainage system.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project does not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, alter the course of a stream or river, or add a significant amount of new impervious surfaces. The Project would temporarily expose large areas of soil during Project construction; however, appropriate soil erosion control techniques would be employed in conformance with the BMPs set forth in the WQMP. Furthermore, according to the WQMP, preventive low impact development, site design practices would maintain existing drainage patterns and time of concentration during operation of the Project. This would ensure that construction and operation of the Project would not result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site through the implementation of the BMPs.

In addition, the Project-specific infiltration feasibility study, provided as **Appendix F**, conducted shallow borehole percolation tests to assess stormwater infiltration feasibility

at the site. These tests were performed in general accordance with the County of Riverside BMP design manual (2011). Based on the observations, the subsurface of the Project site is lined with hard granitic materials and the tested soils do not support infiltration in an appreciable quantity. Due to the impermeable nature of the underlying soils, the Project is not anticipated to substantially increase surface runoff during operation through the introduction of impervious surfaces from the proposed reservoirs concrete base.

In order to avoid introducing moisture into the supporting materials and possibly creating a hydraulic gradient that facilitates soil piping from surface water, **BMP- HYD-2 and BMP-HYD-3**, which enforce the BMPs identified in the WQMP prepared for the project, shall be implemented to ensure that operation of the Project would not result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site:

BMPs:

BMP-HYD-2 Based on the recommendations of the Project-specific infiltration feasibility study conducted by MTG_L, Inc., BMP facilities (e.g., catch basins, Corrugated Metal Pipe storm water detention system, etc.) required by the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) shall be kept at least 10-feet from structural foundations of the proposed Plant F20 Reservoirs and not allowed to infiltrate into the slope. Therefore, stormwater shall be collected in a pipe and be transported offsite to a suitable outlet. At a minimum, BMP facilities shall be lined with an impermeable geomembrane on the bottom and sides to reduce the potential for water-related distress from later migration of infiltrated stormwater to adjacent structures or improvements.

BMP-HYD-3 A subdrain system shall be installed in BMP facilities to transport collected water.

Therefore, with the proposed drainage systems incorporated into site design, implementation of BMPs pursuant to the Project WQMP, and mitigation measures, impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project-specific Hydrology and Water Quality Management Report, provided as **Appendix F**, assessed the Project's impact to existing

off-site drainage systems.³⁷ As discussed in **Appendix F**, the Project includes the development of Contech's CMP storm water detention system to collect, treat and control discharge. To meet the requirements of the WQMP, runoff would be collected by a series of on-site drainpipes and conveyed to an underground CMP system for storage and treatment. Runoff will exit the site via storm drainpipe and be discharged onto an existing concrete v-gutter; refer to the Hydrology Report included as **Appendix F** for a depiction of discharge points and other details. These features have been incorporated into the Project design. The Hydrology Report shows that the Project would result in a slight increase in runoff and that detention would be required to ensure that the Project does not adversely affect the existing public storm drain system. Therefore, the Project is designed with an available CMP detention system and hydrodynamic separator on site that would allow the adequate treatment and collection of site runoff for conformance with the City's requirements for water quality collection and treatment. Therefore, according to the findings of the Hydrology Report, the Project would not adversely affect the public storm water system and flows would be adequately accommodated by the proposed stormwater infrastructure.³⁸

As discussed above, surface runoff in both construction and operation phases would not runoff in a manner which would result in flooding, nor would it change compared to pre-Project conditions. Project design features pursuant to the BMPs within the WQMP, as well as **BMP-HYD-2** and **BMP-HYD-3**, which includes a new drainage system, would reduce the rate of runoff from Project activities. In addition, the site does not include any streams or rivers, that would be altered by the proposed Project. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed above, on-site stormwater runoff associated with the Project would be engineered to be conveyed through the proposed drainage system; refer to **Appendix F**. Additionally, runoff minimizing landscaping would be included. Therefore, less than significant impacts would occur.

- iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?*

³⁷ San Gabriel Valley Water Company, Engineering Department. ND. *Hydrology and Hydraulic Report San Gabriel Valley Water Company Plan F20 at 15151 Longview Drive, Fontana, CA.*

³⁸ Ibid.

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project would include the development of drainage system consistent with City requirements to convey stormwater runoff to the mainline storm drain system. Stormwater management practices, as required under City of Fontana Municipal Code, section 28-111, would further reduce any impacts to a less than significant level. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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

No Impact. The Project site is located over 40 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean. As such, the potential for the Project site to be inundated by a tsunami is negligible. Steep slopes are located in the Project vicinity; however, the risk of mudflow is considered negligible because no reported occurrences of landslides and mudflow exist on or near the site and the Project site is on top of a ridge. Additionally, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Project site is in an area of minimal flood hazard (Zone X),³⁹ as such, the risk for seiche is negligible. Therefore, no impact would occur.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project Site is in the Chino Groundwater Basin, which has been designated very low priority by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to manage basins and requires those agencies to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans for crucial groundwater basins in California. Given that the Project is located within a basin that is considered very low priority, there is no conflict or obstruction of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Furthermore, the Chino Basin is adjudicated, and the Chino Basin Watermaster (Watermaster), a court created entity, was established to administer the Judgement. The Judgment adjudicated the groundwater rights of the Chino Basin, established the Watermaster to administer the Judgment, and contains a Physical Solution to meet the requirements of water users having rights in or dependent upon the Chino Basin. FWC, which is a stakeholder of the Chino Basin, complies with the regulations set forth by the Watermaster and the Judgment. As such, the Project would not conflict with a sustainable groundwater management plan. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the Project would have the

³⁹ FEMA. 2022.

potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. No mitigation is required.

Cumulative Impacts

The potential impacts related to hydrology and stormwater runoff are generally site-specific. The Project would be designed pursuant to the BMPs listed in the WQMP which would reduce water quality impacts resulting from construction and operation activity. The analysis determined that the implementation of the proposed Project would not result in significant impacts. As a result, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulative impacts under hydrology and water quality.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Project site is located adjacent to the existing Plant F20 South Reservoir within open space and would develop two additional reservoirs within vacant open space. The site is not accessible by car by the public and lies upon mountainous terrain that is separated from residential areas within the Southridge community. Given that the proposed new reservoirs would be developed within a site already containing an existing reservoir and would be consistent with adjacent uses, the proposed Project would not divide an established community, and no impact would occur.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The proposed Project is considered land use independent and can be constructed within any land use designation or zoning classification. In addition, the Project would develop additional water facilities comparable to that which already exists contiguous to the site. As such, the Project would be consistent with the City's zoning and General Plan land use designation for the Project site. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with the City's land use plan, policy, or regulation and therefore, no impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

Implementation of the Project would not create a significant cumulative impact related to land use as the proposed Project is not anticipated to conflict with the existing land use and zoning and would not divide a community in such a way that it would create

cumulative impacts if other projects are built in the community. As a result, no cumulative impacts related to land use and planning would occur.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

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

Mineral Resources Existing Conditions

A mineral resource is land areas or deposits containing oil, natural gas, metallic, and non-metallic substances, including aggregate (like sand, gravel, and crushed stone), that are considered to have economic value for extraction. Areas subject to California mineral land classification studies are divided by the State Geologist into various Mineral Resource Zone categories that reflect varying degrees of mineral potential. The Project area is in Mineral Resource Zone -3, Areas of Undetermined Mineral Resource Significance.

- a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*
- b) *Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

No Impact. As discussed above, the presence of a known mineral resources or locally important mineral resources are absent from the Project site. Therefore, since the Project is not designated for mineral resource recovery, does not contain any known mineral resources, and would not have an effect on a locally important mineral resources recovery site, no impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

No cumulative significant impacts to mineral resources would result from the proposed Project because the proposed Project would have no potential to result in loss of mineral

resources or known mineral resource sites. As a result, no cumulative impacts related to mineral resources would occur.

3.13 NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
13. NOISE. Would the Project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X	

An Acoustical Assessment was prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates in October 2022. The report is included as **Appendix G, Noise Analysis** and the results are summarized herein.

The Project assumptions for the preparation of the noise analysis assumed an approximately one-acre Project site for construction and operation of two new 1.28 MG reservoirs to be used for potable water services within Fontana Water Company's service area. The model output with the original assumptions resulted in a less than significant impact in all aspects regarding potential impacts to acoustical levels.

Sound and Environmental Noise

Acoustics is the science of sound. Sound can be described as the mechanical energy of a vibrating object transmitted by pressure waves through a medium (e.g., air) to human (or animal) ear. If the pressure variations occur frequently enough (at least 20 times per second), they can be heard and are called sound. The number of pressure variations per second is called the frequency of sound and is expressed as cycles per second, or hertz.

Noise is defined as loud, unexpected, or annoying sound. In acoustics, the fundamental model consists of a noise source, a receptor, and the propagation path between the two. The loudness of the noise source, obstructions, or atmospheric factors affecting the propagation path, determine the perceived sound level and noise characteristics at the receptor. Acoustics deal primarily with the propagation and control of sound. A typical noise environment consists of a base of steady background noise that is the sum of many distant and indistinguishable noise sources. Superimposed on this background noise is the sound from individual local sources. These sources can vary from an occasional aircraft or train passing by to continuous noise from traffic on a major highway. Perceptions of sound and noise are highly subjective from person to person.

Measuring sound directly in terms of pressure would require a large range of numbers. To avoid this, the decibel (dB) scale was devised. The dB scale uses the hearing threshold of 20 micro-pascals (μPa) as a point of reference, defined as 0 dB. Other sound pressures are then compared to this reference pressure, and the logarithm is taken to keep the numbers in a practical range. The dB scale allows a million-fold increase in pressure to be expressed as 120 dB, and changes in levels correspond closely to human perception of relative loudness.

Noise Descriptors

The dB scale alone does not adequately characterize how humans perceive noise. The dominant frequencies of a sound have a substantial effect on the human response to that sound. Several rating scales have been developed to analyze the adverse effect of community noise on people. Because environmental noise fluctuates over time, these scales consider that the effect of noise on people is largely dependent on the total acoustical energy content of the noise, as well as the time of day when the noise occurs. The equivalent noise level (L_{eq}) is the average noise level averaged over the measurement period, while the day-night noise level and Community Equivalent Noise Level (CNEL) are measures of energy average during a 24-hour period, with dB weighted sound levels from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Most commonly, environmental sounds are described in terms of L_{eq} that has the same acoustical energy as the summation of all the time-varying events.

The A-weighted decibel (dBA) sound level scale gives greater weight to the frequencies of sound to which the human ear is most sensitive. Because sound levels can vary markedly over a short period of time, a method for describing either the average character of the sound or the statistical behavior of the variations must be utilized. Most

commonly, environmental sounds are described in terms of an average level that has the same acoustical energy as the summation of all the time-varying events. The scientific instrument used to measure noise is the sound level meter. Sound level meters can accurately measure environmental noise levels to within about plus or minus 1 dBA. Various computer models are used to predict environmental noise levels from sources, such as roadways and airports. The accuracy of the predicted models depends on the distance between the receptor and the noise source.

A-Weighted Decibels

The perceived loudness of sounds is dependent on many factors, including sound pressure level and frequency content. However, within the usual range of environmental noise levels, perception of loudness is relatively predictable and can be approximated by dBA values. There is a strong correlation between dBA and the way the human ear perceives sound. For this reason, the dBA has become the standard tool of environmental noise assessment. All noise levels reported in this document are in terms of dBA, but are expressed as dB, unless otherwise noted.

Addition of Decibels

The dB scale is logarithmic, not linear, and therefore sound levels cannot be added or subtracted through ordinary arithmetic. Two sound levels 10 dB apart differ in acoustic energy by a factor of 10. When the standard logarithmic dB is A-weighted, an increase of 10 dBA is generally perceived as a doubling in loudness. For example, a 70-dBA sound is half as loud as an 80-dBA sound and twice as loud as a 60-dBA sound.⁴⁰ When two identical sources are each producing sound of the same loudness, the resulting sound level at a given distance would be 3 dBA higher than one source under the same conditions.⁴¹ Under the dB scale, three sources of equal loudness together would produce an increase of approximately 5 dBA.

Sound Propagation and Attenuation

Sound spreads (propagates) uniformly outward in a spherical pattern, and the sound level decreases (attenuates) at a rate of approximately 6 dB for each doubling of distance from a stationary or point source. Sound from a line source, such as a highway, propagates outward in a cylindrical pattern. Sound levels attenuate at a rate of approximately 3 dB for each doubling of distance from a line source, such as a roadway,

⁴⁰ FHWA, *Noise Fundamentals*, 2017. Available at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/Environment/noise/regulations_and_guidance/polguide/polguide02.cfm

⁴¹ Ibid.

depending on ground surface characteristics.⁴² No excess attenuation is assumed for hard surfaces like a parking lot or a body of water. Soft surfaces, such as soft dirt or grass, can absorb sound, so an excess ground-attenuation value of 1.5 dB per doubling of distance is normally assumed.

Noise levels may also be reduced by intervening structures; generally, a single row of buildings between the receptor and the noise source reduces the noise level by about 15 dBA, while a solid wall or berm reduces noise levels by 8 to 10 dBA.⁴³ The older homes in California were constructed generally provides a reduction of exterior-to-interior noise levels of about 20 to 25 dBA with closed windows.

Human Response to Noise

The human response to environmental noise is subjective and varies considerably from individual to individual. Noise in the community has often been cited as a health problem, not in terms of actual physiological damage, such as hearing impairment, but in terms of inhibiting general well-being and contributing to undue stress and annoyance. The health effects of noise in the community arise from interference with human activities, including sleep, speech, recreation, and tasks that demand concentration or coordination. Hearing loss can occur at the highest noise intensity levels.

Noise environments and consequences of human activities are usually well represented by median noise levels during the day or night or over a 24-hour period. Environmental noise levels are generally considered low when the CNEL is below 60 dBA, moderate in the 60 to 70 dBA range, and high above 70 dBA. Examples of low daytime levels are isolated, natural settings with noise levels as low as 20 dBA and quiet, suburban, residential streets with noise levels around 40 dBA.⁴⁴ Noise levels above 45 dBA at night can disrupt sleep. Examples of moderate-level noise environments are urban residential or semi-commercial areas (typically 55 to 60 dBA) and commercial locations (typically 60 dBA). People may consider louder environments adverse, but most will accept the higher levels associated with noisier urban residential or residential-commercial areas (60 to 75

⁴² California Department of Transportation, *Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol*, Page 2-29, September 2013.

⁴³ James P. Cowan, *Handbook of Environmental Acoustics*, 1994.

⁴⁴ Compiled from James P. Cowan, *Handbook of Environmental Acoustics*, 1994 and Cyril M. Harris, *Handbook of Noise Control*, 1979.

dBA) or dense urban or industrial areas (65 to 80 dBA). Regarding increases in dBA, the following relationships should be noted:⁴⁵

- Except in carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a 1-dBA change cannot be perceived by humans.
- Outside of the laboratory, a 3-dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference.
- A minimum 5-dBA change is required before any noticeable change in community response would be expected. A 5-dBA increase is typically considered substantial.
- A 10-dBA change is subjectively heard as an approximate doubling in loudness and would almost certainly cause an adverse change in community response.

Groundborne Vibration

Sources of groundborne vibrations include natural phenomena (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sea waves, landslides, etc.) or man-made causes (explosions, machinery, traffic, trains, construction equipment, etc.). Vibration sources may be continuous (e.g., factory machinery) or transient (e.g., explosions or use of heavy equipment during construction). Ground vibration consists of rapidly fluctuating motions or waves with an average motion of zero. Several different methods are typically used to quantify vibration amplitude. One is vibration decibels (VdB) (the vibration velocity level in decibel scale). Other methods are the peak particle velocity (PPV) and the root mean square (RMS) velocity. The PPV is defined as the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of the vibration wave. The root mean square velocity is defined as the average of the squared amplitude of the signal. The PPV and root mean square vibration velocity amplitudes are used to evaluate human response to vibration.

Table 13-1, Human Reaction and Damage to Buildings for Continuous or Frequent Intermittent Vibrations below displays the reactions of people and the effects on buildings produced by continuous vibration levels. The annoyance levels shown in **Table 13-1**, should be interpreted with care since vibration may be found to be annoying at much lower levels than those listed, depending on the level of activity or the sensitivity of the individual. To sensitive individuals, vibrations approaching the threshold of perception can be annoying. Low-level vibrations frequently cause irritating secondary vibration such as a slight rattling of windows, doors, or stacked dishes. The rattling sound

⁴⁵ Compiled from California Department of Transportation, *Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol*, September 2013, and FHWA, *Noise Fundamentals*, 2017.

can give rise to exaggerated vibration complaints, even though there is very little risk of actual structural damage. In high noise environments, which are more prevalent where groundborne vibration approaches perceptible levels, this rattling phenomenon may also be produced by loud airborne environmental noise-causing induced vibration in exterior doors and windows.

Ground vibration can be a concern in instances where buildings shake, and substantial rumblings occur. However, it is unusual for vibration from typical urban sources such as buses and heavy trucks to be perceptible. Common sources for groundborne vibration are planes, trains, and construction activities such as earthmoving which requires the use of heavy-duty earthmoving equipment. For the purposes of this analysis, a PPV descriptor with units of inches per second (in/sec) is used to evaluate construction-generated vibration for building damage and human complaints.

Table 13-1: Human Reaction and Damage to Buildings for Continuous or Frequent Intermittent Vibrations

Peak Particle Velocity (in/sec)	Approximate VdB	Human Reaction	Effect on Buildings
0.006-0.019	64-74	Range of threshold of perception	Vibrations unlikely to cause damage of any type
0.08	87	Vibrations readily perceptible	Recommended upper level to which ruins and ancient monuments should be subjected
0.1	92	Level at which continuous vibrations may begin to annoy people, particularly those involved in vibration sensitive activities	Virtually no risk of architectural damage to normal buildings
0.2	94	Vibrations may begin to annoy people in buildings	Threshold at which there is a risk of architectural damage to normal dwellings
0.4-0.6	98-104	Vibrations considered unpleasant by people subjected to continuous vibrations and unacceptable to some people walking on bridges	Architectural damage and possibly minor structural damage
Note: in/sec – inches per second VdB - vibration decibels Source: California Department of Transportation, <i>Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual</i> , 2013.			

Regulatory Setting

California Code of Regulations, Title 24 – Building Code. The State’s noise insulation standards are codified in the CCR, Title 24: Part 1, Building Standards Administrative Code, and Part 2, CBC. These noise standards are applied to new construction in California for interior noise compatibility from exterior noise sources. The regulations specify that acoustical studies must be prepared when noise-sensitive structures, such as residential buildings, schools, or hospitals, are located near major transportation noise sources, and where such noise sources create an exterior noise level of 65 dBA CNEL or higher. Acoustical studies that accompany building plans must demonstrate that the structure has been designed to limit interior noise in habitable rooms to acceptable noise levels. For new multi-family residential buildings, the acceptable interior noise limit for new construction is 45 dBA CNEL.

City of Fontana General Plan. Adopted on November 13, 2018, the Fontana Forward General Plan Update 2015-2035 (Fontana General Plan) identifies noise standards that are used as guidelines to evaluate transportation noise level impacts. These standards are also used to assess the long-term traffic noise impacts on specific land uses. According to the Fontana General Plan, land uses such as residences have acceptable exterior noise levels of up to 65 dBA CNEL. Based on the guidelines in the Fontana General Plan, an exterior noise level of 65 dBA CNEL is generally considered the maximum exterior noise level for sensitive receptors.

City of Fontana Municipal Code

Standards established under the Fontana Municipal Code are used to analyze noise impacts originating from the Project. Operational noise impacts are typically governed by the Municipal Code Sections 18-61 through 18-67. Noise standards for non-transportation and stationary noise source impacts from operations at private properties are found in the Zoning and Development Code in Section 30-543 of the Municipal Code. Applicable guidelines indicate that no person shall create or cause any sound exceeding the City’s stated noise performance standards measured at the property line of any residentially zoned property. The performance standards for exterior noise are 70 dBA between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and 65 dBA during the noise-sensitive hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. at residential uses. For this analysis, a 65-dBA nighttime noise level standard is used to be consistent with residential nighttime exterior noise performance standards listed in Section 30-543 of the Municipal Code.

The City has also set restrictions to control noise impacts from construction activities. Section 18-63(b)(7) states that the erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration, or repair of any structure shall only occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and prohibited on Sundays and Federal holidays, except in the case of urgent necessity or otherwise approved by the City of Fontana. Although the Municipal Code limits the hours of construction, it does not provide specific noise level performance standards for construction.

Existing Setting

The Project site would be on a vacant lot that is surrounded by open space. The Project involves the installation and operation of two new water reservoirs combined with an existing water reservoir located to the south of the Project site to enhance the service to existing local communities. Once the Project is operational, there would be no full-time employees onsite and routine maintenance visits would be performed approximately once per month, which is a continuation of FWC's existing operation at this site. Sensitive receptors in the Project study area are shown in **Exhibit 8**, with the closest residence at a 624 feet distance from the Project site.

Noise Measurements

To quantify existing ambient noise levels in the Project area, Kimley-Horn conducted four short-term (10-minute) measurements on August 31, 2022; see Appendix A: Noise Data, of the Noise Analysis in **Appendix G**. The noise measurement sites were representative of typical existing noise exposure within and immediately adjacent to the Project site. The 10-minute daytime measurements were taken between 9:04 a.m. and 10:07 a.m. Measurements of L_{eq} are considered representative of the noise levels throughout the day. The average noise levels and sources of noise measured at each location are listed in **Table 13-2, Existing Noise Measurements** and shown on **Exhibit 10, Noise Measurement Locations**.

Table 13-2: Existing Noise Measurements

Site	Location	L_{eq} (dBA)	L_{min} (dBA)	L_{max} (dBA)	Time
1	Southern end of cul-de-sac on Teaberry Court	45.9	40.0	58.2	9:04 a.m.
2	Northern end of cul-de-sac on Daybreak Lane	54.5	36.8	70.4	9:21 a.m.
3	End of cul-de-sac along Elm Avenue	44.6	38.8	55.0	9:36 a.m.
4	End of cul-de-sac on Long View Drive, west of Fontana Reservoir	39.8	33.6	54.0	9:57 a.m.
Source: Noise measurements taken by Kimley-Horn, August 31, 2022. See Appendix G .					

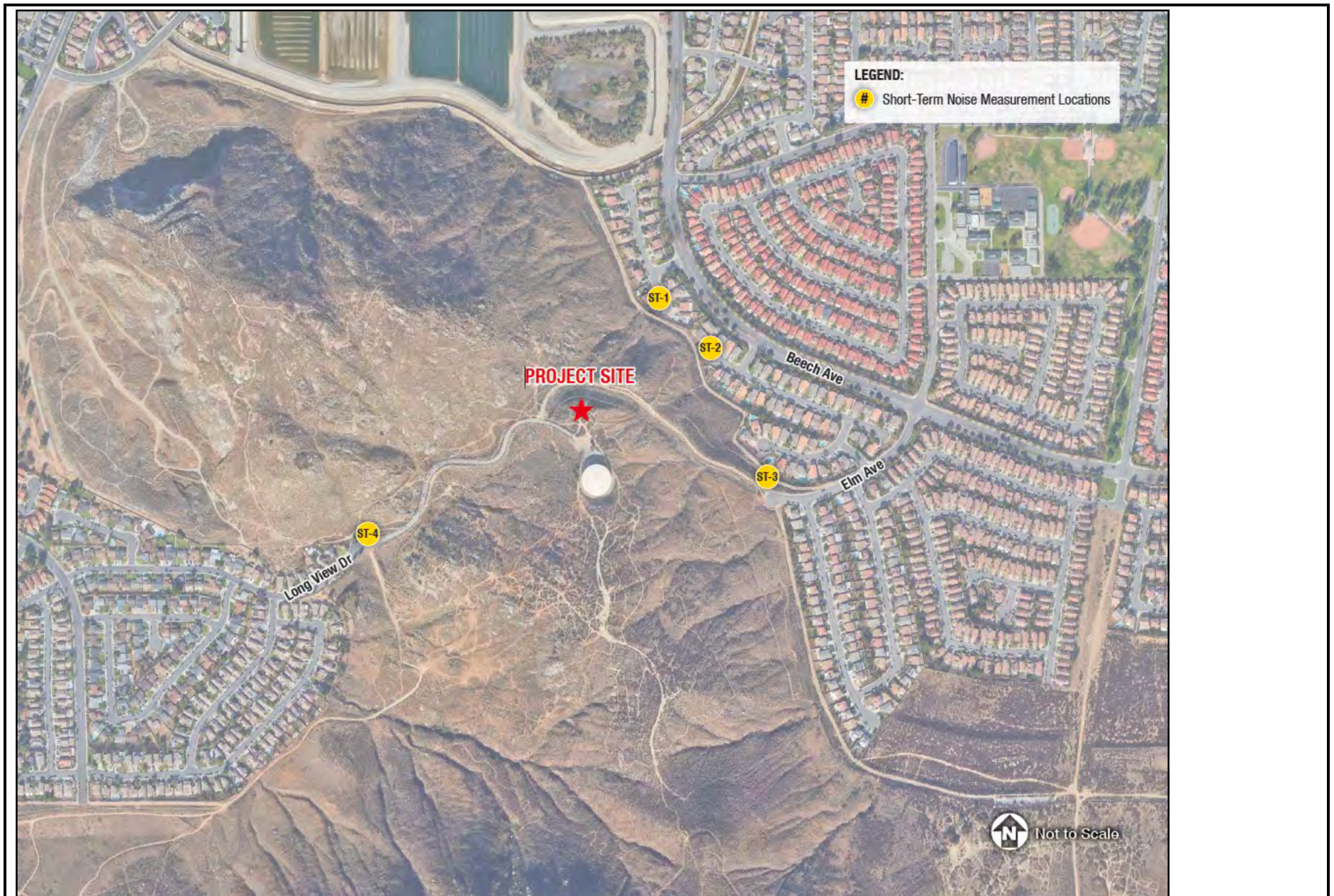


EXHIBIT 10

Noise-Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive populations are more susceptible to the effects of noise pollution than the general population. Sensitive receptors that are in proximity to stationary sources of noise and vibration are of particular concern. Land uses considered sensitive receptors include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes. Sensitive land uses surrounding the Project consist mostly of single-family residential communities, the Southridge Park neighborhood on the west and the Village Park neighborhood on the east.

Receptors in the Project study area are described below and shown in **Exhibit 8**. Localized air quality impacts were evaluated at sensitive receptor land uses nearest the Project site. All distances are measured from the Project site boundary to the outdoor living areas (e.g., backyards) or at the building façade, whichever is closer to the Project site.

- R1: Location R1 represents the existing residence located at 15377 Ridgecrest Dr, approximately 726 feet east of the Project site. Receptor R1 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.
- R2: Location R2 represents the existing residence located at 15321 Daybreak Ln, approximately 624 feet east of the Project site. Receptor R2 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.
- R3: Location R3 represents the existing residence located at 15024 Long View Dr, approximately 1,329 feet west of the Project site. Receptor R3 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.
- R4: Location R4 represents the Michael D'Arcy Elementary located at 11645 Elm Ave, approximately 2,176 feet east of the Project site. Receptor R4 is placed at the building façade facing the Project site.

Methodology

Construction

Construction noise levels were based on typical noise levels generated by construction equipment published by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Construction noise is assessed in dBA L_{eq} . This unit is appropriate because L_{eq} can be used to describe noise level from operation of each piece of equipment separately, and levels can be combined to represent the noise level from all equipment operating during a given period.

Reference noise levels are used to estimate operational noise levels at nearby sensitive receptors based on a standard noise attenuation rate of 6 dB per doubling of distance (line-of-sight method of sound attenuation for point sources of noise). Noise level estimates do not account for the presence of intervening structures or topography, which may reduce noise levels at receptor locations. Therefore, the noise levels presented herein represent a conservative, reasonable worst-case estimate of actual temporary construction noise.

Operations

The proposed Project involves the installation and operation of two additional water reservoirs at a location containing an existing reservoir. The proposed Project would generate approximately one trip per month for maintenance visits, which is a continuation of FWC's existing operation at this site, and would not introduce any new uses or stationary sources that would result in an increase of operational noise levels.

Vibration

Ground-borne vibration levels associated with construction-related activities for the Project were evaluated utilizing typical groundborne vibration levels associated with construction equipment, obtained from FTA published data for construction equipment. Potential groundborne vibration impacts related to building/structure damage and interference with sensitive existing operations were evaluated, considering the distance from construction activities to nearby land uses and typically applied criteria for structural damage and human annoyance.

- a) *Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction

Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction (e.g., land clearing, grading, excavation, paving). Noise generated by construction equipment, including earthmovers, material handlers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. During construction, exterior noise levels could affect the residential neighborhoods surrounding the construction site. Project construction would occur within about 310 feet of existing residential uses located to the east of the Project construction area. However, construction activities would occur throughout the

Project site and would not be solely concentrated at a single point closest to sensitive receptors.

Construction activities would include site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating. Such activities would require dozers and tractors during site preparation; excavators, graders, and dozers during grading; cranes, forklifts, generators, tractors, and welders during building construction; pavers, rollers, mixers, and paving equipment during paving; and air compressors during architectural coating. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve 1 or 2 minutes of full power operation followed by 3 to 4 minutes at lower power settings. Other primary sources of noise would be random incidents, which would last less than one minute, such as dropping large pieces of equipment or the hydraulic movement of machinery lifts. Noise generated by construction equipment, including earthmovers, material handlers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. Typical noise levels associated with individual construction equipment are listed in **Table 13-4, Typical Construction Noise Levels** for 50 feet and 310 feet; the distance to the nearest receptor.

Table 13-4: Typical Construction Noise Levels

Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 feet from Source	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 310 feet from Source ¹
Air Compressor	80	64.2
Backhoe	80	64.2
Compactor	82	66.2
Concrete Mixer	85	69.2
Concrete Pump	82	66.2
Concrete Vibrator	76	60.2
Crane, Derrick	88	72.2
Crane, Mobile	83	67.2
Dozer	85	69.2
Generator	82	66.2
Grader	85	69.2
Impact Wrench	85	69.2
Jack Hammer	88	72.2
Loader	80	64.2
Paver	85	69.2
Pneumatic Tool	85	69.2

Equipment	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 50 feet from Source	Typical Noise Level (dBA) at 310 feet from Source ¹
Pump	77	61.2
Roller	85	69.2
Saw	76	60.2
Scraper	85	69.2
Shovel	82	66.2
Truck	84	68.2
Note: Pile drivers will not be utilized. If piles are required, reservoirs will be constructed on drilled-in cast-in-place caisson piles.		

As shown in **Table 13-4** above, exterior noise levels potentially could affect the nearest existing sensitive receptor (310 feet to the northeast) in the vicinity. Sensitive receptors may be exposed to elevated noise levels during Project construction. However, construction noise would be acoustically dispersed throughout the Project site and not concentrated in one area near surrounding sensitive uses and would not exceed the threshold level. The City's Municipal Code does not establish quantitative construction noise standards. Instead, the Municipal Code establishes limited hours of construction activities. Municipal Code Section 18-63 states that construction activities may only take place between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, and prohibited on Sundays and Federal holidays, except in the case of urgent necessity approved in writing by the City of Fontana. Although the Municipal Code limits the hours of construction, it does not provide specific noise level performance standards for construction. However, this analysis conservatively uses the FTA's threshold of 80 dBA (8-hour Leq) for residential uses and 85 dBA (8-hour Leq) for non-residential uses to evaluate construction noise impacts.⁴⁶

Following FTA's methodology for quantitative construction noise assessments, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Roadway Construction Noise Model was used to predict construction noise at the nearest noise-sensitive receptors (i.e., the residential uses 310 feet to the northeast of the Project site) consistent with the methodologies in the FTA *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* (September 2018) (FTA Noise and Vibration Manual). **Table 13-5, Project Construction Noise Levels** shows the estimated exterior construction noise levels at the nearest receptors to the northeast and southwest of the Project site. Following FTA

⁴⁶ Federal Transit Administration, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*, Table 7-2, Page 179, September 2018.

methodology, when calculating construction noise, all equipment is assumed to operate at the center of the Project site, as equipment would operate throughout the Project site and not at a fixed location close to the sensitive receptors for extended periods of time. Therefore, the distances used in the Roadway Construction Noise Model were 600 feet for the nearest residential uses located to the northeast of the Project construction area, which again is a conservative assumption given the 624 foot distance from the proposed Project site shown in **Exhibit 8**.

Table 13-5: Project Construction Noise Levels

Construction Phase	Receptor Location			Unmitigated Worst Case Modeled Exterior Noise Level (dBA L _{eq})	Noise Threshold (dBA L _{eq}) ²	Exceeded?
	Land Use	Direction	Distance (feet) ¹			
Site Preparation	Residential	Northeast	600	62.0	80	No
Grading	Residential	Northeast	600	63.0	80	No
Infrastructure and Reservoir Installation	Residential	Northeast	600	67.1	80	No
Paving	Residential	Northeast	600	67.3	80	No
Architectural Coating	Residential	Northeast	600	52.1	80	No
1. Per the methodology described in the FTA Noise and Vibration Manual (September 2018), distances are measured from the property line of the nearest receptors to the center of the Project construction site. 2. Threshold from the Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual, 2018.						
Source: Federal Highway Administration, <i>Roadway Construction Noise Model</i> , 2006. Refer to Appendix G for noise modeling results of the noise analysis.						

As indicated in **Table 13-5**, exterior noise levels during different phases of construction are between 52.1 dBA and 67.3 dBA which are below the FTA's 80 dBA noise threshold. Construction equipment would operate throughout the Project site and the associated noise levels would not occur at a fixed location for extended periods of time. These sensitive uses may be exposed to elevated noise levels during Project construction. However, construction noise would be acoustically dispersed throughout the Project site and not concentrated in one area near surrounding sensitive uses.

The City of Fontana has set restrictions to control noise impacts from construction activities. Section 18-63(b)(7) states that the erection (including excavation), demolition, alteration, or repair of any structure shall only occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays,

except in the case of urgent necessity approved in writing by the City of Fontana. Although the Fontana Municipal Code limits the hours of construction, it does not provide specific noise level performance standards for construction. By following the City's standards, the impact from construction noise would be less than significant level.

Operations

Since the Project would construct two reservoirs at a location containing an existing reservoir, the Project would not cause any measurable permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project above existing conditions. The proposed Project would not generate new vehicle trips or introduce any new uses or stationary sources that would result in an increase in operational noise levels. After construction, operation would return to similar conditions as the current baseline noise levels. The required electricity for the new proposed water reservoirs would be provided by the existing generator onsite which feeds the existing water reservoir to the south of the proposed Project site. Thus, the Project would not introduce any new source of noise generation. Therefore, no long-term noise impacts would result with implementation of the proposed Project and the impact would be less than significant.

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

Less than Significant Impact. Increases in groundborne vibration levels attributable to the proposed Project would be primarily associated with short-term construction-related activities. The FTA has published standard vibration velocities for construction equipment operations in their 2018 *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*. The types of construction vibration impacts include human annoyance and building damage.

Building damage can be cosmetic or structural. Ordinary buildings that are not particularly fragile would not experience cosmetic damage (e.g., plaster cracks) at distances beyond 30 feet. This distance can vary substantially depending on soil composition and underground geological layer between vibration source and receiver. In addition, not all buildings respond similarly to vibration generated by construction equipment. For example, for a building that is constructed with reinforced concrete with no plaster, the FTA guidelines show that a vibration level of up to 0.50 in/sec is considered safe and would not result in any construction vibration damage. This evaluation uses the FTA architectural damage criterion for continuous vibrations at non-engineered timber and masonry buildings of 0.2 inch-per-second peak particle velocity

(PPV) and human annoyance criterion of 0.4 inch-per-second PPV in accordance with Caltrans guidance.⁴⁷

Table 21, Typical Construction Equipment Vibration Levels lists vibration levels at 25 feet for typical construction equipment. The groundborne vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in magnitude with increases in distance. As indicated in **Table 13-6**, based on FTA data, vibration velocities from typical heavy construction equipment operations that would be used during Project construction range from 0.003 to 0.089 inches per second peak particle velocity (in/sec PPV) at 25 feet from the source of activity.

Table 13-6: Typical Construction Equipment Vibration Levels

Equipment	Peak Particle Velocity at 25 Feet (in/sec)	Peak Particle Velocity at 90 ¹ Feet (in/sec) ²
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.0130
Caisson Drilling	0.089	0.0130
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.0111
Jackhammer	0.035	0.0051
Small Bulldozer/Tractors	0.003	0.0004
1. The nearest structure is an existing water reservoir approximately 90 feet south of the project site. 2. Calculated using the following formula: $PPV_{equip} = PPV_{ref} \times (25/D)^{1.5}$, where: PPV_{equip} = the peak particle velocity in in/sec of the equipment adjusted for the distance; PPV_{ref} = the reference vibration level in in/sec from Table 7-4 of the Federal Transit Administration, <i>Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual</i> , 2018; D = the distance from the equipment to the receiver.		
Source: Federal Transit Administration, <i>Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual</i> , 2018.		

The nearest structure to the proposed Project is the existing water FWC owned and operated reservoir approximately 90 feet south of the Project site. As shown in **Table 13-6**, at 90 feet, construction equipment vibration velocities could reach approximately 0.0130 in/sec PPV, which is below the FTA's 0.20 PPV threshold. Construction activities would occur throughout the Project site and would not be concentrated at the point closest to the nearest off-site structure. Once operational, the Project would not be a source of groundborne vibration. Therefore, vibration impacts associated with the proposed Project would be less than significant.

- c) *For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public*

⁴⁷ California Department of Transportation, *Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual*, Table 20, April 2020.

airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact. The nearest large airport to the Project site is the Ontario International Airport located approximately 6.35 miles to the west and Flabob approximately 4.8 miles southeast. The Project is not within 2.0 miles of a public airport or within an airport land use plan. Additionally, there are no private airstrips located within the Project vicinity. Therefore, the Project would not expose people working in the Project area to excessive airport- or airstrip-related noise levels and no mitigation is required.

Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative Construction Noise

The Project's construction activities would not result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels. Construction noise would be periodic and temporary noise impacts would cease upon completion of construction activities. The Project would contribute to other proximate construction project noise impacts if construction activities were conducted concurrently. However, construction activities are anticipated to occur in phases. Thus, based on the noise analysis above, the Project's construction-related noise impacts would be less than significant following the City of Fontana Municipal Code.

Construction activities at other planned and approved projects near the Project site would be required to comply with applicable City rules related to noise and would take place during daytime hours on the days permitted by the applicable Municipal Code. Construction noise impacts are, by nature, localized. Based on the fact that noise dissipates as it travels away from its source, noise impacts would be limited to the Project site and vicinity. Therefore, Project construction would not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative noise impacts.

Cumulative Operational Noise

The proposed Project would continue to generate approximately one trip per month as part of FWC's regular existing operations and would not generate any permanent noise sources that would affect ambient levels in the Project vicinity. As the Project would not result in a traffic-related noise increase or new stationary noise source, potential impacts associated with operational noise would not occur. Therefore, the proposed Project would not generate incremental effects to noise that could be compounded or increased

when considered together with similar effects from other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Thus, no cumulative impacts related to noise would occur.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Demographic Setting

The Southern California Association of Governments 2020 Local Housing Data, notes that the City of Fontana had a population of 213,000 residents. Between Year 2000 and 2020, Fontana had an annual growth rate of 2.5% compared to 0.7% for the region. Fontana has 96,001 workers living within its borders who work across 13 major industrial sectors. The most prevalent industry is Education & Social Services with 19,253 employees (20.1% of total) and the second most prevalent industry is Transportation with 12,587 employees (13.1% of total).

Housing security can depend heavily on housing tenure, i.e., whether homes are owned or rented. Fontana's housing stock consists of 53,510 total units, 34,560 of which are owner-occupied and 18,950 of which are renter-occupied. The share of renters in Fontana is lower than in the SCAG region overall.⁴⁸

A low vacancy rate indicates that residents may have difficulty finding housing within their price range and/or a high supply of vacant units may indicate an oversupply of units. A healthy vacancy rate is generally accepted at seven or eight percent while a low vacancy rate is about two percent. SCAG projects the City to grow in population to approximately 280,900 persons by 2040 from 196,069 in 2010; that is a growth of 84,831

⁴⁸ Southern California Association of Governments. April 2021. *City of Fontana Local Housing Data*. Available at <https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/fontana-he-0421.pdf?1620798007>. Accessed May 31, 2022.

persons.⁴⁹ The City of Fontana has an approximate 5.1 percent vacancy rate.⁵⁰

- a) *Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

No Impact. The proposed Project consists of two new 1.28 MG water storage reservoirs and the maintenance of the existing reservoir. The Project is anticipated to serve the potable water needs of the existing Southridge community by allowing an increased potable water storage capacity and supply to the existing community and increases fire flow capacity. The proposed reservoirs would be local-serving to a community that is mostly built-out, with no opportunities for major, growth-inducing developments that may be facilitated by improved utility infrastructure. The Project is consistent with the existing use of the site and does not propose a land use that would result in substantial unplanned population growth in the area. Therefore, no impact on population growth in the area would occur.

Additionally, the Project-related increase in employment, related to the construction phase, would be minimal and temporary when compared to the anticipated increase in the Southern California Association of Governments Demographics and Growth Forecast for the City found in the Connect SoCal RTP/SCS.⁵¹

Therefore, the Project's temporary employment requirements can be met by the City's existing labor force. Therefore, since the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth, no impacts associated with population growth would occur.

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

No Impact. The Project site is vacant land and therefore, with no housing or persons supported by the existing project site, the proposed Project would not displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing. No impacts would occur.

⁴⁹ Southern California Association of Governments. 2020. *Connect SoCal: The 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) Final Growth Forecast by Jurisdiction*. Available at https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/0903fconnectsocial-plan_0.pdf?1606001176. Accessed August 31, 2022.

⁵⁰ Department of Finance. 2021. *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011-2020 with 2010 Census Benchmark*. Available at <https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/estimates-e5-2010-2020/>. Accessed on August 25, 2022.

⁵¹ Southern California Association of Governments. 2020. *Connect SoCal Demographics and Growth Forecast*. Available at Southern California Association of Governments. 2020. Available at https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/0903fconnectsocial-plan_0.pdf?1606001176. Accessed March 30, 2026

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
15. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the Project:				
a) Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i) Fire protection?			X	
ii) Police protection?				X
iii) Schools?				X
iv) Parks?				X
v) Other public facilities?				X

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

i) *Fire protection?*

Less Than Significant Impact. Fire protection services for the City of Fontana are provided by the San Bernardino County Fire Department and are carried out via the Fontana Fire Protection District. San Bernardino County Fire Station 74 is located at 11500 Live Oak Avenue, approximately 0.64 mile northwest of the Project site. Fire Station 74 is staffed with one captain, one engineer, and one firefighter paramedic. Additionally, Fire Station 74 is equipped with one medic engine.

Goal 2 of the City's General Plan states that "Fontana's Fire Department meets or exceeds state and national benchmarks for protection and responsiveness," and the City's action plan is to continue the successful partnership with San Bernardino County Fire Department. The General Plan notes that the City is to ensure continuing fire protection as population grows and natural fire events may increase in number or intensity due to changing climate.

Additionally, the General Plan notes that the future impacts of fire on the City are anticipated to occur in High and Very High FHSZs. As noted above, the Project site is located within a VHFHSZ. The Project would be designed in accordance with applicable city, county, and state regulations, codes, and policies pertaining to fire hazard reduction and protection. More specifically, the Project would be developed in accordance with the current California Fire Code and current Building Standards Code, which would reduce the potential for additional fire protection services beyond those which are already provided to the Project site to result from implementation of the proposed Project.

The Project does not propose land uses that would result in an increase in calls for fire protection and emergency medical services. However, the Project site is located in a VHFHSZ. In the event of an emergency at the Project site that required more resources than Fire Station 74 could provide, Fontana Fire Protection District would direct resources to the site from other San Bernardino County Fire Department stations nearby and, if needed, would request assistance from other nearby fire departments including those of the nearby Riverside County Fire Department. Additionally, Project implementation is not anticipated to increase fire response times to the Project site. Driving distance from Fire Station 74 to the Project site is approximately six minutes, and as such, would be beyond the Fontana Fire Protection District goal of having a six-minute response time. However, the existing Plant F20 Reservoir (South) is already served by Fontana Fire Protection District's at the Project site. The development of two additional water reservoirs adjacent to the existing reservoir would not create conditions that would make wildland fire more likely to occur. Emergency access to the Project site would be maintained via a paved segment of Long View Drive during construction and the slight revision to the roadway alignment would continue to facilitate adequate emergency access during operation of the proposed Project. Considering the existing firefighting resources available within and near the City, Project impacts on fire protection and emergency services are not expected to occur.

With compliance of the applicable City, and State regulations, codes, potential impacts on fire services from implementation of the Project would be less than significant.

ii) Police protection?

No Impact. Project buildout would not increase the demand for police protection services in southern Fontana. The proposed Project site is located in Area 4 of the Area Commander Program and would be served by the City of Fontana Police Department (FPD), the headquarters for which are located 4.9 miles northeast of the Project site. Since the Project does not propose residential uses, it would not impact the officer to resident ratio, nor would it increase demand on police protection services, because the Project does not propose infrastructure that would host residents in any way, or that would foster residents to interact with the Project in such a way that would create the need for Police protection. Additional police services are not necessary and potential impacts on police protection due to implementation of the Project would incur no impact.

iii) Schools?

No Impact. The Project does not propose land uses that would create additional need for school facilities. Typically, projects that would trigger the need for school facilities are residential developments generating additional population. Because the Project does not foster population growth, no impacts are anticipated to occur.

iv) Parks?

No Impact. Refer to Threshold (Aiii) above. The Project does not propose land uses that would create additional need for recreational facilities, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, no impact would occur.

v) Other public facilities?

No Impact. Other public facilities in the area such as senior centers or libraries, etc. would not be adversely impacted because the Project does not propose land uses that would increase demand to these facilities. The proposed Project is consistent with the City of Fontana General Plan and is consistent with City Zoning Maps. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project is not projected to directly result in an immediate increase in population, as it does not propose land uses that would have a growth-inducing effect.

There would be no additional need for public services such as fire and police protection, schools, parks and other facilities. Therefore, the Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact on public services or facilities.

3.16 RECREATION

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

- a) *Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*

No Impact. Refer to Response Public Service (15-a.iv) above. The Project does not propose land uses that would increase the use of existing neighborhoods, regional parks or other recreational facilities in the immediate area, because the Project would not generate any new population/residents. No impact would occur in this regard.

- b) *Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

No Impact. Refer to Response Public Service (15-a.iv) above. The proposed Project includes the development of two new reservoirs that would service the Southridge community within FWC's service area and would not include the development of new recreational facilities. As a result, no Impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

Development of the proposed Project is not anticipated to create a significant cumulative increase in recreational facilities, nor would it require construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities. Therefore, the project's contribution to

cumulative impacts on recreational facilities would be less than cumulatively considerable.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

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

A Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis was prepared by Kimley-Horn and Associates, in May 2022. The report is included as **Appendix H, Vehicles Miles Traveled**, and the results are summarized herein.

Existing Conditions

Routine maintenance visits currently occur approximately once a month, which would continue with the same frequency as part of FWC's existing operation at this site.

This section documents Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)/SB 743 considerations for the Project. The City's Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Guidelines provide details on appropriate screening thresholds that can be used to identify when a proposed land use project is anticipated to result in a less-than-significant impact without conducting a more detailed level analysis. Screening thresholds are broken into the following four steps:

1. Transit Priority Area Screening

As described in the City's TIA Guidelines, projects within half a mile from an existing major transit stop or within half of a mile from an existing stop along a high-quality transit corridor can be screened out. Based on the San Bernardino

County Transportation Authority VMT Screening Tool, the Project is not located in a Transit Priority Area.

2. Low VMT Area Screening

A Low VMT area is an area that is determined to generate 15% VMT below the County's Average. The Project site is not located in a low VMT (15% below County Average) zone based on the SBCTA VMT Screening tool.

3. Low Project Type Screening

Local serving retail projects that are less than 50,000 square feet may be presumed to have a less than significant impact, absent substantial evidence to the contrary. In addition to local serving retail, other local serving uses can also be presumed to have a less-than-significant impact, absent substantial evidence to the contrary as their uses are local serving in nature. The Project includes a local-serving community utility and may be presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact. The Low Project Type screening is met for this Project.

4. Project Net Daily Trips Less Than 500 Average Daily Trips (ADT)

The City's TIA Guidelines identify that a project with a net daily trip generation of less than 500 ADT can be screened out. The Project is expected to have minimal traffic generated, with only visits to the site when maintenance is required. Therefore, the Project would be under the 500 ADT threshold.

SB 743 was established with the intent to "more appropriately balance the needs of congestion management with statewide goals related to infill development, promotion of public health through active transportation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions." Pursuant to Section 15064.3 of the latest CEQA Guidelines, "a project's effect on automobile delay shall not constitute a significant environmental impact."

- a) *Would the project conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project is considered land use independent and can be constructed within any land use designation or zoning classification.

Currently, the Project site is accessible via an existing paved roadway that allows for adequate service and emergency vehicle access from the west. The Project site is not immediately located along any public thoroughfares and would not affect any regional and local circulation. During construction, the Project would adhere to any relevant regional and local circulation regulations. Therefore, since construction activities would be temporary, and compliant with circulation regulations, the Project would have a less than significant impact on circulation policies.

There is nothing about the design of the proposed Project that would conflict with the circulation system, bicycle, mass transit, or pedestrian facilities. Additionally, as part of the proposed Project, Long View Drive will be slightly widened at the top of the street where it meets the existing South Reservoir. This will allow for adequate vehicle movement between the existing South Reservoir and the newly proposed East and West Reservoirs. The Project would comply with any applicable traffic and circulation regulations. As such, a less than significant impact would occur.

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

No Impact. Section 15064.3, Determining the Significance of Transportation Impacts, of the CEQA Guidelines describes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. Section 15064.3(b) includes criteria for analyzing transportation impacts. The VMT, which focuses on the overall miles traveled by vehicles within a region, is the new metric for transportation analysis and has replaced automobile delay (Level of Service), which is no longer used as a criterion for determining a significant environmental effect under CEQA (City of Fontana, 2020). For land use projects, "Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact." (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3). On June 9, 2020, the City of Fontana adopted VMT Thresholds for determining transportation impacts pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines. This adoption was required by SB 743 and the recent changes to Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines. For the purpose of CEQA analysis of VMT and traffic impacts associated with projects proposed in the City of Fontana, the City also adopted Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines for VMT and Level of Service Assessment (City of Fontana, October 2020). The City's Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines for VMT Assessment provides project screening criteria and guidance for analysis of VMT assessments. The following VMT screening criterion was utilized for the proposed Project.

The Project was evaluated based on the City of Fontana TIA Guidelines (October 2020) and was found to meet the screening criteria for Low Project Type and Project Net Daily Trips Less Than 500 ADT. The Project includes a local-serving community utility and may be presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact under TIA screening criteria for Low Project Type. The City's TIA Guidelines identify that a Project with a net daily trip generation of less than 500 ADT can be screened out. The Project is expected to generate no new traffic, with only visits to the site when maintenance is required, which would constitute a continuation of FWC's existing operation at this site. Therefore, the Project would be under the 500 ADT threshold. Therefore, the Project would not result in any VMT impacts, no further VMT analysis is required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The design features of the Project do not incorporate any hazardous or incompatible features. The Project's access points would not include sharp turns and would not be modified in such a way that more traffic or dangerous driving conditions would be created. The existing Long View Drive, which provides main access to the Project, ends at the intersection with the South Reservoir at which point the road would be refinished and widened enough to allow for safe vehicle turnarounds, but no additional changes in road conditions would be created as part of the Project. The Project proposes only minor adjustments to the portions of the existing paved access road that lies within the Project site. The access road within the Project site has been designed to be both efficient and safe for vehicular traffic pursuant to City Standards established by the Fontana Fire Department.

The portion of the existing access road located within the Project site would be subject to a slight adjustment. The road adjustment would be limited to realignment west of the existing paved roadway to allow for adequate service and emergency vehicle access. The proposed adjustment to the existing road alignment would not increase hazards and would not incorporate incompatible uses. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- d) *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

Less than Significant Impact. The Project site and existing Plant F20 Reservoir facility are currently only accessible through an asphalt concrete paved access road to the existing reservoir along the southwest side of the proposed Project site. As described above, the portion of the existing access road located within the Project site would be

subject to a slight adjustment. The road adjustment would be limited to realignment west of the existing paved roadway to allow for adequate service and emergency vehicle access. Per City Municipal Code, access for emergency vehicles shall be incorporated into the project design. Paved fire access roads shall be provided between residential development and wildland fire areas subject to approval by the local fire authority (Municipal Code Sec. 30-429). If a project does not meet a five-minute response time from a fire protection facility, agreement must be reached with the local fire authority as to how adequate fire protection can be achieved. Project design features in regard to ingress and egress would be developed to comply with all relevant emergency regulations pursuant to the Fontana Fire Department standards. Furthermore, all driveways would be constructed according to the City standard plans.

Additionally, construction of the Project is not expected to require road closures or otherwise adversely affect emergency access around the site perimeter. The impact on emergency access would be less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The Project is expected to generate minimal traffic because employees will visit the site on an as needed or planned maintenance basis, which may involve one or two employees per visit. As a result, the proposed Project would not result in traffic beyond what was contemplated under the General Plan land use designation for the Project site and surrounding land uses.

Additionally, as discussed above, the VMT analysis methodologies and significance thresholds are based on the *City of Fontana Traffic Impact Study Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis* (May 2022). Based on the City guidelines, the Project is presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact. Therefore, the Project would not result in significant VMT impacts and the project's contribution to cumulative impacts related to transportation would be less than cumulatively considerable.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

On April 16, 2025 and May 7, 2025, Project notification letters with invitations to consult on the Project were sent by email to representatives of the five tribes on the State Water Board's Assembly Bill (AB) 52 list for the Project area: Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN) formerly San Manuel band of Mission Indians, Gabriello Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation (Kizh Nation), Colorado River Indian Tribes, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation. On May 6, 2025, Kristen Tuosto of the YSMN requested consultation and on May 8, 2025, the Kizh Nation requested consultation. The remaining three tribes either did not respond or deferred consultation to more local tribes. The State Water Board met with the YSSM via

teleconference on May 15, 2025. The Kizh Nation could not meet but agreed to consult by email.

Both tribes stated that there were important villages in the general vicinity of Project site, and that the Project site was in the larger use area of these villages. One tribe considered the Project site within a tribal cultural resource, the other considered it adjacent to a tribal cultural resource (TCR). Both tribes provided suggested mitigation measures to reduce potential direct and indirect impacts to the TCRs.

In addition to tribal consultation, a cultural resources study found no resources that are listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k) on or near the project site (See Section 3.18).

- a) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:*
 - i) *Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?*
 - ii) *A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?*

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Tribal cultural resources were identified in or adjacent to the project area. There is a remote possibility that pre-colonial archaeological resources could be found during project construction. Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to result in the discovery of, or accidental damage to, tribal cultural resources of an archaeological nature. Consequently, there is a potential for significant impacts on TCRs. Implementation of the following mitigation measures, **TCR-1, and TCR-2** would reduce the potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

TCR-1 The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department and the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation (The Tribes) shall be contacted, as detailed in **CR-1**, if any pre-contact and/or historic-era cultural resources are discovered during project implementation and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a cultural resource Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with the Lead Agency and the Tribes, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents one or both of the Tribes for the remainder of the Project, should the Tribes elect to place a monitor on-site.

Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the Project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the applicant and Lead Agency for dissemination to the Tribes. The Lead Agency and/or applicant shall, in good faith, consult with the Tribes throughout the life of the Project, as appropriate.

TCR-2 The FWC shall contact each of the Tribes before Phase 1 and future Phase 2 and offer to them the opportunity to provide a Native American Monitor (Monitor) to monitor “ground-disturbing activity” for the subject Project. “Ground-disturbing activity” shall include, but is not limited to, demolition, pavement removal, potholing, auguring, grubbing, tree removal, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching.

The Monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground-disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe(s). Monitoring logs will identify and describe any discoveries, including but not limited to, Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitoring logs will be provided to the lead agency upon completion of monitoring.

On-site tribal monitoring shall conclude when FWC sends written confirmation to the Tribes that all ground-disturbing activities on the project site for the current phase are complete; or when the monitoring Tribe(s) sends a written notification to the FWC of their determination that the project phase no longer has the potential to impact TCRs.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts to tribal cultural resources with implementation of **MMs TCR-1** and **TCR-2**. The chances of cumulative impacts occurring because of Project implementation plus implementation of other projects in the region is not likely since all proposed projects would be subject to individual project-level environmental review. Since there would be no Project-specific impacts and due to existing laws and regulations in place to protect tribal cultural resources, the potential incremental effects of the proposed Project would not be cumulatively considerable.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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

Fontana Water Company is a division of the San Gabriel Valley Water Company. Fontana Water owns and operates water facilities throughout the City of Fontana that produce, treat, store, and distribute drinking water to its customers. Fontana Water is subject to the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission and serves most of the City of Fontana, portions of the cities of Rialto, Rancho Cucamonga, and Ontario, and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County.

- a) *Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or*

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project would construct new water facilities including two new 1.28 MG reservoirs to be used for potable water services within Fontana Water's service area. The Project would allow FWC to meet necessary water storage required for the community to meet existing water demands for domestic uses, fire suppression, and emergency needs. As previously noted, the new Plant F20 East and west Reservoirs would allow the existing Plant F20 Reservoir to be taken out of service when required for routine maintenance. Due to the nature of the Project, connection to utility services—such as wastewater treatment, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities—would not be required.

The proposed Project would not require any water to operate, **other than the water proposed** to be stored in the reservoir, which will provide water storage to FWC's service area. With no demand for water as a result of implementing the proposed Project, the Project itself is the construction of new water facilities and expansion of existing facilities in order to serve the community. The Project would not implement storm drain improvements that would result in significant environmental effects. Furthermore, the proposed Project would not necessitate the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities such that a significant impact would occur. Therefore, the Project would cause a less than significant impact under this issue.

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

No Impact. The proposed Project would be used for potable water services within FWC's service area. The Project would provide FWC with additional storage capacity, in the amount of 2.56 MG, to continue to serve the community of Southridge Village. The Project would allow for the FWC to meet the necessary water storage requirements for the community to meet existing water demands for domestic uses, fire suppression, and emergency needs. Additionally, the provision of additional reservoirs at the Project site would enable FWC to remove the existing reservoir from service for maintenance. By implementing an inspection and maintenance schedule, Fontana Water would maintain its reservoirs in operable condition, which would result in an increased service life.

Based on the above, the Project would not require sufficient water supplies to enable Project operation, rather, it would serve the community to supply additional water. Therefore, there would be no impacts associated with insufficient water supplies.

- c) *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

No Impact. As discussed above, there are no connections to the wastewater treatment plant because no human occupied structures are proposed as part of this Project. Therefore, implementation of the project will not create a demand for wastewater treatment services that would impact the provider's ability to serve their existing commitments. Thus, no impact would occur.

- d) *Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project is anticipated to generate solid waste during the temporary, short-term phases of construction, but it is not anticipated to result in inadequate landfill capacity. The Project does not propose a land use that would generate significant solid waste during Project operations, with the exception of potential solid waste produced during operational maintenance activities.

Solid waste service for the City is provided by Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill located in the northern portion of the City and with a maximum daily throughput of 7,500 tons per day. This facility handles solid waste from mixed municipal, construction/demolition, industrial, and tires. This landfill has a maximum permitted capacity of approximately 101.3 million cubic yards, and the landfill has a remaining capacity of approximately 67.52 million cubic yards. The anticipated life for the landfill at its currently permitted capacity is 2033.⁵² Construction and maintenance activities are not anticipated to result in a continuous and substantial source of solid waste. For these reasons, the proposed Project's solid waste disposal needs would be met by the existing capacities at the Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill. As such, a less than significant impact would occur.

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

No Impact. The Project would be consistent with the City's General Plan goals, policies, and actions pertaining to solid waste handling. The Project is required to adhere to City ordinances pertaining to waste reduction and recycling. As the proposed project would

⁵² CalRecycle. 2021. *SWIS Facility/Site Activity Details*. Available at <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/SiteActivity/Details/1880?siteID=2662>. Accessed July 11, 2022.

adhere to State and local standards pertaining to solid waste, no impacts related to State and local statutes governing solid waste are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project would have a less than significant impact with respect to utilities/service systems. The Project would develop utility infrastructure that would help meet the water needs of the surrounding community. The project's contribution to cumulative utility and service systems impacts would be less than cumulatively considerable.

3.20 WILDFIRE

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

Wildfire Hazard

CAL FIRE's Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer for Real Estate Inspections Map shows that a small portion of the City, including the Project site, is designated as a VHFHSZ area within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA).⁵³ Areas or zones of transition between wildland (unoccupied land) and human development are known as wildland-urban interface areas which are at high risk of catastrophic wildfire, can cause ecological disruption and result in the loss of life and property. The remainder of the City is urbanized and generally built out with established commercial, residential, and industrial development.

⁵³ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2026. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03beab8511814e79a0e4eabf0d3e7247/> (Accessed 03/17/26)

Construction activities would require the use of heavy machinery utilizing fuels that, in the event of an accident, could cause a fire, but the likelihood of an accident is unlikely to occur. Vehicles parking or driving over dry vegetation can also lead to fire. The proposed Project does not include the use of flammable or explosive materials. However, during construction, because the proposed Project is located within a VHFHSZ in an LRA, construction may exacerbate fire risk temporarily due to the use of equipment that could create sparks and otherwise result in fire risk. In any event of an emergency, Fire Station 74 is located approximately 0.7-mile northeast of the Project site and would be able to quickly address any emergencies. Adequate emergency access to the Project site would be provided via Long View Road in case of fire due to Project construction activities or natural causes.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would not impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. The proposed Project is subject to City Fire and Police Department review and approval prior to the issuance of building permits. The proposed Project is required to be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with applicable standards associated with vehicular access, which would provide adequate emergency access and evacuation, if necessary.

Main ingress and egress to the site is provided via a paved service road that extends from Long View Drive. Construction would be short-term and would adhere to a construction management plan that would not cause construction activity to impede emergency response access through Sierra Avenue from the nearest Fire Stations No. 74, which is located approximately 0.7 miles northeast. Lastly, as the Project falls within the City of Fontana, the provisions of the City's LHMP (2018) would further provide protection in the event of an emergency. The LHMP identifies mitigation goals, objectives, and projects to reduce wildfire hazards. Because the Project implementation would not affect a public right-of-way, the Project would not conflict with an emergency evacuation plan applicable to the nearby Southridge communities. Since the Project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan, impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Project is located within mountainous open space that is classified as a VHFHSZ. The area is characterized by an existing water storage facility in steep terrain with rocky outcrops and hillsides transected by networks of bare hiking trails. Vegetation in the Project vicinity is mainly composed of fragmented Riversidean sage scrub. Project construction could introduce a temporary source of fire risk if it occurs during hot dry conditions. However, during construction, because the Project would be installed within a VHFHSZ, construction may exacerbate fire risk temporarily as a result of accidental sparks generated by spark-producing equipment. As such, the proposed Project requires the implementation of **MM WF-1**, which would minimize fire risk during activities that would utilize spark-producing equipment by requiring spark arrestors for construction equipment that could create a spark, and requiring construction crews and vehicles to have access to functional fire extinguishers and fire prevention equipment at all times during construction.

Mitigation Measures

WF-1 Prior to construction, fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into a fire management plan/fuel modification plan for the proposed facility and shall be implemented during construction and over the long-term for protection of the site. These measures shall address all staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development that are planned to use spark-producing equipment. These areas shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other material that could ignite. Any construction equipment that can include a spark arrestor shall be equipped with a spark arrestor in good working order. During the construction of the Project, all vehicles and crews working at the project site shall have access to functional fire extinguishers and related fire prevention equipment (such as emergency sand bags, etc.) at all times. In addition, construction crews shall have a spotter during welding activities to look out for potentially dangerous situations, including accidental sparks. This plan shall be provided to the City of Fontana Fire Protection District for review and comment and approved prior to construction and implemented by FWC once approved. The fire management plan shall also include sufficient defensible space or other measures at the Project site to minimize fire exposure and damage over the long-term.

Implementation of **MM WF-1** is required to ensure that the exposure of future infrastructure developed as part of the Project would not be exposed to severe damage

or loss. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Project operations would not exacerbate fire risks in an area already prone to wildland fire because the proposed reservoir structures do not incorporate components prone to fires or to initiating fires as part of standard operations. Because the proposed Project would develop water storage reservoirs next to a site containing an existing water storage reservoir, and because the provision of water storage is considered a benefit to the prevention of the spreading of wildfire in high-risk areas, it is not anticipated that development at this site would expose occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire. In addition, the Project proposes a water storage reservoir that would contribute to expanded fire protection through the provision of greater water storage available for fire suppression. The Project would not have occupants and would not be open to the public. Additionally, the operation of the Project does not involve activities that could trigger a wildfire.

Therefore, it is not anticipated that the Project would expose nearby residents to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. With adherence to standard City General Plan policies and Municipal Code regulations, compliance with the City's LHMP, and fire code standards and the California Fire Code, impacts would be less than significant.

- c) *Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. All proposed Project components would be located within the boundaries of the Project site, and impacts associated with the development of the Project are analyzed throughout this document. The Project includes road improvements for emergency vehicle access and a greater supply of water for fire flow. Construction of those facilities in these locations could exacerbate fire risk in these areas as a result of spark-producing equipment use during construction and operations and could therefore result in both temporary and ongoing impacts on the environment. However, the implementation of **MM WF-1** under such circumstances would reduce any contribution to greater fire risk during construction to a less than significant impact level.

The Project does not propose off-site improvements that could exacerbate fire risks. Furthermore, the Fontana Fire Department would review all plans for adequate fire

suppression (California Fire Code Chapter 9), fire access (California Fire Code Chapter 5), and emergency evacuation (California Fire Code Chapter 4) as part of the City's review process to ensure compliance with the California Fire Code, as adopted by the City of Fontana.

The Project would also adhere to Fontana Municipal Code Section 30-429. Public safety:

(1) Emergency access. Access for emergency vehicles shall be incorporated into the project design. Paved fire access roads shall be provided between residential development and wild land fire areas subject to approval by the local fire authority; and

(3) a. Wild land fires. Projects constructed within or adjacent to areas identified in the general plan safety element within the "fire hazard overlay district" shall incorporate fire breaks into site design. Fire management plans will also be required in fire prone areas.

b. Response time. Every attempt shall be made to design all projects so that they are within a five-minute response time of a fire protection facility. If a project does not meet this standard, agreement must be reached with the local fire authority as to how adequate fire protection can be achieved. The implementation of **MM WF-1** would require the preparation of a fire management plan/fuel modification plan for the Project, and it would identify comprehensive strategies to reduce fire potential during construction and over long-term operation. Thus, adherence to standard City Municipal Code and California Fire Code, as well as implementation of **MM WF-1** would reduce potential impacts to a level of less than significant after the implementation of mitigation.

d) *Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed above in threshold b), the Project site is in a VHFHSZ and located near steep slopes or hillsides. Additionally, as discussed in Section 3.0-10, Hydrology & Water Quality, threshold C(i) and the Geotechnical Investigation, the Project would incorporate **BMP-HYD-2** and **BMP-HYD-3** into the project plans, which would help minimize drainage impacts, downstream flooding, or soil piping through the installation of adequate drainage facilities. To minimize the risk of downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, the Project would install underground chambers to collect and draw water down via V-shaped culverts, or pipes. Furthermore, the proposed Project does not propose any habitable structures and thus the exposure of people to such an event is negligible. Additionally, to prevent water spillage from the reservoirs, the Project would meet the AWWA's design standards. Impacts would be less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project area is subject to wildfires and is largely composed of existing disturbed areas consisting of the existing South Reservoir site and the road that leads up to the Project site, while other portions surrounding the Project site are undeveloped open space. Consequently, Project implementation would not create a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative wildfire impacts.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS Issues	Potentially Significant Issues	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporate d	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. Does the Project:				
a) Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X		
c) 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)?			X	
d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X	

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

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. All impacts to the environment, including impacts to habitat for fish and wildlife species, fish and wildlife populations, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered plants and animals, and historical and pre-historical resources were evaluated as part of this IS/MND in their respective sections. Where impacts were determined to be potentially significant, mitigation

measures and Standard Conditions have been imposed to reduce those impacts to less-than-significant levels. Accordingly, with implementation of **MMs BIO-1, BIO-2, CUL-1, TCR-1, and TCR-2**, and best management practices, the Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment and impacts would be less than significant.

- b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed throughout this IS/MND, implementation of the proposed Project is not anticipated to cause a cumulative impact in the immediate and surrounding area. In all instances where the proposed Project has the potential to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact to the environment, mitigation measures and Standard Conditions have been imposed to reduce potential effects to less than significant levels. As such, with incorporation of the mitigation measures and Standard Conditions imposed throughout this IS/MND, the Project would not contribute to environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, and impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project's potential to result in environmental effects that could adversely affect human beings, either directly or indirectly, has been discussed throughout this IS/MND in each respective section. No portion of the proposed Project is anticipated to have or cause an environmental effect that would cause substantial effects on human beings. A less than significant impact is anticipated to occur.

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Appendix A
Air Quality Assessment and Greenhouse Gas Memorandum

Appendix B
Biological Resources Assessment

Appendix C
Cultural Resources Assessment

Appendix D

Energy Assessment

Appendix E
Geotechnical Investigation and Infiltration Feasibility Study

Appendix F
Hydrology and Water Quality Management Plan

Appendix G

Noise Analysis

Appendix H
Vehicle Miles Traveled