Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data that inventories agricultural land resources in the State. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is classified as Prime Farmland. The maps are updated every two years and the latest maps are available digitally through the FMMP interactive mapping viewer.

The Project site and vicinity was reviewed in the FMMP interactive map on May 9, 2014. The proposed storm drain alignment on Hathaway Street from its northern limit to Charles Street is identified as urban built-up land, south of Charles Street the area has a designation of "Farmland of Local Importance.. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is identified within the proposed alignment or in the immediate vicinity. Under existing conditions parcels south of Charles Street with a farmland of local importance designation are vacant and do not support agricultural uses. The proposed pipeline will be constructed within the Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-ways and would not result in the conversion of farmland of local importance to non-agricultural use. No impacts would occur.

b) Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Project site was reviewed in the Riverside County Williamson Act FY 2008/2009 Sheet 1 of 3 prepared by the California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Conservation Program Support. Land in the immediate vicinity of the proposed storm drain alignment is classified as urban built-up land or as non-enrolled land. Additionally, undeveloped/vacant parcels in the immediate vicinity of the Project were researched in the Riverside County TLMA GIS online service; according to the database none of the parcels are enrolled in the Riverside County Agricultural Preserve program. Implementation of the Project would not impact Williamson Act Land or land within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Land use designations along the proposed storm drain alignment include: public facilities (Banning Airport), airport industrial, industrial, rural residential and very low density residential (City of Banning General Plan). The proposed storm drain would be constructed within the Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-ways; a storm drain outlet would be constructed at Smith Creek. Vacant and undeveloped parcels south of Charles Street and adjacent to the alignment have a designation of farmland of local importance as determined by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. These parcels are not utilized as farmland or developed with agricultural uses; additionally the alignment is located within the Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-ways and would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. No impacts would occur.

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))?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
According to the City of Banning General Plan with Zoning Overlay map, land uses along the proposed storm drain alignment include: public facilities (Banning Airport), airport industrial, industrial, rural residential and very low density residential. No land zoned as forestland, timberland, or timberland production occurs within the proposed storm drain alignment or in the immediate vicinity. No impacts are anticipated.				
e) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
No forest land occurs within the project area. No impacts to forest land would result.				
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:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed drainage improvement project consists of a gravity fed storm drain within the Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-ways in Banning. The project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). To ensure continued progress toward clean air and comply with State and federal requirements in the SCAB, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), in conjunction with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the Southern California Association of Governments and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have prepared the Final 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). SAAQMD is currently initiating an early development process for the 2016 AQMP. The AQMP incorporates the latest scientific and technological information and planning assumptions, including but not limited to local General Plans and regional plans. Upon completion of construction activities, operation and maintenance of the Project would result in minimal emissions comparable to construction emissions. Maintenance activities would include routine maintenance of access roads and of the outlet structure at Smith Creek approximately once a year. Maintenance may include but is not limited to re-grading/repairing access roads, trash removal, erosion control, and sediment and debris removal from the outlet structure. Restorative maintenance may be necessary in the event of large flooding events and would occur only in an as-needed basis. Approval of the project would not conflict with the 2012 AQMP as the improvements have been included in the plan. No impact is anticipated.				
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
See discussion in III(c) below.				
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 *(including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*	☐	☐	☒	☐
Drainage improvements within Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-way would require earthmoving, material removal, and other activities such as grading and asphalt paving. The project's construction activities were screened for emission generation using South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) "Air Quality Handbook" guidelines, Emission Factors for On-Road Heavy-Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks (2015) and SCAQMD Off-Road Mobile Source Emissions Factors (2015). These tables are used to generate emissions estimates for development projects. The criteria pollutants screened for included: reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrous oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulates (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$). Two of these, ROG and NO_x, are ozone precursors.				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

Construction earthwork emissions are considered short-term, temporary emissions. Modeled emission estimates are presented in Table 1. The following construction parameters were assumed:

Material Removal, Typical daily equipment:

- The removal of construction debris (asphalt, concrete, earth, etc.).
- Approximately 45 mile haul distance (roundtrip)

Drainage Improvement equipment (operating 8 hours per day, worst case scenario):

- *Bore/Drill Rig*
- *Concrete/Industrial Saw*
- *Crane*
- *Crawler Tractors*
- *Excavator*
- *Paving Equipment*
- *Roller*
- *Rubber Tired Loader*
- *Skid Steer Loader*
- *Tractor/Loader/Backhoe*

Table 1
Construction Emissions
"Development Improvements"
(Pounds per Day)

Source	ROG	NO_X	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Bore/Drill Rig	0.5	4.9	4.0	0.2	0.2
Concrete/Industrial Saw	0.7	3.9	3.2	0.3	0.3
Crane	1.9	16.3	7.0	0.7	0.7
Crawler Tractor	1.1	8.0	4.5	0.5	0.5
Excavator	1.7	11.9	8.4	0.6	0.6
Paving Equipment	0.8	5.5	3.4	0.4	0.4
Roller	0.7	4.6	3.2	0.3	0.3
Rubber Tired Loader	1.7	12.5	7.4	0.7	0.7
Skid Steer Loader	0.3	1.8	1.8	0.1	0.1
Tractor/Loader/Backhoe	0.5	3.6	3.0	0.2	0.2
Haul Truck	1.4	17.2	6.2	1.6	1.6
Totals (lbs/day)	**11.4**	**90.2**	**52.1**	**5.5**	**5.5**
SCAQMD Threshold	75	100	550	150	55
Significant	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: SCAQMD Off-Road Mobile Source Emissions Factors (2015)

As shown in Table 1 construction emissions would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403 Although the proposed project does not exceed SCAQMD thresholds for construction emissions, the applicant is required to comply with all applicable SCAQMD rules and regulations as the South Coast Air Basin is in non-attainment status for ozone and suspended particulates (PM_{10}). The project contactor shall comply with all provisions of Rule 403.				
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed Project is construction, operation and maintenance of a storm drain within the Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-way and an outfall to Smith Creek. The Project would improve storm water flow within the vicinity. As shown in Table 1 construction impacts are not anticipated to exceed SCAQMD thresholds. Maintenance activities on the alignment roads and outfall are expected to occur approximately once a year. Subsequent maintenance is expected to release infrequent and minor air emissions associated with trucks used on an as-needed basis for inspection or maintenance purposes. Operation and maintenance of the Project would result in minimal emissions comparable to construction emissions. Neither construction nor operational emissions would exceed the SCAQMD thresholds, therefore, the proposed drainage improvements are not anticipated to impact sensitive receptors.				
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The Project would improve storm water flow within the vicinity. The Project includes construction, operation and maintenance of a storm drain in existing road right-of-ways and an outfall to Smith Creek. The Project would not result in any permanent odor emission and operational emissions would not occur. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in any permanent impacts to surrounding properties from objectionable odors.				
f) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
In September 2006 Governor Schwarzenegger signed Assembly Bill 32, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The Act requires that by the year 2020, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions generated in California be reduced to the levels of 1990. Per CEQA guidelines, new project emissions are treated as standard emissions, and air quality impacts are evaluated for significance on an air basin or even at a neighborhood level. Greenhouse gas emissions are treated differently as the perspective is global, not local. Therefore, emissions for certain types of projects might not necessarily be considered as new emissions if the project is primarily population driven. Many gases make up the group of pollutants that are believed to contribute to global climate change. However the three gases that are currently evaluated are Carbon dioxide (CO_2) Methane (CH_4) and Nitrous oxide (N_2O). GHGs emissions were evaluated using SCAQMD's Off-Road Mobile Source Emissions Factors (2015), Emission Factors for On-Road Heavy-Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks (2015), and California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, 2009I; Table A9-8-C SCAQMD Handbook; Climate Leaders EPA, Section 3, Table 2. Model results for GHG emissions related to the Proposed Project are shown in Table 2. A threshold of 3,000 $MTCO2_E$ per year has been adopted by SCAQMD for determining a project's potential for significant impact to global warming for non-industrial projects (Draft Guidance Document – Interim CEQA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Significance Threshold, SCAQMD, October 2008).				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

Table 2
Greenhouse Gas Construction Emissions
"Development Improvements"
MT Per Year

Source/Phase	CO_2	CH_4	N_20[1]
Bore/Drill Rig	1320	0.0	0.0
Concrete/Industrial Saw	168	0.1	0.0
Crane	2064	0.2	0.0
Crawler Tractor	912	0.1	0.0
Excavator	1920	0.2	0.0
Paving Equipment	551.2	0.1	0.0
Roller	536.8	0.1	0.0
Rubber Tired Loader	1744.0	0.2	0.0
Skid Steer Loader	242.4	0.0	0.0
Tractor/Loader/Backhoe	534.4	0.0	0.0
Haul Truck	3410.1	0.1	0.0
Total lbs. per day	13,703.90		
Total in MT per day	6.84		
Total CO2e Per Year	**718.2**		
SCAQMD Threshold	3,000		
Significant	**No**		

Source: Emission Factors for On-Road Heavy-Heavy Duty Diesel Trucks (2014)
[1] California Climate Action Registry General Reporting Protocol, 2009I;
Table A9-8-C SCAQMD Handbook; Climate Leaders EPA, Section 3, Table 2
Note: 105 work day period

As shown in Table 2, GHG emissions related to the proposed Project would not exceed the SCAQMD GHG emissions threshold. Operation and maintenance of the Project would result in minimal emissions comparable to construction emissions. Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

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

There are no existing GHG plans, policies, or regulations that have been adopted by CARB or SCAQMD that would apply to this type of emissions source. As discussed in Section III (f) above, the GHG emissions generated by the proposed Project are temporary and fall well below the recommended significance threshold. It is possible that CARB may develop performance standards for Project-related activities prior to Project construction. In this event, these performance standards would be implemented and adhered to, and there would be no conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

A General Biological Resources Assessment for the Master Drainage Plan Line H Storm Drain was prepared by Natural Resources Assessment, Inc. As described in the Biological Resources Assessment, surveys of the project area were conducted on May 12, 2014. Within the paved portions of the alignment there are no plant communities; undeveloped sections are either vegetated with ruderal plants, Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub, or landscape plants.

The proposed project area is located within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) survey area for narrow endemic plant species, criteria area plant species, mammals, and burrowing owl. Sensitive biological resources identified from literature to have the potential to occur in the area include two California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory List 1B.1 Plants: Marvin's onion (*Allium marvinii*) and multi-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*), and two species designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as Species of Special Concern: Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognatuhus longimembris brevinasus*) and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypogea*). The Biological Resources Assessment concluded that the project site does not support suitable habitat for Marvin's onion or multi-stemmed dudleya and that no impacts to these species or their habitat would occur.

The Biological Resources Assessment identified suitable habitat for burrowing owl. The focused burrowing owl survey area encompassed 500-feet on either side of the proposed storm drain alignment, where access was available, and was conducted on August 29, 2014; the survey area was determined to be unoccupied. Two natural burrows that could potentially be occupied by burrowing owl in the future were recorded. In order to avoid potential impacts to burrowing owl Mitigation Measure 1 shall be implemented.

A portion of the project area is located within the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Mammal Species Survey Area, which requires surveys for Los Angeles Pocket Mouse (LAPM). The Biological Resources Assessment identified suitable habitat for this species in undeveloped properties along the south side of Wesley Street and within Smith Creek. Protocol surveys for LAPM were conducted over a period of five night trapping sessions starting on September 5, 2014. The surveys focused on the determination of presence/absence; a total of 109 traps were set in suitable habitat along the alignment. A single grid of seven by seven (49 traps) was set within Smith Creek at the location of the proposed storm drain outlet.

North American deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), Dulzura kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys simulans*), Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*), and northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodippus fallax fallax*) were trapped within Smith Creek.

The area of Smith Creek to be permanently impacted by the project is approximately 0.1 acres, a portion of which is on the existing concrete bank along Smith Creek. The permanent impact area does not affect the riverine/riparian area of the Creek. Temporary impacts of up to 1.41 acres to the riverine/riparian habitat would be restored to pre-project conditions. Smith Creek is outside of the MSHCP Criteria Area and has not been identified as a core area for the conservation of LAPM as identified in the species objectives defined in the MSHCP. Therefore, Smith Creek does not provide long term conservation value for LAPM. Although focused surveys for the species returned positive; the Project net impact to suitable habitat is approximately 0.1 acres and permanent impacts would be avoided on more than 90% of suitable habitat on the property (1.66 of 1.76 acres). Therefore, mitigation measures and a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation under the MSHCP are not required.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

The Biological Resource Assessment identified suitable nesting habitat for birds along the eastern portion of the storm drain alignment and near the Smith Creek outfall that includes a row of eucalyptus trees near the creek bank and Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub on the creek bench. Although no nests were observed during the field survey, raptors and all migratory bird species receive protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. Additional protection is provided to all bald and golden eagles under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940. It is possible that birds may nest at the site; therefore, if tree removal, or site grading will occur during nesting season (February 1 Through August 31) Mitigation Measure 2 shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measure 1:

A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted no more than 30-days prior to grading or ground disturbing activity. The pre-construction survey and any relocation of burrowing owls, if present, shall be conducted in accordance with current MSHCP survey guidelines and protocols.

Mitigation Measure 2

If vegetation must be removed during the nesting season (February 1 – August 31), a qualified biologist will conduct a nesting bird survey of potentially suitable nesting vegetation prior to removal. If active nests are identified, the biologist will establish appropriate buffers around the vegetation containing active nests. The vegetation containing active nests will not be removed, and no grading will occur within the established buffer, until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The field survey conducted for the Biological Resources Assessment included an evaluation for jurisdictional waters and wetlands including riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools/fairly shrimp habitat within the proposed Line H pipeline alignment study area.

The Biological Resources Assessment determined that no vernal pools or fairy shrimp habitats occur within the project. The soils within the project alignment are described as well-drained to excessively well drained, no clay or similar hard-packed surface soils that might retain water long enough to support fairy shrimp were identified.

The project study area was surveyed for the presence of riparian and riverine habitats. No riparian habitat was identified within the study area. Implementation of the project would have a minimal temporary impact on riverine habitat on approximately .01 acres of the active stream within Smith Creek. The Biological Resources Assessment determined that temporary loss of riverine habitat would occur during construction; however, the impacted area would be allowed to return to existing functions and values after construction through restoration. There are no impacts to other resources of concern under the MSHCP. In addition, no MSHCP Criteria Areas occur downstream of the Project impact area at Smith Creek. Therefore, based on the above information, NRAI determined that no DBESP is warranted under section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP and no additional mitigation is necessary.

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	☐	☒	☐	☐

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Game Code, Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, etc.) through direct removal, filing, hydrological interruption, or other means?				

The field survey conducted for the Biological Resources Assessment included an evaluation for waters and wetlands subject to jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Sections 1600 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code, and the State Water Resources Control Board regulations.

No wetlands were recorded in the project area.
Smith Creek at the terminus of the proposed alignment is a jurisdictional water under the regulation of the Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Construction of the proposed storm drain outlet on the Smith Creek Bank may result in total impacts of approximately 1.5 acres on the Smith Creek bank and bench of which, permanent impacts are expected to be approximately 0.1 acres. No permanent impacts would occur within Smith Creek below the ordinary high water mark.

The lateral limit of Corps jurisdiction includes the active channel and extends to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) and to any wetland areas extending beyond the OHWM; thus the maximum jurisdictional area is represented by the OHWM or wetland limit, whichever is greater. A portion of the project study area extends into approximately 0.1 acres of Corps jurisdictional area within Smith Creek. The Project impact area does not extend into the jurisdictional limits of the Corps. A Section 404 permit would not be required by the Corps if impacts to the jurisdictional area are avoided.

CDFW jurisdiction consists of the bed and banks of Smith Creek including the concrete sided slopes. The CDFW jurisdictional area within Smith Creek includes a bench occupied by the Riversidian alluvial fan sage scrub plant community. Approximately 1.41 acres under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would be temporarily impacted during construction and 0.09 acres would be permanently impacted by the construction of the outlet, wing wall, and apron.

It is anticipated that the proposed project would not need a Section 404 Permit from the Corps; therefore a Section 401 Certification would not be required from the RWQCB. Activities relating to the construction and maintenance of the storm drain facilities would be regulated by the RWQCB under the NPDES MS4 permit program and the General Construction permit. Prior to initiating construction, the RCFC&WCD would notify the RWQCB of its finding that no 404/401 permits are required; the RWQCB may pursue regulation of the construction through issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements.

The Biological Resources Assessment also discusses roadside ditches and an erosion-cut channel that flow into Smith Creek. Both the roadside ditches and erosion-cut channel are described as ephemeral with no habitat value. Flow from these does not affect the beneficial uses of Smith Creek. As such, the roadside ditches and erosion-cut channel are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Per the findings in the Biological Resources Assessment, NRAI recommends that the appropriate permits required by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board be obtained prior to initiating construction. Therefore, the RCFC&WCD would submit the findings of the Biological Resources Assessment to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board and obtain permits as necessary. If impacts to Corps jurisdictional area cannot be avoided, the Corps should also be notified and permits obtained per their direction. The following mitigation measure shall be implemented to ensure that impacts to jurisdictional waters are avoided and minimized.

Mitigation Measure 3:

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
In order to avoid impacts to Corps jurisdictional area, prior to initiation of construction activities at Smith Creek, the jurisdictional area will be delineated by the RCFC&WCD and marked for avoidance.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Per the Biological Resources Assessment, due to the presence of residential development, commercial structures, and light industrial and agricultural land uses, the only remaining wildlife corridor within the project area is Smith Creek. Impacts to this corridor would be limited to the construction period and would not permanently impact wildlife movement. Impacts that may occur to the Smith Creek wildlife corridor during the construction of the storm drain outlet are not considered significant. The MSHCP San Gorgonio River/San Bernardino-San Jacinto Mountains Special Linkage area is located in the vicinity of the proposed storm drain alignment. The linkage area delineated in the MSHCP closest to the storm drain alignment is occupied by the Banning Airport. As reported in the Biological Resources Assessment, impacts to this section of the linkage area have already occurred and no additional impacts would occur as a result of the proposed storm drain project.				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The City of Banning municipal code requires that a permit from the Superintendent of Public Works be procured prior to cutting down or removing any trees on public streets, lanes, alleys, or parkways (12.48.050). The RCFC&WCD would submit the storm drain engineering plans for approval to the City. Should the final engineering plans identify removal of trees on public streets, permits required by the City upon their review would be procured to ensure compliance with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources. No conflicts are anticipated.				
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
The Project Site is located within the planning area of the Western Riverside County MSHCP within The Pass Area Plan. The Western Riverside MSHCP includes a number of public and private activities that may or may not be subject to additional requirements, depending upon their location. Under Section 7.1 of the MSHCP covered activities outside Criteria Areas and Public/Quasi-Public Lands as identified in the MSHCP are permitted under the MSHCP subject to a determination of consistency with MSHCP policies that apply outside the Criteria Area (such as policies related to riparian and riverine areas, vernal pools, narrow endemic plant species, additional survey needs and procedures, and funding/fee issues). The proposed project alignment is not located on Public/Quasi-Public Lands, and is not within a designated Criteria Area. Additional surveys as required have been completed and consistency with the MSHCP is summarized below. The Project is consistent with Section 7.1 of the MSHCP and is a covered activity. The Project Site was evaluated in the context of the MSHCP in order to complete a consistency analysis. The MSHCP identified the project study area as potentially having habitat for narrow endemic plant species, Los Angeles pocket mouse, and burrowing owl. In addition, the MSHCP requires an assessment of riverine and riparian habitats, as well as vernal pools and potential fairy shrimp habitat. <u>Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools (Section 6.1.2)</u>				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

The Biological Resources Assessment determined that no vernal pools or fairy shrimp habitats occur within the project. The soils within the project alignment are described as well-drained to excessively well drained, no clay or similar hard-packed surface soils that might retain water long enough to support fairy shrimp were identified.

The project study area was surveyed for the presence of riparian and riverine habitats. No riparian habitat was identified within the study area. Implementation of the project would have a minimal temporary impact on riverine habitat on approximately .01 acres of the active stream within Smith Creek. The Biological Resources Assessment determined that temporary loss of riverine habitat would occur during construction; however, the impacted area would be allowed to return to existing functions and values after construction through restoration. There are no impacts to other resources of concern under the MSHCP. In addition, no MSHCP Criteria Areas occur downstream of the Project impact area at Smith Creek. Therefore, based on the above information, NRAI determined that no DBESP is warranted under section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP and no additional mitigation is necessary.

The Project is in compliance with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP and no conflicts related to riparian/riverine resources and conservation within the MSHCP are anticipated.

Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species (Section 6.1.3)

No narrow endemic plant species or their habitats were identified within the project study area and no impacts are anticipated. Based on the result of surveys required by Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, no impacts related to protected plant species under the MSHCP are anticipated.

MSHCP Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildlands Interface (Section 6.1.4)

The Urban/Wildlands Interface guidelines of the MSHCP address indirect effects associated with locating development in the MSHCP Conservation Area near wildlands or other open space areas. The Line H alignment is located along public streets and extends onto private lands. It is not within a MSHCP Criteria Area. The northern portion of the project alignment, Hathaway Street from the north project limit to Westward Avenue, is located adjacent to the San Gorgonio River/San Bernardino-San Jacinto Mountains Linkage as identified in the MSHCP. The portion of the special linkage adjacent to the proposed storm drain alignment is occupied by the Banning Airport. Impacts to this section of the special linkage area have already occurred and no additional impacts would occur associated with implementation of the proposed project.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in an improvement to the existing conditions by controlling surface flow. It would not result in long-term edge effects such as drainage, toxics, lighting, noise, invasive species, or grading to the adjacent land uses or habitat in the MSHCP Conservation Area. No conflicts related to the guidelines in Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP would occur.

MSHCP Additional Survey Needs and Procedures (Section 6.3.2)

Potential habitat for burrowing owl and LAPM was recorded along vacant fields immediately adjacent to the pipeline impact area and within the study area. Protocol surveys per the requirements of the MSHCP were conducted for these species and mitigation as recommended has been incorporated into the proposed project. See Section IV (a).

The Biological Resources Assessment identified suitable habitat for burrowing owl. The focused burrowing owl survey area encompassed 500-feet on either side of the proposed storm drain alignment, where access was available, and was conducted on August 29, 2014; the survey area was determined to be unoccupied. Two natural burrows that could potentially be occupied by burrowing owl in the future were recorded. In order to avoid potential impacts to burrowing owl Mitigation Measure 1 as described in Section IV(a) above shall be implemented.

Implementation of the Project would permanently impact approximately 0.1 acres of LAPM habitat within Smith Creek. Smith Creek is outside of the MSHCP Criteria Area and has not been identified as a core area for the conservation of

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

LAPM as identified in the species objectives defined in the MSHCP. Therefore, Smith Creek does not provide long term conservation value for LAPM. Although focused surveys for the species returned positive; the Project net impact to suitable habitat is approximately 0.1 acres and permanent impacts would be avoided on more than 90% of suitable habitat on the property (1.66 of 1.76 acres). Therefore, mitigation measures and a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation under the MSHCP are not required consistent with Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP.

Flood Control Facilities (Section 7.3.7)
This Section of the MSHCP applies to flood control facilities within MSHCP Criteria Areas or PQP lands. The Project is not located within a Criteria Area or PQP lands and is a covered activity under Section 7.1 of the MSHCP. Section 7.3.7 is not applicable to the proposed Project.

Construction Guidelines (Section 7.5.3)
Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP outlines construction guidelines that must be implemented for projects located within the Criteria Area or PQP lands. The Project is not located within a Criteria Area or PQP lands, therefore, Section 7.5.3 is does not apply.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐

A cultural resources investigation for the Project was completed by McKenna et al (June 2014). The investigation was facilitated through the completion of a records search at the UCR Eastern Information Center, inquiries through the Native American Heritage Commission and local Native American representatives, historic background research, a field survey, and analysis of the data compiled for the preparation of a technical report.

Research into previous studies identified a minimum of 28 cultural resources investigations within a one-mile radius of the Project area and a minimum of 108 cultural resources within the same area. Within the Project area of potential impact, the research and field survey resulted in identification of a single pre-1969 residential structure at 1881 E. Wesley Street and the historic alignments of Barbour Street, Charles Street, Wesley Street, Westward Avenue, and Hathaway Street. Curbing, sidewalks, and other infrastructure now define these roadways. Evidence of the earlier roadways may be present beneath the modern improvements. Additionally, implementation of the project would not result in impacts to the residential unit as shown in the project plans. Per the findings of the Cultural Investigation, the only resource of any note is the presence of the remnants of fence lines on the eastern extent of Wesley street. The fence lines have been determined insignificant with respect to CEQA and NEPA criteria and, therefore the proposed storm drain would not result in and adverse impact in the area of these fences.

Per the findings of the Cultural Investigation the proposed Project is anticipated to result in less than significant impacts to historical resources as defined in §15064.5.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Research conducted as part of the Cultural Resources Investigation identified two areas of high sensitivity for the presence of prehistoric archaeological resources in the vicinity of Hathaway Street and Wesley Street. The extent of the resource is unknown; however, based on available information the resource would meet the definition of a significant resource under the state and federal definitions – specifically for its potential to yield significant scientific information

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

about the Native American occupation of the area. In order to avoid potential impacts to the resource the following Mitigation Measure shall be implemented.

Mitigation Measure 4:

An archaeological monitor shall be present for all excavations conducted along Hathaway Street, south of Bryan Street, and along Wesley Street from Hathaway Street to Smith Creek. Should resources be uncovered, the monitor shall identify and record the resource. If evidence of Native American resources is identified, a local Native American representative may be added to the monitoring program, if requested by the local Native American tribe (in this case, a representative of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians).

c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

No evidence of paleontological resources was identified during the survey conducted by McKenna et al.. The County of Riverside GIS system identifies the project area as being within an area of "Low Sensitivity" for paleontological specimens. Previously completed development and infrastructure excavations have failed to result in any identification of fossil specimens. Overall, the storm drain alignment was determined to be outside of an area of paleontological sensitivity.

The cultural resources investigation determined that the project area is not considered sensitive for paleontological resources and therefore the project area is not considered sensitive for the identification of paleontological resources. However, future project-related excavation may result in impacts to buried resources along the storm drain alignment if such resources are encountered during construction activities. Implementation of the RCFC&WCD standard "Accidental Discovery" specification would ensure that impacts to any discovered resources are less than significant.

Accidental Discovery - In the event that any hazardous materials, historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources are accidentally discovered within project limits, the Contractor shall immediately cease all construction or ground disturbance activity in the vicinity of the find and notify the Engineer. District will provide the appropriate professional to assess the significance of the discovery and, if necessary, develop appropriate management and treatment measures. The Contractor shall not resume construction in the affected area without Engineer's approval.

d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Construction activities, particularly grading, soil excavation and compaction, could adversely affect unknown buried human remains. 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 must be notified within 24 hours by the Engineer. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted by the Engineer to determine the most likely descendent for this area. Once the most likely descendent is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains will proceed pursuant to Public Resources 5097.98. The NAHC may become involved with decisions concerning the disposition of the remains.

Should remains be uncovered during excavation or site preparation, appropriate authorities would be contacted as required by State law. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.	☐	☐	☐	☒

The City of Banning is located at the boundary formed by the San Andreas Fault, of the North American and Pacific tectonic plates. According to the City of Banning General Plan the San Andreas Fault accommodates approximately 70% of the movement between the North American and Pacific tectonic plates; therefore, the Banning area in general is susceptible to potential intense seismic ground shaking.

The San Gorgonio Pass Fault is the closest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone to the Project site as delineated in the latest State Earthquake Fault Zone maps and in Exhibit V-3 of the General Plan. The San Gorgonio Pass Fault is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10. The San Gorgonio Pass fault zone is comprised of a series of north-dipping reverse and thrust faults connected by strike tear faults. The most recently active strands of faults occur at the base of the Banning Bench, in the central part of Banning. The Highland Scarp along the western edge of the City is considered an active segment of the San Gorgonio Pass fault zone. The San Gorgonio Pass fault is capable of producing a maximum credible earthquake magnitude of 7.4 – 7.6 (M_{max}).

The proposed Project is an infrastructure project that includes construction of a storm drain within the right-of-ways of Hathaway Street and Wesley Street and construction of a storm drain outlet at Smith Creek. No habitable structures that would involve exposure of people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving earthquake rupture, or strong seismic ground shaking are proposed and no impacts are anticipated.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Refer to Item VI (a) (i) above.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Liquefaction occurs in loose, saturated, sandy sediments that are subjected to ground vibration. During liquefaction, involved soils behave like a liquid or semi-viscous substance and can cause structural distress or failure due to ground settlement, a loss of load-bearing capacity in foundation soils, and the buoyant rise of buried structures. Three general conditions induce liquefaction; 1) strong ground shaking for a sustained period of time, 2) presence of unconsolidated granular sediments, and 3) occurrence of water-saturated sediments within 50 feet of the ground surface.

The City of Banning General Plan identifies this condition to be present within its planning area and identifies a moderate potential for liquefaction at the subject Project Site (Exhibit V-4 of the General Plan).

A geotechnical investigation of the proposed alignment prepared by Matrix Geotechnical Consulting Inc. determined that the potential for liquefaction to occur on the site is considered negligible because of the absence of shallow ground water. The proposed Project does not include habitable structures that would involve exposure of people or structures to potential adverse effects related to seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction. No adverse effects related to liquefaction are anticipated.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
iv) Landslides or mudflows?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The City of Banning General Plan identifies an increased potential for landslides to occur where there is a high seismic potential, steep slopes and deeply incised canyons, rock with inherently weak components, or highly fractured and folded rock. The northernmost and southernmost portions of the city planning area are described as highly susceptible to seismically induced slope failure due to the proximity to mountains and hillsides. Additionally, areas with slopes steeper than 15 degrees are described as generally subject to slope failure. Elevation at the Project site ranges from approximately 2,100 feet above mean sea level (amsl) at the northern end to approximately 2,200 feet amsl at the southern end; no hillsides with slopes greater than 15 degrees occur in the immediate vicinity. The proposed Project does not include habitable structures that would involve exposure of people or structures to landslides. No adverse effects related to landslides are anticipated.

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

A Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation of the proposed storm drain alignment was prepared by Matrix Geotechnical Consulting Inc. (May 2013). The investigation included a review of published geologic reports and/or maps, result of geologic field mapping, field exploration and laboratory testing, and recommendations pertaining to the geotechnical design aspects of the Project. Matrix concluded that the subject site is suitable for the proposed storm drain improvements provided that the recommendations present in their report are incorporated into the Project and are implemented during site excavation and construction. Recommendations from the geotechnical report would be incorporated into the Project final engineering designs and be included in final Project approvals as conditions of approval.

The proposed Project is the construction of a storm drain within the Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-ways, construction of manholes, construction of curb inlets, and construction of a reinforced concrete box storm drain outlet and rip-rap apron within Smith Creek. As shown on the preliminary project plans, all resurfacing and pavement delineation, curbs, sidewalks, and other improvements are to be reconstructed in and at the same locations and elevations as the existing improvements, unless otherwise noted in the engineering plans. Implementation of the proposed project does not involve permanent operational changes to surface conditions and the Proposed Project would not result in topography changes that would create unstable soil conditions.

During construction activities, material excavated along the storm drain alignment would be temporarily stockpiled on site and used as backfill following installation of the reinforced concrete pipes. Standard erosion best management practices would be implemented by the Contractor to secure stockpiled material. Applicable conditions of approval as recommended in the geotechnical investigation would be implemented; therefore, less than significant impacts are anticipated during construction.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The San Gorgonio Pass Fault is the closest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone to the Project Site as delineated in the latest State Earthquake Fault Zone maps and in Exhibit V-3 of the General Plan. The San Gorgonio Pass Fault is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Interstate 10. The San Gorgonio Pass fault zone is comprised of a series of north-dipping reverse and thrust faults connected by strike tear faults. The most recently active strands of faults occur at the base of the Banning Bench, in the central part of Banning. The Highland Scarp along the western edge of the City is considered an active segment of the San Gorgonio Pass fault zone. The San Gorgonio Pass Fault is capable of producing a maximum credible earthquake magnitude of 7.4 – 7.6 (M_{max}).

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Elevations within the Project area range from approximately 2,100 feet amsl at the northern end to approximately 2,200 feet amsl at the southern end; there are no hills or prominent landforms in the immediate vicinity. It is not anticipated that implementation of the proposed project would result in soil that would become unstable as a result of the project or cause off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. No impacts are anticipated.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Expansive soils (shrink-swell) are fine grained clay soils generally found in historical floodplains and lakes. Expansive soils are subject to swelling and shrinkage in relation to the amount of moisture present in the soil. Structures built on expansive soils may incur damage due to differential settlements of the soil as expansion and contraction takes place. Information about shrink-swell classes and linear extensibility is available in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey reports. A high shrink-swell potential indicates a hazard to maintenance of structures built in/on/or with material having this rating. Moderate to low ratings lessen the hazard. According to the NRCS three soil classes occur within the storm drain alignment: Gorgonio gravelly loamy fine sand, Hanford coarse sandy loam, and Greenfield sandy loam. As identified by the NRCS Gorgonio gravelly loamy fine sand has a limited potential for expansive soils attributed to flooding; Hanford coarse sandy loam and Greenfield sandy loam do not have limitation related to expansive soils. The findings are consistent with laboratory test results of the near surface soil conducted by Matrix as part of the Geotechnical Investigation; laboratory test of near surface soil indicate a very low expansion potential. The Project would implementation all recommendations included in the Geotechnical Investigation Report as discussed in Section VI(b) therefore no impacts related to expansive soils are anticipated..				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting any structures, fill or other improvements associated with the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The Proposed Project is the construction of a storm drain within the Hathaway Street and Wesley Street right-of-ways, construction of manholes, construction of curb inlets, and construction of a reinforced concrete box storm drain outlet and rip-rap apron on the Smith Creek bank. During construction activities, material excavated along the storm drain alignment would be temporary stockpiled on-site and used as backfill following installation of the reinforced concrete pipes. All resurfacing and pavement delineation, curbs, sidewalks, and other improvements are to be reconstructed in and at the same locations and elevations as the existing improvements. The Geotechnical Investigation found that all existing artificial fill is prone to potential settlement; however, it is expected that the majority of these materials will be removed during the excavation of the alignment. The Geotechnical Investigation also found that the existing on site soil appears, from a geotechnical perspective, to be suitable material for use as fill, provided it is relatively free from rocks, general debris, and organic material. Implementation of recommendations from the Geotechnical Investigation Report would ensure that no impacts occur.				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Construction, operation, and maintenance of the storm drain would involve short-term use of petroleum-based fuels, lubricants, pesticides and other small materials during construction and maintenance activities. The construction phase may include the transport of gasoline and diesel fuel to the project site and onsite storage for the sole purpose of fueling construction equipment. All transport, handling, use and disposal of substances such as petroleum products, solvents, and paints related to operation and maintenance of the proposed Project will comply with all Federal, State and local laws regulating the management and use of hazardous materials. Therefore, impacts related to creating a significant				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials will be less than significant.				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Construction of the Proposed Project would disturb more than one acre of land surface and therefore would be subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. Requirements of the permit would include development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The purpose of the SWPPP is to: 1) identify pollutant sources that may affect the quality of discharges of storm water associated with construction activities; and 2) identify, construct, and implement storm water pollution control measures to reduce pollutants in storm water discharges from the construction site during and after construction. The SWPPP would be developed by the RCFC&WCD or its contractor and would include Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control and abate pollutants. Implementation of BMPs as identified in the SWPP would d ensure that potential impacts associated with the release of hazardous materials to the public or to the environment are reduced to a less than significant level. Implementation of the Project would include routine maintenance along the alignment roads and storm drain outlet. Routine maintenance would occur approximately once a year and may include, but is not limited to, re-grading /repairing access roads, trash removal, erosion control, and sediment and debris removal from the outlet structure. Restorative maintenance may also be needed in the event of large flooding events. Restorative maintenance would occur infrequently on an as-needed basis and may include, but is not limited to, repairing/replacing the outlet structure and reestablishment of design lines and grades. Maintenance of the reinforced concrete storm drain would also occur infrequently on an as-needed basis and may include but is not limited to repair/replacement, and sediment and trash removal. Routine maintenance would implement standard practices and is not anticipated to create a significant hazard to the public or environment.				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
No school facilities occur within a quarter mile of the Project site; therefore, no impacts are anticipated. (See Section VII.a).				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5 the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) compiles the Cortese List and updates it at least annually. The Cortese List includes hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective actions, land designated as hazardous waste property or border zone property, sites included in the abandoned site assessment program, and qualifying sites pursuant to Section 25356 of the Health and Safety Code. A copy of the most recent Cortese List was retrieved from the DTSC EnviroStor online database on May 20, 2014; the Project site is not identified on the list. No impacts are anticipated.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
The Banning Municipal Airport is located near the north end of the proposed storm drain alignment. According to the City of Banning General Plan the airport averages approximately 10 to 15 takeoffs and landings daily, and about 12,000 operations per year. Air traffic is comprised primarily of private, single engine fixed-wing aircraft. Services available at the airport include: fuel, parking, flight school/flight school training, charter services, and rental car services. The proposed Project is the construction of underground gravity flow storm drain facilities that would terminate at an outlet to be constructed on the bank of Smith Creek. Construction, operation and maintenance of the storm drain would not create conditions that conflict with the airport land uses or create a safety hazard for people residing or working in the area. No impacts are anticipated.				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
No private airstrips are located in the vicinity of the Project area. No impacts related to private airstrips are anticipated.				
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The Emergency Preparedness Element of the General Plan outlines the potential for natural and man-made disaster that could affect the City of Banning and its Sphere of Influence and Planning Areas. According to the General Plan, in 1996 the City adopted the Multi-Hazard Functional Planning Guidance document that includes: 1) the Banning Emergency Plan; 2) twelve functional annexes that describe emergency response organization; and 3) a listing of operational data such as resources, key personnel, and essential facilities and contacts. The City does not have an established evacuation route, however, major intra-city roadways identified in the Emergency Preparedness Element in the vicinity of the project include: Hargrave Street, San Gorgonio Avenue, and Westward Avenue. Implementation of the proposed Project may temporarily interfere with emergency response in the event of a major disaster during project construction. To avoid impacts, on-street construction activities would conform to all City of Banning, Banning Police Department, and Riverside County Sheriff's Department access standards to allow adequate emergency access. Once construction is complete, normal traffic patterns would resume. Operation of the storm drain would not significantly interfere with emergency response or with evacuation plans.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
As identified in Exhibit V-10 of the City of Banning General Plan, the Project Site is located within a fire threat zone mapped as "High." The "high" fire threat zone includes most of the developed central portion of the City along Interstate 10. The zone is described as having minimal relief, hardscape, and vegetation predominated by landscape. There are no significant areas of brush, grass or trees within the Project Area; vacant parcels located along the alignment are either graded or otherwise appear to undergo annual weed abatement. Construction of the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Operation and maintenance of the proposed storm drain would occur beneath the surface of existing streets. No impacts related to wildlands or wildland fires are anticipated.				
Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate or conflict with any adopted water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed storm drain and appurtenant facilities would not generate any wastewater or increase urban runoff into existing storm drains. Dewatering of the underlying groundwater basin is not anticipated to be necessary for the majority of the storm drain alignment due to reported ground water level at more than 26 feet below the existing ground surface (Matrix 2013). If any groundwater is encountered and dewatering is necessary, discharge water would be pumped into existing storm drains or street gutters nearby. The Project would not create new sources of stormwater pollutants. Although it would change the timing of the delivery of storm runoff from adjacent developed area to Smith Creek. Any necessary dewatering discharges would be carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Dewatering De Minimus Permit. Therefore, no significant impacts to water quality from construction or operation are anticipated.				
b) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The Project would not create new sources of stormwater pollutants. Although it would change the timing of the delivery of strom runoff from the adjacent developed area to Smith creek, the impact is not expected to be significant. RCFC&WCD is also required to comply with the NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Project will implement appropriate BMPs to prevent new sources of stromwater pollutants and, therefore, would be in compliance with the MS4 Permit. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.				
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 *(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)?*	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is not located within the area of a recharge basin that functions to replenish the underlying groundwater basin. During construction, the only groundwater that the proposed project has the potential to deplete would be from dewatering activities. Although groundwater is not likely to be encountered during construction, if any groundwater were to be encountered, dewatering would occur in quantities that would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. As such, no adverse impacts to groundwater supply or recharge are expected.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed storm drain would be constructed within the right-of-ways of public streets, and would therefore not alter the existing grade or drainage pattern of the vicinity. The Project is intended to collect existing flows from the watershed roughly bounded by the Interstate 10/Union Pacific Railroad to the north, Hargrave Avenue to the west, South Hathaway				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Street to the east, and Wesley Street to the south; drainage patterns would not be changed and the course of a stream or river would not be altered. No impacts to drainage patterns or surface runoff are anticipated.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Refer to item VIII (e) above.				
f) Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The purpose of the proposed project is to implement the Line H component of the Banning Master Drainage Plan to provide improved drainage and flood protection to the tributary watershed. The proposed Project would increase the capacity of the existing storm drain system and would not result in impacts related to the storm drain system.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The Proposed Project is located between the delineated 100-year and 500-year flood hazard areas. A portion of the proposed Project is located within a FEMA mapped SFHA; however, the project is not a housing project. The proposed project will reduce the exposure of people and property to local flood hazards. No impacts related to flooding are anticipated.				
h) Place structures or fill within a 100-year flood hazard area, which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed Project does not include any structures excepting the outfall at Smith Creek Channel; all other proposed improvements would occur underground and the ground surface would be reconstructed to pre-existing conditions following installation of the storm drain. The outfall would be constructed where an existing concrete slope occurs along the creek bank and would not impede or redirect flood flows; no impacts are anticipated.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The purpose of the proposed project is to implement the Line H component of the Banning Master Drainage Plan to provide improved drainage and flood protection to the tributary watershed. Implementation of the proposed Project would provide protection from loss, injury, or death involving flooding. No impacts are anticipated.				
j) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Due to inland distance from the Pacific Ocean and any other significant body of water, tsunamis and seiches are not potential hazards; therefore impacts from seiche and tsunami are not anticipated. The Project alignment is in an area of primarily flat and gently sloping topography. Soils in the area are relatively stable. The Project site is not located in an				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
area susceptible to mudflows. People or structures would not be at a significant risk related to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.				
IX. LAND USE PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed Project is the construction, operation and maintenance of a gravity fed storm drain system within the right-of-ways of Hathaway Street and Wesley Street and private property, and the construction of a storm drain outlet within RCFC&WCD rights-of-way at the Smith Creek bank. Land use designations along the proposed storm drain alignment include: public facilities (Banning Airport), airport industrial, industrial, rural residential and very low density residential. During project construction the local traffic patterns may be temporarily disrupted; however, access would remain available to all land uses. Once the storm drain is installed all resurfacing and pavement delineation, curbs, sidewalks, and other improvements are to be reconstructed in and at the same locations and elevations as the existing improvements. Operation and maintenance of the storm drain would not physically divide the existing community.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The RCFC&WCD is responsible for the management of regional drainage within and in the vicinity of Banning. The RCFC&WCD is empowered with broad management functions, including flood control planning and construction of drainage improvements. The City of Banning retains responsibility for managing local drainage and public works in cooperation with the RCFC&WCD to address regional drainage concerns. The Banning Master Drainage Plan adopted by the RCFC&WCD in 1995 serves as the drainage planning document for the region. The proposed Line H Storm Drain is identified in both the MDP and in the Flooding and Hydrology Element of the City of Banning General Plan as a recommended project. No conflicts with applicable land use plans or policies are anticipated.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The Project site is located within a mineral resource zone area classified as MRZ-3 as identified in Exhibit IV-8 in the City of Banning General Plan. Areas classified as MRZ-3 are defined as containing mineral deposits, the significance of which cannot be evaluated from available data. The City of Banning General Plan identifies one aggregate producer within its planning area; the Banning Quarry which is located in the eastern portion of the city approximately 1.25 miles directly north or the proposed Project. The quarry is in an area mapped as MRZ-2 and is mined for rock, sand, and base materials used for concrete and construction. Implementation of the proposed Project would not result in the loss of known mineral resources because the site is not locally identified as an important mineral resource recovery site. Additionally, implementation of the proposed Project would not restrict access should the mineral resources in the immediate vicinity be identified at a later time.				

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Refer to Item X (a) above.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Operation and maintenance of the storm drain would not generate any noise that would impact nearby sensitive receptors; however, noise would be generated during the construction phase of the Project that may exceed the acceptable base ambient noise levels as established in the City of Banning General Plan and noise ordinance. As defined in the Noise Element of the General Plan, the applicable limit one-hour average for outdoor noise levels in residential areas is 55 dBA during daytime hours and 45 dBA during evening and nighttime hours. The applicable average noise level for outdoor noise in commercial and industrial areas is 75 dBA with no time restrictions.

Per Section 8.44.085 of the City of Banning Municipal Code, capital improvement projects of a governmental agency are exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance. Capital improvement projects as defined in the noise ordinance include construction of drainage facilities. To minimize noise impacts, proposed construction activities would be limited to daylight hours unless otherwise approved RCFC&WCD. The temporary increase in ambient noise levels during construction in the residential areas south of Charles Street would be less than significant. There would be no noise generated by the proposed Project once construction is completed.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Ground-borne vibration is measured in terms of the velocity of the vibration oscillations. As with noise, a logarithmic decibel scale (V dB) is used to quantify vibration intensity. When ground-borne vibration exceeds 75 to 80 V dB, it is usually perceived as annoying to building occupants. The degree of annoyance is dependent upon the type of land use, individual sensitivity to vibration, and the frequency of the vibration events. Typically, vibration levels must exceed 100 V dB before any building damage occurs.

It is anticipated that construction of the proposed Project would not involve pile-driving activities. Use of jackhammers and/or pavement breakers associated with construction would be of limited duration and not expected to affect a given location for more than a few days. Although construction would include the use of heavy equipment, it is unlikely that construction would result in significantly perceptible ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels.

Operation of the storm drain following construction would not generate any significant ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels.

Issues and Supporting Information Sources:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Following construction, operation and maintenance of the storm drain would not result in a permanent increase to the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. No impacts would occur.				
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Ambient noise levels in the project vicinity would temporarily increase above existing levels during project construction. Construction noise levels would fluctuate depending on the particular type, number, and duration of use of the various pieces of construction equipment. Although the proposed Project is exempted from the provisions of the noise ordinance, construction activities would be limited to daylight hours in order to minimize impacts to nearby residential sensitive receptors. Less than significant impacts are anticipated during project construction.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed Project is located within the Banning Airport Influence Area; existing and projected build-out noise contours in the vicinity of the airport show maximum noise levels of 65 db CNEL at the outermost contour (approximately Barbour Street within the project area). Construction crews would therefore be temporarily exposed to noise levels of up to 65 db CNEL related to airport uses when working at the northern limits of the storm drain alignment. As identified in the City of Banning Zoning Overlay Map the proposed storm drain alignment from Barbour Street to Charles Street is zoned for industrial land uses and acceptable outdoor noise at any time is 75 dBA. No temporary noise exposure related to the airport operation and uses during construction would occur.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
No private airstrips occur in the vicinity of the proposed Project. No impacts would occur.				
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly *(for example, by proposing new homes and businesses)* or indirectly *(for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)* resulting in substantial adverse physical impacts or conflicts with the adopted general plan, specific plan, or other applicable land use or regional plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed Project is the construction operation and maintenance of a gravity fed storm drain system identified as Line H in the RCFC&WCD Banning Master Drainage Plan (MDP). The MDP covers an approximately 19 square-mile area bounded roughly by the San Gorgonio River on the north, Smith Creek on the south, Hathaway Street on the east and Highland Springs Road on the west. The purpose of the MDP is to provide guidance for an economical method of collecting and conveying storm runoff through the study area; the completed facilities as described in the MDP would provide improved drainage and a high level of flood protection.				