

**Riverside County Flood Control  
and Water Conservation District**

**SAN JACINTO MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN  
LINE C, STAGE 2, LINE C-4, LINE C-5, AND LINE B**

**FINAL CEQA DOCUMENTS**  
*Initial Study*  
*Mitigated Negative Declaration*  
*Environmental Commitments & Mitigation Monitoring*  
*Program and Responses to Comments*

**SCH No. 2013011029**

**ZONE 4**



March 2013

**WARREN D. WILLIAMS**  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

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## INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000–21177), this Initial Study has been prepared to determine potentially significant impacts upon the environment resulting from the construction and operation of San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan (MDP) Line C (Stage 2), Line C-4, Line C-5, and Line B (collectively hereinafter referred to as the Project). In accordance with Section 15063 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, this Initial Study is a preliminary analysis by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) as Lead Agency, to inform the Lead Agency decision makers, other affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed Project.

### Environmental Process

The environmental process being undertaken as part of the proposed Project began with the initial project and environmental research. The Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration were subject to a 30-day public review period, which ended February 20, 2013. During this review period and prior to approval of the Project by the District, public and agency comments on the document relative to environmental issues should be addressed to:

Kris Flanigan, Senior Civil Engineer  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
1995 Market Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
kflaniga@rcflood.org  
951-955-8581

Comments received during that time will be considered as part of the Project's environmental review and will be included with the Final Initial Study document for consideration by the Board of the Supervisors of the District. If the Board determines that the Project will have no significant long-term, unmitigatable environmental effects, a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be adopted for the Project.

### Organization of the Final CEQA Documents

The final CEQA documents for the Project include the Initial Study with Response to Comments, Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program. Collectively these documents comprise the final CEQA documents and are organized as follows:

- **Introduction**, which provides the context for the review along, with applicable citation pursuant to CEQA and the State *CEQA Guidelines*.
- **Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration**, which is the District's written statement briefly describes the reasons that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- **Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**, which provides the list of mitigation measures and standard environmental commitments that will be applied to the Project, pursuant to Section 15097 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*.

- **Environmental Checklist**, which provides the Project Description, a brief discussion of the existing environmental setting, and an environmental impact assessment consisting of an environmental checklist and accompanying analysis for responding to checklist questions.
- **References**, which includes a list of reference sources.
- **List of Initial Study Preparers**, which identifies those responsible for preparation of this Initial Study and other parties contacted during the preparation of the Initial Study.
- **Responses to Comments Received Regarding the Mitigated Negative Declaration**, which includes copies of the comment letters received regarding the MND. No comments were received by the District prior to the close of the public review period and one comment letter was received after the close of the review period. Although CEQA does not require the District to respond to late comments, responses have nonetheless been prepared in order to provide the District's Board of Supervisors with additional information upon which to base their decision.

Where comments received on the IS/MND and the District's responses resulted in changes to the text of the IS/MND, such changes are shown in the Final IS/MND text using the following conventions:

- Text added to the Final IS/MND is shown as double underline
- Text deleted from the Final IS/MND is shown as ~~strikethrough~~

The textual changes to the Final IS/MND do not constitute "substantial revision" as defined in State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5(b); therefore, recirculation of the IS/MND is not required.

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# PUBLICNOTICE

FILED  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY

JAN 17 2013

LARRY W. WARD, CLERK  
M. Meyer  
Deputy



## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL STUDY NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SAN JACINTO MASTER DRAINAGE PLAN LINE C, STAGE 2, LINE C-4, LINE C-5, AND LINE B

### PROJECT INFORMATION

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC&WCD) proposed Project consists of the construction, operation, and maintenance of a system of underground storm drain facilities (project alignments are shown in the figure on the right). The proposed Project also requires the purchase of permanent and temporary construction easements on multiple properties. The Project is within the City of Hemet and the City of San Jacinto.

### REASON FOR PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), RCFC&WCD has conducted an Initial Study for this project which analyzes potential impacts this project may have on the environment. The result of this study shows this project will not significantly impact the environment and a Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed. This public notice is to solicit comments, questions or concerns about the environmental analysis and project impacts.

### INFORMATION AVAILABLE

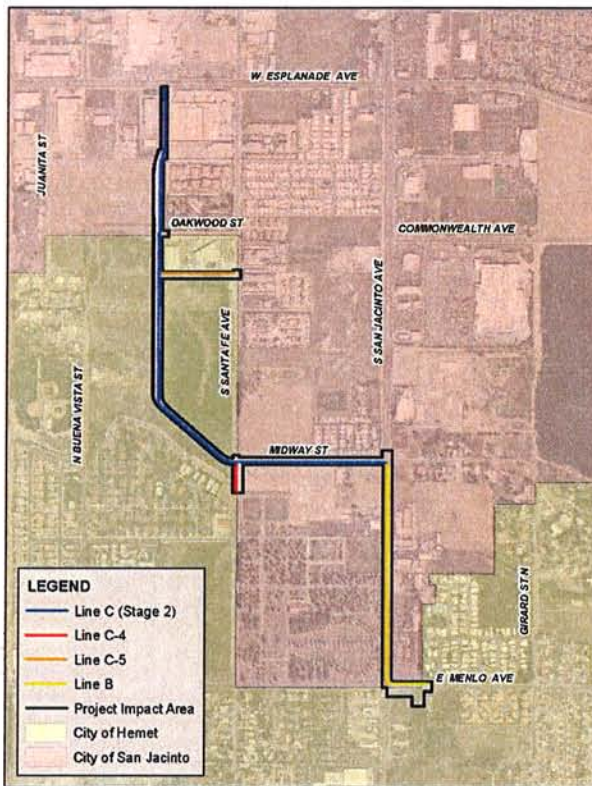
A copy of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review at:

● **San Jacinto Library**  
500 Idyllwild Drive  
San Jacinto 92583  
(951) 654-8635

● **RCFC&WCD**  
1995 Market Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
(951) 955-1200

● **Online**

Please visit the RCFC&WCD website at: [www.rcflood.org](http://www.rcflood.org)  
The CEQA document and public notices are located in the lower left corner of the website under the "Public Notices" tab.



### WHAT CAN BE DONE

Any comments or concerns about the proposed project, Initial Study, or Mitigated Negative Declaration, must be submitted in writing no later than **February 19, 2013**. Written responses should make reference to "San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Line C-5, and Line B".

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please submit any written comments to:

- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
1995 Market Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
Attn: Kris Flanigan

Questions should be directed to:

- Kris Flanigan: 951.955.858  
[kflaniga@rcflood.org](mailto:kflaniga@rcflood.org)
- Joan Valle: 951.955.8856  
[jvalle@rcflood.org](mailto:jvalle@rcflood.org)

RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK  
Declaration/Ntc Determination  
Filed per P.R.C. 21152  
POSTED  
JAN 17 2013  
Removed: 2.27.13  
County of Riverside, State of California  
Dept.

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

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**Project:**  
San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-5, Line C-4, and Line B

**State Clearinghouse Number:**  
2013011029

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**Lead Agency and Project Sponsor:**  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

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**Project Contact:**  
Kris Flanigan

**Phone:**  
951.955.8581

**Email:**  
kflaniga@rcflood.org

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**Project Description:**

The Project is located within portions of the cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, and is generally bounded by West Esplanade Avenue to the north, South San Jacinto Avenue to the east, East Menlo Avenue to the south and North Buena Vista Street to the west. The proposed Project will alleviate flooding within the Project area. The Project as proposed will construct, operate and maintain certain facilities pursuant to the District's adopted San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan. Specifically, the Project includes the construction of Line C, Line C-5, Line C-4, Line B, relocation of existing utilities and repaving disturbed areas. The Project will result in four contiguous stormwater runoff conveyance pipelines totaling approximately 1.6 miles in length. The proposed Project also requires the purchase of permanent and temporary construction easements on multiple properties. Collectively, these individual actions comprise "the Project".

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**Project Location:**

The project is located within portions of the cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, and is generally bounded by West Esplanade Avenue to the north, South San Jacinto Avenue to the east, East Menlo Avenue to the south, and North Buena Vista Street to the west.

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**Lead Agency Finding:**

The General Manager-Chief Engineer of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has made a finding that the proposed San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Line C-5, and Line B Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Supporting documents incorporated by reference include the CEQA Initial Study (and related technical appendices), and the Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program. This finding will become final upon adoption of this Mitigated Negative Declaration by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Signature:   
WARREN D. WILLIAMS  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

Dated: 3/13/13

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**Board of Supervisors Action:**

The Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District assembled in regular session on March 26, 2013 has determined that the San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Line C-5, and Line B Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
KECIA HARPER-IHEM  
Clerk of the Board

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

Copies to: 1) County Clerk  
2) State Clearinghouse

**Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Feature, Environmental Commitment, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
<b>IV. Biological Resources</b>	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	<b>MM BIO 1:</b> If vegetation is to be removed during the nesting season (March 15 to September 15), a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey of the Project alignments. As feasible, the surveys shall include trees and shrubs within 200 feet on either side of the Project alignments. If nesting birds are detected, then the Project shall establish appropriate buffers (as determined by the biologist) around the active nest depending on the species detected and where the nest is located. Buffers may be as large as 500 feet for nesting raptors and 200 feet for non-raptors. Construction activities shall not occur within the established buffer areas until nests are no longer active, and the offspring are independent from the nest, as verified by a qualified biologist.	Pre-construction nesting bird survey	District (Design and Construction Division)	None	Prior to any vegetation removal between March 15 and September 15
		<b>MM BIO 2:</b> Within 30 days prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction presence/absence survey for burrowing owls within suitable habitat located within the Project alignments. If burrowing owls are detected within the Project alignments, the owls shall be passively excluded from the site by installing one-way doors and collapsing the burrows. However, if the pre-construction survey is conducted during	Pre-construction burrowing owl survey	District (Design and Construction Division)	None	Within 30 days prior to construction

**Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Feature, Environmental Commitment, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		the owl breeding season (March 15 through September 15), and breeding owls are detected within the Project alignments, the nest burrows (and potentially other adjacent burrows) shall be avoided until the nests are no longer active, as verified by a qualified biologist.				
Biological Resources (continued)	Have a substantial adverse effect on biological resources involved within a jurisdictional water feature as defined by federal, state or local regulations through direct removal, filing, hydrological interruption, or other means	<p><b>EC BIO 1:</b> The District will work with applicable regulatory agencies to acquire permits, as necessary. The District will implement any permits as prescribed.</p> <p><b>MM BIO 3:</b> To mitigate for impacts to jurisdictional waters, as part of the regulatory permitting process, the District shall provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters. The District shall fund the compensatory mitigation and shall maintain and monitor the compensatory mitigation site for a minimum of three years. The District shall also prepare annual reports with the status and results of the mitigation work for a minimum of three years. The District may hire a qualified consultant to assist in implementing this mitigation work. The District may prepare a Habitat Mitigation Monitoring Plan, if required by the Regulatory Agencies.</p>	Obtain regulatory permits (if necessary)	District (Regulatory Division)	Corps, Santa Ana Regional Board, and CDFG (if permits are required)	Prior to construction

**Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Feature, Environmental Commitment, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Biological Resources (continued)	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	<b>MM BIO 1</b> , above	Pre-construction nesting bird survey	District (Design and Construction Division)	None	Prior to any vegetation removal between March 1 and August 31
	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan	<b>MM BIO 2</b> , above	Pre-construction burrowing owl survey	District (Design and Construction Division)	None	Within 30 days prior to construction

**Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Feature, Environmental Commitment, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
<b>V. Cultural Resources</b>	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5	<b>MM CR 1:</b> If any cultural and/or archaeological resources are discovered during Project construction, all work in the area of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist shall be retained by the District to determine the significance of these resources. If the find is determined to be an historical or unique archaeological resource, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State <i>CEQA Guidelines</i> , avoidance or other appropriate measures shall be implemented, and applicable tribe(s) shall be notified if warranted.	Excavation activities will cease if potential archaeological resources are encountered. A qualified archaeologist will be retained to evaluate the resources.	District (Design and Construction Division)	State Historic Preservation Officer Native American Heritage Commission	During excavation activities
	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature	<b>MM CR 2:</b> If any paleontological resources are exposed during Project-related excavation, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery will be terminated immediately and a Riverside County qualified paleontological resources specialist will be retained to evaluate the resources. If the find is determined to be significant, avoidance or other appropriate measures as identified by the paleontological resources specialist shall be implemented. Appropriate measures shall include recovery, evaluation and curation of the finds in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the County of Riverside and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.	Excavation activities will cease if potential paleontological resources are encountered. A Riverside County qualified paleontological resources specialist will be retained to evaluate the resources.	District (Design and Construction Division)	County of Riverside	During excavation activities

**Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Feature, Environmental Commitment, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Cultural Resources (continued)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries	<b>MM CR 3:</b> Per State Health and Safety Code 7050.5, if human remains are encountered during construction, no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The Riverside County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted to determine the most likely descendent for this area. Once the most likely descendent is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains shall proceed pursuant to Public Resources 5097.98. The NAHC may become involved with decisions concerning the disposition of the remains.	Halt Construction and notify the County Coroner's Office for proper identification of any human remains found onsite. Contact the Native American Heritage Commission to determine the most likely descendent.	District (Design and Construction Division)	Riverside County Coroner Native American Heritage Commission	During excavation activities

**Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Feature, Environmental Commitment, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
<p><b>VI. Geology and Soils</b></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Strong seismic ground shaking</p> <p>Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or soil erosion or the loss of topsoil</p> <p>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?</p>	<p><b>MM GEO 1:</b> Design and construction of the Project facilities shall be in conformance with the recommendations contained in the <i>Geotechnical Investigation San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Stage 1, Line C-5 and Line B Storm Drain (Project No. 4-0-00124), San Jacinto, California</i> prepared by Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc. and dated August 31, 2012 or a similar subsequent geotechnical engineering investigation that updates the recommendations.</p>	<p>Design and construct the Project facilities in conformance with the recommendations in the Geotechnical Investigation</p>	<p>District (Design and Construction Division)</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>During design and construction</p>

**Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table**

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Feature, Environmental Commitment, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
<b>VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>	Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites complied pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment	<b>MM HAZ 1:</b> If previously unknown hazardous wastes/materials are encountered in the field during construction, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease until a qualified hazardous materials management specialist can assess the potentially hazardous substances and, if necessary, develop appropriate management measures in coordination with the appropriate regulatory agencies.	If potentially hazardous materials are uncovered, cease ground disturbance near the materials until a qualified hazardous materials specialist assesses the materials and provides recommendation for their treatment and disposal.	District (Design and Construction Division)	To be determined by hazardous materials specialist	During excavation activities
<b>XI. Noise</b>	Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies	<b>MM NOI 1:</b> Each residence, business, and institutional or public use adjacent to the Project alignment shall be notified in writing at least 3 days prior to the operation of heavy construction equipment. The notice shall include the expected work schedule and the District's contact information. The District shall alert the construction contractor of any noise complaints and incorporate any feasible and practical techniques which minimize the noise impacts on adjacent residences.	Ensure that the described notices are provided to each residence, business, and institutional or public use adjacent to the Project facilities and inform the construction contractor of any complaints and feasible corrective measures	District (Design and Construction Division)	None	Prior to operation of heavy construction equipment

# RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study

1. **Project title:**  
San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Lines C (Stage 2), C-4, C-5, and B
2. **Lead agency name and address:**  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
1995 Market Street  
Riverside, California 92501
3. **Contact person email address and phone number:**  
Kris Flanigan, Senior Civil Engineer  
kflaniga@rcflood.org  
(951) 955-1200
4. **Project location:** The project is located within portions of San Jacinto and Hemet (**Figure 1 – Vicinity Map; Figure 2 – Proposed Project**) and is generally bounded by West Esplanade Avenue to the north, South San Jacinto Avenue to the east, East Menlo Avenue to the south, and North Buena Vista Street to the west. The proposed project is located within Township 5 South, Range 1 West, Sections 2, 3, and 11, San Bernardino Base and Meridian (**Figure 3 – USGS Topographic Map**).
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**  
Same as Lead Agency
6. **General plan designation:** The proposed project is located within the incorporated cities of San Jacinto, and Hemet (**Figure 2**). San Jacinto General Plan (SJGP) land use designations for the Project are Community Commercial, Public Institutional, Very High Density Residential, High Density Residential, and Industrial land use designations. Hemet General Plan (HGP) land use designations for the Project are High Density Residential and Industrial. Refer to **Figure 4 – General Plan Land Use Designations**.
7. **Description of project:** The Project is located within portions of the cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, and is generally bounded by West Esplanade Avenue to the north, South San Jacinto Avenue to the east, East Menlo Avenue to the south and North Buena Vista Street to the west. The proposed Project will alleviate flooding within the project area. The Project as proposed will construct, operate and maintain certain facilities pursuant to the District's adopted San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan. Specifically, the Project includes the construction of Line C, Line C-5, Line C-4, Line B, relocation of existing utilities and repaving disturbed areas. The Project will result in four contiguous stormwater runoff conveyance pipelines totaling approximately 1.6 miles in length. The proposed Project also requires the purchase of permanent and temporary construction easements on multiple properties. Collectively, these individual actions comprise "the Project". Each of these Project components is described further below.

### **Construction**

Construction of the proposed drainage facilities will include the following:

- Construction of Line C
- Construction of Line C-5
- Construction of Line C-4
- Construction of Line B
- Utility Relocation
- Paving of Roadways

#### **Line C**

The Line C alignment will connect to an existing District-maintained, double RCB on Esplanade Avenue and continue south and south easterly to the intersection of San Jacinto Avenue and Midway Street. The Line C component will entail the construction of approximately 2,195 linear feet (LF) of 14 foot (FT) wide by 7 FT high RCB, 1,993 LF of 14 FT wide by 6 FT high RCB, and 624 LF of 96-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) in addition to manholes, transition structures, juncture structures, catch basins, appurtenances and appurtenant structures. Where it is not possible to protect existing fencing in place, sections of fence will be removed and replaced with like fencing.

#### **Line C-5**

Line C-5 will connect to Line C at approximately 1,700 feet south of Esplanade Avenue, continue east and terminate at Santa Fe Street. The Line C-5 component will entail the construction of approximately 648 LF of 48-inch diameter RCP in addition to manholes, juncture structures, catch basins, and appurtenant structures.

#### **Line C-4**

Line C-4 will connect to Line C at the intersection of Santa Fe Street and Midway Street and continue south for 260 feet along Santa Fe Street before termination. The Line C-4 component will entail the construction of approximately 227 LF of 54-inch diameter RCP, juncture structures, catch basins, and appurtenant structures.

#### **Line B**

Line B will continue south along San Jacinto Avenue from Line C at the intersection of San Jacinto Avenue and Midway Street and end just east of the intersection of Menlo Avenue and San Jacinto Avenue. The Line B component will entail the construction of approximately 1,037 LF of 96-inch diameter RCP, 347 LF of 86-inch diameter RCP, and 812 LF of 78-inch diameter RCP in addition to manholes, transition structures, juncture structures, catch basins, and appurtenant structures.

#### **Utility Relocation/Protection:**

For this Project, the construction contractor is required to protect all existing in-place utilities where practicable; however, the following are specific relocations/protections and/or removal of utility lines:

#### **Line C:**

- Remove and replace existing 36-inch storm drain with direct connection from existing catch basin to main line (south of Esplanade Avenue)
- Protect in place Edison utility. (south of Esplanade Avenue)
- Cut and plug interfering portion of existing abandoned 36-inch water line (west of Santa Fe Street and northeast of Sunjoy Drive)
- Remove and plug interfering portion of existing abandoned 20-inch water line (within Santa Fe Street at the intersection of Midway Street)
- Protect in-place existing power pole (along Midway Street)

Line C / Line B:

- Protect in-place existing power pole (Southeast corner of Midway Street and San Jacinto Avenue)

Line C-4:

- No specific utility relocation/protections identified; however, the plans and construction specifications will state that the construction contractor is required to protect in-place all existing utilities

Line C-5:

- Protect in-place fire hydrant (along Santa Fe Street and south of Oakwood Street)
- Protect in-place existing power pole (along Santa Fe Street and south of Oakwood Street)
- Remove and plug interfering portions of existing abandoned 20-inch water line (within Santa Fe Street and south of Oakwood Street)

Line B:

- Protect in-place existing fire hydrant (along Menlo Avenue and east of San Jacinto Avenue)
- Existing 2-inch gas line to be relocated by others and abandoned in place (within Menlo Avenue and east of San Jacinto Avenue)
- Protect in-place existing 8-inch sewer (within Menlo Avenue and east of San Jacinto Avenue)

**Paving of Roadways:**

Existing roadways affected by this Project include the following: Santa Fe Street, Midway Street, San Jacinto Avenue, and Menlo Avenue. Upon completion of Project facilities within these existing roadways, the disturbed areas of the roadway will be re-paved.

**Right-of-Way Acquisitions:**

The project will require acquisition of temporary or permanent easements on the following properties:

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.	OWNER
439-070-059	NG, Jin K & Sami K
439-070-062	Windmill Square - Commercial, LLC
439-070-063	A-Lotta Storage - Windmill Square, LLC
439-070-064	Dondel, Dale
439-070-022	San Jacinto Santa Fe Lmted. Partnership
439-070-021	Sarkies, Nadim and Nahed
439-080-056	Oakwood S&M Partners, LLC
439-080-013	Tolen, Paul & Kristina
439-080-014	Santa Fe Commons, LLC
439-090-022	Santa Fe Commons, LLC
439-140-001	San Jacinto Valley Cemetery District
439-140-011	San Jacinto Valley Cemetery District
439-140-003	San Jacinto Valley Cemetery District
439-140-005	San Jacinto Valley Cemetery District
445-030-008	Walter's Auto Sales & Service INC
445-030-009	Walter's Auto Sales & Service INC

**Earlier Analyses Used:** Not applicable

**Impacts Adequately Addressed in Earlier Analyses:** Not applicable

**Mitigation Measures from Earlier Analysis:** Not applicable

8. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The surrounding land uses includes existing residential, commercial, public facilities, business park/light industrial land uses and is characterized with open space. Topography of the area is generally flat. Elevations in the Project area range from approximately 1,500 feet to 1,600 feet above sea level.

Adjacent Land Use:

North: Industrial

East: Residential and Community Commercial

South: Residential and Community Commercial

West: Industrial, Residential, Public Institutional, Mixed Use, Business Park, and Park/Recreation.

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

**Federal Agencies** (not "public agencies" as defined by CEQA or required to take a CEQA action)

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
A Clean Water Act Section 404 permit will be required if the construction or maintenance of the proposed facilities involves the discharge of dredged or fill materials within waters of the United States or adjacent wetlands.<sup>1</sup>

**State Agencies**

- Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (RWQCB)  
If a 404 permit is required, then a Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be required. A Waste Discharge Permit will be required if ground dewatering is necessary during tunneling activities or if waste is discharged into waters of the state.
- California Department of Fish and Game<sup>2</sup>  
A Fish and Game Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required if a jurisdictional streambed or stream banks will be altered.
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)  
Encroachment permits will be required if any work is required within the right-of-way of State Route 79

**City/County Agencies**

City of San Jacinto — for activities within city maintained roads

City of Hemet — for activities within city maintained roads

**Financing Approval or Participation Agreements**

Not applicable

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<sup>1</sup> The Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the Project and made a preliminary determination that a Section 404 permit will not be required, Refer to the response to checklist question IVC).

<sup>2</sup> Effective January 1, 2013, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) changed its name to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), although its services and purpose has not changed. This document includes several references to CDFG and the Fish and Game Code, all of which coincide with the services, purpose and mission of the CDFW. Because applicable statutes and the CEQA Checklist have not yet been updated, this document and related technical reports refers to the CDFW as the CDFG.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors, as checked below, would potentially be affected by this project.

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

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts:

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (*e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone*). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (*e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis*).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced any effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in 5., below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(D)). The use of an earlier analysis as a reference should include a brief discussion that identifies the following:
  - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

- b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (*e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances*). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. The explanation of each issue should identify:
- a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

*Remainder of page intentionally blank*

**I. AESTHETICS.** Would the project:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                      |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) | Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**II. AGRICULTURAL & FOREST 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:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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?                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve?                                                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?                                                                                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) | Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) | Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**III. AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.** Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) Result in 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 ( <i>including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors</i> )? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?                                                                                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                          |                                     |                                     |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on biological resources involved within a jurisdictional water feature as defined by federal, state or local regulations (e.g., Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) through direct removal, filing, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.** Would the project:

a)	Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:				
i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a Known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv)	Landslides or mudflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*    
 *Less than Significant Impact*    
*No Impact*

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |                                     |                          |                                     |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c) | Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) | Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994 or most current edition), creating substantial risks to life or property?                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) | Have soils incapable of adequately supporting any structures, fill or other improvements associated with the project?                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** Would the project:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                          |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) | Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) | Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) | Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) | For a project located within an airport land use plan, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) | Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?                                                                                                                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| h) | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where Wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.** Would the project:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Violate or conflict with any adopted water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) | Result in substantial discharges of typical stormwater pollutants ( <i>e.g., sediment from construction activities, hydrocarbons, and metals from motor vehicles, nutrients and pesticides from landscape maintenance activities, metals of other pollutants from industrial operation,</i> ) or substantial changes to surface water quality including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, or turbidity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) | Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level ( <i>e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted</i> )?                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a watercourse or wetland, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) | Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?                                                                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f) | Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g) | Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on Federal Flood Hazard boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) | Place structures or fill within a 100-year flood hazard area, which would impede or redirect flood flows?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| i) | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| j) | Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

---

**IX. LAND USE PLANNING.** Would the project:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Physically divide an established community?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

---

**X. 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?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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**XI. NOISE.** Would the project result in:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                          |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) | Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?                                                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) | A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?                                                                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) | A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?                                                                                                                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) | For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?                                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
-

**XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.** Would the project:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly ( <i>for example, by proposing new homes and businesses</i> ) or indirectly ( <i>for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure</i> ) resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts or conflicts with the adopted general plan, specific plan, or other applicable land use or regional plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) | Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES**

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 following public services: |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|    | Fire protection?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Police protection?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Schools?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Parks?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Other public facilities?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**XIV. RECREATION**

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**XV. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC.** Would the project:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Conflict with an adopted plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) | Conflict with an adopted congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the appropriate congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?                                                                                                                                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) | Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e) | Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) | Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, pedestrian facilities, or other alternate transportation or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.** Would the project:

- |    |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) | Impact the following facilities requiring or resulting in the construction of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|    | Electricity                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Natural Gas                                                                                                                                                                                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Communication System                                                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Street lighting                                                                                                                                                                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|    | Public facilities, including roads and bridges                                                                                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
c)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.**

a)	Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ( <i>"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.</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


*Remainder of page intentionally blank*

**DETERMINATION:** (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

WARREN D. WILLIAMS, General Manager-Chief Engineer  
Printed Name and Title

## ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

### I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:

#### la) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

**No Impact.** A scenic vista is a distant and picturesque view of a natural landscape. The proposed storm drains, which will be underground, will not permanently alter views of, or from, the Project area. The proposed Project does not entail any vertical facilities or structures. Therefore, Project implementation will not obstruct any scenic views and there will be no impacts to scenic vistas.

Source: Project Description

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

**No Impact.** There are no designated scenic highways or scenic highway corridors located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project. The proposed storm drains, which are underground facilities, will be constructed within road ROWs and disturbed vacant land, does not contain any rock outcroppings or historic buildings. Additionally, once construction of the underground facilities is complete the surface will be returned to its original condition. For these reasons implementation of the proposed Project will not damage scenic resources and there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: Project Description; Caltrans

#### lc) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

**Less than Significant Impact.** Construction of the Project will temporarily alter views of the site, but not in a manner as to constitute a significant impact. Moreover, as the proposed storm drains are underground facilities, once construction is complete the surface will be returned to its original condition. Therefore, the Project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the Project area and there will be impacts in this regard.

Source: Project Description

#### ld) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

**No Impact.** The proposed Project will not entail the installation of lighting or the construction of above ground vertical structures and as such will not result in new or additional light or glare. For these reasons there will be no impacts from light and glare.

Source: Project Description

**II. AGRICULTURAL & FOREST 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:

**IIa) 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?**

**No Impact.** The proposed Project is not located within or adjacent to Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (**Figure 5 – Farmland**); thus, there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: FMMP; Project Description

**IIb) Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within an Agricultural Preserve?**

**No Impact.** The California Land Conservation Act (CLCA) of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, allows owners of agricultural land to have their properties assessed for tax purposes on the basis of agricultural production rather than current market value. According to the Hemet General Plan (HGP) and San Jacinto General Plan (SJGP), no lands within the Project area are under Williamson Act contract (HGP, Figure 7.1; SJGP, Figure RM-5). Additionally, there are no lands zoned for agricultural uses within the Project area (Hemet Zoning, SJ Zoning). Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or land subject to a Williamson Act or within an Agricultural Preserve and there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: Project Description; HGP; SJGP, Hemet Zoning, SJ Zoning

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** As discussed in Responses IIa) and IIb), above, construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed MDP Facilities will not result in the direct conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses. A portion of the Project alignment traverses designated Farmland of Local Importance; however, existing conditions will be restored upon completion of the underground facilities installation. It should also be noted that this area is not currently utilized for agricultural uses, and both San Jacinto and Hemet have designated this same area for industrial land uses (see **Figure 4**). Implementation of the proposed Project will provide protection from existing and projected storm flows based

on the land uses identified by and planned for in the Hemet and San Jacinto General Plan; thus, the Project will not result in the indirect conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses. For these reasons, impacts regarding the conversion of Farmland will be less than significant.

Source: FMMP; Project Description

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

**No Impact.** Forest land, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) section 12220(g) is land that can support 10 percent of native tree cover of any species under natural conditions and that allows for the management of one or more forest resources. Timberland, as defined in PRC section 4526, means land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated as experimental forest land, which is capable of growing a crop of trees for any commercial species, including Christmas trees.

According to the HGP and SJGP, the Project area consists of developed/disturbed lands, ornamental, and non-native grassland (HGP, Figure 7.2; SJGP, Figure RM-3). Additionally, as discussed in Response IIa), above, the ground surface will be restored to its original condition after construction of the storm drains and will not result in a permanent change in land use. Therefore, implementation of the Project will not conflict with or cause the rezoning of land zoned for forest land and/or timberland and there will be no impact in this regard.

Source: Project Description; HGP, Figure 7.2; SJGP, Figure RM-3

**II e) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

**No Impact.** Please refer to Response II)d, above.

Source: Project Description

**III. AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:**

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

**No Impact.** The proposed Project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin), which is in the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Basin was established by SCAQMD to set forth a

comprehensive program that will lead the Basin into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. To achieve compliance with these standards, the AQMP establishes control measures and related emission reduction estimates that are based upon emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, conformance with the AQMP for any given project is determined by demonstrating that such project is in compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections.

Since the proposed Project consists of infrastructure that in and of itself will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns in the Project area, implementation of the proposed Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP and there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: AQMP

**IIIb) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Air quality impacts can be described in a short-term and long-term perspective. Short-term impacts will occur during construction and consist of fugitive dust and other particulate matter, as well as exhaust emissions generated by construction-related vehicles. Long-term air quality impacts will occur once a facility is in operation. The only Project-generated operational emissions will result from the occasional maintenance vehicle and are considered negligible; therefore only short-term construction impacts were evaluated.

Short-term emissions from Project construction were evaluated using the CalEEMod version 2011.1.1 program (AAW, Appendix A). The default parameters within CalEEMod were used and these default values reflect a worst-case scenario, which means that Project emissions are expected to be equal to or less than the estimated emissions. Maximum daily emissions from Project construction are summarized below and compared to the SCAQMD daily thresholds:

**Table 1 – Estimated Daily Construction Emissions**

Activity/Year	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	SO <sub>2</sub>	PM-10	PM-2.5
<b>SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>55</b>
Construction Maximum	16.30	97.71	68.36	0.11	9.20	6.85
<b>Exceeds Threshold?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

Source: Table 2, AAW

Evaluation of the above table indicates that the maximum daily criteria pollutant emissions from Project construction are below the SCAQMD daily regional thresholds. Additionally, the short-term emissions do not exceed SCAQMD's localized significance thresholds (LST), as contained in Appendix A. Therefore, Project-related impacts to air quality will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description; AAW

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The portion of the Basin in which the Project is located is designated as a non-attainment area for NO<sub>2</sub> under state standards and for ozone, PM-10 and PM-2.5 under both state and federal standards. Since the proposed Project does not conflict with any land use designations, it is in conformance with the AQMP, and the Project's emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD established thresholds of significance; thus, the net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the region is non-attainment is not cumulatively considerable. For these reasons, impacts will be less than significant.

Source: AQMP; Project Description, AAW

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** SCAQMD defines sensitive receptors as a land use or facility such as residences, schools, athletic facilities, hospitals, or convalescent facilities. There are residential units adjacent or in close proximity to the proposed storm drains at four locations along the Project alignment:

- west of the Project alignment approximately 700 feet south of Esplanade Avenue;
- southwest of the Project alignment as it traverses northwest from the intersection of Santa Fe Street /Midway Street;
- north of the Project alignment at the northwest corner of the intersection of San Jacinto Avenue/Midway Street; and
- north of the alignment approximately 280 feet east of the intersection of San Jacinto Street/Menlo Avenue.

Therefore, sensitive receptors will be exposed temporarily to short-term construction emissions. However, as described in Response IIIb, short-term emissions during construction of the Project will not exceed SCAQMD daily regional thresholds or localized thresholds and have been found to be less than significant. In addition, the operational emissions were also found to be less than significant, as indicated in Response IIIb), above;

hence construction and operation of the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts will be less than significant.

Source: AAW, Google Earth

**IIIe) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?**

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the Project alignment. However, these odors will be of short-term duration and will not result in a long-term odorous impact to the surrounding land uses or sensitive receptors in the Project area. After completion of the proposed storm drains, only infrequent maintenance of these facilities will be required. Recognizing the short-term duration and quantity of emissions in the Project area, implementation of the Project will result in less than significant impacts with regards to objectionable odors.

Source: Project Description

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

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The evaluation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from construction of the Project were modeled using CalEEMod version 2011.1.1 program (Appendix A - AAW 2012). An estimated maximum of 1,013.67 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide per year (MTCO<sub>2</sub>/year) will occur from Project construction. The proposed storm drains do not fit into the categories provided (industrial or residential/commercial) in the draft thresholds from CARB and SCAQMD provided in Appendix A to this Initial Study; however, the emissions from the construction of the storm drains are well below these draft thresholds. As previously discussed, in Response III b), above, the only operational emissions associated with the Project are from occasional maintenance vehicles. The operational CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from these maintenance vehicles will be negligible. Therefore, construction and operation of the Project will not generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.

Source: AAW

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

***No Impact.*** There are no applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions (i.e., Climate Action Plan) for an infrastructure project such as this Project. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Source: Project Description

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:**

- IVa) 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?**

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** General biological surveys, vegetation mapping, habitat assessments, focused biological surveys, and an evaluation of the limits of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jurisdiction, Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) jurisdiction, and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) jurisdiction were conducted for the Project alignment. The results of these surveys and delineations are documented in the *Biological Technical Report for the San Jacinto MDP Line C Stage 2, B, and C-5 Project*, which is included as Appendix B.1 of this document (GLA(a) pp. 2-3). Additionally, a jurisdictional delineation was conducted to determine potential jurisdictional waters of the Corps and CDFG, which is contained in *Jurisdictional Delineation Report for the San Jacinto MDP Line C Stage 2, B and C-5 Project, City of San Jacinto, Riverside County, California* and included as Appendix B.2.

Nearly all of the Project alignment and surrounding area consists of disturbed or developed land, with approximately 5.66 acres being paved roads, landscaping, and other developed/disturbed land, and approximately 8.74 acres consisting of ruderal<sup>3</sup> vegetation; many of the ruderal areas are regularly disced or mowed (GLA(a) p. 15). Other vegetation types mapped within the Project alignment include ornamental trees (0.04 acre), one black willow tree (0.01 acre), and emergent wetland/riparian vegetation (0.002 acre) associated with a roadside ditch along Midway Street (see **Figure 6 – Vegetation Map** and **Table 2 – Summary of Vegetation Mapping**). Vegetation within the emergent wetland area includes southern cattail (*Typha domingensis*), rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), tall flatsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). (GLA(a), p. 15)

**Table 2 - Summary of Vegetation Mapping**

<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Acreage</b>
Disturbed/Developed	5.66
Ruderal	8.74
Ornamental	0.04
Black Willow	0.01
Emergent Wetland	0.002
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.452</b>

Source: Table 4-1, GLA(a)

<sup>3</sup> Ruderal refers to weedy vegetation that grows on compacted, plowed, or otherwise disturbed ground.

The Project area, along with all of western Riverside County, is located within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The MSHCP identifies Criteria Cells that target areas of habitat within the MSHCP for conservation, identifies survey areas for special status plants and animals including Narrow Endemic Plant Species (NEPSSA) and Criteria Area Plant Species (CAPSSA), animal species including burrowing owl, and species associated with riparian/riverine areas and vernal pool habitats (GLA(a), p. 4).

Regarding impacts to special status plant species, the Project alignment is not within the MSHCP NEPSSA or CAPSSA; therefore, focused plant surveys are not required pursuant to the MSHCP (GLA(a), p. 16). However, Project construction will result in temporary impacts to disturbed/developed and ruderal areas, and the Project will result in permanent impacts to approximately 0.002 acre of emergent wetland located in the drainage ditch along Midway Street. Project construction may also require trimming of a single black willow that is associated with an off-site drainage facility. However, as detailed in the BTR, because of the degraded condition of the ditch vegetation and the minor nature of the other impacts, impacts to special status plant species will be less than significant. (GLA(a), p. 30)

The Project alignment does not contain suitable habitat to support special status invertebrates, amphibians, or reptiles (GLA(a), pp. 19-24). A number of special status bird and mammal species have the potential to occur along the Project alignment; however, none of these species were detected during the general biological survey or the focused burrowing owl survey (GLA(a), p. 19).

Project construction will result in temporary impacts to areas with the potential to be used by a number of special-status species including small mammals such as the Stephen's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) and San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), and birds such as the California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) (GLA(a), p. 30). Project construction will also result in temporary impacts to a small amount of foraging habitat for Coopers hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), Golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), Sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter stratus*), and white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) (GLA(a), pp. 19-22); however, these impacts are temporary and as such will be less than significant (GLA(a), p. 28). The Project alignment does not contain suitable nesting habitat for any of the aforementioned raptor species (GLA(a), pp. 19-24).

Project construction will require the removal of vegetation having the potential to support nesting birds. Project-related impacts to nesting birds will be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO 1**, which requires a preconstruction survey prior to any vegetation removal taking place between March 15<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> and the establishment of buffers around any active nests.

The Project area contains potentially suitable habitat for burrowing owl with suitable burrows being present. However, because no burrowing owl were detected within or adjacent to the Project alignment during the focused surveys and no diagnostic owl sign was detected near any of the burrows, the burrowing owl was determined to be absent from the site (GLA(a), p. 25). Since potentially suitable habitat is present, the Project will adhere to Objective 6 of the MSHCP, which recommends pre-construction presence/absence surveys where suitable habitat is present to be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance. Adherence to mitigation measure **MM BIO 2**, which requires a preconstruction survey for burrowing owls and identifies the actions to be taken in the event burrowing owls are detected, will reduce potential impacts to burrowing owl to less than significant.

**MM BIO 1:** If vegetation is to be removed during the nesting season (March 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>), a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey of the Project alignments. As feasible, the surveys shall include trees and shrubs within 200 feet on either side of the Project alignments. If nesting birds are detected, then the Project shall establish appropriate buffers (as determined by the biologist) around the active nest depending on the species detected and where the nest is located. Buffers may be as large as 500 feet for nesting raptors and 200 feet for non-raptors. Construction activities shall not occur within the established buffer areas until nests are no longer active, and the offspring are independent from the nest, as verified by a qualified biologist.

**MM BIO 2:** Within 30 days prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction presence/absence survey for burrowing owls within suitable habitat located within the Project alignments. If burrowing owls are detected within the Project alignments, the owls shall be either passively excluded from the site by installing one-way doors and collapsing the burrows. However, if the pre-construction survey is conducted during the owl breeding season (March 15<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>), and breeding owls are detected within the Project alignments, the nest burrows (and potentially other adjacent burrows) shall be avoided until the nests are no longer active, as verified by a qualified biologist.

Source: GLA(a)

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project alignment does not contain any natural riparian/riverine areas or vernal pools; however, as discussed previously in Response IVa), the site includes 0.014 acres of riparian vegetation, including 0.002 acre of emergent wetland/riparian vegetation associated with a roadside ditch along Midway Street (Drainage B; this feature is discussed further below), and one black willow (0.01 acre) associated with

an off-site drainage facility. The off-site black willow will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable, however Project construction may require trimming the tree. (GLA(a), p. 26)

The Project alignment contains two drainage areas, Drainage A and Drainage B. These drainage features generally collect and convey runoff from the southeast to the northwest towards the San Jacinto River and are shown on **Figure 7 – Potential Jurisdictional Waters (Drainage A)** and **Figure 8 – Potential Jurisdictional Waters (Drainage B)**. **Table 3 – Summary of Corps and CDFG Jurisdiction** summarizes the jurisdictional areas affected by the Project.

**Table 3 - Summary of Corps and CDFG Jurisdiction<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Drainage Feature</b>	<b>Non-Wetland Waters (Acres)</b>	<b>Wetlands (Acres)</b>	<b>Jurisdiction (Acres)</b>	<b>Length of Drainage (Linear Feet)</b>
A	0.02	0	0.02	115
B	0.20	0.002	0.202	1,693
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.222</b>	<b>1,808</b>

<sup>1</sup>The Corps and CDFG jurisdictional areas are identical.

Source: Table 1 and Table 2, GLA(b)

Drainage A is located at the southeast end of the Project alignment (southeast corner of Menlo Avenue and San Jacinto Street) where the Project alignment intercepts a drainage swale (Drainage A) that originates off site to the southeast. The swale extends approximately 115 linear feet through the Project alignment to Menlo Avenue, where runoff then flows along Menlo Avenue, and then in street gutters along San Jacinto Street to Midway Street. Approximately 0.02 acre of this drainage swale is located within the Project alignment, and it does not support any wetland/riparian habitat. (GLA(a), p. 26)

Drainage B is a roadside ditch along the south side of Midway Street. This ditch conveys water to the west, at which point flows are conveyed outside of the Project alignment to the north along Santa Fe Avenue. Approximately 0.20 acre of this ditch is located within the Project alignment. The eastern end of the ditch supports an approximately 0.002 acre emergent wetland vegetated with southern cattails, rabbitsfoot grass, tall flatsedge, and curly dock. (GLA(a), p. 26)

The two drainage features contain a total of 0.222 acres of jurisdictional areas equaling 1,808 linear feet. However, the drainages should be considered in context with the existing overall hydrologic conditions that will be improved by the Project. The Midway Street ditch (Drainage B) collects flows from an approximately 500-acre watershed to the southeast (which includes the Drainage A segment), and then temporarily conveys flows over a short distance to the intersection of Midway Street and Santa Fe Street, where the water then extends north along Santa Fe Street and through undeveloped parcels before being intercepted and collected into the existing Line C at Esplanade Avenue. Flows are conveyed in the existing Line C to the District’s Buena Vista Retention Basin, and then exit the basin

into the District's San Jacinto Line E Channel. Line E extends for approximately two miles in a northwesterly direction to the San Jacinto Reservoir, which is owned and operated by Eastern Municipal Water District for groundwater recharge. The reservoir retains flows prior to discharging over a spillway to the west. Flows that manage to release from the reservoir flow in a northwesterly direction over large undeveloped parcels and farmland for about three miles before reaching the San Jacinto River. (GLA(a), p. 31) Thus, normal flow is unlikely to reach the San Jacinto River., Only during very large storm events are flows likely to reach the San Jacinto River.

The proposed Project will not alter the ultimate pathway of water to the San Jacinto River. Although flows will continue to reach the existing Line C at Esplanade Avenue, they will be collected in the newly proposed (extended) Line C, as well as three additional lines (B, C-5, and C-4), instead of flowing uncontrolled through existing streets and undeveloped parcels. Furthermore, the Project will alleviate flooding issues experienced by the residents and community within the area generally bounded by Esplanade Avenue to the north, San Jacinto Avenue to the east, Menlo Avenue to the south, and Buena Vista Avenue to the west by more efficiently collecting sheet flows in the existing RCB system at Esplanade Avenue. (GLA(a), p. 31) Thus, with implementation of the Project, high flow events are likely to still reach the San Jacinto River whereas normal flow events will not, which is similar to the existing condition.

The proposed Project will not result in a loss of biological functions and values as it pertains to riparian/riverine species. Additionally, with the exception of a very small amount of emergent wetland vegetation (0.002 acre) within the Midway Street ditch (Drainage B), the Project will not impact wetlands or remove riparian habitat. Furthermore, these artificially-created features provide very little, if any, aquatic resource function. As such, pursuant to CEQA, the Project will not "have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Therefore, no mitigation is proposed for the impacts pursuant to CEQA, and the Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Preservation (DBESP) is not applicable to this Project.

Source: Project Description, GLA(a); MSHCP

- IVc) Have a substantial adverse effect on biological resources involved within a jurisdictional water feature as defined by federal, state or local regulations (e.g., Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Section 1602 of California Fish and Game Code, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) through direct removal, filing, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** A preliminary determination of Corps and CDFG jurisdiction for the Project was completed. The jurisdictional delineation report is included in Appendix B.2. The report found the jurisdictional limits of the Corps and CDFG features to be identical (GLA(b), pp. 14-15).

Two jurisdictional drainage features are impacted by the Project alignment: Drainage A (**Figure 7**) and Drainage B (**Figure 8**). As discussed previously in Response IVb), the Project will impact approximately 0.02 acre of Drainage A and 0.19 acre of Drainage B.

Drainage A is a swale where the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) ranges from six to eight feet wide, with physical flow indicators consisting of bent vegetation, debris racks, sediment deposits, and defined channels with shelving. There are no wetlands associated with Drainage A. (GLA(b), p. 13)

Drainage B is a roadside ditch where the OHWM ranges between one and ten feet wide, with physical flow indicators consisting of the destruction of terrestrial vegetation, change in soil characteristics, and distinct shelving in places. The western portion of Drainage B is contained within deep, incised banks, but as the ditch extends west along Midway Street, its banks broaden and distinct signs of flow become less discernible. A small area of emergent wetland vegetation (0.002 acre) was identified at the eastern end of the ditch, near the intersection of Midway Street and San Jacinto Street. This wetland vegetation and the artificially-created Drainage B have minimal, if any, aquatic resource function. (GLA(b), pp. 14 and 32)

Since the impacted waters and emergent wetland vegetation have negligible functional value the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on jurisdictional water features through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Therefore, impacts are less than significant and no mitigation measures are proposed. (GLA(b), p. 32)

The USACE reviewed the proposed Project and conducted a site visit on February 14, 2013 to make a preliminary determination as to whether the Project included features that would be considered waters of the US and subject to USACE jurisdiction. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that project implementation would not impact waters subject to USACE jurisdiction; thus, a Section 404 permit is not anticipated to be required at this time. Nonetheless, the District will consult with the regulatory agencies and, if necessary, provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters as required per mitigation measure MM BIO 3 and obtain applicable regulatory permits.

**MM BIO 3:** To mitigate for impacts to jurisdictional waters, as part of the regulatory permitting process, the District shall provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters. The District shall fund the compensatory mitigation and shall maintain and monitor the compensatory mitigation site for a minimum of three years. The District shall also prepare annual reports with the status and results of the mitigation work for a minimum of three years. The District may hire a qualified consultant to assist in implementing this mitigation work. The District may prepare a Habitat Mitigation Monitoring Plan, if required by the Regulatory Agencies.

Source: Project Description, GLA(a), GLA(b)

**IVd) 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?**

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** According to the MSHCP, the Project alignment is not located within any established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors. There are no wildlife nurseries within or adjacent to the Project alignment. Additionally, implementation of the Project will not preclude such future uses since the proposed facilities are below ground and the ground surface will be restored once construction is complete. However, the Project alignment contains vegetation with the potential to support nesting birds, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code prohibits impacts to nesting birds. Thus, if Project-related construction takes place during the nesting season, there is the potential to interfere with protected birds; however, with implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO 1** (see Response IVa), above), which requires nesting bird surveys prior to construction during the nesting season and avoidance of active nests, potential impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description, GLA(a), MSHCP

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

**No Impact.** The Resource Management Element of the SJGP contains policies relating to the conservation of mature trees, important plant communities and wildlife habitats, wetlands, vernal pools, oak woodlands and other significant tree stands, and rare and endangered species. The SJGP also includes a policy to implement the MSHCP to meet the conservation goals while allowing for the economic development of the community. (SJGP, p. RM-6).

The SJGP policies are as follows (SJGP, pp. RM-6 – RM-7):

**Policy 1.1:** Conserve important natural resources such as mature trees, rock outcroppings, hills, ridges, and other prominent land forms, as open space.

**Policy 1.2:** Work closely with the County of Riverside to implement the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan that meets the goal of preservation, but allows for economic development of the community.

**Policy 1.3:** Conserve and protect important plant communities and wildlife habitats, such as riparian areas, wetlands, vernal pools, oak woodlands and other significant tree stands, and rare and endangered species.

**Policy 1.7:** Encourage the planting of native trees and drought tolerant vegetation.

**Policy 2.7:** Conserve and protect watershed areas, natural drainage channels and creeks by retaining these resources in their natural condition whenever feasible.

**Policy 2.8:** Conserve and protect wetlands.

The HGP Open Space and Conservation Element contains policies relating to the preservation of vernal pools, wetland habitats, replacement of mature trees, and establishment of a wildlife movement corridor. The HGP also includes a policy to implement the MSCHP and the SKR HCP. (HGP, pp. 7-35–7-37)

The applicable HGP policies are as follows (HGP, pp. 7-35–7-36):

**Policy OS-1.1:** Development Proposals: Require development proposals to identify significant biological resources and to provide mitigation, including the use of adequate buffering and sensitive site planning techniques, selective preservation, provision of replacement habitats, and other appropriate measures as may be identified in habitat conservation plans or best practices related to particular resources.

**Policy OS-1.2:** Vernal Pools: Preserve the integrity of the vernal pool complex by ensuring adequate hydration, providing appropriate conservation buffers, and the preservation of native plants, in accordance with the requirements of the Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

**Policy OS-1.3:** Wetland Habitats: Require project applicants to conserve wetland habitats along the San Jacinto River, the Upper Salt Creek watershed, and elsewhere as identified where conservation serves to maintain watershed processes that enhance water quality and contribute to the hydrologic regime, and comply with Clean Water Act Section 404. Identify and, to the maximum extent possible, conserve remaining upland habitat areas adjacent to wetland and riparian areas that are critical to the feeding, hibernation, or nesting of wildlife species associated with these wetland and riparian areas.

**Policy OS-1.4:** Resource Protection in Development Design: Require appropriate resource protection measures to be incorporated within specific plans and subsequent development proposals. Such requirements may include the preparation of a vegetation management program that addresses landscape maintenance, fuel modification zones, management of passive open space areas, provision of corridor connections for wildlife movement, conservation of water

courses, rehabilitation of biological resources displaced in the planning process, and use of project design, engineering, and construction practices that minimize impacts on sensitive species, MSHCP conservation areas, and designated critical habitats.

**Policy OS-1.5:** Restriction of Use: As needed to protect resources, limit recreational use in open space areas where sensitive biological resources exist.

**Policy OS-1.6:** Habitat Conservation Plans: Coordinate with Riverside County and other relevant agencies to implement the Western Riverside County Multiple-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, the Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephens' Kangaroo Rat in Western Riverside County, and any other applicable habitat plan.

**Policy OS-1.7:** Wildlife Movement Corridor: Continue efforts to establish a wildlife movement corridor in areas such as the San Jacinto River corridor, Santa Rosa Hills, Lakeview Mountains, and the open space areas surrounding Diamond Valley Lake. As applicable, new development in these areas shall incorporate such corridors. To minimize impediments to riparian wildlife movement, new roadways over ravines, arroyos, and drainages shall maintain wildlife corridors by incorporating bridges or culverts, where practical.

**Policy OS-1.8:** Local Resource Preservation: Maintain and enhance the natural resources of the Santa Rosa Hills, Tres Cerritos Hills, Salt Creek, Bautista Canyon, San Jacinto River/Bautista Creek, Reinhardt Canyon, Lakeview Mountains, Diamond Valley Lake, and all other waterways, ecosystems, and critical vegetation to ensure the long-term viability of habitat, wildlife, and wildlife movement corridors.

Through compliance with the Clean Water Act, California Fish and Game Code, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and the MSHCP, the Project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and there will be no impact in this regard. Compliance with these laws and the MSHCP are discussed in Responses IVc) and IVf), respectively.

Source: HCP, SJGP, Project Description

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

***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** As discussed in Response IVa), above, the Project alignment and surrounding area are located within the MSHCP.

The MSHCP serves as a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Habitat Conservation Plan, pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, as well as a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the State NCCP Act of

2001. The MSHCP encompasses all unincorporated Riverside County land west of the crest of the San Jacinto Mountains to the Orange County line, as well as the jurisdictional areas of the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Norco, Corona, Riverside, Moreno Valley, Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Perris, Hemet, San Jacinto, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Menifee, and Wildomar. The overall biological goal of the MSHCP is to conserve covered species and their habitats, as well as maintain biological diversity and ecological processes while allowing for future economic growth within a rapidly urbanizing region. Implementation of the MSHCP will result in an MSHCP Conservation Area in excess of 500,000 acres and focuses on the conservation of 146 species. Compliance with the MSHCP provides mitigation for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources for purposes of CEQA.

The MSHCP was adopted June 17, 2003. On June, 22, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its findings, biological opinion, and Take Permit for the MSHCP. The District is a signatory to the MSHCP Implementing Agreement (IA), and is required to comply with all applicable policies and requirements of the MSHCP including: (1) MSHCP Reserve assembly requirements (Section 3.2.1); (2) compliance with the policies of the Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools as set forth in Section 6.1.2; (3) compliance with the policies for the protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species as set forth in Section 6.1.3; (4) conduct surveys as set forth in Section 6.3.2; (5) compliance with all requirements of Section 7.3.7; (6) compliance with Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines as set forth in Section 6.1.4; and (7) compliance with the Best Management Practices and the siting requirements and design criteria as set forth in Section 7.0 and Appendix C of the MSHCP. A discussion of the Project's compliance with these provisions is provided in the following paragraphs.

Section 3.2.1 - Reserve Assembly: The Project does not occur within the MSHCP Criteria Area and is not located on any Public/Quasi-Public (P/QP) designated lands. As such, the Project is not subject to the Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) or the Joint Project Review (JPR) process. (GLA(a), p. 34)

Section 6.1.2 - Protection of species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools: The Project will permanently impact portions of a drainage swale and roadside ditch that, along with street gutters, convey runoff through developed portions of San Jacinto towards the San Jacinto River. Neither the swale nor the ditch support riparian vegetation that provides habitat for species addressed in Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. As such, there will be no loss of habitat function for riparian/riverine species. The Project will collect runoff that is currently conveyed through the drainage features and street gutters, and will place the runoff into underground lines that will ultimately connect to an underground RCB system at Esplanade Avenue. The RCB system ultimately conveys the runoff to the San Jacinto River. The Project will not adversely affect the hydrologic function of the drainage features, as the water will still be conveyed to the existing Line C. Thus, there will be no loss of riparian/riverine function as a result of the Project, and therefore, the DBESP procedures do not apply to this Project. (GLA(a), pp. 34-35)

Section 6.1.3 - Protection of Narrow Endemic Plan Species: The Project alignment does not occur within the NEPSSA. Therefore, focused plant surveys are not required pursuant to this section of the MSHCP. (GLA(a), p. 35)

Section 6.1.4 - Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildland Interface: The Project alignment does not occur adjacent to sensitive habitats, including MSHCP Criteria Areas. Additionally, because Project implementation will not result in long term adverse edge effects such as drainage, toxics, lighting, noise, invasive species, barriers, or grading, no significant indirect impacts to special-status biological resources will occur. Therefore, the MSHCP Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines are not applicable. (GLA(a). p. 35)

Section 6.3.2 - Additional Survey Needs and Procedures: Portions of the Project alignment occur within the burrowing owl survey area, but not within the CAPSSA, amphibian, or mammal survey areas. Focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted following the MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions; however, no burrowing owls were detected on or adjacent to the Project alignment. With implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO 2**, the Project will comply with the MSHCP's requirement for a pre-construction burrowing owl survey. (GLA(a), pp. 35-36)

Section 7.5.3 Construction Guidelines for Facilities within Criteria Areas and P/QP Lands and Standard Best Management Practices identified in Appendix C: The Project is not located within or adjacent to an MSHCP Criteria Area (GLA(a), p. 34); therefore Section 7.5.3 is not applicable to the Project. The District will implement applicable Standard Best Management Practices per Appendix C of the MSHCP.

In addition to complying with the above identified sections of the MSHCP, the District will pay the MSHCP mitigation fee in accordance with Section 13.4 Provision B of the MSHCP IA. Based on the previous discussion, the Project is consistent with the MSHCP.

The Project area is located within the boundary of the adopted SKR HCP implemented by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA); however it is not located within a Core Reserve Area. The SKR HCP mitigates impacts from development on the SKR by establishing a network of preserves and a system for managing and monitoring them. The SKR HCP initially established Core Reserves for the conservation of key SKR populations. Outside of the Core Reserves, the HCP established a fee assessment area by which individual projects are granted coverage under the HCP by payment of SKR fees. The MSHCP, through its goals for SKR, reaffirms the conservation goals of the SKR HCP, while expanding the coverage area outside of the original coverage boundaries of the SKR HCP. Neither the SKR HCP nor MSHCP requires project-specific SKR surveys for sites located outside of the existing Core Reserves. Instead, payments of fees are sufficient to obtain take authorization for SKR, unless specific lands are targeted for conservation by SKR HCP or MSHCP. The District will pay the applicable MSHCP fees for the Project.

Source: GLA(a), MSHCP

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:**

**Va) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?**

**No Impact.** Substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of a resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired.

A *Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment (CRA)* was prepared by CRM TECH, which included a historical/archaeological resources records search; historical background research; contact with Native American representatives; and a systematic field survey. The CRA is included as Appendix C.1 of this Initial Study. The records search encompassed a one-mile radius surrounding the Project alignment and identified a total of seventy-four recorded historical/archaeological sites and one historic-era isolate, nearly all of which were buildings or other built-environmental features dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (CRM TECH(a), p. 9). All of these sites are located at least 0.25 miles from the Project alignment (CRM TECH(a), p. 12).

Historic maps for the Project area show a wagon road and a canal that belonged to the San Jacinto and Pleasant Valley Irrigation District crossing the Project alignment (CRM TECH(a), p. 12). No physical remains of either of these features were found during the survey. It is likely these features were obliterated by subsequent development in the Project area. No buildings, structures, objects, sites, features, or artifacts more than 50 years of age were encountered during the field study along the Project alignment (CRM TECH(a), p. 14) or are recorded within one-quarter of a mile of the Project site. Therefore, no historical resources are likely to exist within or adjacent to the Project alignment (CRM TECH(a), p. 15) and there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: Project Description; CRM TECH(a)

**Vb) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?**

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The sacred lands and records search conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) identified Native American cultural resources within the Project area and recommended a total of 18 individuals and local Native American groups be contacted (CRM TECH(a), Appendix 2). In addition to the 18 parties identified by the NAHC, four other tribal contacts were contacted, including the Environmental Office Manager for the Cahuilla Band of Indians; the Cultural Resources Coordinator for the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians; the Environmental Director for the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians; and the Environmental Director for the La Jolla Band of

Mission Indians were also contacted (CRM TECH(a), p. 9). Four of the 22 contacted Native American parties responded as summarized in the following table.

**Table 4 – Summary of Responses from Native American Parties**

Native American Party (Individual Responding)	Response
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Joseph Ontiveros, Soboba Cultural Resource Department)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: The Project area is outside of the formal reservation but within the bounds of the Soboba Traditional Tribal Use Areas. Because the Project location is in close proximity to known village sites and is a shared use area between the Luiseño and Cahuilla tribes, it is regarded as highly sensitive.</li> <li>• Requests: (i) to initiate consultation with the Project Developer and Land Owner, (ii) to receive information regarding the progress of the Project as new developments occur, (iii) to continue (sic) to act as a consulting tribal entity, (iv) a Native American monitor from the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Cultural Resources Department be present during any ground disturbing activities, and (v) proper procedures be followed and the requests of the tribe be honored regarding inadvertent discovery of Native American cultural resources and human remains.</li> </ul>
Pala Tribal Historic Preservation Office (Shasta C. Gaughen, PhD, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: Because the Project is not within the boundaries of the recognized Pala Reservation or Traditional Use Area the Pala tribe has no objection to the Project and defers to the Tribes in closer proximity to the Project area.</li> </ul>
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians (Rose Duro, Rincon Culture Committee Chairman)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: (i) the Project area is not within Rincon’s historic boundaries but it is within the Aboriginal Territory of the Luiseno people and (ii) referred consultation to the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians of the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians.</li> <li>• Recommends: Native American monitor be present during ground disturbance.</li> </ul>
Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians (Gabiella Rubalcava, Tribal Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: The Project area is part of the tribe’s ancestral use area.</li> <li>• Requests: Review of all Project-related cultural resources documentation associated with the Project.</li> </ul>
Source: CRM TECH(a), p. 9 and CRM TECH(a) Appendix 2	

Although two tribes requested to have a tribal monitor present during ground disturbing activities, this type of monitoring is unwarranted considering the low potential for discovery, as described in the *Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment (CRA)*. The CRA also concluded that implementation of the Project will not adversely impact cultural resources. Nonetheless, in order to provide protection in the unlikely event that archaeological resources are unearthed during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR 1** will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

**MM CR 1:** If any cultural and/or archaeological resources are discovered during Project construction, all work in the area of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist shall be retained by the District to determine the significance of these resources. If the find is determined to be an historical or unique archaeological resource, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, avoidance or other appropriate measures shall be implemented, and applicable tribe(s) shall be notified if warranted.

Source: CRM TECH(a)

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

***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Paleontological resources represent the remains of prehistoric life, exclusive of any human remains, and include the localities where fossils were collected as well as the sedimentary rock formations in which they were found. The defining character of fossils or fossil deposits is their geologic age, which is typically regarded as older than 10,000 years, the generally accepted temporal boundary marking the end of the last late Pleistocene glaciation and the beginning of the current Holocene epoch. (CRM TECH(b))

The record searches by the San Bernardino County Museum (SBCM) and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC) revealed no known paleontological localities within the Project area or within a one-mile radius (CRM TECH(b), p. 7). Additionally, the field survey produced negative results for any indication of paleontological resources, and no surficial evidence of fossil remains or potentially fossiliferous sediments were encountered (CRM TECH(b), p. 8). Intact fossil remains are not expected within the top two to three feet of soils in the Project area due to soil disturbance from past disking and construction (CRM TECH(b), p. 9).

The proposed Project's potential to impact paleontological resources appears to range from low to high, depending on the soils disturbed. The disturbed surface and near-surface soils, mainly Holocene in origin, are considered to be low in sensitivity<sup>4</sup> for intact fossil resources, and will not require further paleontological investigations. The undisturbed Pleistocene-age sediments are of high paleontological sensitivity<sup>5</sup> (CRM TECH(b), p. 9).

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<sup>4</sup> Low sensitivity for paleontological resources, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, are geologic units that have produced no or few recorded fossil localities and are not likely to yield any significant nonrenewable fossil remains.

<sup>5</sup> High sensitivity for paleontological resources, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, are geologic units considered to have a high potential for significant nonrenewable vertebrate, invertebrate, marine, or plant fossils and are likely to yield additional fossil remains.

In order to determine the Project's potential to encounter undisturbed Pleistocene-age soils, exploratory borings were excavated to an average depth of around approximately 15 feet. The borings revealed that the entire ground surface was disturbed by disking and plowing over the years. Beneath the disturbed surficial sediments are unconsolidated Holocene age alluvial deposits comprised of interbedded fine- to coarse-grained sands and silty sands, fine-grained sands, and fine-medium grained silty sands, that are relatively flat-lying. Additionally, based on sedimentary depositional rates from testing, the depth of the anticipated older contact (late Pleistocene) is greater than 27 feet. Because the proposed excavation depth for the Project ranges from 9 feet to 23 feet and Pleistocene-age materials are at depths greater than 27 feet (IFE(b), pp. 1-2), the Paleontological resources are not expected to be exposed during Project construction. However, in the event paleontological resources are encountered during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR 2** will be implemented.

**MM CR 2:** If any paleontological resources are exposed during Project-related excavation, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery will be terminated immediately and a Riverside County qualified paleontological resources specialist will be retained to evaluate the resources. If the find is determined to be significant, avoidance or other appropriate measures as identified by the paleontological resources specialist shall be implemented. Appropriate measures shall include recovery, evaluation and curation of the finds in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the County of Riverside and the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

With implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR 2**, the potential to directly or indirectly destroy unique paleontological resources will be reduced to less than significant.

Source: Project Description; CRM TECH(b); IFE(b)

**Vd) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The San Jacinto Valley Cemetery is located west of the proposed Line B segment of the Project. The cemetery encompasses approximately 50 acres west of South San Jacinto Avenue between East Menlo Drive and Midway Street and has approximately 24,000 burials with the earliest burials dating in the mid 1800s (SJVCD; Google Earth). Although the cemetery is adjacent to a portion of the Project alignment, Project construction and operation is not anticipated to disturb any human remains interred at the cemetery because ground disturbance adjacent to the cemetery will take place within the existing road ROW, which has already been heavily disturbed.

In the unlikely event that suspected human remains are uncovered during Project construction, mitigation measure **MM CR 3**, which requires all activities in the vicinity of the

remains cease and the County Coroner be immediately notified, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Resource Protection Code Section 5097.98. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR 3**, potential impacts will be reduced to less than significant.

**MM CR 3:** Per State Health and Safety Code 7050.5, if human remains are encountered during construction, no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The Riverside County Coroner shall be notified within 24 hours of the discovery. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted to determine the most likely descendent for this area. Once the most likely descendent is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains shall proceed pursuant to Public Resources 5097.98. The NAHC may become involved with decisions concerning the disposition of the remains.

Source: Google Earth; HSC, Section 7050.5; PRC, Section 5097.98; SJVCD

**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:**

**Via) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:**

**i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a Known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.**

***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** As part of the Project's planning and design process, a geotechnical investigation was conducted by Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc. (ILE) to determine engineering characteristics of the subsoil conditions and develop recommendations for the design and construction of the proposed storm drainage facilities. These results and recommendations are documented in *Geotechnical Investigation San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Stage 1, Line C-5 and Line B Storm Drain (Project No. 4-0-00124), San Jacinto, California*, (the Geotechnical Investigation) which is included as Appendix D to this IS.

Portions of the proposed Project are located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, specifically, the Casa Loma segment of the San Jacinto Fault Zone (ILE(a), p. 8; RCLIS). The Casa Loma Fault is considered the southern splay of the San Jacinto

Valley segment of the San Jacinto Fault, which is one of the major splays of the San Andreas Fault system (ILE(a), p. 9).

The Project does not contain structures that will be inhabited by humans; and thereby, will not expose persons to substantial adverse effects from ground shaking. If the proposed Project is designed and constructed as recommended by the Geotechnical Investigation, the proposed storm drainage facilities are anticipated to withstand expected ground shaking levels. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measure **MM GEO 1**, which requires the Project be designed and constructed per the recommendations contained in the Geotechnical Investigation or a similar subsequent investigation, potential impacts to people or structures due to seismic hazards will be reduced to less than significant.

**MM GEO 1:** Design and construction of the Project facilities shall be in conformance with the recommendations contained in the *Geotechnical Investigation San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Stage 1, Line C-5 and Line B Storm Drain (Project No. 4-0-00124), San Jacinto, California* prepared by Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc. and dated August 31, 2012 or a similar subsequent geotechnical engineering investigation that updates the recommendations.

Source: ILE(a); RCLIS; Project Description

ii) **Strong seismic ground shaking?**

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** As discussed in Response VIa)i), above, the Project is within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone for one of the major splays of the San Andreas fault, which is considered the most active fault in southern California (ILE(a), p. 9). Thus the Project facilities, as with most regions in southern California, is susceptible to moderate to high amounts of seismic ground shaking, which is the primary geologic hazard affecting the Project area (ILE(a), p. 10). However, with implementation of mitigation measure **MM GEO 1**, above, the proposed storm drainage facilities will be designed and constructed to withstand seismic ground shaking. Additionally, the District's routine inspection and maintenance activities will result in the storm drain system being repaired in the event damage occurs. For these reasons, potential impacts to the exposure of people or structures to strong seismic ground shaking will be reduced to less than significant.

Source: ILE(a)

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

**No Impact.** Liquefaction is a phenomenon where soil temporarily loses strength due to cyclic stresses such as those caused by an earthquake. Liquefaction is generally considered a hazard in relatively loose sandy soils with the groundwater table within 50 feet of the ground surface.

According to the Riverside County Land Information System, the proposed Project lies within a moderate liquefaction hazard zone; however, because the depth to groundwater beneath the Project alignment is estimated at 200 feet, the Geotechnical Investigation concluded there is no potential for liquefaction beneath the proposed storm drainage facilities (ILE(a), p. 10).

Source: ILE(a), RCLIS

**iv) Landslides or mudflows?**

**No Impact.** The Project area is relatively flat, with an elevation ranging from approximately 1,500 feet to 1,600 feet above mean sea level. The Project is not located on a hillside and all Project facilities will be installed at or below the ground surface. Therefore, there will be no impacts to people or structures due to landslides or mudflows (ILE(a), p. 10).

Source: Project Description, ILE(a), RCLIS

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

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The proposed Project has the potential to result in the short-term loss of top soil during construction due to runoff and soil erosion. However, erosion will be minimized by the incorporation of applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented by the construction contractor. Furthermore, excavation during construction will be conducted in accordance with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CAL/OSHA) standards and the recommendations in the Geotechnical Investigation so that unstable soil conditions will not occur (ILE(a), p. 21). Backfilling will also be conducted in accordance with the applicable recommendations of the Geotechnical Investigation (ILE(a), p. 24). Further, the facilities to be constructed, maintained, and operated will be located underground and will not entail topographic changes. Once construction is complete, the surface will be restored to its original condition. Following the recommendation of the Geotechnical Investigation as required by mitigation measure **MM GEO 1** (see Response VIa)i), will avoid the creation of unstable soil conditions and reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Source: ILE(a); Project Description

- VIc) 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?**

***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** According to the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey, the major surficial deposits of the proposed Project soils most likely to be encountered are of the Grangeville and San Emigdio series (USDA, p. 10). These soil associations consist of alluvial soils, which can be unstable and prone to liquefaction, landslides, lateral spreading, collapse, and subsidence. Additionally, portions of the proposed Project lie within a susceptible and active subsidence zone (RCLIS).

As discussed in Responses VIa)iii) and VIa)iv), above, potential impacts regarding landslides and liquefaction are found to be less than significant. The proposed Project will incorporate the recommendations of the Geotechnical Investigation (included as Appendix D.1) as required by measure **MM GEO 1** (see Response VIa)i) and designed and constructed to withstand expected ground failure, including lateral spreading, subsidence, collapsible soils, and any other potential soil instability. Therefore, potential impacts will be less than significant with mitigation.

Source: Project Description; RCLIS; USDA

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

***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Expansive soils are those that expand when water is added, and shrink when they dry out.

There are three predominate soil series along the Project alignment: Grangeville Fine Sandy Loam, Traver Fine Sandy loam, and San Emigdio Loam (ILE(a), p. 12). These soils are well to moderately drained and generally have low shrink/swell tendencies due to the lack of clay materials (USDA, pp. 13-27). However, in soil sampling for the Geotechnical Investigation expansive soils were encountered (IFE(a), p. 20). Also, other sites investigated in the Project vicinity have revealed expansive soils, and some of these soils may not be appropriate for structural backfill (IFE(a), p. 19). Thus, expansive soil pressures will be considered in the design of manhole and RCB bases, and any imported soils must not be expansive (IFE, pp. 21, 24). Because the proposed Project facilities will be designed and constructed per the recommendations of the Geotechnical Investigation (IFE(a), p. 19) as required by mitigation measure **MM GEO 1** (see Response VIa)i), the proposed storm drainage facilities will withstand expansive soil and potential soil instability. Finally, because the Project is an underground storm drain system, irrespective of soil type, implementation of the Project does not pose a substantial risk to life or property. Therefore, potential impacts will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Source: Project Description; USDA; IFE(a)

**VIe) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting any structures, fill or other improvements associated with the project?**

**No Impact.** The proposed Project does not include any other structures, fill, or other improvements that will require supporting soils; thus there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: Project Description

**VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:**

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project consists of storm drain facilities and will not entail the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Construction and subsequent maintenance of the Project facilities will require the short-term use of petroleum-based fuels, lubricants, pesticides, and other similar materials. During construction, petroleum-based fuels may be stored at the Project site for the specific purpose of fueling construction equipment.

Any hazardous materials used for Project construction or maintenance will be used in accordance with standard safety measures and regulations. Such measures and regulations are under the jurisdiction of numerous federal, state, and local agencies. At the federal level, such agencies and legislation include Environmental Protection Agency; Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Hazardous Materials Transportation Act; Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know; and Code of Federal Regulations titles 10, 29, 40, and 49. At the state level, such agencies and legislations include, but are not necessarily limited to: state Occupational Safety and Health Administration; California Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Fish and Game; Department of Transportation; Department of Toxic Substances Control; Air Resources Board; Regional Water Quality Control Board; Office of Emergency Services; State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment; Hazardous Material Management Act; Hazardous Waste Control Law; Emergency Services Act; Hazardous Materials Storage and Emergency Response; Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986; and the California Code of Regulations. Lastly, at the local level there is the Riverside County Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Therefore, because the use of hazardous materials will be in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, the potential impacts regarding creating a significant hazard to the public or environment will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

**VIIb) 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.** As discussed in Response VIIa), above, Project construction and operation will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use and storage of hazardous materials. Therefore, potential impacts regarding the accidental release of hazardous material will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project Boundary is within the San Jacinto Unified School District (RCLIS). The proposed Project alignment is within one-quarter mile of Jacob Wiens Elementary School located at 935 East Campus Way in Hemet and a proposed future elementary school site west of the proposed Project (HGP; Figure 5.5). However, hazardous materials will be handled in accordance with applicable regulations as discussed previously in Response VIIa), and the potential impact resulting from hazardous emissions, materials, and wastes will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description; HGP, Figure 5.5; Google Earth; SJGP, General Plan Map; RCLIS

**VIIId) 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?**

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor database, there is one open active listed site adjacent to the proposed Project alignment. The Texaco station located at 2469 South San Jacinto Avenue in San Jacinto has soil that is contaminated with gasoline and is currently under remediation. However, contaminated soils associated with the Texaco station are not within road ROWs, and will not be disturbed. Therefore, construction along the Project alignment does not pose a potential significant hazard to the public or environment. All other cases regarding leaking storage tanks within the Project area have been closed with no further action. Therefore, the proposed Project does not pass through a known contaminated site that would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. However, in the event a hazardous materials site is encountered during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **MM HAZ 1** will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

**MM HAZ 1:** If previously unknown hazardous wastes/materials are encountered in the field during construction, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery shall cease until a qualified hazardous materials management specialist can assess the potentially hazardous substances and, if necessary, develop appropriate management measures in coordination with the appropriate regulatory agencies.

Source: Project Description; Envirostor

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

**No Impact.** The closest public airport is Hemet-Ryan Airport, which is located approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the Project alignment's southernmost point. The Project alignment is outside of the airport influence area boundary, and thus, outside its land use compatibility zones. The Project will not result in a safety hazard for people working within the Project area. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: HGP, p. 6-3; HGP FEIR, Exhibit 4.8-2; Google Earth

- VIIIf) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?**

**No Impact.** The private airstrip closest to the Project alignment is a heliostop at the Hemet Valley Hospital District approximately 0.6 miles south of the southernmost portion of the Project alignment. Due to the unmanned nature of the Project, implementation of the Project will not result in a safety hazard for people working or living in the Project area and there will be no impact.

Source: Google Earth; ALUC

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Implementation of the proposed Project (construction, operation, and maintenance) is not expected to impair implementation of or physically interfere with the *Riverside County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* (LHMP). The District, Hemet, and San Jacinto are all part of the LHMP. The Project will not reconfigure current roadways that would result in inadequate emergency access. During Project construction temporary closure of a travel lane may be required; however, access will be maintained throughout the construction activities. For these reasons, impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description; LHMP

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

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project is primarily located within an urbanized area and not within or adjacent to a high fire area (HGP EIR; SJGP EIR). Additionally, the proposed storm drain facilities are unmanned, underground facilities. For these reasons, implementation of the Project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires and impacts will be less than significant in this regard.

Source: HGP EIR, Figure 4.8-1; SJGP EIR, Figure 5.7-1

**VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:**

**VIIIa) Violate or conflict with any adopted water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?**

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** During Project construction there is a potential for short-term discharges of sediments, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants associated with stormwater runoff from a construction site. This will be minimized, through compliance with the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity and implementation of construction BMPs that will reduce loss of topsoil, substantial erosion, or discharge of polluted runoff. Once construction is complete, the Project will not create new sources of stormwater pollutants; however, it will collect, convey, and discharge stormwater runoff emanating from developed and undeveloped areas that may already produce pollutants. The discharge of stormwater is regulated under the NPDES Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permit issued to the District, San Jacinto, and Hemet by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, through compliance with the NPDES permit programs, the Project's potential to contribute urban runoff that could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements will be reduced to less than significant.

Source: Project Description; NPDES

**VIIIb) Result in substantial discharges of typical stormwater pollutants (*e.g., sediment from construction activities, hydrocarbons, and metals from motor vehicles, nutrients and pesticides from landscape maintenance activities, metals of other pollutants from industrial operation,*) or substantial changes to surface water quality including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, or turbidity?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project will not result in substantial discharges of typical stormwater pollutants, (See Response VIIIa), above.

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed storm drain facilities will not deplete groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge. The proposed Project does not involve the extraction of groundwater. The Project will not create a substantial additional of impervious surfaces such that existing areas of groundwater recharge are altered. Stormwater runoff from the Project area is ultimately discharged into the San Jacinto River. The facilities proposed by the Project will collect runoff into a new underground drainage system that will connect to existing drainage facilities (an RCB in Esplanade Avenue) for ultimate discharge into the San Jacinto River. For these reasons, impacts to groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

- VIII d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a watercourse or wetland, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project does not entail the substantial alteration of a watercourse or wetland. The proposed underground storm drain facilities will be constructed within existing paved road ROWs and disturbed vacant land in an urbanized area. Once Project construction is complete, the ground will be returned to its original condition with no change in topography or grade. Although the Project will contain and convey flows that are currently conveyed in an existing roadside drainage ditch, this change will not constitute a substantial alteration of the overall drainage pattern of the Project San Jacinto valley. As previously discussed in Response IVb), Project area runoff from normal storm events that would be conveyed in the roadside ditches does not reach the San Jacinto River due to the river's distance from the Project area and the presence of the San Jacinto Reservoir. Normal flows are typically contained in the San Jacinto Reservoir until the water infiltrates into the ground. The San Jacinto Reservoir is located between the Project area and the San Jacinto River and is used as groundwater recharge for Eastern Municipal Water District. In the existing condition, Project area runoff is likely to reach the San Jacinto River only during high flow events. Construction and operation of the proposed drainage facilities will not change the circumstances under which Project area drainage will reach the San Jacinto River. That is, high flow events are likely to still reach the San Jacinto River whereas normal flow events, as in the existing condition, will not reach the river. Thus, the existing

drainage pattern of the region will not be substantially altered. Moreover, through compliance with the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity, implementation of construction BMPs, and compliance with the NPDES MS4 Permit, potential impacts regarding substantial erosion and siltation will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

**VIIIe) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or 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 does not entail substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern through the alteration of the course of a stream or river. The Project's underground storm drains do not include any component that will increase the rate or amount of surface runoff because: (1) once construction is complete the surface will be restored to its original condition and (2) the runoff collected in the Project's facilities will be conveyed to an existing RCB in Esplanade Avenue and ultimately discharge into the San Jacinto Reservoir and that only flows from very large storms would reach the San Jacinto River, as discussed in Response VIIIId). The intent of the proposed Project is to collect and convey stormwater to reduce the potential for flooding in the Project area and downstream of the Project area. For these reasons potential impacts regarding on- or off-site flooding will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

**VIIIIf) Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?**

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The purpose of the Project is to implement a master drainage plan through the construction, operation, and maintenance of master planned storm drain facilities. The Project's facilities have been designed and sized such that implementation of the Project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. Further, existing downstream facilities are designed to receive the flow from this Project. Because the proposed Project is designed to prevent the overflow of existing and proposed stormwater conveyance facilities, impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

**VIIIg) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on Federal Flood Hazard boundary of Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?**

**No Impact.** Portions of the Project alignment are within a mapped 100-year flood hazard area as shown on **Figure 9 – FEMA Flood Zone Map**; however, because no housing is proposed as part of the Project there will be no impacts in this regard. Once completed, the proposed Project in connection with the planned street system will contain the 100-year floodplain, which is a beneficial impact.

Source: Project Description

**VIIIh) Place structures or fill within a 100-year flood hazard area, which would impede or redirect flood flows?**

**No Impact.** As shown in **Figure 9**, the Project alignment is located within a mapped 100-year flood hazard area. However, because the proposed storm drain facilities will be located underground the Project will not impede flood flows, and in fact will collect the 100-year flood flows and direct them to existing downstream drainage facilities to contain the 100-year floodplain. The purpose of the Project is to implement a master drainage plan that will collect and convey stormwater to protect lives and property. The Project will collect and convey stormwater to existing underground facilities for ultimate discharge into the San Jacinto River. For these reasons, impacts regarding the placement of structures within a 100-year flood hazard area are less than significant. Construction of the Project is a benefit, not an impact.

Source: Project Description; RCLIS, HGP

**VIIIi) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Portions of the Project alignment are within the dam inundation area of the Little Lake Dam (HGP EIR), which is located approximately five miles southeast of the southernmost portion of the Project (Google Earth). However, while portions of the Project is within the dam inundation area, the Project is not a residential or commercial development that would expose people or structures to impacts from the failure of the Little Lake Basin. In addition, Project-related structures are located underground and are designed to control flooding within the Project area. Impacts resulting from the failure of a levee or dam will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description; HGP EIR, Exhibit 4.9-3, Google Earth

**VIIIj) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?**

**No Impact.** The Project is not located within an area subject to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow and will not expose people or structures to significant risk from these phenomena (ILE(a), p. 10).

Source: Project Description, ILE(a)

**IX. LAND USE PLANNING. Would the project:**

**IXa) Physically divide an established community?**

**No Impact.** Underground storm drains by their very nature, do not divide communities. For these reasons, there will be no impacts.

Source: Project Description

**IXb) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?**

**No Impact.** The proposed Project's underground drainage facilities will not conflict with the land use plans, policies, or regulations set forth by the cities of Hemet or San Jacinto. The Project does not conflict with existing or planned zoning/uses. The Project is part of a master drainage plan designed to collect and convey runoff from the development planned for and envisioned by the Land Use Elements of the Hemet and San Jacinto General Plans.

Source: Project Description; Section 53091

**X. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:**

**Xa) 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?**

**No Impact.** According to the SJGP, there are no significant mineral resources in the area. According to the HGP, the sites located within an area designated as MRZ-3, as determined by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB). This mineral resource zone includes areas where the available geologic information indicates that mineral deposits exist, or are likely to exist; however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined.

The proposed Project is an underground storm drain system located primarily within road ROWs and disturbed vacant land in an urbanized area, and will not affect known mineral resources. Further, implementation of the Project will not change any existing or planned land uses within the Project area that will affect known mineral resources. For these reasons, there will be no impact to mineral resources.

Source: SJGP, p. RM-21; HGP, p. 7-20

**Xb) 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.** The proposed Project is not located within a delineated mineral resource recovery area. See Response Xa), above.

Source: SJGP; HGP, p. 7-20

**XI. NOISE. Would the project result in:**

**XIa) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?**

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The proposed Project consists of construction, operation, and maintenance of four storm drain lines in an urbanized area. Construction of the storm drains will employ heavy equipment such as backhoes, excavators, cranes, water trucks, wheeled loaders, blades/road graders, tunnel/boring machines, and dump trucks. Construction will also include truck trips to move excavation and fill material for the storm drain lines. Maintenance operations will include the use of utility trucks. Typical maximum noise levels at 50 feet can range from 55 dBA to 95 dBA during construction (HGP FEIR, p. 4.11-20). Construction activities, especially those utilizing heavy equipment, may create substantial short-term noise increase near the construction area. Maintenance activities may also create short-term noise increases near the site of these facilities, but to a lesser degree, and on an intermittent basis as compared to construction activities. The use of machinery for maintenance activities will be very infrequent and short-term in duration.

To minimize exposure to construction-related noise impacts to its residents, both the cities of San Jacinto and Hemet have adopted noise ordinances. San Jacinto regulates construction noise activity in San Jacinto Municipal Code Section 8.4.090 – Noise Control, which allows construction noise “that disturbs a person of normal sensitivity who works or resides in the vicinity, or a peace officer” only between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on Monday through Friday, and prohibits this level of construction noise on weekends and federal holidays. The San Jacinto Municipal Code permits construction noise at any time, as long as such noise does not exceed the allowable exterior noise levels of: (1) 65 dBA from 7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. for single-family residential, multi-family residential, mobile home parks, and commercial property, and (2) 70 dBA for the residential portion of mixed-use, manufacturing, industrial, and other uses. (SJMC, Section 8.40.040). Public works projects are exempt from the noise control provisions of the San Jacinto Municipal Code (SJMD, Section 8.40.090 D).

Hemet Municipal Code, Article II, Section 30-32 [33], exempts construction noise that occurs between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. during the months of June through September and between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. during the months of

October through May. Construction on Saturday is permitted between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M., and construction on Sundays is prohibited. Hemet's exterior noise standards are 65 dBA at residential and mixed use with residential component land uses, school classrooms, and passive recreation areas; and 70 dBA at school playgrounds, active recreation areas, and commercial and industrial areas (HGP, Table 6.4).

Exposure of people to temporary construction-related noise will be reduced by limiting construction, if feasible, to the time periods set forth in San Jacinto and Hemet's municipal codes, which limit the construction-related activities to less sensitive hours of the day and by notifying business and residences adjacent to Project-related construction as required by mitigation measure **MM NOI 1**. Furthermore, construction and related noise will occur in segments and will be dispersed somewhat sequentially throughout the Project alignment, thereby not affecting any one area for a great duration.

Once construction is complete, the only source of operational noise impacts will be from the District's vehicles during infrequent visits for maintenance as discussed in Responses XIb) and XIc), below. With implementation of mitigation measure **MM NOI 1**, impacts will be reduced to less than significant.

**MM NOI 1:** Each residence, business, and institutional or public use adjacent to the Project alignment shall be notified in writing at least 3 days prior to the operation of heavy construction equipment. The notice shall include the expected work schedule and the District's contact information. The District shall alert the construction contractor of any noise complaints and incorporate any feasible and practical techniques which minimize the noise impacts on adjacent residences.

Source: Project Description; SJMC; HMC; HGP FEIR, Table 4.11-10

**XIb) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Ground-borne vibration is not a common environmental problem. It is unusual for vibration from sources such as buses and trucks to be perceptible, even in locations close to major roads. Some common sources of ground-borne vibration are trains, buses on rough roads, and construction activities such as blasting, pile-driving, and operating heavy earth-moving equipment.

The Hemet and San Jacinto Noise Ordinances do not include criteria for ground-borne vibration. However, in order to provide a conservative analysis, the *Transportation and Construction Induced Vibration Guidance Manual* prepared for California Department of Transportation was used to provide methods with which to estimate construction induced ground-borne vibration and establish potential criteria for acceptable levels of ground-borne vibration for human perception and damage to buildings. It should be noted that

many types of construction activities fall between a single event (also known as a transient source) and a continuous source. An impact pile driver, for example, continuously generates single transient events. As a practical matter and based on the nature of available criteria, the criteria can only be reasonably separated into two categories: transient and continuous. Potential vibration damage information is summarized in **Table 5 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Human Response** and **Table 6 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Structures**, which categories the noise by transient sources and continuous sources.

**Table 5 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Human Response**

Human Response	Maximum PPV <sup>a</sup> (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Barely Perceptible/Threshold of Perception	0.04	0.006-0.19
Distinctly Perceptible/ Readily Perceptible	0.24	0.08
Strongly Perceptible/Begins to Annoy	0.90	0.10
Severe/Unpleasant	2.00	0.4-0.6
Notes: <sup>a</sup> Peak Particle Velocity Source: Vibration Guidance, Table 5: Human Response to Continuous Vibration from Traffic and Table 6: Human Response to Transient Vibration		

**Table 6 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Structures**

Structure and Condition	Maximum PPV <sup>a</sup> (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Older residential structures	0.50	0.30
New residential structures	1.00	0.50
Modern industrial/commercial buildings	2.00	0.50
Notes: <sup>a</sup> Peak Particle Velocity Transient sources create a single isolated vibration event, such as blasting or drop balls. Continuous/frequent intermittent sources include impact pile drivers, pogo-stick compactors, crack-and-seat equipment, vibratory pile drivers, and vibratory compaction equipment. Source: Vibration Guidance, Table 19: Guideline Vibration Damage Potential Threshold Criteria		

Noise-sensitive receptors are located in proximity to the Project alignment. Specifically, there are two single-family mobile home parks, one located northeast from the eastern terminus of the Project alignment within Menlo Avenue in Hemet and the other is located northwest of Midway Street and San Jacinto Street in San Jacinto. The Project alignment will

also traverse immediately west of two multi-family residential complexes northwest of Oakwood Street and Santa Fe Avenue in San Jacinto. The structures nearest the Project alignment of these identified residential areas are the mobile homes north of Midway Street, which are approximately 25 feet away. The nearest residential structures at the other identified receptors are at least 50 feet away from the Project alignment.

Project construction is not anticipated to require blasting (ILE(a), p. 20). Project construction will involve the short-term use of construction equipment for various construction and maintenance activities over the life of the Project. **Table 7 – Potential Construction Induced Vibration**, presents the peak particle velocity—that is the amount of vibration—associated with the types of construction equipment anticipated to be used to construct the proposed Project.

**Table 7 – Potential Construction Induced Vibration**

Construction Equipment	PPV <sup>a</sup> at 25 ft. (in/sec)	PPV at 50 ft. (in/sec) <sup>b</sup>
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.042
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.035
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.001

Notes:  
<sup>a</sup> Peak Particle Velocity  
<sup>b</sup>Where  $PPV_{Equipment} = PPV_{Ref} (25/D)^n$  (in/sec) and  $PPV_{Ref}$  = reference PPV at 25 ft, “D” = distance from equipment to the receiver in ft. and “n” = 1.1 (the value related to the attenuation rate through the ground).  
 Source: Vibration Guidance, Table 18: Vibration Source Amplitudes for Construction Equipment

In comparing the estimated vibration shown in **Table 7**, with the threshold criteria presented in **Table 5** and **Table 6**, at a distance of 50 feet estimated vibration is expected to be “Barely Perceptible” to humans and significantly below the vibration damage threshold for older residential structures. At a distance of 25 feet, the estimated vibration is expected to be “Distinctly Perceptible” to humans; however, it is still significantly below the vibration damage threshold for older residential structures. Maintenance activities will be infrequent and will usually involve a utility vehicle operated by District staff; thus, much less equipment than the initial construction of the Project. For these reasons, potential impacts regarding ground-borne vibration and noise will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description, Vibration Guidance

**XIc) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project consists of the construction of master planned storm drain facilities in response to existing and planning land uses within the Project area. The increased noise levels associated with Project construction are temporary. Maintenance activities will be infrequent and short-term in nature. Apart from the periodic maintenance

activity, ongoing operation of the Project will not permanently increase noise levels. Thus, operation of the Project will not create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels above existing noise levels. Therefore, potential impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

**XId) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?**

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** As discussed in Responses XIa) and XIc), above, Project construction will result in a less than significant temporary increase in ambient noise levels, which will cease once construction is completed. Project maintenance, which will be infrequent and require less equipment than construction, will result in less than significant short-term periodic increases in ambient noise levels.

Source: Project Description

**XIe) 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

***No Impact.*** The Project is not within two miles, of a public airport. The closest public airport to the Project site is Hemet-Ryan Airport, which is located approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the southernmost portion of the Project alignment. The Project alignment is outside of the 60 dbA CNEL noise contour for the Hemet-Ryan airport. Due to the unmanned nature of the Project and its distance from Hemet-Ryan Airport, the Project will not expose people residing or working in the area to excessive airport-related noise levels.

Source: Project Description; HGP, p. 6-3; HGP FEIR, Exhibit 4.11-2; Google Earth

**XIf) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?**

***No Impact.*** The closest private airstrip is a heliostop at the Hemet Valley Hospital District approximately 0.6 miles south of the southernmost portion of the Project alignment. Due to the unmanned nature of the Project, implementation of the Project will not result expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels from a private airstrip.

Source: Project Description; ALUC; Google Earth; HGP, p. 6-3

**XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:**

- XIIa) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure) resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts or conflicts with the adopted general plan, specific plan, or other applicable land use or regional plan?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project consists of the construction of new underground storm drains to relieve flooding in an existing urbanized area. The Project does not conflict with applicable land use plans such as the HGP and SJGP. Because development can occur in the Project area without the proposed flood control facilities, the proposed Project is not considered growth inducing. Additionally, the storm drains will be serving an area that is largely developed. Therefore, impacts relative to population growth resulting from construction and operation of the storm drains are less than significant.

Source: Project Description

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

**No Impact.** The Project does not propose the displacement of any persons or housing, or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

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

**No Impact.** The proposed Project will not displace people and thus, will not necessitate the need for replacement housing. Refer to Response XIIb), above.

Source: Project Description

**III. PUBLIC SERVICES**

- XIIIa) 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 following public services:**

**Fire protection?**

**No Impact** The Project generally will not require fire protection, will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or, increase the demand on existing fire services, or result in extended response time for fire protection services. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

**Police protection?**

**No Impact.** The Project will not require police protection, will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand on police protection services, or result in extended response times for police protection services. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

**Schools?**

**No Impact.** The Project will not require school services, will not necessitate the construction of new facilities, or alter local enrollment. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

**Parks?**

**No Impact.** The Project will not require park services, will not necessitate the construction of new facilities, or increase the demand on existing park services. The proposed Project is within one-quarter mile of Searl Youth Sports Park located at 1001 N Buena Vista Street in Hemet; however, the storm drains are not proposed to cross this park. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description; HGP, Table 8.1; SJGP, Figure CSF-3

**Other public facilities?**

**No Impact.** There are no other public facilities that will be adversely impacted by implementation of the proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

**XIV. RECREATION**

- XIVa) 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.** The proposed Project does not involve new housing or employment opportunities that will generate users that could result in an increased use of existing parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

**XIVb) 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.** The proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or involve the construction of housing or creation of employment opportunities that would directly generate users that could result in a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Description

**XV. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC. Would the project:**

**XVa) Conflict with an adopted plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed storm drains will be constructed underground within existing road ROWs in Hemet and San Jacinto and below disturbed vacant land in Hemet. Both Hemet and San Jacinto have adopted a Circulation Element as part of their respective General Plans. The Hemet Circulation Element establishes standards for the movement of people, goods, and services throughout Hemet and identifies concepts, strategies, and implementation measures necessary to support development of the land uses identified in the Hemet Land Use Element (HGP, p. 4-1). The San Jacinto Circulation Element provides a for a safe, efficient, and adequate circulation system for San Jacinto by identifying goals and policies to improve overall circulation (SJGP pp. C-1-C-2). Because local circulation is linked with regional transportation systems, the respective Circulation Elements of Hemet and San Jacinto include a focus on regional transportation plans and programs to alleviate traffic congestion and construct road improvements (HGP; pp. 4-6-4-9; SGJP, p. C-2).

Construction and operation of the Project will be consistent with the *2011 Riverside County Congestion Management Program* (2011 CMP), which includes a Transportation Demand Management/Air Quality<sup>6</sup> (TDM/AQ) element. The TDM/AQ element includes programs and

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<sup>6</sup> Transportation Demand Management or TDM is a term applied to strategies intended to change how people use a transportation system.

strategies to promote alternatives to single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel as well as methods of eliminating incident based traffic congestion and pre-trip traffic information, including such activities as carpools, vanpools, transit, bicycles, park-and-ride lots, freeway service patrols, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) (CMP, p. 7-2). The Project’s potential to impact the five categories of TDM/AQ strategies are presented in **Table 8 – Categories of TDM/AQ Strategies and Summary of Project Impacts**, below.

**Table 8 – Categories of TDM/AQ Strategies and Summary of Project Impacts**

Category of TDM/AQ Strategy	Project Impacts
1. Enhance Vehicle Occupancy (carpools/vanpools/park-n-ride)	This strategy is not applicable to the Project.
2. Shift Auto Travel to Transit (bus and rail system improvements)	<p>As discussed in Response XVf), below, the Project alignment is near Riverside Transit Agency (bus) Routes 31, 32, 42, and 74 (RTA). If access to a RTA bus route will be temporarily affected during Project construction, the District will coordinate with RTA to maintain service in the area. Any Project-related impacts to bus service will be temporary and less than significant.</p> <p>There is a rail line approximately one-quarter of a mile west of the westernmost part of the Project alignment, which will not be affected by the Project.</p>
3. Shift Auto Travel to Non-Motorized Transportation Modes (bicycling and walking)	<p>The only designated bikeway along the Project alignment, is on Menlo Avenue, which is shown as a Class 2 bikeway in the Hemet General Plan (HGP, Figure 4.5) and Esplanade Avenue, which is shown as a Class II (sic) bikeway in the San Jacinto General Plan (SJGP, Figure C-4).</p> <p>There are no designated walking trails along the Project Alignment (HGP, Figure 8.3; SJGP). Any temporary road or lane closures will be coordinated with Hemet or San Jacinto (as appropriate) and a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will be prepared and implemented to provide for safe and orderly closures including detours if needed. Any Project-related impacts to cyclists and pedestrians will be temporary and less than significant</p>
4. Shift travel demand to “nonpeak” periods or eliminate trips through Alternative Work-hour Programs and	Impacts to current traffic flows during construction of the storm drains consist of minor, short-term delays, detours, and short-term

Category of TDM/AQ Strategy	Project Impacts
Telecommuting.	<p>increases in vehicle trips. Through-traffic may experience delays or congestion during construction of the Project. Encroachment permits will be acquired from the Hemet and San Jacinto for construction of facilities within their jurisdictional ROWs. In order to allow traffic to continue to flow in a safe manner, a TCP will be prepared and implemented</p> <p>The proposed Project is not a traffic-generating use. Truck traffic will be temporarily and incrementally increased on area roadways during the construction period. Ongoing maintenance will involve infrequent visits to the site, likely utilizing a light truck; however, this will not contribute to any significant increase in traffic on area roadways. The impact will be less than significant.</p>
5. Maximize the efficient use of parking resources through Parking Management	As discussed in Response XVe), below, adequate construction parking will be provided. Once construction is complete the Project does not need parking.
Source: 2011 CMP, pp. 7-2-7-3	

Since the Project will not impact implementation of the goals and policies of the Hemet Circulation Element, San Jacinto Circulation Element, or the TDM/AQ element of the 2011 CMP, and any temporary construction closures will be minimized through the preparation and implementation of a TCP; potential impacts regarding conflicts with adopted circulation plans, policies, ordinances, or programs will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description, CMP, HGP, SJGP

**XVb) Conflict with an adopted congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the appropriate congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Please see Response XVIa). As discussed in Response VIII) (Population and Housing), construction of the storm drains will not induce growth. Other than temporary construction traffic, pipeline construction will not generate additional traffic and will not conflict with the 2011 CMP.

Source: Project Description, CMP, HGP, SJGP

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

**No Impact.** The proposed Project does not include any component that would alter existing roadway design features. The proposed Project does not include any component that would introduce new hazards since the Project does not propose any new roadways. The Project is not proposing a new use that could introduce incompatible elements to area roadways. Therefore, there will be no impacts with regards to substantially increasing hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses, no impact is anticipated.

Source: Project Description

**XVd) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Operation and Maintenance of the proposed Project will not result in inadequate emergency access. Once construction is complete the ground and roads will be returned to their original condition. Construction of the proposed may require temporary closure of a travel lane. The TCP will detail and coordinate all traffic movement through the Project area and will be implemented throughout Project construction. The Project will be coordinated with San Jacinto and Hemet, who will review and approve the TCP. With implementation of the TCP combined with the temporary nature of any lane closure, impacts to emergency access will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

**XVe) Would the project result in inadequate parking capacity?**

**No Impact.** The Project will not affect any existing parking facilities. Adequate construction parking will be provided through construction staging areas adjacent to the Project alignment to accommodate employee and construction vehicles. Once construction is completed the Project does not need parking.

Source: Project Description

**XVf) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, pedestrian facilities, or other alternate transportation or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project will not reconfigure any roadways or alternative transportation services. Proposed facilities are near four Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) bus routes: Routes 31, 32, 42, and 74 (RTA). Although construction of facilities may require temporary closure of a traffic lane, such closure would be temporary and road access would be maintained or a detour provided per an approved TCP. If access to a RTA bus route will be affected, the District will coordinate with RTA in advance to maintain

service in the area. Therefore, impacts to alternative transportation services from the Project will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description; RTA

**XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:**

**XVIa) Impact the following facilities requiring or resulting in the construction of new facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

**Electricity**

**No Impact.** The proposed Project will not require electrical services and will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand for electrical services. There are aboveground electrical lines along San Jacinto Avenue and there may be underground electrical utilities in proximity to the proposed storm drains. However, with adherence to standard construction practices that require prior notification of utility providers prior to digging, and avoidance during construction; no damage to existing electrical facilities is expected.

Source: Project Description, ILE(a)

**Natural Gas**

**No Impact** The proposed Project will not require natural gas services and will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand for natural gas services. There may be underground gas lines in proximity to the proposed storm drains; however, with adherence to standard construction practices that require notification of utility providers prior to digging and avoidance during construction no damage to existing natural gas facilities is expected.

Source: Project Description, ILE(a)

**Communication System**

**No Impact.** The proposed Project will not require communication system services and will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand for communication system services. There may be above and below ground communication systems in proximity to the proposed storm drains; however with adherence to standard construction practices that require notification of utility providers prior to digging and avoidance during construction, no damage to existing communication systems is expected.

Source: Project Description, ILE(a)

### **Street lighting**

**No Impact.** The Project will not require street lighting and will not necessitate the construction of new street lights or increase the demand for street lighting. There are streetlights located along South San Jacinto Avenue and at the intersection of South San Jacinto Avenue/Menlo Avenue. However, the Project is not anticipated to adversely affect streetlights.

Source: Project Description

### **Public facilities, including roads and bridges**

**No Impact.** There are no other public facilities that will be adversely impacted by implementation of the proposed Project; thus, there will be no impacts.

Source: Project Description

#### **XVIb) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project is a system of storm drain facilities that are part of a master drainage plan. However, these facilities can function independently of planned upstream and downstream facilities. In addition, there is sufficient capacity in existing downstream facilities to accommodate the Project, and the construction of additional new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities is not required. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

Source: Project Description

#### **XVIc) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project does not involve activities that will require new or expanded permanent water supplies. Construction of the proposed Project will necessitate short-term water use in order to provide for dust control. Existing water sources and supplies will be adequate for the Project's construction needs. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

Source: Project Description

#### **XVI d) 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.** The proposed Project will not generate wastewater or require wastewater treatment services. Therefore, no new wastewater facilities are required as a result of the proposed Project and there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: Project Description

**XVIe) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project will not generate solid waste and will not require landfill service on a long-term basis. Construction waste will be limited to trash generated by construction crews plus debris from any removal of paved surfaces. Local landfills that have sufficient capacity to accept construction waste include Badlands and Lamb Canyon. For these reasons impacts will be less than significant.

Source: Project Description

**XVI f) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

**Less Than Significant Impact.** For District projects, all construction and demolition materials become the property of the contractor for disposal. The District requires that construction waste be disposed in compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations regarding solid waste; thus, there will be no impacts in this regard.

Source: Project Description

**XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.**

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

**Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** Nearly all of the Project alignment is developed (an existing road) or disturbed by regular discing or mowing. The Project site is not within the NEPSSA or CAPSSA survey areas.

Project construction will result in temporary impacts to small areas with the potential to be used by a number of special-status species including small mammals and birds. Project construction will also temporarily impact a small amount of raptor foraging habitat; however, no raptor nesting habitat is present along the Project alignment. All of the aforementioned impacts are considered less than significant. Project construction will require removal of vegetation with the potential to support nesting birds; however,

potential impacts to nesting birds will be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of mitigation **MM BIO 1**. Refer to Responses IVa) and IVb).

Although not detected during the focused survey, the burrowing owl has some potential to use portions of the Project alignment for breeding and foraging in the future, based on the presence of suitable habitat. Objective 6 of the MSHCP conservation objectives for the burrowing owl states that pre-construction presence/absence surveys for burrowing owl, within the survey area where suitable habitat is present, will be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance. Adherence to mitigation measure **MM BIO 2** will comply with Objective 6 and reduce potential impacts to burrowing owls to below the level of significance. Refer to Responses IVa) and IVf).

The Project will permanently impact approximately 0.002 acres of poor quality emergent wetland/riparian vegetation. There is a drainage swale and roadside drainage ditch along the Project alignment that currently convey storm flows from the upstream street system. However, because these are not natural features that provide very little, if any, aquatic resource functions, the impact will be less than significant. Refer to Responses IV b) and IVc).

Since the impacted waters and emergent wetland vegetation have negligible functional value the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on jurisdictional water features through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Therefore, impacts are less than significant and no mitigation measures are required. (GLA(b), p. 32)

The USACE reviewed the proposed Project and conducted a site visit on February 14, 2013. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that project implementation would not impact waters of the US subject to USACE jurisdiction; thus, a Section 404 permit is not anticipated to be required at this time. Nonetheless, the District will consult with the regulatory agencies and, if necessary, provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters as required per mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** and obtain applicable regulatory permits. See Section IV. Biological Resources, for more in this regard.

The Project is not expected to eliminate any important example of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Although the *Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment* concluded that the Project will not impact cultural resources. However, in the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during construction, implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR 1** will ensure the proposed Project does not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Refer to Responses Va) and Vb).

The paleontological records search did not identify any known paleontological localities within a one-mile radius of the Project and the field survey did not identify any surficial evidence of fossil remains or potentially fossiliferous sediments. Project construction will not extend to the depth at which Pleistocene-age materials will be encountered and paleontological resources are not expected to be exposed. However, in the event

paleontological resources are exposed during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **MM CR-2** will reduce potential impacts to less than significant. Refer to Response Vc). Therefore, with incorporated of mitigation measures **MM CR 1, MM CR-2 and MM CR-3** Project-related impacts to the state's historic and prehistoric resources will be less than significant.

Source: Analysis contained in the above checklist.

**XVIIb) 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 demonstrated by the analysis in this Initial Study, most of the Project's impacts are temporary and will cease when construction is complete. The Project is not considered growth inducing. The Project is in conformance with the AQMP, and the Project's short-term and long-term air quality emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD established thresholds of significance; the Project's net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the Project region is non-attainment is not cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project is consistent with the 2011 CMP and will not exceed either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established for designated roads or highways. Due to the small area of impact and the limited construction period, the Project impacts will not be cumulatively considerable.

Source: Above checklist

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

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project does not have the potential for any significant environmental effects that would cause substantial direct or indirect adverse impacts to human beings. Impacts considered less than significant.

Source: Above checklist

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## REFERENCES AND LIST OF PREPARERS

### ***List of Initial Study Preparers***

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### ***Resources Cited***

The following documents were referred to as information sources during preparation of this document.

They are available for public review at the locations abbreviated after each listing and identified at the end of this section.

Cited As:

Source:

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ALUC

Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, personal communication between John Guerin, ALUC Principal Planner and Cheryl DeGano, October 1, 2012.

AAW

Albert A. Webb Associates, Technical Memorandum, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Analysis for the San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Lines C (Stage 2), C-4, C-5, and B, December 11, 2012. (Included as Appendix A).

AQMP

South Coast Air Quality Management District, *2007 Air Quality Management Plan*, June 2007. (Available at [http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/07aqmp/aqmp/Complete\\_Document.pdf](http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/07aqmp/aqmp/Complete_Document.pdf), accessed December 21, 2012.)

Cited As:	Source:
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation, <i>California Scenic Highway Mapping System, Riverside County</i> , September 7, 2011. (Available at <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm">http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm</a> , accessed June 4, 2012.)
CRM TECH(a)	CRM TECH, <i>Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment, San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Lice C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5, and Line B</i> , July 16, 2012. (Included as Appendix C.1.)
CRM TECH(b)	CRM TECH, <i>Paleontological Resources Assessment, San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Lice C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5, and Line B</i> , July 17, 2012. (Included as Appendix C.2.)
Envirostor	California Department of Toxic Substances Control, <i>Envirostor Database</i> , 2007. (Available at <a href="http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/">http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/</a> , accessed June 4, 2012.)
FMMP	California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, <i>Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Riverside County Important Farmland 2008, Sheet 1 of 3</i> , September 2009. (Available at <a href="ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2008/riv08_west.pdf">ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2008/riv08_west.pdf</a> , accessed June 4, 2012.)
GLA(a)	Glenn Lukos Associates, Inc., <i>Biological Technical Report for the San Jacinto MDP Line C Stage 2, B, and C-5 Project</i> , November 9, 2012. (Included as Appendix B.1.)
GLA(b)	Glenn Lukos Associates, Inc., <i>Jurisdictional Delineation Report for the San Jacinto MDP Line C Stage 2, B and C-5 Project, City of San Jacinto, Riverside County, California</i> , November 9, 2012. (Included as Appendix B.2.)
Google Earth	Google, Inc, <i>Google Earth (Version 6.1.0.4857)</i> . (Available at <a href="http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/">http://www.google.com/earth/download/ge/</a> , accessed June 2012 through September 2012.)
Hemet Zoning	City of Hemet, <i>Official Zoning Map City of Hemet</i> , August 18, 2010. (Available at <a href="http://www.cityofhemet.org/DocumentView.aspx?DID=388">http://www.cityofhemet.org/DocumentView.aspx?DID=388</a> , accessed September 17, 2012.)
HGP	City of Hemet, <i>2030 General Plan</i> , Adopted January 24, 2012. (Available at <a href="http://www.cityofhemet.org/index.aspx?NID=534">http://www.cityofhemet.org/index.aspx?NID=534</a> , accessed June 2012 through September 2012.)
HMC	City of Hemet, Hemet Municipal Code. (Available at <a href="http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientID=12521&amp;stateID=5&amp;statename=California">http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientID=12521&amp;stateID=5&amp;statename=California</a> , accessed June 2012 through September 2012.)
ILE(a)	Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc., <i>Geotechnical Investigation San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Stage 1, Line C-5, and Line B Storm Drain (Project No. 4-0-00124), San Jacinto California</i> , August 31, 2012. (Included as Appendix D.1.)

Cited As:	Source:
ILE(b)	Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc., <i>Estimate of Holocene Alluvial Depth, San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Stage 1, Line C-5, and Line B Storm Drain [Project No. 4-0-00124]</i> , October 9, 2012. (Included as Appendix D.2.)
LHMP	County of Riverside, <i>Riverside County Operational Area, Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard (LHMP), Final Copy Approved by FEMA</i> , March 2005. (Available at <a href="http://www.rvcfire.org/opencms/functions/oes/EmergencyManagement/PlansandPublications/RIVERSIDE_COUNTY_OPERATIONAL_AREA_MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL_LHMP.html">http://www.rvcfire.org/opencms/functions/oes/EmergencyManagement/PlansandPublications/RIVERSIDE_COUNTY_OPERATIONAL_AREA_MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL_LHMP.html</a> , accessed September 25, 2012.)
MSHCP	County of Riverside, <i>Riverside County Integrated Project Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), Volume 1 – The Plan &amp; Volume 2 – The MSHCP Reference Document</i> , June 17, 2003. (Available <a href="http://www.rctlma.org/mshcp/index.html">http://www.rctlma.org/mshcp/index.html</a> , accessed January 10, 2012.)
NPDES	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, <i>2009-0009-DWQ Construction General Permit</i> , July 1, 2010. (Available at <a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml</a> , accessed January 12, 2012.)
Ord. No. 348	County of Riverside, Planning Department, <i>Ordinance 348, Land Use Ordinance of Riverside County, Amended through Ordinance No. 348.4596</i> , March 12, 2009. (Available at <a href="http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/zoning/ordnance/ord348_toc.html">http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/zoning/ordnance/ord348_toc.html</a> , accessed January 12, 2012.)
PRC	State of California. <i>California Public Resources Code</i> . (Available at <a href="http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=prc">http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=prc</a> , accessed June 4, 2012.)
RCLIS	County of Riverside, <i>Riverside County Land Information System</i> . (Available at <a href="http://www3.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/pa/rclis/">http://www3.tlma.co.riverside.ca.us/pa/rclis/</a> , accessed June 2012 through September 2012.)
RTA	Riverside Transit Agency, <i>System Map</i> , September 9, 2012. (Available at <a href="http://www.riversidetransit.com/home/images/stories/DOWNLOADS/PUBLICATIONS/SYSTEM_MAPS/2012-09%20System%20Map.pdf">http://www.riversidetransit.com/home/images/stories/DOWNLOADS/PUBLICATIONS/SYSTEM_MAPS/2012-09%20System%20Map.pdf</a> , accessed December 21, 2012.)
Section 53091	California Government Code Section 53091. (Available at <a href="http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html">http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html</a> , accessed June 4, 2012.)
SJGP	City of San Jacinto, <i>Final General Plan</i> , May 2006. (Available at <a href="http://www.ci.san-jacinto.ca.us/city-govt/general-plan.html">http://www.ci.san-jacinto.ca.us/city-govt/general-plan.html</a> , accessed June 2012 through September 2012.)
SJGP EIR	City of San Jacinto, <i>General Plan EIR</i> , May 2006. (Available at <a href="http://www.san-jacinto.ca.us/city-govt/general-plan-EIR.html">http://www.san-jacinto.ca.us/city-govt/general-plan-EIR.html</a> , accessed June 2012 through September 2012.)

Cited As:	Source:
SJMC	City of San Jacinto, San Jacinto Municipal Code. (Available at <a href="http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Sanjacinto.html">http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Sanjacinto.html</a> , accessed June 4, 2012.)
SJVCD	San Jacinto Valley Cemetery District, <i>Home Page</i> . (Available at <a href="http://www.sjvcd.org/">http://www.sjvcd.org/</a> , accessed September 27, 2012.)
SJ Zoning	City of San Jacinto, <i>San Jacinto Zoning</i> , Updated January 12, 2011. (Available at <a href="http://www.ci.san-jacinto.ca.us/city-govt/zoning/Zoning_map_01-12-11.pdf">http://www.ci.san-jacinto.ca.us/city-govt/zoning/Zoning_map_01-12-11.pdf</a> , accessed September 17, 2012.)
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, <i>Web Soil Survey</i> . (Available at <a href="http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm">http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm</a> , accessed August 23, 2012.)
Vibration Guidance	Jones & Stokes, <i>Transportation and Construction Induced Vibration Guidance Manual</i> , June 2004. (Available at <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/noise/pub/vibrationmanFINAL.pdf">http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/noise/pub/vibrationmanFINAL.pdf</a> , accessed March 29, 2012.)

## RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15074 requires the decision-making body to consider the IS/MND together with any comments received during the public review process. There is no requirement for a formal response to each of the comments received (unlike the requirements for a Final Environmental Impact Report). However, in order to provide the District's Board of Supervisors with additional information upon which to base their decision, the following Response to Comments has been prepared. The materials contained in this document include copies of comment letters and the District's responses. Each comment letter is labeled alphabetically with each individual comment identified by a number.

### Comments Received

The following comment letters were received regarding the IS/MND:

Letter	Date of Letter	Commenter	Agency / Entity
A	February 22, 2013	Scott Morgan	State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit
B	February 20, 2013	Jeff Brandt	State of California – Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly known as the California Department of Fish and Game)

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Letter A: State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Ken Alex  
Director

RECEIVED  
FEB 27 2013

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

February 22, 2013

Kris Flanigan  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation  
1995 Market Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

Subject: San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Line C, Stage 2, Line C-4, Line C-5, and Line B  
SCH#: 2013011029

Dear Kris Flanigan:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Mitigated Negative Declaration was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on February 20, 2013. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2013011029) when contacting this office.

A-1

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

**Responses to Comment Letter A: State of California, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit**

- A-1** The commenter transmitted the comment letter received from the Department of Fish and Wildlife. See Responses to Comment Letter B. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

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FINAL



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
(909) 484-0459  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



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February 20, 2013

FEB 21 2013

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Mr. Kris Flanigan  
Senior Civil Engineer  
Riverside County Flood Control and  
Water Conservation District  
1995 Market St.  
Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Project  
Cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, Riverside County.  
State Clearinghouse No. 2013011029

Dear Mr. Flanigan:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the San Jacinto Master Drainage Plan Project in the Cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, Riverside County, State Clearinghouse No. 2013011029. The Department is responding as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (Fish and Game Code sections 711.7 and 1802 and the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines [CEQA] section 15386) and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines section 15381), such as a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 *et seq.*) and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for Incidental Take of Endangered, Threatened, and/or Candidate species (Fish and Game Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1).

Project Description

The Project site consists of the construction of storm drain improvements, specifically Line C, Line C-5, Line C-4, Line B, relocation of existing utilities and repaving disturbed areas. The result of the Project will be four contiguous stormwater runoff conveyance pipelines totaling 1.6 miles in length. The Project is located within the cities of San Jacinto and Hemet, bounded on the north by West Esplanade Avenue, South San Jacinto Avenue to the east, East Menlo Avenue to the south and North Buena Vista Street to the west.

Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

The Department is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of fish and wildlife resources including rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species, pursuant to the CESA, and administers the Natural Community Conservation Plan Program (NCCP Program). On June 22, 2004, the Department issued Natural Community Conservation Plan Approval and Take Authorization for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

B-1

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*

(MSHCP) per Section 2800, et seq., of the California Fish and Game Code. The MSHCP establishes a multiple species conservation program to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permit.

The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWC) is the lead agency and is signatory to the implementing agreement of the MSHCP. Compliance with approved habitat plans, such as the MSHCP, is discussed in CEQA. Specifically, Section 15125(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the MND discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed Project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans.

The proposed Project occurs within the MSHCP area and is subject to the provisions and policies of the MSHCP. There are no Criteria Cells, Cores, Linkages or biological goals and objectives applicable to the Project and the Project will not adversely affect MSHCP Reserve Assembly.

#### Biological Resources & Impacts

Site specific surveys were conducted in 2011-2012. The Project site is within the survey area of the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), but is not within the survey area for narrow endemic plant species, Criteria Area plant surveys or any mammal or amphibian survey areas.

Species with the potential to occur on site include: California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*), sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), and Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensii*).

#### Department Concerns

1. The Department requests that the applicant provide the results of pre-construction surveys for nesting birds and burrowing owl; and, [redacted] B-3
2. The Department requests that the applicant submit a 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification prior to construction of the project; [redacted] B-4
3. The MND needs to provide a graphic showing areas of current overflow and flooding and assess potential impacts to vernal pools; [redacted] B-5
4. The MND needs to provide mitigation measures for impacts to State jurisdictional waters; and, [redacted] B-6
5. The MND needs to provide a graphic showing current underground storm drains and the specifics of the plans for under-grounding existing surface waters; [redacted] B-7

#### Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement

The Project's consulting biologists concluded that the riparian protection policies of the MSHCP do not apply to this Project. However, there are two features that convey runoff through developed areas of the City of San Jacinto towards the San Jacinto River. The Midway Street "Drainage B" collects flows from a 500-acre watershed to the southeast, conveys flows to the intersection of Midway Street and Santa Fe Street, extends north along Santa Fe Street through undeveloped parcels before being intercepted and collected into the existing Line C at Esplanade, into the Buena Vista Retention Basin, to Line E which conveys

B-1  
Cont

B-2

B-3

B-4

B-5

B-6

B-7

B-8

flows to the San Jacinto Reservoir. Overflow from the San Jacinto Reservoir flows 3 miles before reaching the San Jacinto River. Currently, water flows uncontrolled through some areas of existing streets and undeveloped parcels. The purpose of the Project is to reduce flooding.

B-8

Excess stormwater from the Project flows into the San Jacinto River. A jurisdictional delineation (JD) of state waters was conducted in 2011-2012. The Project's JD of State waters determined that there were 0.22 ac. of streambed. No mitigation is provided for the loss of jurisdictional streambed. The Department recommends a minimum ratio of 3:1 (replacement to impact ratio) for impacts to jurisdictional State waters.

B-9

The Department recommends submitting a notification early on, since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. To obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement notification package, please go to <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600/forms.html>.

B-10

A Project must provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, funding sources, a habitat management plan and reporting commitments. The CEQA document does not provide a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, and therefore, additional CEQA documentation will be required prior to execution (signing) of the Agreement. In order to avoid delays or repetition of the CEQA process, potential impacts to a stream or lake, as well as avoidance and mitigation measures need to be discussed within this CEQA document. Permit negotiations conducted after and outside of the CEQA process are not CEQA-compliant because they deprive the public and agencies of their right to know what project impacts are and how they are being mitigated (CEQA Section 15002).

B-11

The Department opposes the elimination of ephemeral, intermittent and perennial stream channels, lakes and their associated habitats. The Department recommends avoiding the stream and riparian habitat to the greatest extent possible. Any unavoidable impacts need to be compensated with the creation and/or restoration of in-kind habitat either on-site or off-site at a 3:1 minimum replacement to-impact ratio, depending on the impacts and proposed mitigation. Additional mitigation requirements through the Department's Streambed Alteration Agreement process may be required depending on the quality of habitat impacted, proposed mitigation, project design, and other factors.

B-12

The following information will be required for the processing of a Streambed Alteration Agreement and the Department recommends incorporating this information to avoid subsequent CEQA documentation and project delays:

- 1) Delineation of lakes, streams, and associated habitat that will be temporarily and/or permanently impacted by the proposed project (include an estimate of impact to each habitat type);
- 2) Discussion of avoidance measures to reduce project impacts; and,
- 3) Discussion of potential mitigation measures required to reduce the project impacts to a level of insignificance.

B-13

Please refer to section 15370 of the CEQA guidelines for the definition of mitigation.

In the absence of specific mitigation measures in the CEQA document, the Department believes that it cannot fulfill its obligations as a Trustee and Responsible Agency for fish and wildlife resources. Permit negotiations conducted after and outside of the CEQA process deprive the

B-14

public of its rights to know what project impacts are and how they are being mitigated in violation of CEQA Section 15002. In addition, because mitigation to offset the impacts was not identified in the CEQA document, the Department does not believe that the Lead Agency can make the determination that impacts to jurisdictional drainages and/or riparian habitat are "less than significant".

B-14

In summary, we believe the MND is inadequate in identifying appropriate mitigation for purposes of CEQA and the future preparation of an LSA if required. We recommend that the document be revised to address the Department's concerns and the revisions included in a subsequent CEQA document. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the referenced MND. If you should have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Robin Maloney-Rames, Environmental Scientist, at 909-980-3818.

B-15

Sincerely,



Jeff Brandt  
Senior Environmental Scientist

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FED

**Responses to Comment Letter B: State of California – Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**B-1** The summary of the Project description, the Department’s responsibility with regards to conservation of fish and wildlife resources, and the District’s role as an MSHCP co-permittee is noted. This comment also accurately states there are no MSHPC Criteria Cells, Cores, Linkages, or biological goals and objectives applicable to the Project and that the Project will not adversely affect MSHCP Reserve Assembly. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-2** The comments acknowledging the completion of biological surveys and summarizing species with the potential to occur along the Project alignment are noted. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-3** The request for copies of the pre-construction nesting bird and burrowing owl surveys is noted. Per mitigation measure **MM BIO 1**, nesting bird surveys will be prepared only if vegetation removal takes place during the nesting season; otherwise there is no requirement for nesting bird surveys. Mitigation measure **MM BIO 2** requires a pre-construction survey for burrowing owls within 30 days prior to ground disturbance. The District will provide the Department with the results of these surveys when they are completed.

No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-4** The request that the District submit a Section 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification prior to Project construction is noted. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required

**B-5** Figure 9 of the IS/MND shows areas subject to flooding in proximity to the proposed Project.

As discussed on pages 4 and 5 of the *Biological Technical Report for the San Jacinto MDP Line C, Stage 2, B, and C-5 Project* (included as Appendix B.1 of the IS/MND and hereinafter referred to as the BTR), the Project site was evaluated to determine the presence of, among other things, vernal pools and seasonal pool habitat. As reported on page 26 and 32 of the BTR and page 6 of the IS/MND, the Project site does not contain any vernal pools.

No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-6** In addition to the BTR, a jurisdictional delineation (JD) was prepared for the Project and included as Appendix B.2 of the IS/MND. As discussed on pages 27 and 28 of the IS/MND and shown in IS/MND Figures 7 and 8, there are two drainage features that have the potential to be jurisdictional. Collectively these drainages contain 0.222 acres of jurisdictional areas equating to 1,808 linear feet. As further discussed in the IS/MND, these drainages should be considered in context with the existing overall hydrologic conditions that will be improved by the Project and the biological functions and values of these drainages (IS/MND, pp. 27-29).

The proposed Project will not result in a loss of biological functions and values as it pertains to riparian/riverine species. Additionally, with the exception of a very small amount of emergent wetland vegetation (0.002 acre) within the Midway Street ditch (Drainage B), the Project will not impact wetlands or remove riparian habitat. Furthermore, these artificially created features provide very little, if any, aquatic resource function. As such, pursuant to CEQA, the Project will not “have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” Because impacts were determined to be less than significant, no mitigation is needed. (IS/MND, pp. 27-29) Nonetheless, as requested by the Department the final IS/MND will incorporate a mitigation measure requiring compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to State jurisdictional waters as follows:

**MM BIO 3:** To mitigate for impacts to jurisdictional waters, as part of the regulatory permitting process, the District shall provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters. The District shall fund the compensatory mitigation and shall maintain and monitor the compensatory mitigation site for a minimum of three years. The District shall also prepare annual reports with the status and results of the mitigation work for a minimum of three years. The District may hire a qualified consultant to assist in implementing this mitigation work. The District may prepare a Habitat Mitigation Monitoring Plan, if required by the Regulatory Agencies.

No new environmental issue was raised by this comment. **MM BIO 3** is an expansion of EC BIO 1, which states that the District will work with applicable regulatory agencies to acquire permits, as necessary. The District will implement any permits as prescribed. The addition of mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** does not constitute a substantial revision or modification of the IS/MND as defined by State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5(b). Therefore, recirculation of the IS/MND is not required.

- B-7** Exhibit 4 of the BTR (Appendix B.1 of the IS/MND) shows the locations of the District’s existing facilities into which the proposed Project will connect. Appendix E has been added showing the draft design plan and profiles. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.
- B-8** The comment, which summarizes conclusions from the IS/MND and BTR, is noted. Regarding compliance with the riverine policies of the MSHCP, under existing conditions, only large storm event flows make it to the San Jacinto River from the Project site. Typical flows downstream of the Project site do not have a defined path to the San Jacinto River. They either sheet flow into both undeveloped and developed land or follow existing curb and gutter, prior to being detained in the San Jacinto Basin. See *Section IV. Biological Resources* and *Appendices B.1* and *B.2* for more information in this regard. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.
- B-9** In regards to mitigation for the loss of jurisdictional streambed, as discussed in *Response to Comment B-6* mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** will be incorporated. Regarding the 3:1 replacement-

to-impact ratio for impacts to stream and riparian habitat, neither the Fish and Game Code nor the Department's Streambed Alteration Agreement process mandates a specific replacement-to-impact ratio. Mitigation is open to negotiation depending upon several factors.

No new environmental issue was raised by this comment. The addition of mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** does not constitute a substantial revision or modification of the IS/MND as defined by State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5(b). Therefore, recirculation of the IS/MND is not required.

**B-10** The recommendation to submit Streambed Alteration Agreement notification early is noted. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-11** With regards to the timing of permit negotiations, applicants can submit Notification of Streambed Alteration with a draft CEQA document if permits are needed; however, the Department will not deem the Notification complete until the CEQA document is transmitted to the State Clearinghouse (SCH), which assigns it a SCH number at the beginning of the public comment period. The potential need for a Streambed Alteration Agreement is noted on page 5 of the IS/MND. Further, the IS/MND identifies mitigation measures to reduce impacts to biological resources to less than significant. These mitigation measures are the basis for permit negotiations; thus the District has taken all reasonable actions to identify potential impacts to State jurisdictional waters, include appropriate mitigation, and make this information available to the public for review and comment. Therefore, the public has not been deprived of its right to know and the District has fully complied with Section 15002 (General Concepts) of the State *CEQA Guidelines*.

No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-12** The Department's opposition to elimination of stream channels, lakes, and associated habitats in addition to the Department's recommendation regarding avoidance of such habitat to the greatest extent possible is noted. Regarding the minimum 3:1 replacement-to-impact ratio for impacts to stream and riparian habitat, as stated in *Response to Comment B-9* neither the Fish and Game Code nor the Department's Streambed Alteration Agreement process mandates a specific replacement-to-impact ratio. Mitigation, as stated in *Comment B-12*, depends on the quality of habitat impacted and other factors.

No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-13** The Department's requirements for processing a Streambed Alteration Agreement and its recommendations for information to include in the application are noted. No new environmental issues have been raised by this comment and no modification of the IS/MND is required.

**B-14** The analysis in the IS/MND regarding impacts to fish and wildlife resources is supported by substantial evidence in the form of a Project-specific BTR and JD, which are IS/MND Appendices B.1 and B.2. Based on the results and conclusions of the BTR and JD, the IS/MND included two mitigation measures for potential impacts to biological resources, **MM BIO 1** and **MM BIO 2**

(IS.MND, p. 26). Both of these mitigation measures are specific and enforceable. Further, bound in the IS/MND document is the District's Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program Table, which identifies the specific action, party responsible for implementing the mitigation measures, governing agency, and the timing for each mitigation measure (IS/MND, pp. EC & MMP-1-3). Although the analysis in the IS/MND (pp. 28-2) and BTR (pp. 31-32) concluded the Project would have a less than significant impacts in regards to jurisdictional water features; the District will, incorporate a mitigation measure, **MM BIO 3** and revise page 28 of the final IS/MND as follows (new text is underscored):

Since the impacted waters and emergent wetland vegetation have negligible functional value the Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on jurisdictional water features through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. Therefore, impacts are less than significant and no mitigation measures are proposed. (GLA(b), p. 32)

The USACE reviewed the proposed Project and conducted a site visit on February 14, 2013 to make a preliminary determination as to whether the Project included features that would be considered waters of the US subject to USACE jurisdiction. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that project implementation would not impact waters subject to USACE jurisdiction; thus, a Section 404 permit is not anticipated to be required at this time. Nonetheless, the District will consult with the regulatory agencies and, if necessary, provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to jurisdictional State waters as required per mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** and obtain applicable regulatory permits.

**MM BIO 3:** To mitigate for impacts to jurisdictional waters, as part of the regulatory permitting process, the District shall provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters. The District shall fund the compensatory mitigation and shall maintain and monitor the compensatory mitigation site for a minimum of three years. The District shall also prepare annual reports with the status and results of the mitigation work for a minimum of three years. The District may hire a qualified consultant to assist in implementing this mitigation work. The District may prepare a Habitat Mitigation Monitoring Plan, if required by the Regulatory Agencies.

The Department's assertion that permit negotiations conducted after and outside of the CEQA process deprive the public of its right to know Project impacts and how such impacts are being mitigated constitutes a violation of Section 15002 (General Concepts) of the State *CEQA Guidelines*, is unsubstantiated and without merit. As previously stated in *Response to Comment B-11*, the Department's policies dictate the timing of permit negotiations. Although permit applications can be submitted with a draft CEQA document; such applications are not deemed complete until the CEQA document is transmitted to the SCH and assigned a SCH number. CEQA documents are transmitted

to the SCH at the beginning of the public comment period. Further the District fully complied with all applicable provisions of CEQA by: (i) determining the proposed Project is a “project” as defined by CEQA (Sections 15002(d) and 15002(k)(1)); (ii) conducting an initial study (Section 15002(k)(2)); and providing the public and responsible agencies proper notification of the availability of the IS/MND (Section 15002(i)).

No new environmental issue was raised by this comment. The revision to the IS/MND discussed above, including the addition of mitigation measure **MM BIO 3**, does not constitute a substantial revision or modification of the IS/MND as defined by State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5(b). Therefore, recirculation of the IS/MND is not required.

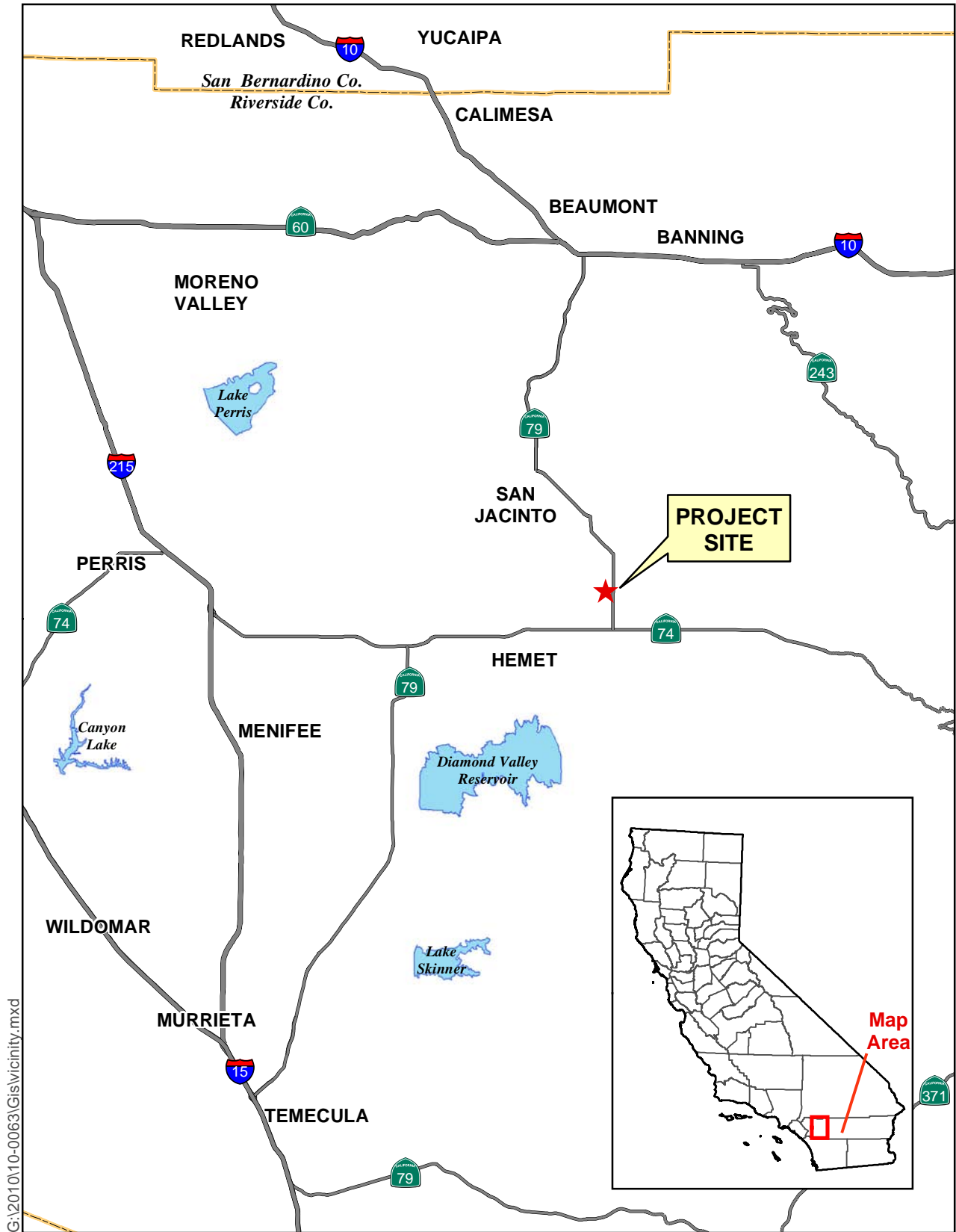
**B-15** The District disagrees with the Department’s assertion that the IS/MND is inadequate in identifying appropriate mitigation for the purpose of CEQA and the future preparation of a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. The contents and analysis in the IS/MND are consistent with the requirements of Section 15063 of the State *CEQA Guidelines*. Further, the analysis, conclusions, and findings in the IS/MND are supported by facts and substantial evidence, which includes preparation of Project-specific technical reports. Notice of the District’s intent to adopt the MND was provided per Section 15072 of the State *CEQA Guidelines* via publication in the Riverside Press-Enterprise and mailing to responsible and trustee agencies, interested parties, and property owners adjacent to the Project alignment. The IS/MND was available for a 30 day public review period per State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.

Further, as discussed in *Responses to Comments B-6, B-9, B-12, and B-14*, even though the Project will not result in a significant impact to State jurisdictional waters, the Project will incorporate mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** and provide compensatory mitigation at a minimum ratio of 1:1 for permanent impacts to State jurisdictional waters.

No new environmental issue was raised by this comment. The addition of mitigation measure **MM BIO 3** to the final IS/MND, does not constitute a substantial revision or modification of the IS/MND as defined by State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5(b). Therefore, recirculation of the IS/MND is not required and no subsequent CEQA document is warranted.

FINAL

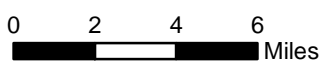
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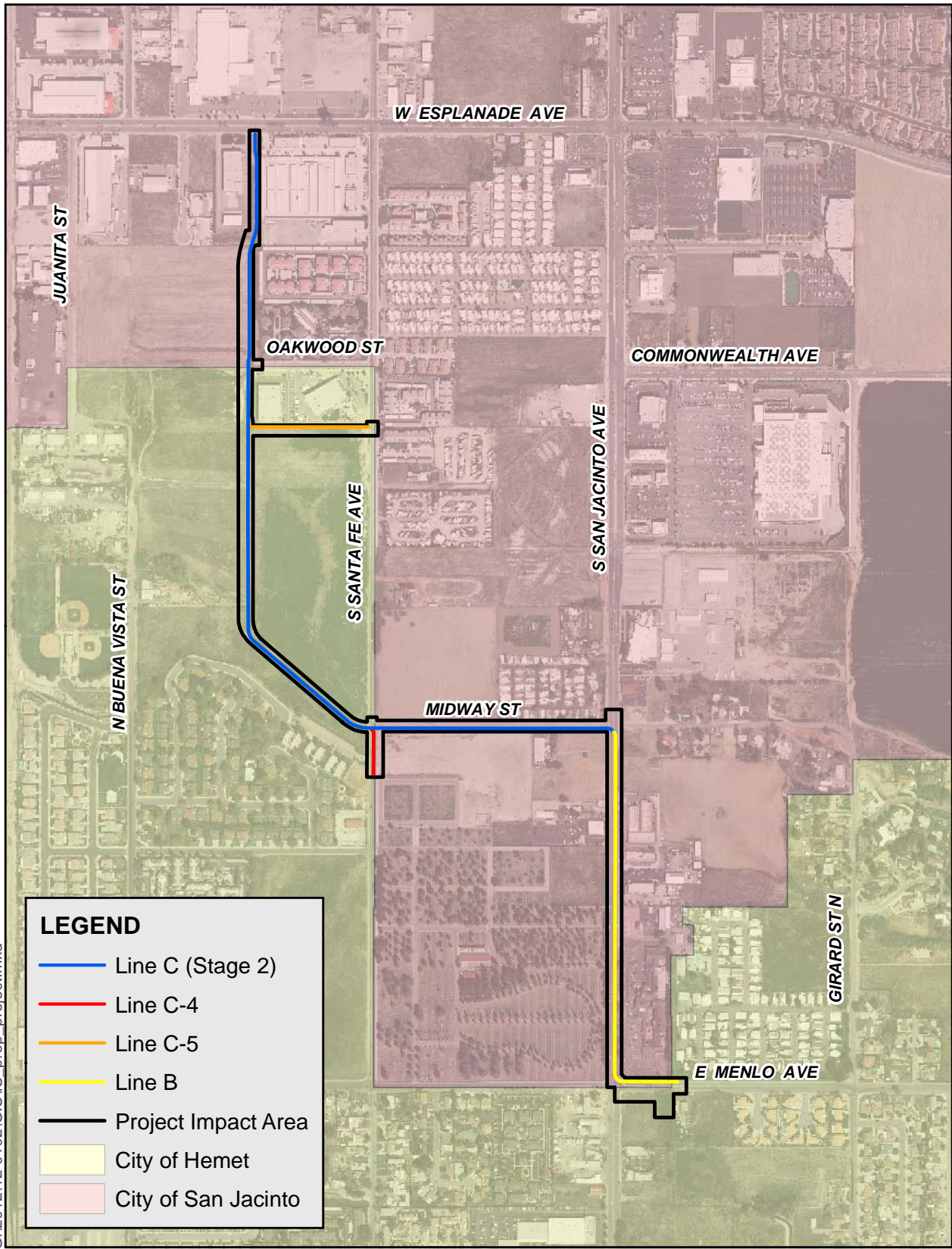
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**Figure 1 - Vicinity Map**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP



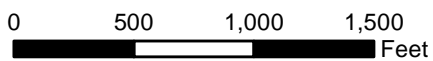
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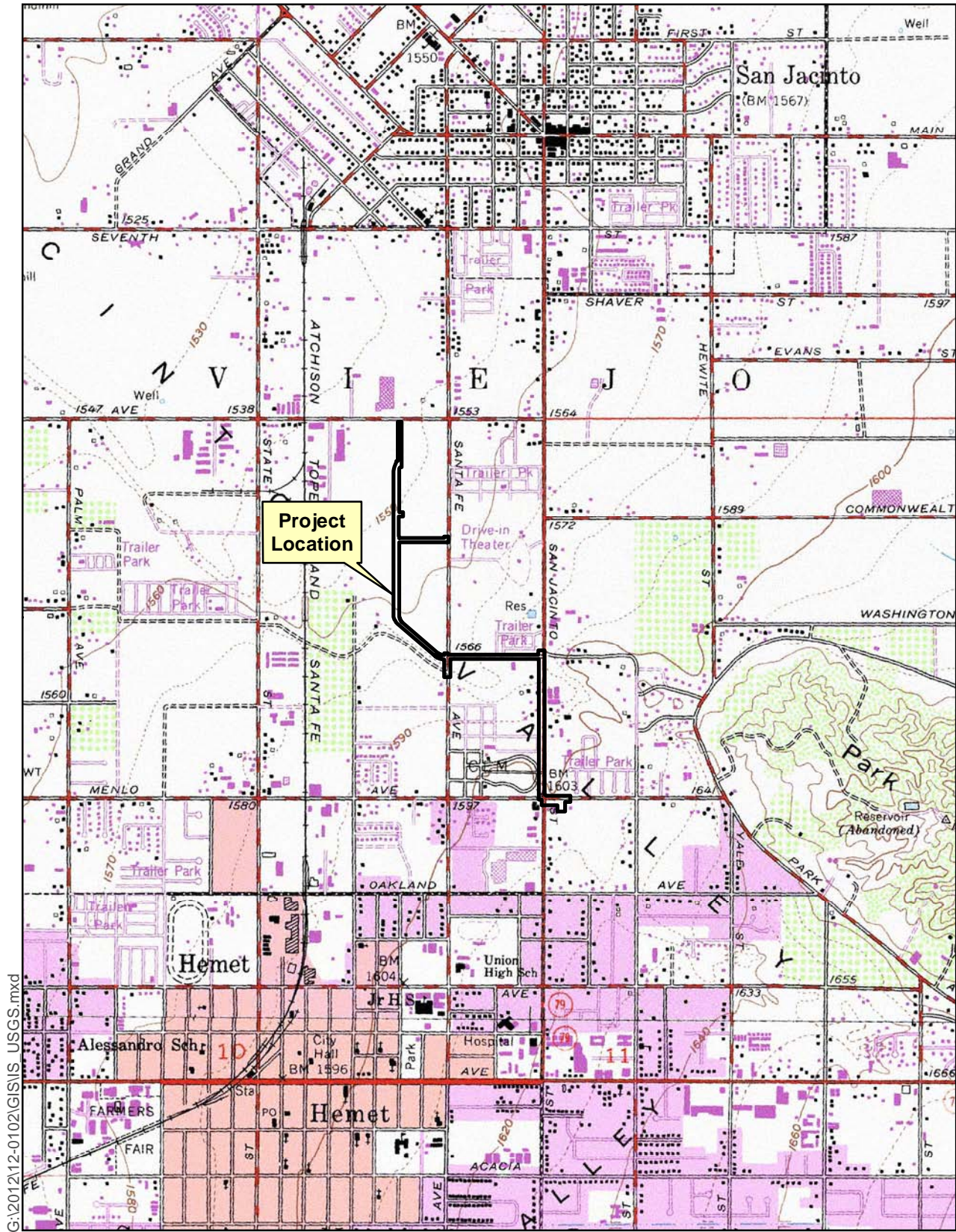


Sources: Riverside Co. FCD&WCD, April 2012; Eagle Aerial, April 2012.

**Figure 2 - Proposed Project**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP



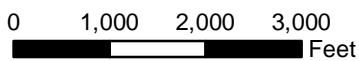


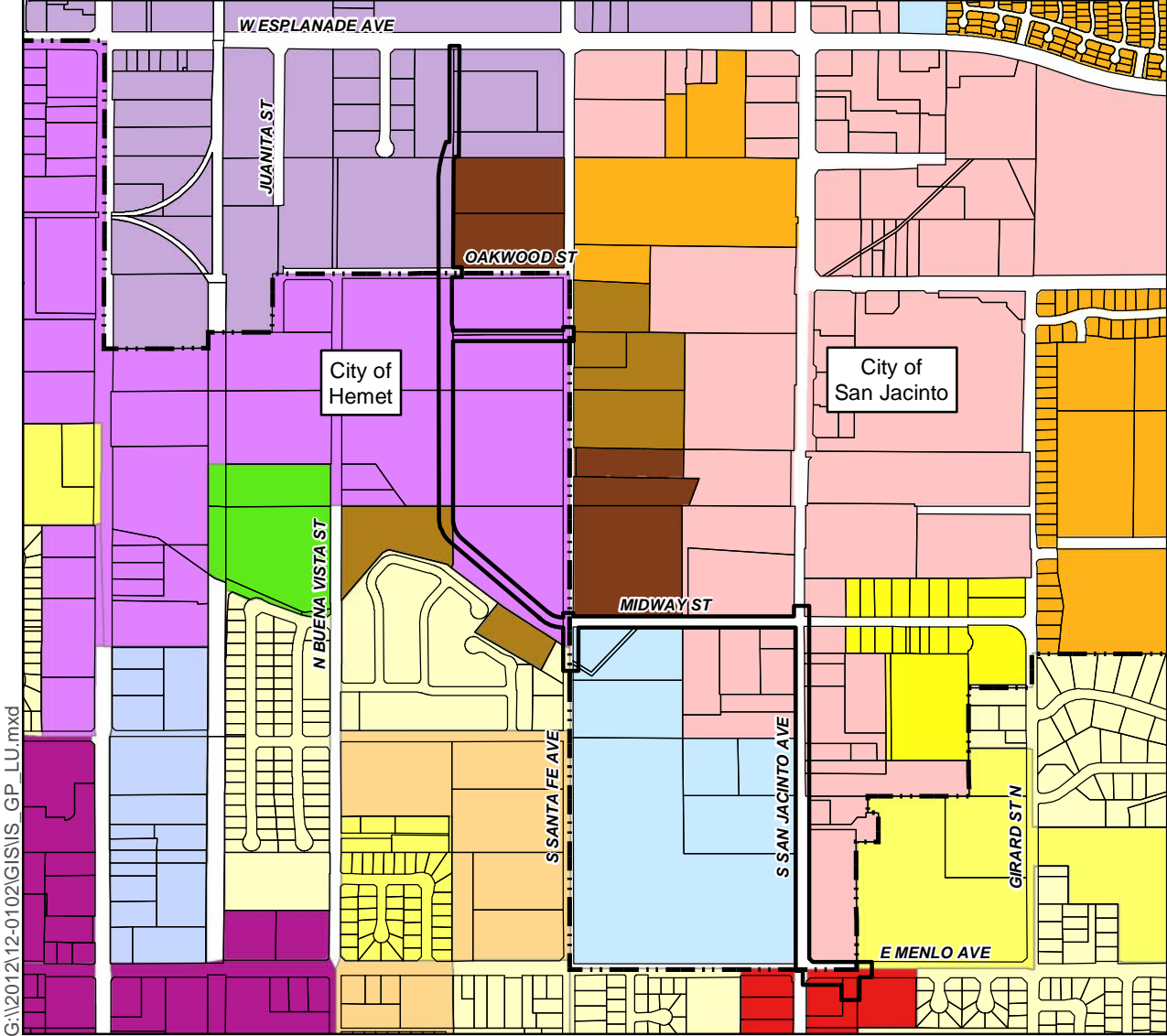
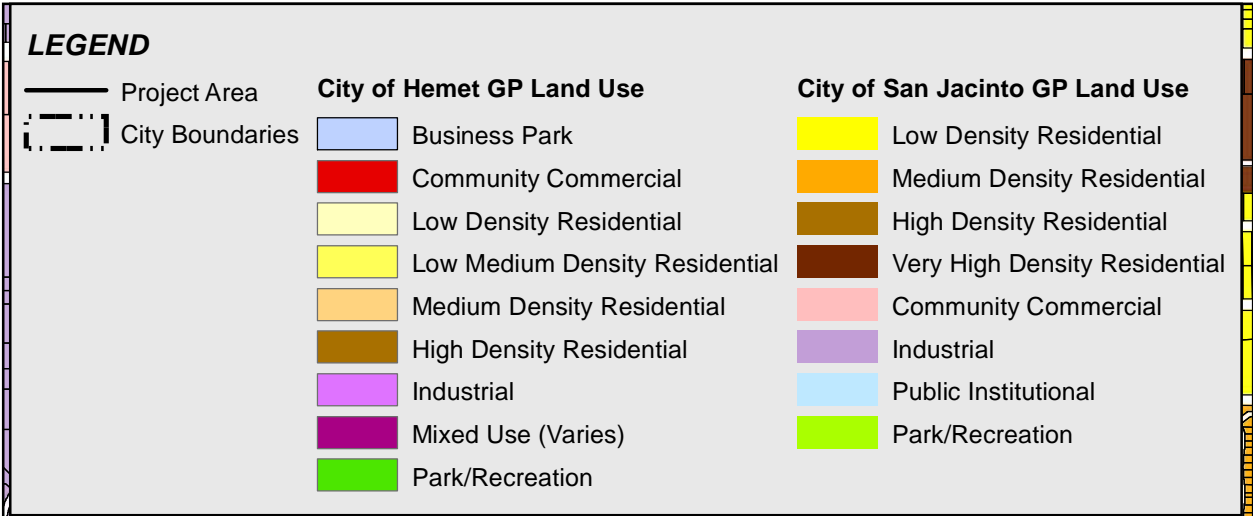
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Sources: USGS 7.5 min Quad DRG's:  
SAN JACINTO/HEMET

**Figure 3 - USGS Topo Map**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP



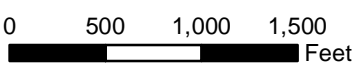


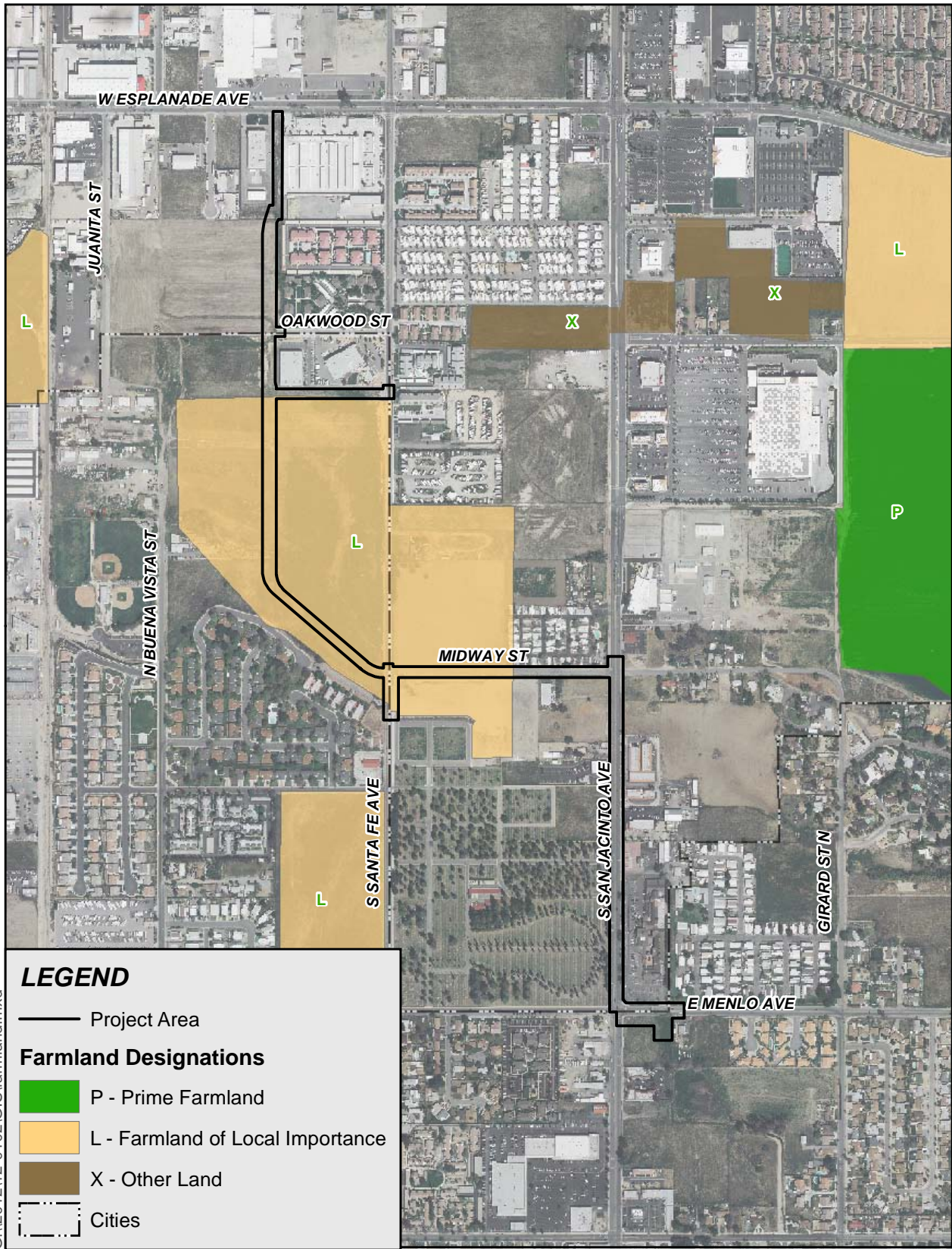
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Sources: City of Hemet General Plan, adopted Jan. 24, 2012; City of San Jacinto General Plan, as modified May 2010.

**Figure 4 - General Plan Land Use Designations**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B San Jacinto MDP





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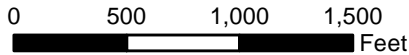
**LEGEND**

- Project Area
- Farmland Designations**
- P - Prime Farmland
- L - Farmland of Local Importance
- X - Other Land
- - - - - Cities

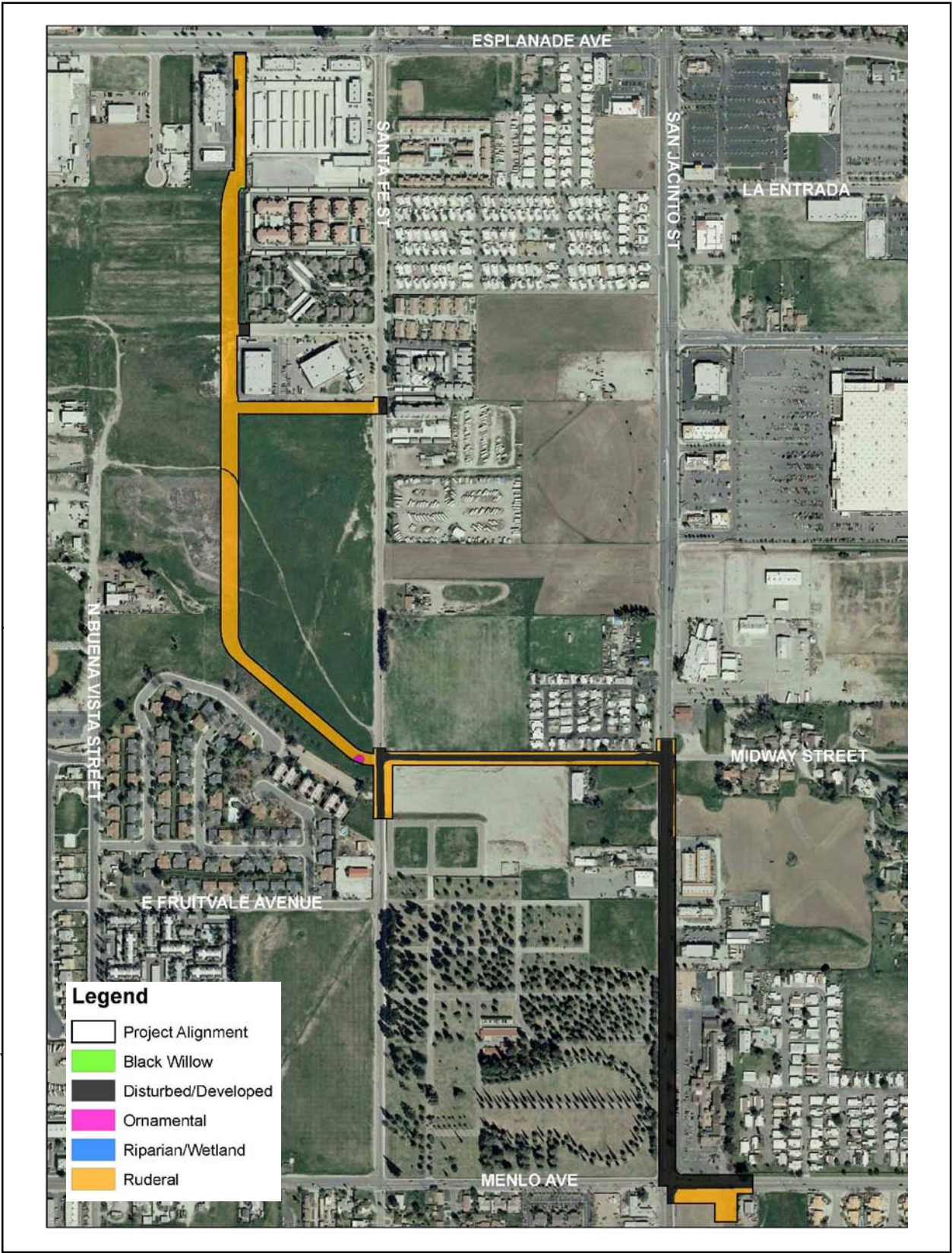
Sources: Calif. Dept. of Conservation; FMMP, 2010; Eagle Aerial, April 2012.

**Figure 5 - Farmland**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP



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**Figure 6 - Vegetation Map**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP

0 2 4 6  
Miles



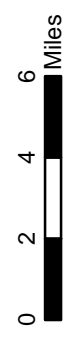


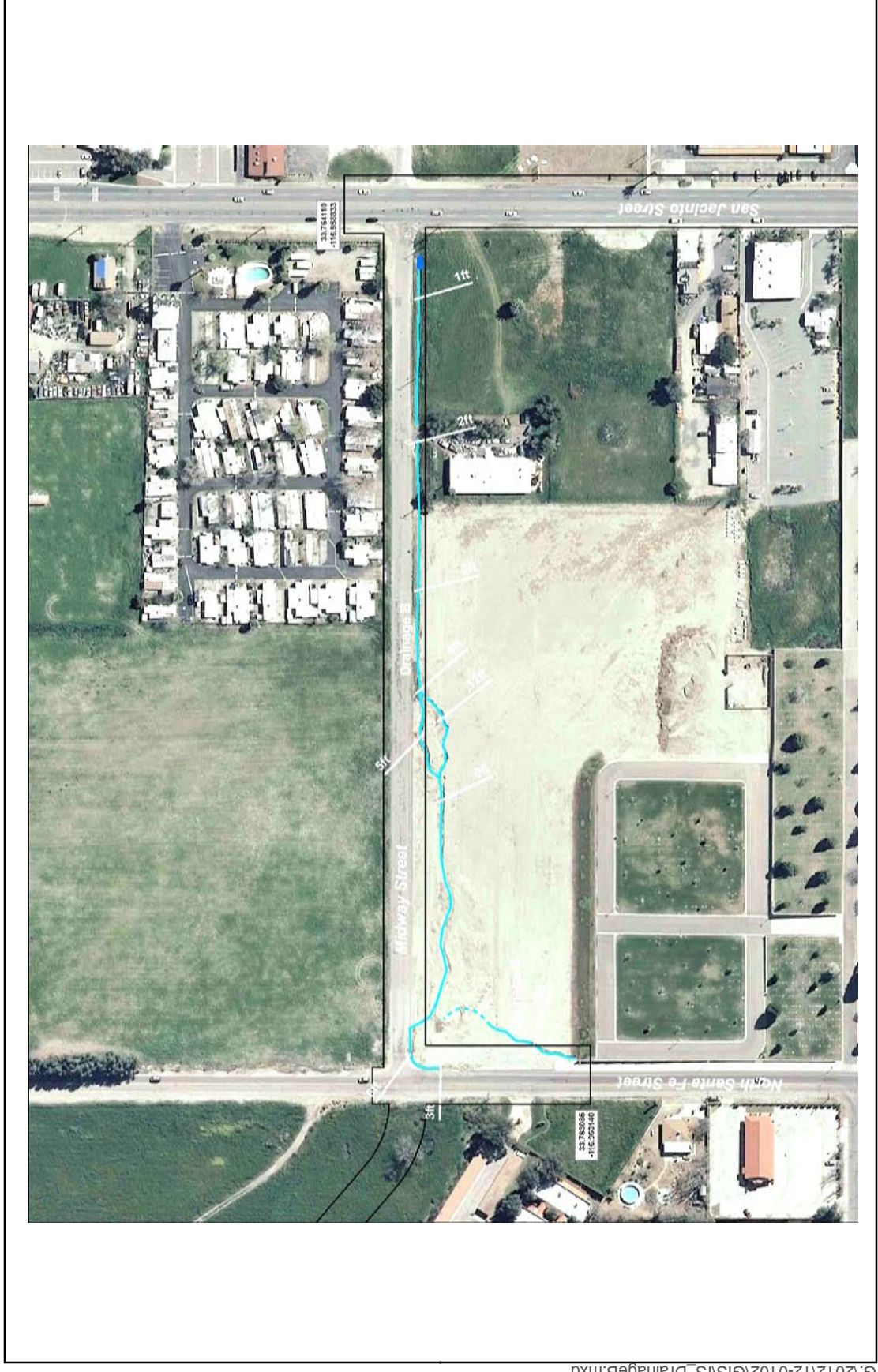
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**Figure 7 - Potential Jurisdictional Waters (Drainage A)**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP

- Legend**
-  Project Alignment
  -  Potential Corps & RWQCB Non-Wetland Waters/
  -  CDFG Unvegetated Streambed





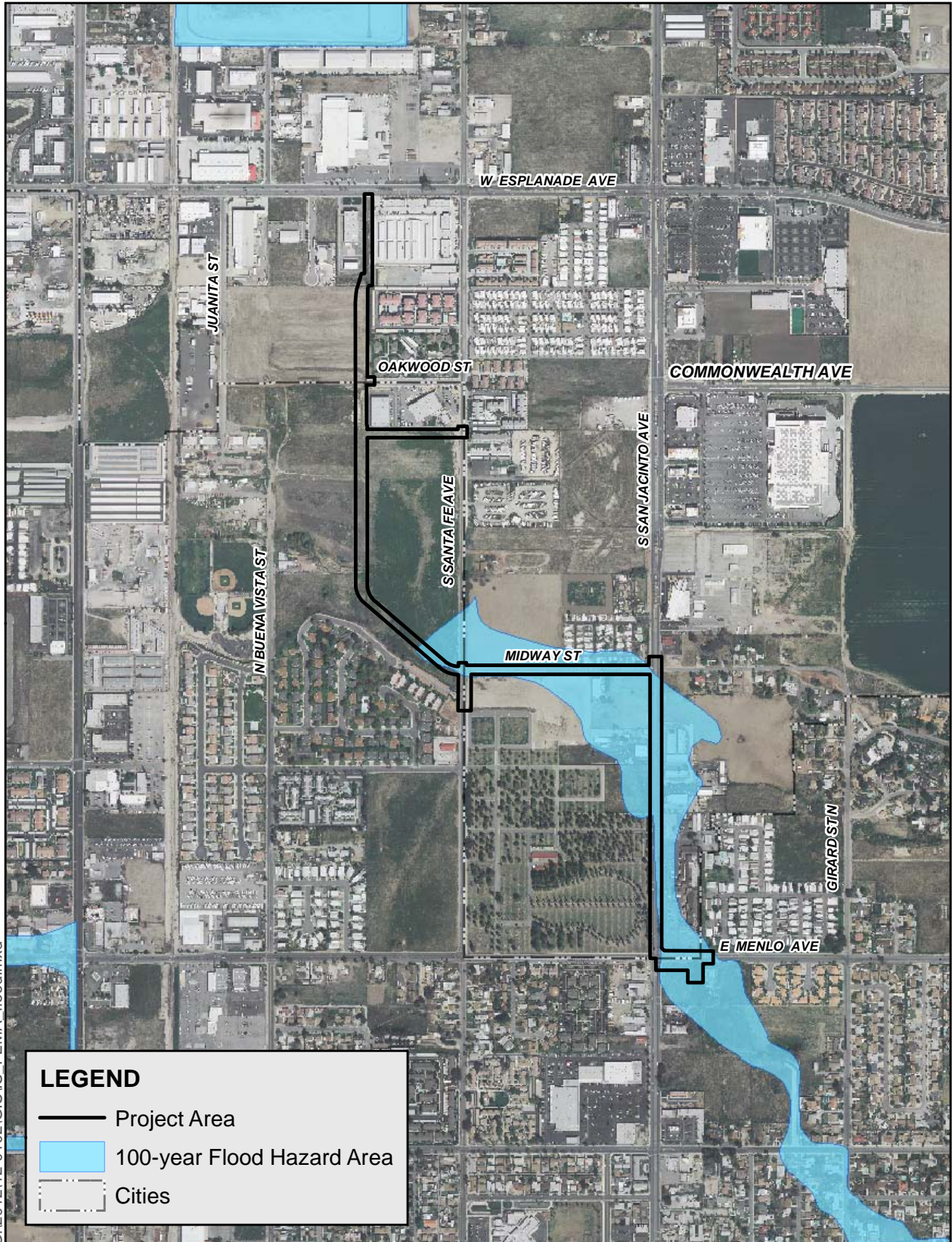
**Figure 8 - Potential Jurisdictional Waters (Drainage B)**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP

- Legend**
- Project Alignment
  - Potential Corps & RWQCB Wetland/CDFG Riparian
  - Potential Corps & RWQCB Non-Wetland Waters/CDFG Unvegetated Streambed
  - NoOHWM



G:\2012\12-01\GIS\12 FEMA\_flood.mxd



Sources: FEMA DFIRM,  
Eagle Aerial, April 2012.

**Figure 9 - FEMA Flood Zone Map**

Lines C, Stage 2, C-4, C-5 and Line B  
San Jacinto MDP