9/9

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FROM: Transportation Department

SUBMITTAL DATE:
February 1, 2016

SUBJECT: Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Approve the Juniper Flats Decanting Facility in the Lakeview/Nuevo Area. 5th District; [$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. 42745 and adopt a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program based on the findings in the initial study and the conclusion that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and
2. Approve the Juniper Flats Decanting Facility Project; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to file the Notice of Determination with the County Clerk for posting within five (5) working days.

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The County of Riverside Transportation Department (Transportation Department) proposes to construct two decanting features within the County of Riverside (County) existing Juniper Flats Road Material Site, which is currently mined for decomposed granite that is used in County road construction and maintenance work.

Patricia Romo
Assistant Director of Transportation

Juan Perez
Director of Transportation Land Management

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	Consent ☐ Policy ☑
NET COUNTY COST	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	

SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A

Budget Adjustment: No

For Fiscal Year: 2015/2016

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

BY: Tina Grande

County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: GREGORY P. PRIAMOS
DATE 3/1/16

Departmental Concurrence

☐ Positions Added ☐ Change Order
☐ A-30 ☐ 4/5 Vote

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** 5 | **Agenda Number:** 3-23

BACKGROUND:
Summary (continued)
The decanting facility will be known as the Juniper Flats Decanting Facility and will be used to treat waste water collected during routine culvert cleaning activities by the Transportation Department. The Transportation Department currently cleans culverts with water using a vactor truck and collects and disposes the waste water at a county landfill were the Department is charged by weight to dispose of the material. The new decanting facility will allow the Department to take the waste water to the decanting facility were the water will be treated through an infiltration trench and then the solids can be later collected and disposed of.

The decanting facility will treat effluent material through an infiltration trench. The proposed decanting features will only modify the manner in which material collected is handled. It will not increase the amount of material collected or frequency of collection.

The County's Juniper Flats Decanting Facility is separate from the County's Juniper Flats Road Material Site. The decanting facility will not be used for the mine operations nor be included as a reclamation activity. The Juniper Flats Road Material Site was chosen for the decanting facility because of its central location to the western part of the County and proximity to culvert cleaning operations.

The project description in Environmental Assessment No. 42745 originally described amending the reclamation plan for the existing Juniper Flats Road Material Site. After further review, however, it was determined that such amendment was not necessary because the proposed decanting facility is not part of the mining operation and is not a reclamation activity. The project, except for no longer needing the reclamation plan amendment, remains the same as analyzed in Environmental Assessment No. 42745 attached hereto. The Adoption of the mitigated negative declaration and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project will complete the environmental documentation for the project.

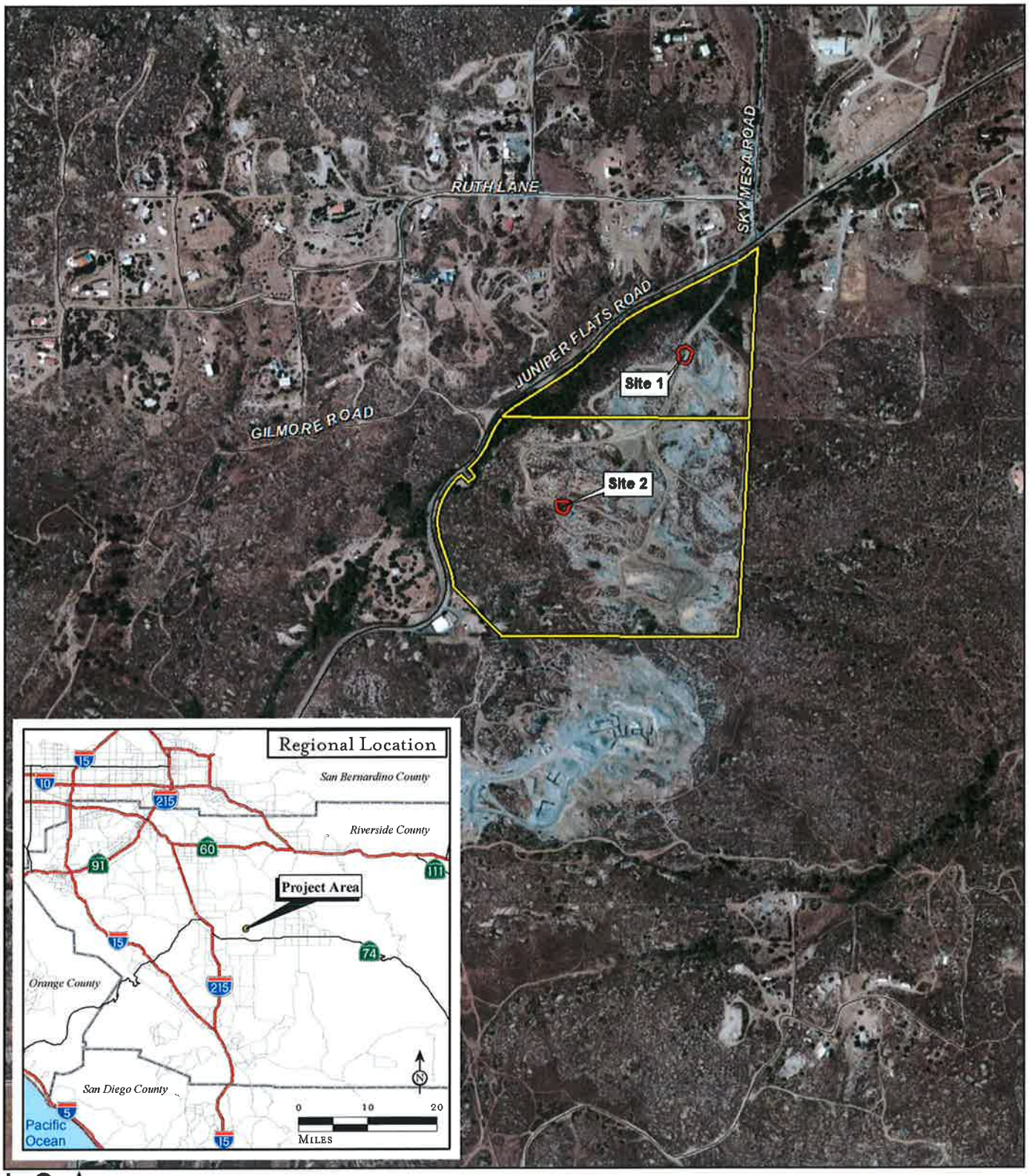
The decanting facility will be constructed by the Transportation road crew in April 2016.

Impact on Residents and Businesses
N/A

SUPPLEMENTAL:
Additional Fiscal Information
There are no costs associated with the approval of the environmental determination, and no net County costs will be incurred as a result of this Board action. A cost savings will be realized through decreased dump fees.

Contract History and Price Reasonableness
N/A

ATTACHMENTS:
Figure 1- Vicinity Map
Notice of Determination
Environmental Assessment Form- Initial Study



LSA

FIGURE 1

Project Parcels

Sites

0 400 800

FEET

Juniper Flats Road Borrow Pit Decanting Facility
Riverside County Transportation Department
Environmental Assessment Form: Initial Study

SOURCE: Bing Aerial, 2010; Riverside County, 2013

Regional and Project Location

I:\RCT1402\Reports\EA_IS\fig1_RegLoc.mxd (10/13/2014)

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

EA No. 42745 SCH# 2014121032

PROJECT NAME: Juniper Flats Decanting Facility Project

DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION: The decanting facility will be known as the Juniper Flats Decanting facility and includes decanting features that consist of a sloped concrete pad of approximately 750 square feet and an adjacent 150-square foot infiltration trench. Each decanting feature covers an area of 900 square feet, with both structures totaling 1,800 square feet. The concrete pad will be constructed of reinforced concrete and will slope (at 2%) toward the infiltration trench. K-rails will be placed along the perimeter and in the center of the pad to construct two bays, where the effluent material will be placed. Decanted storm drain waste liquid will drain down the sloped concrete pad, pass through the K-rail scupper drains, and enter the infiltration trench. The proposed decanting features will only modify the manner in which material collected during drainage feature cleanout is handled. It will not increase the amount of material collected or frequency of collection.

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA
3. ☒ A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
4. Mitigation measures [☒were ☐were not] made a condition of the approval of this project.
5. A Mitigation Monitoring plan was ☒[was not ☐] adopted.
6. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐was☐ was not] adopted for this project.

☒The project will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration has been adopted pursuant to CEQA and may be examined, along with administrative record, at the Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon Street, 8th fl, Riverside, California 92501.

☐The Final EIR may be examined, along with administrative record, at the Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon Street, 8th fl, Riverside, California 92501.

Russell Williams — Title: Environmental Division Mgr. — Date: 2/1/16

Russell Williams

Juan C. Perez — Title: Director of Transportation — Date: 2/19/16

HEARING BODY OR OFFICER		ACTION ON PROJECT	
XX	Board of Supervisors		Approval
	Planning Commission		Disapproval
		Date:	

Verifying: Title: Date:

For County Clerk Use

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FORM: INITIAL STUDY

Lead Agency Name: Riverside County Transportation Department
Address: 3525 14th Street, Riverside, California 92501
Contact Person: Andrew Huneck
Telephone Number: (951) 955-1506
Applicant's Name: Riverside County Transportation Department
Applicant's Address: 3525 14th Street, Riverside, California 92501

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Source: Application materials
Project Description: The Riverside County (County) Transportation Department (RCTD) proposes to amend Item 10. (Imported Wastes) of the existing Juniper Flats Road Material Site (site) Reclamation Plan No. 142 to allow for two decanting sites to be constructed on site. Portions of the site are currently mined for decomposed granite that is used in County road maintenance programs. In November 1993, the County Geologist submitted a reclamation plan for the mining operation (Reclamation Plan No. 142) to the State Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology for review and comments. The decanting features each consist of a sloped concrete pad of approximately 750 square feet and an adjacent 150-square foot infiltration trench. Each decanting feature covers an area of 900 square feet, with both structures totaling 1,800 square feet. The concrete pad will be constructed of reinforced concrete and will slope (at 2%) toward the infiltration trench. K-rails will be placed along the perimeter and in the center of the pad to construct two bays, where the effluent material will be placed. Decanted storm drain waste liquid will drain down the sloped concrete pad, pass through the K-rail scupper drains, and enter the infiltration trench.

Per project plans, the infiltration trench will be excavated to depth of four (4) feet and will be lined with geotextile filter fabric. Reservoir rock material consisting of clean, washed aggregate one to three inches in diameter will be placed between the trench bottom and one foot below finished grade. The top one foot of each infiltration trench will be filled with pea gravel. An observation well will be placed in the middle of the infiltration trench. The observation well will consist of a vertical section of perforated pipe, four to six inches in diameter, installed flush with the top of the trench on a foot plate and will have a locking, removable cap. Ground disturbance will be limited to the area required for construction of the concrete pads and infiltration trenches, totaling approximately 1,800 square feet.

Currently, storm drain waste, solids and liquids, is transported directly to and disposed of at Lamb County Landfill, approximately 20 miles from the project site (via SR 74/79 and Sanderson Avenue). The decanting sites will be used by the County's vactor truck crew to separate liquids from materials collected during the routine cleanout of drainage facilities located within the County's right-of-way. These facilities include, but are not limited to, culverts, inlets, outlets, catch basins, and swales. The cleaning of these drainage facilities is an existing and ongoing operation required pursuant to the County's Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer System (MS4) permits. This collected material typically consists of anthropogenic litter, vegetation such as leaves and grass and sediment. Potable water, used in the operation of vactor equipment, is also present in effluent transported by vactor trucks. At the end of each day during the cleaning cycle, the vactor truck will be driven to the decanting site. The average discharge from each vactor truck is approximately 114 cubic feet (approximately 853 gallons) of liquid and 186 cubic feet of solids per load. The collected effluent will be deposited onto a concrete pad. The solids will remain on the concrete pad to dry, while the liquid will drain into an adjacent infiltration trench. It is anticipated that the solid material will remain on the

concrete pad(s) from two to three days. The dried material will be collected every two to three days and transported via 10-wheel dump truck to Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill for disposal.

Typical liquid waste may include traces of heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, bacterium, and other materials. Similar to the **existing practice**, samples of the solid waste material will be taken by landfill personnel and sent to an approved laboratory for testing. Liquid test samples will be obtained on a monthly basis, and taken to an approved Laboratory for testing. Samples will be tested for oil and grease, pH, Specific Conductance, Total Organic Carbon and Total Suspended Solids. The frequency and nature of the currently load testing will remain unchanged. The results of any continuing testing will be maintained by the Riverside County Transportation Department, Division of Highway Operations.

The proposed decanting features will only modify the manner in which material collected during drainage feature cleanout is handled. It will not increase the amount of material collected or frequency of collection.

Liquid test samples will be obtained on a monthly basis by the operator of the decanting facility and taken to an approved laboratory for testing. Samples will be tested for oil and grease, pH, Specific Conductance, Total Organic Carbon, and Total Suspended Solids. The project is located in the Homeland Community of Western Riverside County. The project site is accessible from Juniper Flats Road, which is a two-lane paved county maintained road. The Public Land Survey System places it in the easterly portion of Section 5, Township 5 south, Range 2 west, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian. The site is approximately one and one quarter miles north of State Route 74. Its Assessor's Parcel Numbers are 457-030-011 and 457-270-011, covering 47.89 and 17.87 acres, respectively.

Figure 1 depicts the regional and project location. Figure 2 is a depiction of the preliminary site plan. Figures 3 and 4 depict MSHCP Criteria Cells and nearby drainage features, respectively.

A. Type of Project: Site Specific ☒; Countywide ☐; Community ☐; Policy ☐.

B. Total Project Area: 1,800 square feet of concrete pad (no buildings)

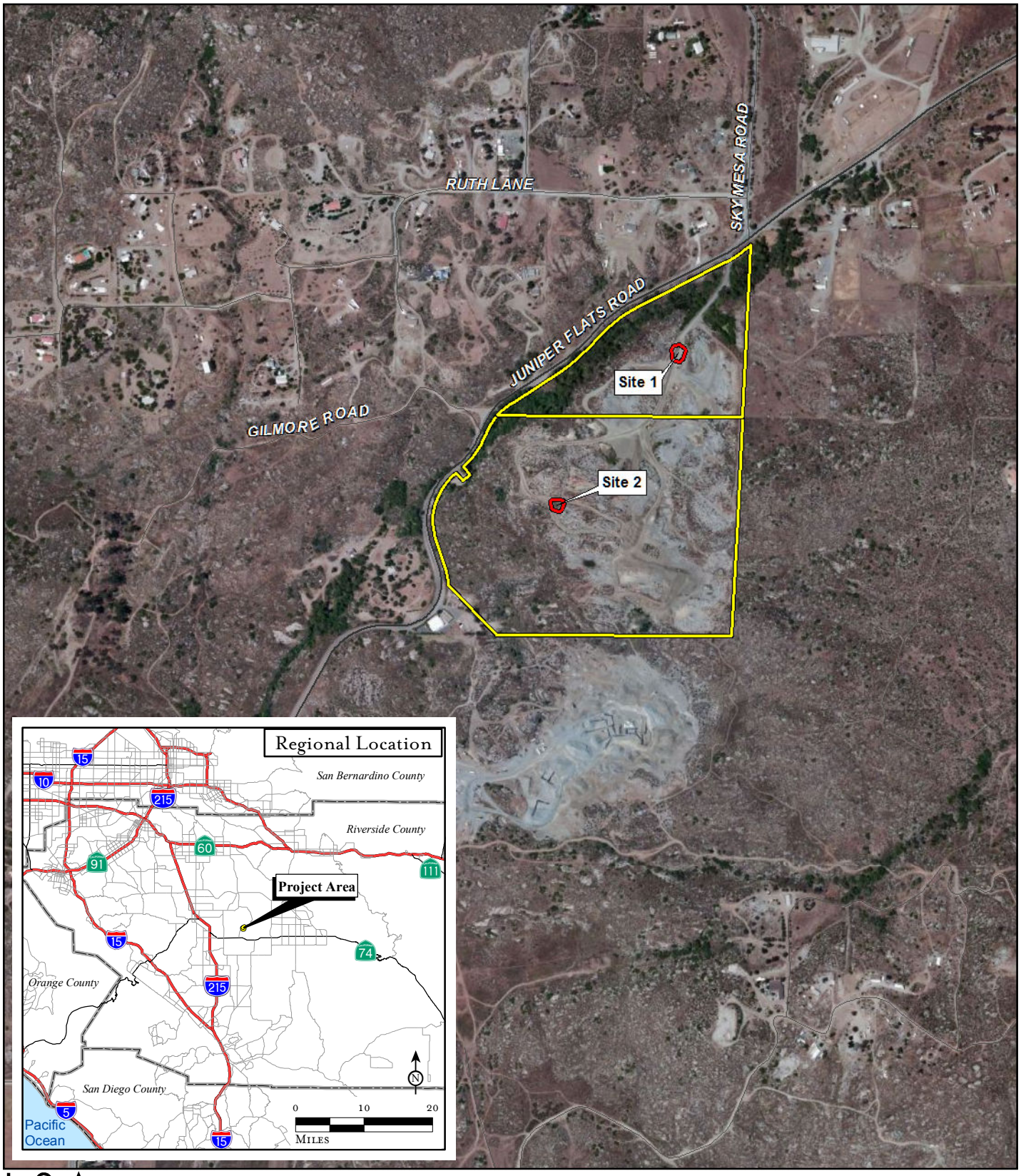
Residential Acres:	**Lots:**	**Units:**	**Projected No. of Residents:**
Commercial Acres:	**Lots:**	**Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area:**	**Est. No. of Employees:**
Industrial Acres:	**Lots:**	**Sq. Ft. of Bldg. Area:**	**Est. No. of Employees:**
Other: <1.0			

C. Assessor's Parcel No(s): 457-030-011 and 457-270-011-3

D. Street References: Adjacent to and east of Juniper Flats Road, north (1.6 miles) of State Route 74.

E. Section, Township & Range Description or reference/attach a Legal Description: Section 5, Township 5 South, Range 2 West. San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.

F. Brief description of the existing environmental setting of the project site and its surroundings: The project site has been previously cleared as part of on-site mining operations. Most of the soil overlying site bedrock has been removed and no native vegetation exists in the areas proposed for the decanting facilities. A blueline stream is located near the northerly and westerly boundaries of the property, but it will not be disturbed by the proposed project. While surrounding parcels are predominantly vacant, some rural residential dwellings are located north and west of the project site. The project site is bordered by Juniper Flats Road to the north.



LSA

FIGURE 1

N

0 400 800

Feet

Project Parcels

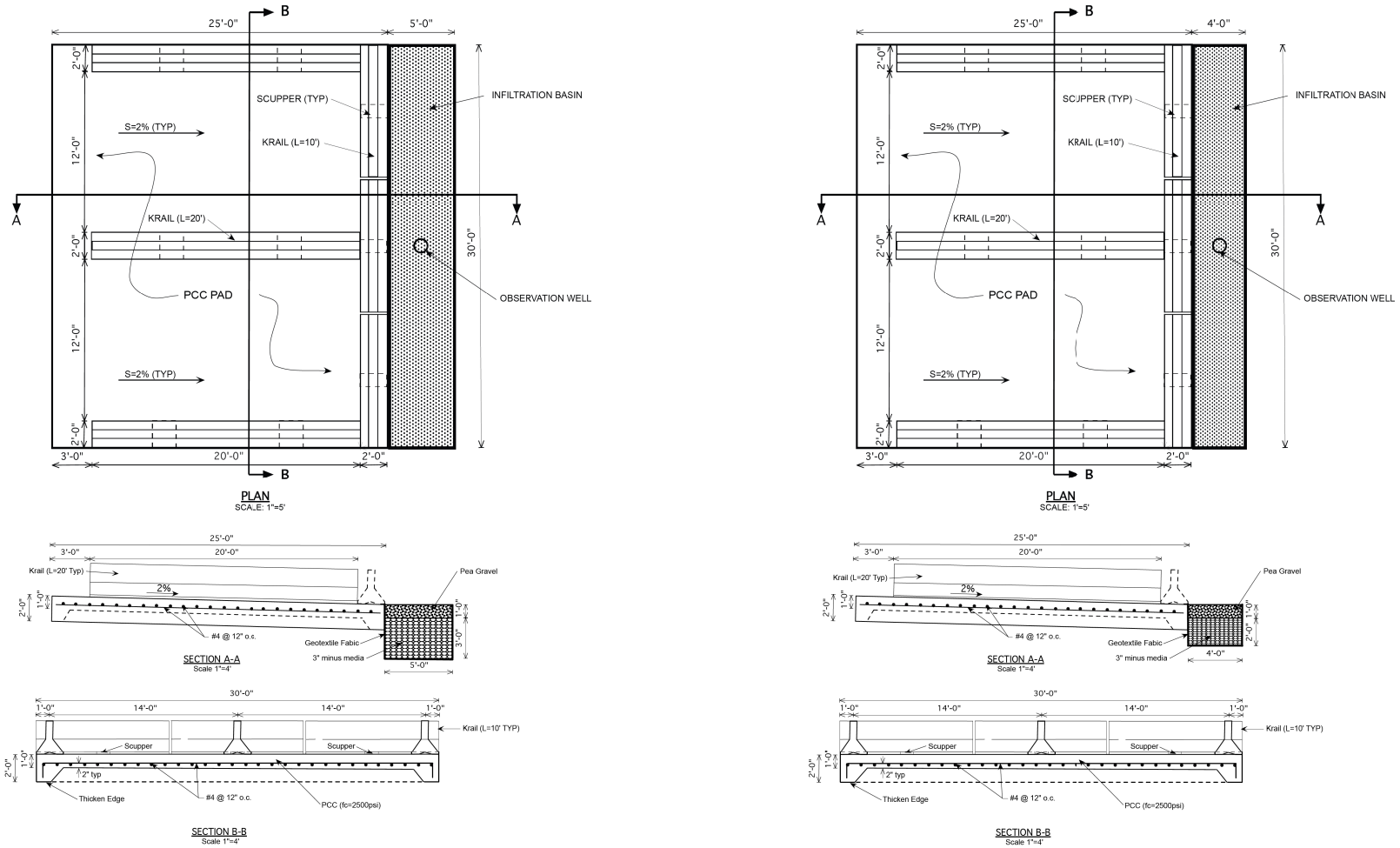
Sites

Juniper Flats Road Borrow Pit Decanting Facility
Riverside County Transportation Department
Environmental Assessment Form: Initial Study

SOURCE: Bing Aerial, 2010; Riverside County, 2013

Regional and Project Location

I:\RCT1402\Reports\EA_IS\fig1_RegLoc.mxd (10/13/2014)



AREA 1 - DECANTING FACILITY

JUNIPER FLATS PIT

AREA 2 - DECANTING FACILITY

LSA

FIGURE 2

Juniper Flats Road Borrow Pit Decanting Facility
Riverside County Transportation Department
Environmental Assessment Form: Initial Study

Site Plan

SOURCE: County of Riverside, 2013

I:\RCT1402\Reports\EA_IS\fig2_SitePlan.cdr (10/13/2014)

II. APPLICABLE GENERAL PLAN AND ZONING REGULATIONS

A. General Plan Elements/Policies:

1. **Land Use:** The Lakeview/Nuevo Land Use Plan provides for significant growth in the Area's western half, near the City of Perris. Residential density gradually decreases east of the San Jacinto River until the Lakeview Mountains, where the Mountainous and Rural land use designations reflect the area's rugged nature. The project is located east of the San Jacinto River. It would comply with the Lakeview/Nuevo Land Use Concept by having no effect on residential density.

2. **Circulation:** The project does not include the modification of existing roadways. Due to the low number of daily trips associated with construction and operation of the proposed decanting facility, the project would have a negligible effect on Riverside County's Level of Service standards. Therefore, it is consistent with the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan Circulation element.

3. **Multipurpose Open Space:** Highlights of the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan open space features include the Bernasconi Hills, the Lakeview Mountains, and the San Jacinto River. Open spaces encompass a variety of habitats such as riparian corridors, oak woodlands, chaparral habitats, and other resources like lakes, groves, agricultural fields, parks, and recreation areas. Protecting the Santa Ana River watershed and other sensitive biological resources are some key objectives of the Area Plan and County vision. The project would comply with all Multipurpose Open Space policies set forth in the County's General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element and the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan.

4. **Safety:** Portions of the Lakeview/Nuevo planning area may be subject to hazards such as flooding, dam inundation, seismic occurrences, and wildland fire. However, the proposed project site is not located within a floodplain nor is the project site located within any other special hazard zone (including a fault zone, liquefaction zone, subsidence zone, dam inundation zone, or high fire hazard area). The proposed project would allow for sufficient provision of emergency response services to future users of the project and would not hinder the implementation of any emergency response plans. The proposed project would not conflict with policies identified in the County's General Plan Safety Element. The proposed project would comply with all safety standards set forth in the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan.

5. **Noise:** Not applicable.

6. **Housing:** The proposed project does not include a residential component, nor would it generate an increased need for housing in the County; therefore, the project would not conflict with any policies identified in the County's General Plan Housing Element.

7. **Air Quality:** Not applicable.

B. General Plan Area Plan(s): Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan, Riverside County General Plan

C. Foundation Component(s): Community Development

D. Land Use Designation(s): Open Space – Mineral Resources

E. Overlay(s), if any: Not applicable.

F. Policy Area(s), if any: Not applicable.

G. Adjacent and Surrounding:

1. **Area Plan(s):** Harvest Valley/Winchester Area Plan (south)

2. **Foundation Component(s):** Community Development (north, south, and east); Rural Community (west)

3. **Land Use Designation(s):** Rural Residential (5-acre minimum size) (north and west); Rural Mountainous (10-acre minimum lot size) (east and southeast); Low density residential (One-half acre minimum lot size) (south); Medium density residential (2–5 D.U./acre) (south)

4. **Overlay(s), if any:** Not applicable.

5. **Policy Area(s), if any:** Not applicable.

H. Adopted Specific Plan Information

1. **Name and Number of Specific Plan, if any:** Not applicable.

2. **Specific Plan Planning Area, and Policies, if any:** Not applicable.

I. Existing Zoning: Mineral Resources (M-R)

J. Proposed Zoning, if any: Mineral Resources (M-R)

K. Adjacent and Surrounding Zoning: M-R to the east and south. Residential Agricultural 5-Acre Minimum (R-A-5) to the west and north.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below (×) would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Recreation
☐ Agriculture & Forest Resources	☐ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Transportation / Traffic
☐ Air Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Utilities / Service Systems
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Other:
☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Other:
☐ Geology / Soils	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Public Services	

IV. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

A PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS NOT PREPARED
☐ 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 revisions in the project, described in this document, have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. **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.

A PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/NEGATIVE DECLARATION WAS PREPARED
☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, **NO NEW ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED** because (a) all potentially significant effects of the proposed project have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable legal standards, (b) all potentially significant effects of the proposed project have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (c) the proposed project will not result in any new significant environmental effects not identified in the earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (d) the proposed project will not substantially increase the severity of the environmental effects identified in the earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, (e) no considerably different mitigation measures have been identified and (f) no mitigation measures found infeasible have become feasible.
☐ I find that although all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable legal standards, some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15162 exist. An **ADDENDUM** to a previously-certified EIR or Negative Declaration has been prepared and will be considered by the approving body or bodies.
☐ I find that at least one of the conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15162 exist, but I further find that only minor additions or changes are necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation; therefore a **SUPPLEMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required that need only contain the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised.
☐ I find that at least one of the following conditions described in California Code of Regulations, Section 15162, exist and **a SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required: (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; (2) Substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the negative declaration was adopted, shows any the following: (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration; (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR or negative declaration; (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives; or, (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR or negative declaration would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives.

	November 24, 2014
Signature	Date
(Carl Winter, LSA Associates, Inc.; Consultant for RCTD)	For Juan Perez, Director
Printed Name	

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000-21178.1), this Initial Study has been prepared to analyze the proposed project to determine any potential significant impacts upon the environment that would result from construction and implementation of the project. In accordance with California Code of Regulations, Section 15063, this Initial Study is a preliminary analysis prepared by the Lead Agency, the County of Riverside, in consultation with other jurisdictional agencies, to determine whether a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report is required for the proposed project. The purpose of this Initial Study is to inform the decision-makers, affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS Would the project				
1. Scenic Resources				
a. Have a substantial effect upon a scenic highway corridor within which it is located?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and unique or landmark features; obstruct any prominent scenic vista or view open to the public; or result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: County General Plan, Figure C-9 “Scenic Highways”

Findings of Fact:

a) The project site is not located adjacent to or within a State-designated or County-designated scenic highway corridor. SR-74, an Eligible State Scenic Highway, is located approximately 1.5 miles south of the project site. A portion of SR-74, approximately 14.0 miles east of the project site, is a State-designated scenic highway. The Ramona Expressway, a County Eligible Scenic Highway in the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan, is located 6.8 miles to the northeast of the project site. While designated or eligible scenic highways are located in the vicinity of the project site, due to the limited nature and extent of the proposed uses, construction or operation of the decanting areas would not affect views or scenery from these highways. The structures proposed take up a small area (1,800 square feet total) and will not be visible from any local roadway. A less than significant impact related to this issue would occur.

b) Due to past and current on-site aggregate mining operations, the project site is highly disturbed. All topsoil has been stripped from the site. No native vegetation, trees, rocky outcrops, or other scenic features occur in the areas for the proposed decanting features. A line of trees screens views of the project site from the north and west. Although the site is visible to the rural properties to the east and south, the project is of low enough height that any scenic views or vista surrounding the site would not be obstructed. The decanting pads are small concrete pads adjacent to engineered trenches. The proposed decanting operations would occur within an area that is currently actively mining and would result in the separation of solid from liquid materials collected during the routine cleanout of drainage facilities located within the County’s rights-of-way. Neither the construction or operation of the proposed decanting features would significantly alter the existing aesthetic character of the site or project area, nor would it result in the development of an aesthetically offensive site. Impacts related to this issue are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

2. Mt. Palomar Observatory				
a. Interfere with the nighttime use of the Mt. Palomar Observatory, as protected through Riverside County Ordinance No. 655?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Ord. No. 655 (Regulating Light Pollution)

Findings of Fact:

a) Riverside County Ordinance 655 restricts the use of certain light fixtures that may have a detrimental effect on astronomical observation and research. This ordinance establishes two zones: Zone A is the area within a 15-mile radius of Palomar Observatory; Zone B is the area that extends from the outer limit of Zone A to 45 miles from Palomar Observatory. The project site is located approximately 27 miles from Mt. Palomar Observatory and is located within Zone B; however, the proposed project will not include the installation of new outdoor lighting features that could interfere with the nighttime use of Palomar Observatory; therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

3. Other Lighting Issues				
a. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Expose residential property to unacceptable light levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Project Application

Findings of Fact:

a–b) Development of the Juniper Flats Decanting Facility Project does not include the installation of any new lighting source. Construction of the proposed decanting features will not occur at night; therefore, no construction lighting is required. As a result, the project will not emit any light or glare that could affect views in the area, or expose residential property to unacceptable light levels. No impact related to this issue would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AGRICULTURE & FOREST RESOURCES Would the project				
4. Agriculture				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing agricultural zoning, agricultural use or with land subject to a Williamson Act contract or land within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Cause development of non-agricultural uses within 300 feet of agriculturally zoned property (Ordinance No. 625 "Right-to-Farm")?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-2 "Agricultural Resources," State of California Department of Conservation California Important Farmland Finder, Soil Web Application for Google Earth, and Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

a) The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) identifies the majority of the site as "Other Land." Other Land is defined by the FMMP as areas not mapped as Farmland, Grazing Land, Urban Land, or Water, and therefore is not considered to have agricultural value. Examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. No portion of the project site or adjacent areas is designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). Implementation of the proposed project would not convert Farmland to a non-agricultural use. No impact associated with this issue would occur.

b) The project site is not zoned for agricultural use. No Williamson Act Contract is in effect on the project site, nor is the site located within a Riverside County Agricultural Preserve. No impact would occur.

c) Ordinance No. 625 ("Right-to-Farm") provides a nuisance defense for certain agricultural activities, operations, and facilities. The purpose of the Right-to-Farm Ordinance is to balance the rights of farmers to produce food and other agricultural products with the rights of non-farmers who own, occupy, or use land within or adjacent to agricultural areas. The project site is currently zoned Mineral Resources (M-R). Parcels to the west and north are zoned Residential Agricultural (R-A-5, R-A-10), are located within 300 feet of the project site.

Based on the definition of "agricultural activity, operation, or facility, or appurtenances thereof," as defined in Ordinance No. 625, no lands within 300 feet of the project site are involved in agricultural activity, operation, or contain agricultural facilities. As the construction and operation of the proposed decanting features would not result in the loss of an existing agricultural activity, the proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of Riverside County Ordinance No. 625. No impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

d) As no "Farmland" exists on site or in adjacent areas, the construction and operation of the proposed decanting features would not result in the conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use. No impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

5. Forest				
a. 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 Govt. Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-3 "Parks, Forests and Recreation Areas," and Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

a) The project site is not located within the boundaries of a 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 Govt. Code section 51104(g)); therefore, no impact related to zoning for these resources would occur.

b) The project site is located within the limits of an active aggregate mining operation on which no forest land or forest resources are located; therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

c) As the project site is neither designated nor utilized for forest or timberland uses, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

AIR QUALITY Would the project				
6. Air Quality Impacts				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Expose sensitive receptors which are located within 1 mile of the project site to project substantial point source emissions?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Involve the construction of a sensitive receptor located within one mile of an existing substantial point source emitter?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Analysis*, LSA Associates, Inc., October 2014 (see Appendix A).

Findings of Fact:

a) The proposed project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin) and is within the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). Basin-wide air pollution levels are monitored by the SCAQMD through the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). Adopted in December 2012, the AQMP provides a program for obtaining attainment status for key monitored air pollution standards, based on existing and future air pollution emissions resulting from employment and residential growth projections.

The AQMP incorporates local General Plan land use assumptions and regional growth projections developed by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to estimate stationary and mobile source emissions associated with projected and planned land uses. The proposed project would not result in an increase in regional growth projections developed by the SCAG as it a modification of existing and ongoing activities of RCTD; no growth or expansion of operations is planned as part of the project. Because the proposed project would not increase the employment forecast that was used in the 2012 AQMP, it would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any of the control measures in the AQMP. As such, no impacts associated with this issue would occur and no mitigation is required.

b) **Short-Term Construction Impact:** Grading and other construction activities would result in combustion emissions from construction vehicles and vehicles transporting the construction crew. Exhaust emissions during these construction activities will vary daily as construction activity levels change. Due to the nature of the project, construction operations will be limited. The air pollutant emissions identified in Table A would occur during the preparation of the site and represent the maximum air pollutant emissions that would occur during project construction. The other construction phases would not result in any greater construction emissions due to less equipment being used and shorter construction duration.

Currently, the Basin is designated as a nonattainment area for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Project construction will be required to comply with regional fugitive dust reduction practices (SCAQMD Rule 403) that assist in reducing short-term air pollutant emissions. The purpose of SCAQMD Rule 403 is

to reduce the amount of particulate matter in the atmosphere resulting from man-made fugitive dust sources. Among the requirements under this rule, fugitive dust must be controlled so that the presence of such dust does not remain visible in the atmosphere beyond the property line of the emission source. This is achieved by requiring actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate dust emissions. Adherence to Rule 403 is a standard requirement for any construction activity occurring within the Basin. Adherence to Rule 403 can reduce fugitive dust emissions by 50 percent or more. Table A identifies peak day construction emissions for the most intense construction phase.

Table A: Short-Term Regional Construction Emissions

Construction Phase	Total Regional Pollutant Emissions (lbs/day)								
					PM_{10}		$PM_{2.5}$		
	VOC	NO_X	CO	SO_2	Fugitive	Exhaust	Fugitive	Exhaust	CO_2e
Site Preparation	2.8	32	19	0.025	0.59	1.6	0.072	1.5	2,600
Trenching	0.96	8.5	5.6	0.0073	0.056	0.67	0.015	0.61	750
Paving	2	20	13	0.02	0.17	1.2	0.045	1.1	2,000
Peak Daily Emissions	2.8	32	19	0.025	2.2		1.6		2,600
Regional Construction Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**		**55**		**No Threshold**
Exceeds Regional Thresholds?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**		**No**		
LST Construction Thresholds	**—**	**124**	**659**	**—**	**5.6**		**3.2**		
Exceeds LST Thresholds?	**—**	**No**	**No**	**—**	**No**		**No**		

Source: LSA Associates, Inc. (October 2014).
Note: Peak daily emissions are based on the assumption that no construction phases would overlap.

CO = carbon monoxide
CO_{2e} = carbon dioxide equivalent
lbs/day = pounds per day
NO_X = nitrogen oxides
$PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size
PM_{10} = particulate matter less than 10 microns in size
VOC = volatile organic compounds
SO_2 = sulfur dioxide

Adherence to Rule 403 criteria will ensure that project construction activities comply with the regional fugitive dust reduction practices, thereby reducing project construction emissions by up to 50 percent from levels detailed in Table A.

Long-Term Operational Impacts: Long-term air pollutant emission impacts result from project-related stationary and mobile sources. The project would not result in a significant increase in emissions because it is a modification of existing and ongoing operations. No new stationary or mobile pollution source will be created as a result of the project. The decanting facility will receive waste from through the County. Currently, this material is transported daily to Lamb County Landfill, located approximately 20 miles from the project site (via SR 74/79 and Sanderson Avenue.) Depending on the collection point, the delivery of the storm drain waste to the proposed decanting facility, and the consolidation of trips (every 2–3 days versus every day) to Lamb Canyon Landfill may reduce the overall miles traveled during storm drain cleanout operations.

Implementation of the proposed project would not lead to a net increase in employees, vehicles, or other sources of emissions. The decanting pads do consume energy. Since there is no modification of stationary or mobile source emissions as part of the project, the project will create no impact as a result of operational emissions. Therefore, project-related long-term air quality impacts would not be significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

c) The portion of the Basin within which the project is located is designated as a non-attainment area for ozone and PM_{10} under State standards, and as a non-attainment area for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ under Federal standards. As stated in Checklist Response 6 b) the project's short-term air quality impacts would be less than significant. In evaluating the cumulative effects of the project, Section 21100(e) of CEQA states that "previously approved land use documents including, but not limited to, general plans, specific plans, and local coastal plans, may be used in cumulative impact analysis." In addressing cumulative effects for air quality, the AQMP utilizes approved general plans and, therefore, is the most appropriate document to use to evaluate cumulative impacts of the project. This is because the AQMP evaluated air quality for the entire Basin using a future development scenario based on population projections and set forth a comprehensive program that would lead the region, including the project, into compliance with all Federal and State air quality standards. Since the project is in compliance with the AQMP and both short-term and long-term air quality impacts are less than significant, the project's cumulative impact to air quality is considered less than significant.

d) As detailed in Table A, construction pollutant emissions would not exceed the SCAQMD's construction localized significance thresholds (LSTs). The project would also not exceed operational LSTs because it is an existing operation, as explained in Checklist Response 6 b). Using these meteorological data, the SCAQMD has identified 37 Source Receptor Areas (SRAs) within its jurisdiction. The project is located in SRA 24, a broad geographic area that includes the communities of Moreno Valley, Perris, Nuevo, Lakeview, Romoland, Winchester, and Homeland. These LSTs are based on the project's Source Receptor Area (SRA) as defined by the SCAQMD. The LST analysis uses thresholds that represent the maximum air quality impacts for the project that would not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable national or State ambient air quality standard. Since the project emissions are far below localized thresholds, it would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, during construction and operation, project emissions of NO_2, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, resulting in a less than significant impact.

e) The proposed project would not involve the construction of a sensitive receptor (residences, schools, hospitals, etc.) and therefore would not result in the placement of a sensitive receptor within one mile of an existing substantial point source air pollution emitter. No impact would occur.

f) The materials associated with the facilities are not considered to be sources of objectionable odors. Materials recovered from storm drains include vegetative matter, sediment, and anthropogenic litter. Additionally, the nearest residence is 650 feet away and screened by a dense strip of riparian vegetation. Any odors associated with the project will not affect adjacent residences. No impact would occur.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project				
7. Wildlife & Vegetation				
a. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any endangered, or threatened species, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
50, Code of Federal Regulations (Sections 17.11 or 17.12)?				
c. 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 Wildlife or U. S. Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. 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 Wildlife or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Source: *Biological Due Diligence Review and Site Survey*, LSA Associates, Inc., February 2015, and October 2014 and *Results of Burrowing Owl Survey for the Juniper Flats Road Borrow Pit Decanting Facility Project, County of Riverside,* March 2015.

Findings of Fact:

a) The project site within the Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). Of the two proposed decanting sites, only Site 1 is located within the southeastern portion of MSHCP Criteria Cell No. 3292. Per the MSHCP, conservation within this Criteria Cell, "…will focus on coastal sage scrub habitat."[1] Areas conserved will connect to coastal sage scrub habitat proposed for conservation in Criteria Cell No. 3295 (to the west) and to chaparral and coast sage scrub habitat in Criteria Cell No. 3188 (to the north.) However, neither project site is within the proposed conservation focus range of this Criteria Cell, which is in the northwestern quadrant (15 – 25 percent) of Criteria Cell No. 3292 (Figure 3.) The area within Criteria Cell No. 3292 proposed for conservation is located approximately 0.40 mile from the Site 1. Rural residential development and Juniper Flats Road separate the project sites from any area proposed for conservation.

Combined, the two project sites encompass significantly less than 0.026 percent of the total area of the Cell. The project site is located within the extreme southeast corner of Criteria Cell No. 3292. No

[1] "Conservation within this Cell will contribute to assembly of Proposed Noncontiguous Habitat Block 5. Conservation within this Cell will focus on coastal sage scrub habitat. Areas conserved within this Cell will be connected to coastal sage scrub habitat proposed for conservation in Cell #3295 to the west and to chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitat proposed for conservation in Cell #3188 to the north. Conservation within this Cell will range from 15%-25% of the Cell focusing in the northwestern portion of the Cell."

other Criteria Cells area located south or east of Criteria Cell No. 3292. Neither the project site nor areas directly to the south and east are designated for conservation under the MSHCP. The proposed decanting sites are located in an already disturbed area with ongoing aggregate mining on site.

A Joint Project Review (JPR) of the project was submitted to the Regional Conservation Authority of Western Riverside County (RCA) (see Letter H in Appendix D.) Additional resource surveys of the project area have been conducted to address RCA comments. The findings of the burrowing owl focused survey are detailed in Response 7(b-c). As the project site is within an existing facility and is not within the target conservation area of any Criteria Cell, the project is consistent with MSHCP conservation criteria. No significant impact would occur.

b–c) The site has been affected by previous mining and reclamation activities and consists of dirt roads, detention basins, and large stock piles of soil, rock, and boulders. In more disturbed areas, vegetation species include Russian thistle (*Salsola iberica*), common fiddleneck (*Amsinckia intermedia*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), and short-pod mustard (*Brassica geniculate*). Less disturbed areas of the site are vegetated by Riversidean sage scrub dominated by California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fascicluatum*). Mule fat (*Baccharis salifolia*) was also noted sprouting in the detention basins. There are no rare, threatened or endangered plant species on or near the subject site. The project site is not within Public/Quasi Public lands or MSHCP plant survey areas (Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area or Criteria Areas Species Survey Area). Additionally, the specific sites proposed for the decanting basins are already disturbed and lack vegetative cover.

The project is within the MSHCP survey area for the burrowing owl. The burrowing owl is considered an MSHCP Group 3 species, California Species of Special Concern, and a Federal Species of Concern. Burrowing owls have not been previously documented at the site, and no diagnostic signs of burrowing owls were found during a habitat assessment of the site in October 2014. An additional burrowing owl assessment and focused survey for burrows and owls was conducted in March 2015 in accordance with the MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the MSHCP (see Appendix B). The survey area is within an actively mined area. During the March 2015 focused survey active mining was being conducted in the location of the proposed Site 1. This site is devoid of vegetation. Site 2 is also located in an area affected by mining activities and is at the intersection of two dirt access roads and is sparsely vegetated by native annuals and non-native grassland species. No potential burrowing owl burrows or their sign were observed at either Site 1 or Site 2.

Areas within an approximately 500-foot diameter of the proposed decanting facility sites contain large stockpiles of soil, rock and boulders that may provide habitat for the burrowing owl. Other areas of the survey area are vegetated by coastal sage scrub and riparian woodland, which do not provide suitable habitat for the burrowing owl due to their dense shrub and tree cover. The stockpile areas were examined and no burrowing owls or burrowing owl sign were observed.

Because suitable habitat is present in the project area, and the burrowing owl is mobile species, there is potential for the project to affect this species. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-3 will reduce impacts to burrowing owls to a less than significant level.

d) Habitat fragmentation occurs when a proposed project results in the division of a single habitat area into two or more areas, such that the division isolates the two or more new areas from one another or drastically reduces the interconnectivity between the two or more new areas. Isolation of habitat occurs when wildlife cannot move freely from one portion of the habitat to another or from one habitat

type to another. An example of habitat fragmentation is the effect on surrounding habitat within and around clustered residential development. Habitat fragmentation may also occur when a portion of one or more habitats is converted into another habitat, as when scrub habitats are converted into annual grassland habitat because of frequent burning.

The project site is already disturbed and located in an area transitioning from mineral resource extraction to rural residential use. Surrounding properties are generally vacant with rural residential dwellings to the north, northeast, and west. The proposed facilities are not within a wildlife movement corridor or nursery site. In addition, the size of the project, 1,800 square feet total, does not constitute a threat to habitat connectivity. Due to the disturbed condition of the project site, the nature of adjacent development, the scale of the proposed project, and its location outside an established wildlife corridor or nursery site, development of the proposed project would not result in significant habitat fragmentation, would not substantially affect established wildlife corridors or wildlife movement, and would not impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Therefore, a less than significant impact associated with this issue would occur.

e) The site does not provide suitable soils or conditions that would support vernal pool resources; therefore, no impact to this resource would occur. A drainage running parallel to Juniper Flats Road is present along the northwesterly boundary of the mine property (Figure 4.) The vegetation in this drainage consists of riparian woodland and is dominated California sycamore (*Plantanus racemosa*), mature willows *(Salix spp*.) and mule fat. This area is considered suitable nesting habitat for special status bird species such as the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), as well as other nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code. The proposed Site 1 and Site 2 are located approximately 175 feet and 600 feet from this feature, respectively. The proposed sites are not tributary to this drainage. As such, the proposed facilities will have no direct effects to nesting riparian birds, and are not anticipated to have indirect effects to nesting riparian birds because of distance of the facilities from the riparian area. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-4 will ensure any impacts to any nesting bird species are less than significant.

f) The project area already includes detention basins that capture all site runoff. The proposed project will not affect the drainage present on the northwesterly portion of the mine property and no other drainage features subject to jurisdiction by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and/or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) were identified in project area. The proposed decanting pads would slope to allow any liquid to drain into adjacent infiltration trenches. The trenches are sized to store the design capture volume in the void space between the rocks. Over a period of time, water infiltrates through the bottom of the trench into the surrounding soil. Infiltration basins are highly effective in removing all common pollutants.

Monthly testing of this leachate will be implemented to ensure discharge is in compliance with standards related to oil and grease, pH, Specific Conductance, Total Organic Carbon and Total Suspended Solids. The decanting facilities will contain an observation well in the middle of each trench. Thus, the proposed facilities will have no significant effects to potential jurisdictional waters. Because the decanted liquids would be directed to infiltration that have, 1) been designed to accommodate anticipated flows, and 2) proven effective at removing common pollutants, no impact to water quality at nearby riparian areas would occur.

g) The Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan identifies key policies to protect biological resources. The proposed project will not affect any of the species, habitats, and resources identified by the Plan, except for burrowing owls, as identified in policy LNAP 13.1:

> **LNAP 13.1** Conserve the existing intact upland habitat block in the Lakeview Mountains for the benefit of raptors, burrowing owl, and cactus wren.

The project site is not located on intact upland habitat for raptors or cactus wren. However, as discussed previously, there is suitable habitat for burrowing owls present in the project area adjacent to proposed decanting sites. Mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-3 will address impacts to burrowing owls. Impacts are less than significant after mitigation.

Mitigation:

BIO-1: A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than three (3) days prior to the commencement of grading and construction activities. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the MSHCP. If the pre-construction survey determines that burrowing owl does not occupy the site, then mitigation measures BIO-2 and BIO-3 shall not be not required.

If the pre-construction survey identifies active burrowing owl nests on the site during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), then mitigation measure BIO-2 shall be implemented. If the pre-construction survey identifies burrowing owl on the site outside of the breeding season, then mitigation measure BIO-3 shall be implemented.

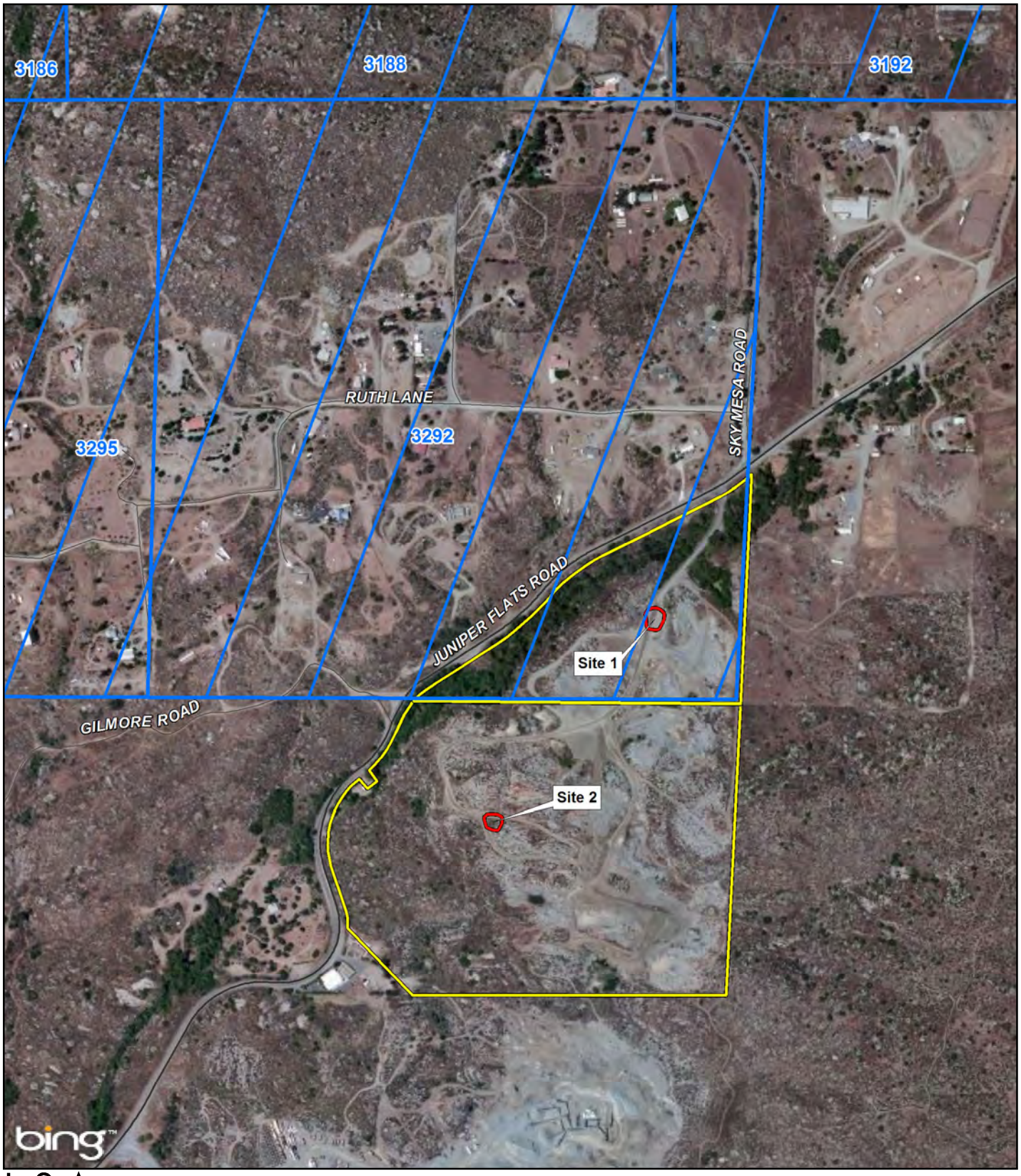
BIO-2: If active nests are identified on the site during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the nests shall be avoided. No construction disturbances such as grading or use of heavy construction equipment activity shall take place within 250 feet of an active nest (during the breeding season).

BIO-3: If burrowing owls occupy the site outside of the breeding season and cannot be avoided, the RCTD shall contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure that owl relocation efforts conform to applicable conservation strategies. Prior to any such relocation, the RCTD shall provide evidence to the USFWS and/or the CDFW that its relocation plan satisfies the applicable burrowing owl conservation strategies.

BIO-4: A pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than three (3) days prior to the removal of vegetation or ground disturbance to avoid effects to nesting birds. This survey shall encompass the entire area of project-related ground disturbance and may occur concurrent with any required pre-construction burrowing owl survey. If any active nests are detected, then a buffer of at least 300 feet (500 feet for raptors) will be delineated, flagged, and avoided until the nesting cycle is complete as determined by the biological monitor to minimize impacts.

Monitoring:

The County project engineer shall ensure that mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-4 are implemented prior to commencement of grading activities on the project site.



LSA

FIGURE 3

Project Parcels
Sites
CriteriaCells

N

0 300 600
FEET

Juniper Flats Road Borrow Pit Decanting Facility
Riverside County Transportation Department
Environmental Assessment Form: Initial Study

MSHCP Criteria Cells

SOURCE: Bing Aerial, 2010; Riverside County, 2013

I:\RCT1402\Reports\EA_IS\fig3_MSHCP_CriteriaCells.mxd (1/8/2015)

LSA

FIGURE 4

N

0 150 300

FEET

Parcel Boundaries

Sites

Riparian/Riverine Habitat

Drainage

Juniper Flats Road Borrow Pit Decanting Facility
Riverside County Transportation Department
Environmental Assessment Form: Initial Study

Riparian/Riverine Habitat

SOURCE: Google Earth, 2014; Riverside County, 2015

I:\RCT1402\Reports\EA_IS\fit4_RipRiv.mxd (4/3/2015)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project				
8. Historic Resources				
a. Alter or destroy a historic site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in California Code of Regulations, Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Project application materials; Site survey by LSA Associates, Inc. October 2014.

Findings of Fact:

a–b) The project site does not contain any aboveground structures. No impacts to historical resources would occur and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

9. Archaeological Resources				
a. Alter or destroy an archaeological site.	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d. Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Project application materials.

Findings of Fact:

a-c) The site has been extensively graded and excavated as part of ongoing aggregated mining. The project area contains no above ground structures or other known archaeological resources. Due to the lack of formal cemeteries or informal burial plots within the project site and the previous excavation activity, there is a very low potential for human remains to be uncovered during grading and other construction activities. In the unlikely event human remains are discovered, compliance with State law (Health and Safety Code § 7050.5) (HSC § 7050.5) would be required. These requirements state that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 (b), remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and their disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be contacted within the period specified by law.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

Subsequently, the NAHC shall identify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD).[1] The MLD shall then make recommendations and engage in consultation with the County as lead agency and the property owner concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Human remains from other ethnic/cultural groups with recognized historical associations to the project area shall also be subject to consultation between appropriate representatives from that group and the RCTD Director. Mitigation Measures CUL-1 through CUL-3 have been identified to ensure the appropriate protection of any cultural material discovered during project construction. Adherence to these measures and applicable provisions of the Health and Safety and Public Resource Codes will ensure impacts related to these s issues are less than significant.

d) There are no known or documented religious or sacred sites within the project site. No impacts to religious or sacred uses would occur.

Mitigation:

CUL-1: If human remains are encountered during grading and other construction excavation, work in the immediate vicinity of the remains shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted per applicable provisions of California Health and Safety Code (§ 7050.5.)

CUL-2: In the event Native American cultural resources are discovered during project development/construction, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. As directed by the qualified archaeologist, work on the overall project may continue during this assessment period.

CUL-3: The County and/or its designated archaeologist shall notify appropriate Native American entity (entities) in the event any significant Native American cultural resources requiring preparation of a Treatment Plan is discovered. As requested, the County shall consult with appropriate Tribal entities on issues related to the discovery and disposition (e.g., avoidance, preservation, recovery, return) of any such cultural material. Tribal Entities consulted shall include (but not be limited to) the Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

Monitoring: The County project engineer shall ensure that mitigation measures CUL-1 through CUL-3 are appropriately following during on-site construction activities.

10. Paleontological Resources				
a. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource, or site, or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: *Infiltration Rate Investigation, Decanting Basin Locations*, Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc., June 2013.

[1] The "Most Likely Descendant" (MLD) is a reference used by the California Native American Heritage Commission to identify the individual or population most likely associated with any human remains that may be identified within a given project area. Under California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, the Native American Heritage Commission has the authority to name the MLD for any specific project and this identification is based on a report of Native American remains through the County Coroner's office. In the case of the County of Riverside, the Native American Heritage Commission may identify any Luiseño descendant, but generally names the Soboba or Pechanga Bands of Mission Indians (both Luiseño populations) and alternates between the two groups. The County of Riverside will recognize any MLD identified by the Native American Heritage Commission without giving preference to any particular population.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

Findings of Fact:

a) The soils on site have been formed primarily from the in situ weathering of granitic parent material. Most the soils on the site are young (Holocene age) and overly bedrock. The Infiltration Report also found artificial fill material at some of the borings conducted. Paleontological resources in the project region are typically associated with Pleistocene age sediments, which are not present at the site. Because the project site lacks any alluvial deposits, it is not thought to be a paleontological resource and impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project				
11. Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or County Fault Hazard Zones				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Be subject to 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Lakeview/Nuevo AP Figure 12 “Seismic Hazards;” Riverside County General Plan Figure S-2 “Earthquake Fault Study Zones,” GIS database; *Infiltration Rate Investigation, Decanting Basin Locations*, Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc., June 2013.

Findings of Fact:

a–b) The project site is approximately 6.0 miles west of the Casa Loma Fault of the San Jacinto Fault Zone and the Murrieta Creek Fault of the Elsinore Fault Zone, located 21 miles southwest of the project site. The proposed project site is not located within the boundaries of an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. No known active or potentially active faults traverse the project site or adjacent properties.

The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of an outdoor decanting facility. The proposed project does not include the construction of any habitable structures, features, or facilities, nor would it facilitate activities that would increase the potential for injury or death from fault rupture hazards. No impact related to these issues would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

12. Liquefaction Potential Zone				
a. Be subject to seismic-related ground failure,	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
including liquefaction?				

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-3 “Generalized Liquefaction;” Riverside County Land Information System; Lakeview/Nuevo Area Plan Figure 11 “Seismic Hazards”; *Infiltration Rate Investigation, Decanting Basin Locations*, Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc., June 2013.

Findings of Fact:

a) Liquefaction occurs when shallow, loose, unconsolidated, fine to medium-grained sediments saturated with water are subjected to shaking as a result of an earthquake. The possibility of liquefaction occurring at any one site is dependent upon the occurrence of a significant earthquake in the vicinity, sufficient groundwater to cause high pore pressures (i.e., the pressure of groundwater held within a soil or rock), and on the grain size, plasticity, relative density, and confining pressures of the soils at the project site. Liquefaction usually occurs when the underlying groundwater table is 50 feet or less below the surface.

The project site is not located in an area with sediments susceptible to liquefaction, according to the Riverside County General Plan and the Riverside County Land Information System. Soils at the site are shallow and coarse-grained, and underlain by bedrock. In addition, no habitable structures that could be affected by liquefaction are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

13. Ground-shaking Zone				
a. Be subject to strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-4 “Earthquake-Induced Slope Instability Map,” and Figures S-13 through S-21 (showing General Ground Shaking Risk); *Infiltration Rate Investigation, Decanting Basin Locations*, Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc. June 2013; 1994 Uniform Building Code zone map, U.S. Geological Survey.

Findings of Fact:

a) As defined by the Uniform Building Code (UBC), the project site is located within Seismic Zone 4. The extent of ground shaking associated with an earthquake is dependent upon the size of the earthquake and the geologic material of the underlying area. Ground shaking resulting from activity on local faults would likely be felt within the project site during a seismic event. However, the project will not result in the creation of habitable structures susceptible to seismic damage. Adherence to standard engineering and construction standards for the proposed decanting features would ensure impacts remain less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
14. Landslide Risk a. 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, collapse, or rockfall hazards?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: Lakeview Nuevo Area Plan Figures 12 "Steep Slope," 13 "Slope Instability;" Riverside County General Plan Figure S-4 "Earthquake-Induced Slope Instability Map," and Figure S-5 "Regions Underlain by Steep Slope."

Findings of Fact:

a) No known or mapped geologic units or soils that are unstable or could become unstable occur within the project limits. The project is not located in an area susceptible to seismically induced landslides or rockfalls. Additionally, no steep slopes that could potentially become unstable exist on the site. The proposed decanting pads would be designed and constructed per applicable standards. The project site is not located near any area of potential landslide as it is not within an area of identified steep slopes or susceptible to landslide hazards; therefore, landslides are not a geotechnical constraint for the site. Impacts related to unstable geologic units, unstable soils, or landslide risks are less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

15. Ground Subsidence a. 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 ground subsidence?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-7 "Documented Subsidence Areas Map;" *Infiltration Rate Investigation, Decanting Basin Locations*, Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc., June 2013.

Findings of Fact: Subsidence is the sudden sinking or gradual downward settling of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal movement. Subsidence is caused by a variety of activities, which includes, but is not limited to, withdrawal of groundwater, pumping of oil and gas from underground, the collapse of underground mines, liquefaction, and hydrocompaction. Per the Riverside County Land Information System, the project site is not located in an area susceptible to subsidence. Shallow soils on the site are underlain by bedrock. Groundwater was found at 15.25 feet below surface ground level in an exploratory boring at one of the proposed decanting sites. The proposed project does not include any activity that could cause subsidence; therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

16. Other Geologic Hazards	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Be subject to geologic hazards, such as seiche, mudflow, or volcanic hazard?				

Source: On-site Inspection; Project Application Materials; *Infiltration Rate Investigation, Decanting Basin Locations*, Inland Foundation Engineering, Inc. June 2013.

Findings of Fact:

a) A seiche is the surface oscillation in the surface of an enclosed body of water, such as a lake. This oscillation, induced by earthquakes, rockfalls and similar events, can affect harbors, bays, lakes, rivers, and canals. The project site is located approximately 6.5 miles southeast of Lake Perris, and 5.8 miles northwest of Diamond Valley Lake. Because the project site in not the immediate vicinity of these bodies of water and at a higher elevation (440 feet) the site and proposed uses would not be susceptible to seiche-related hazards. No impact would occur.

Mudflows typically consist of a mixture of soil, rock, and/or water or air. The potential for debris flow occurs particularly in canyon bottoms, stream channels, and areas near the outlets of canyons or channels. The project site is not located near a canyon bottom or stream channel, or within a hillside area susceptible to mudflow hazard; therefore, no impact associated with this issue would occur.

The project is not located in a volcanically active area; therefore, no impact related to this potential hazard would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

17. Slopes				
a. Change topography or ground surface relief features?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Create cut or fill slopes greater than 2:1 or higher than 10 feet?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Result in grading that affects or negates subsurface sewage disposal systems?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Lakeview Nuevo Area Plan Figure 12 “Steep Slope;” Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

a) The proposed project will not substantially alter ground surface relief features. The scale of earth disturbance required for construction of the decanting pads and infiltration trenches is minor relative to ongoing mining activities on-site. Approximately 1,800 square feet of ground will be disturbed in the construction of the proposed project. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact on topography and ground surface relief features.

b) The proposed project does not require the creation of any slopes. Construction of the decanting facilities will not result in the creation of cut or fill slopes greater 2:1 or higher than 10 feet. Therefore, no impact would occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

c) The project site is devoid of any residential uses and no subsurface sewage disposal system is located on or proposed for the project site; therefore, the project would have no impact on subsurface sewage disposal systems.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

18. Soils				
a. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1802.3.2 of the California Building Code (2007), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: USDA Soil Conservation Service Soil Surveys, Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

a) Based on soils maps published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), soils on the project site consist of Cieneba rocky sandy loam (CkD2), 8 to 15 percent slopes, and Cieneba rocky sandy loam (CkF2), 15 to 50 percent slopes. Ten percent of each unit is rocky outcrops. The soils are shallow, with a depth to weathered bedrock of 14 inches; are somewhat excessively drained; experience low runoff; and have a very to moderately low ability to transmit water due to the shallow depth to weathered bedrock. The soils have a moderate potential for erosion.

Much of the topsoil has been stripped from the project site. The borings conducted by the Infiltration Study encountered several different soil materials at the proposed basin sites, including shallow silty sand (approximately one foot before bedrock), silty sand and gravelly sand artificial fill material, and silty, clayey sand.

Due to the limited ground disturbance required, the proposed project would have little effect related to soil erosion. The proposed pads and infiltration trenches would total approximately 1,800 square feet. Overall, less than one acre of land will be disturbed for project implementation. Although the project construction involves minimal disturbance to already disturbed land, the project proponent will apply standard construction erosion control measures as necessary. Typical construction erosion control measures may include, but would not be limited to:

- Filter fabric fence used along the perimeter of the disturbed area to filter out sediment as runoff flows through the fabric.
- Fiber rolls consisting of straw, mulch, or composted material rolled and bound (sometimes in filter fabric) can be staked on a hillside or other erosion-prone area, installed perpendicular to a slope to act as check dams.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

- Filter berms, typically recycled wood chips and bark, that are installed at site perimeters or along slopes to act as a check dam and filter pollutant-laden runoff. The berms are designed to filter runoff by absorbing flows into the bermed material, gradually releasing them into the ground or off site.
- Clearing and grading should be scheduled during the dry season when storm water runoff is expected to be minimal.

Implementation of appropriate standard erosion control measures will prevent any significant soil erosion.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

b) Expansive soils have a large of amount of clay particles, which causes them to swell in volume when they absorb water, and shrink when they dry. This fluctuation in volume causes stress on buildings and other loads placed on expansive soils. The extent or range of the shrink/swell is influenced by the amount and kind of clay present in the soil. The occurrence of these soils is often associated with geologic units having marginal stability. Expansive soils can be widely dispersed and they can occur in hillside areas as well as low-lying alluvial basins.

Surface soils at the site are predominantly of loam texture, with moderately sized particles of mixed mineralogy. Subsurface soils encountered in the borings of the Infiltration Study had sandy textures. The mineralogy and particle size distribution of the soils at the site does not match the characteristics of expansive soils. Therefore, the project is not located on an expansive soil and there is no impact.

c) The project site is located within the boundaries of the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). No water or sewer lines are located within the project limit. Portable restroom facilities are serviced regularly. No habitable dwellings will be constructed as part of the project; therefore, no septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal systems at the site is required. No impact related to this issue would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

19. Erosion				
a. Change deposition, siltation, or erosion that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a lake?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in any increase in water erosion either on or off site?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: USDA Soil Conservation Service Soil Surveys.

Findings of Fact:

a–b) The proposed project is in an area that ultimately drains into the San Jacinto River. A drainage course borders the project's parcel boundary to the northwest. The project would result in less than

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

one acre of ground disturbance and would not need to implement a project Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Since ground disturbance is minimal, the project will not change deposition, siltation, or erosion patterns to the extent that they would modify river or stream channels or a lake. Impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

20. Wind Erosion and Blowsand from project either on or off site.				
a. Be impacted by or result in an increase in wind erosion and blowsand, either on or off site?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: County General Plan Figure S-8 "Wind Erosion Susceptibility Map;" Ord. No. 484.

Findings of Fact:

a) The project site has a moderate potential for wind erosion. Paved roadways currently provide access to the project site. As discussed in the Air Quality section of this Environmental Assessment, during construction, all grading activity is required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403. The purpose of SCAQMD Rule 403 is to reduce the amount of particulate matter in the atmosphere resulting from man-made fugitive dust sources. Among the requirements under this rule, fugitive dust must be controlled so that the presence of such dust does not remain visible in the atmosphere beyond the property line of the emission source. This is achieved by requiring actions to prevent, reduce, or mitigate dust emissions as previously described in response to question 6(b), which can reduce fugitive dust emissions by 50 percent or more. With adherence to Rule 403, impacts are reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project				
21. Greenhouse Gas Emissions				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Analysis*, LSA Associates, Inc., March 2014 (see Appendix A).

Findings of Fact:

a–b) Greenhouse gas emissions for projects are typically calculated from vehicular traffic, energy consumption, water conveyance and treatment, waste generation, and construction activities. Since the proposed project is a modification of existing and ongoing activities of RCTD, this analysis focuses on temporary off-road vehicle emissions associated with the construction of the two concrete pads and adjacent infiltration trenches. The project is not expected to result in an increase in long-term emissions. The calculation presented below includes emissions in terms of annual CO_2 equivalents (CO_2e) GHG that would result from construction of the project.

Table B lists GHG emissions by construction phase. GHG emissions associated with construction equipment exhaust for the proposed project would be highest during the site preparation phase, totaling 5.8 metric tons of CO_2e. Total construction GHG emissions over the entire construction period are estimated to be 17 metric tons of CO_2e.

Table B: Construction-related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Construction Phase	Total Regional Pollutant Emissions (MT)			
	CO_2	CH_4	N_2O	CO_2e
Site Preparation	5.8	0.0017	0	5.8
Trenching	1.7	0.00048	0	1.7
Paving	9	0.0025	0	9
Total Annual Emissions	17	0.0047	0	17

Source: LSA Associates, Inc. (October 2014).

CH_4 = methane
MT = metric tons
CO_2 = carbon dioxide
N_2O = nitrous oxide
CO_2e = carbon dioxide equivalent

Long-term operation of the proposed project would generate GHG emissions from truck transport of materials to and from the site. However, the project is a modification of existing and ongoing activities. Operation of the project would not generate new sources of mobile source emissions, since the vehicles to be used are already in use. There are no new area-source emissions associated with operation of the project, since it will not increase the amount of use of electricity, natural gas, or water.

The proposed project will generate GHGs for a short period during construction, but operational emissions will not exceed those of existing on ongoing operations of RCTD. Due to the relatively small contribution of the project during the construction phase and its lack of any new permanent sources of GHG emissions, the project will have a less than significant impact on the environment.

In addition, since the project will not create a new permanent source of GHG emissions, it will not have a significant contribution to cumulative GHG emissions. As a result, the project is in compliance with applicable strategies to reduce California's emissions to the levels proposed in EO S-3-05, AB 32, and the CARB's Proposed Scoping Plan. Many of these strategies focus on integrating planning to promote sustainable growth and development. The project will not result in growth of RCTD operations and will therefore have no effect on the implementation of any GHG emission reduction plan.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project				
22. Hazards and Hazardous Materials				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Project Application Materials; CalEPA Hazardous Waste and Substances site “Cortese” list.

Findings of Fact:

a–b) The proposed project envisions the construction of a concrete pad and infiltration trench for the purpose of separating liquids from solid debris cleaned from County drainage facilities. The debris will be deposited on the sloped concrete pad; solids will remain on the pad and liquids will drain into the infiltration basin. Solid waste found in effluent includes household paper and plastic, and vegetation. Solid waste will be removed and transported to Lamb Canyon Landfill. Liquid waste will filter through the infiltration basin and percolate into the soil below.

The liquid material consists of potable water and other wastes. The liquids could potentially contain substances such as heavy metals, petroleum products, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and phthalates. However, storm drain waste liquid is generally not considered to be hazardous and will be treated through use of the infiltration trench.

Because the waste transported by the vactor truck and deposited at the site is not considered hazardous, there is no reasonably foreseeable way that the project could expose the public to hazardous materials. No hazardous materials will be stored or used on site by the project. Impacts are less than significant.

c) Trucks utilizing the proposed decanting facilities will use Juniper Flats Road to access the site two or fewer times per day, averaging 600 trips per year. Juniper Flats Road is a two-lane, paved, County-maintained road. This minimal increase in daily traffic on this road will not hinder normal or emergency access. The proposed project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan. Impacts related to this issue are, therefore, less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

d) No existing or proposed schools are located within one-quarter mile of the project site. The nearest school to the project site is Harvest Valley Elementary School located approximately 2.2 miles to the southwest. Debris associated with County drainage facilities typically consists of non-hazardous materials such as anthropogenic litter, vegetation, and sediment. No impact related to the emission or handling of hazardous substances within one quarter mile of a school will occur.

e) The proposed project is not located on or within a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment as a result.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

23. Airports				
a. Result in an inconsistency with an Airport Master Plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Require review by the Airport Land Use Commission?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, or heliport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-19 “Airport Locations;” Hemet-Ryan Airport Land Use Plan (1992).

Findings of Fact:

a) Hemet-Ryan Airport is located approximately 5.2 miles southeast of the site. The project site is not included in any of the Relative Risk Areas defined in the Hemet-Ryan Airport Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan (1992). According to this document, the site is not located in the area of influence for the airport. Therefore, the project would not result in inconsistency with an Airport Master Plan and there is no impact.

b) As the project site is not located within an airport influence area, the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) is not required to review the project; therefore, is no impact would occur.

c–d) The project is not located in an airport land use plan and is not within two miles of a public or private airport. The project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to any public or private airport safety hazards; therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

24. Hazardous Fire Area				
a. 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-11 “Wildfire Susceptibility,” Riverside Count (West) Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map.

Findings of Fact:

a) According to the Riverside County (West) Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, adopted in November 2007 by CalFire, the project is located in a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The site and surrounding area are mostly vacant with some rural dwellings. The proposed project does not include the construction or occupation of any structures that would increase the risk for loss, injury, or death from wildland fires. The proposed decanting pads and infiltration trenches would be constructed of non-combustible materials; therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project				
25. Water Quality Impacts				
a. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h. Include new or retrofitted storm water Treatment Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) (e.g. water quality treatment basins, constructed treatment wetlands), the operation of which could result in significant environmental effects (e.g. increased vectors or odors)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: Riverside County Flood Control District Flood Hazard Report/Condition; Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Design Handbook for Low Impact Development Best Management Practices (LID BMP Handbook).

Within Riverside County, separate Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permits (MS4 Permit) have been issued by the separate Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) to permittees within their respective areas of jurisdictions. The storm water programs enacted by each permittee are designed to ensure compliance with these permits. **The ongoing and routine cleanout of drainage facilities—including, but not limited to, culverts, inlets, outlets, catch basins, and swales—is required pursuant to the County's three MS4 permits.**

Typical storm drain liquid waste may include traces of heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, bacterium, and other materials. Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) established by RWQCBs establish criteria for the disposal of material contaminated (or potentially contaminated) by these substances. Per the Riverside County Waste Management Department,[1] past sampling of storm drain debris (solid and liquid) has not identified levels of contaminants that have exceeded any established water quality standard. This project does not change the nature of the materials collected; therefore, it is reasonable to anticipate that no substantial change in the type, concentration, or toxicity of any material collected during routine storm drain clean-out operations would occur.

Similar to the existing practice, samples of the solid waste material will be taken by the operator of the decanting facility and sent to an approved laboratory for testing. Liquid test samples will be obtained on a monthly basis, and taken to an approved laboratory for testing. Samples will be tested for oil and grease, pH, specific conductance, total organic carbon, and total suspended solids. The frequency and nature of load testing will occur pursuant to applicable WDRs established by RWQCBs. The results of any continuing testing will be maintained by the Riverside County Transportation Department, Division of Highway Operations.

Findings of Fact:

a) A drainage running parallel to Juniper Flats Road is present along the northwesterly boundary of the mine property (Figure 4.) The proposed Site 1 and Site 2 are located approximately 175 feet and 600 feet from this feature, respectively. The proposed sites are not tributary to this drainage

Effluent deposited on the sloped decanting pads will flow into adjacent infiltration trenches that have been designed to accommodate anticipated effluent loads; therefore, no significant impact to the nearby drainage would occur. The overall proposed project area drains via sheet flow to the south-

[1] Communication with Mr. Matthew Hickman, Environmental Compliance Manager, Riverside Waste Management Department, November 20, 2014.

southwest. The proposed pad sites have been previously cleared and graded, leaving little to no evidence of original drainage patterns. The project will disturb less than an acre of ground area and will not substantially affect drainage patterns on the site. Impacts are less than significant.

b) **Construction Activities:** Construction of the project will disturb less than one acre of ground. Therefore, the project does not require preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The project proponent will apply construction erosion and sediment control and other best management practices (BMP) measures as necessary to protect water quality during construction. These measures are described in question 18 a).

Post-construction: Common pollutants in urban runoff may include suspended solids, sediment, pathogens, heavy metals, petroleum products, pesticides/herbicides, nutrients (derived from fertilizers), oxygen-demanding substances (decaying organic matter), and trash. Water used in the routine cleanout of drainage features within County rights-of-way may become tainted with some of these common pollutants. The decanting operation would result in the transport and infiltration of storm drain waste liquid into the proposed infiltration trenches. Infiltration trenches are shallow excavated areas that are filled with rock material to create a subsurface reservoir layer. The trench is sized to store the design capture volume in the void space between the rocks. Over a period of time, water infiltrates through the bottom of the trench into the surrounding soil. Infiltration basins are highly effective in removing all common pollutants.[1,2]

The project will result in the creation of 1,800 square feet of decanting uses, of which 300 square feet will be permeable infiltration trenches. The concrete decanting pads will slope toward infiltration trenches, as detailed in the Project Description. The storm drain waste liquid associated with project operations will be captured in the trenches. The trenches have been designed to treat discharge in accordance with the LID BMP Handbook specifications regarding infiltration facilities. To ensure protection of water quality, the facility will send samples of decanting liquid to an approved laboratory monthly for testing of oil and grease, pH, specific conductance, total organic carbon and total suspended solids.

With use of BMPs and monthly inspection of decanting effluent, no violations to water quality standards and waste discharge requirements will occur, resulting in a less than significant impact.

c) Water is currently trucked onto the site; there are no water wells on the site. The granitic bedrock underlying the site is not considered to be water bearing. The project also does not require the use of groundwater during operations. The proposed project will not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) Project implementation would result in approximately 1,800 square feet of decanting uses, of which 300 square feet will be permeable infiltration trenches. The proposed decanting pads would slope to allow any liquid to drain into an adjacent infiltration trenches. Impacts are less than significant.

e) The proposed project does not include a residential component; therefore, no impact related to this issue would occur.

---

1 http://rcflood.org/downloads/NPDES/Documents/LIDManual/3.2_Infiltration%20Trench.pdf, site accessed November 7, 2014.

2 http://rcflood.org/downloads/NPDES/Documents/LIDManual/Appendix%20E_BMP_Pollutant_Removal_Effectiveness.pdf, site accessed November 7, 2014.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

f) As detailed in Figure S-9 of the County General Plan, the project site and its immediate vicinity are not located within a 100-year or 500-year floodplain. Development of the project site would not result in the placement of structures within a flood zone. No impact would occur.

g–h) The proposed project includes the construction of infiltration trenches to capture liquid resulting from the proposed decanting operations. Collected storm drain waste material typically consists of household paper and plastic, anthropogenic litter, vegetation such as leaves and grasses, and sediment. Potable water, used in the operation of vactor equipment, is also present in effluent transported by vactor trucks. This water may contain trace quantities of metals, oil, grease, and other pollutants associated with roadway runoff.

The trenches will be designed in accordance with the LID BMP Handbook, which identifies BMPs for storm water infiltration systems. The project includes the routine cleanout of County drainage facilities, which are used to collect storm water runoff. Materials deposited in storm drain facilities may include pollutants typically associated with storm water runoff; therefore, it is reasonable to conclude water used in the routine cleanout of drainage features within County rights-of-way may become tainted with some of these common pollutants (similar to storm water runoff). The use of the LID BMP Handbook in the design of the proposed infiltration trenches is appropriate. Infiltration basins are highly effective in removing common pollutants in storm water runoff and presumably would have a similar effectiveness in removing pollutants from storm drain waste liquid. An infiltration study was conducted to identify appropriate on-site decanting locations that met Riverside County infiltration BMP design requirements. Specifically, the study identified whether the proposed decanting sites could provide at least five feet of permeable material beneath the infiltration trenches, as well as whether a minimum of ten feet between the bottom of the trench and the historical high groundwater level was present.

WDRs establish criteria for the disposal of material contaminated (or potentially contaminated) by these substances. Past sampling of storm drain debris (solid and liquid) has not identified levels of contaminants that have exceeded any established significance threshold. This project does not change the nature of the materials collected; therefore, it is reasonable to anticipate that no substantial change in the type, concentration, or toxicity of any material collected during routine storm drain clean-out operations would occur. Implementation of infiltration BMPs is expected to reduce the pollutant loads in storm drain liquid waste. Testing per applicable WDRs will ensure that infiltrating storm drain liquid meets applicable water quality requirements. Impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

26. Floodplains

Degree of Suitability in 100-Year Floodplains. As indicated below, the appropriate Degree of Suitability has been checked.

NA - Not Applicable ☒ U - Generally Unsuitable ☐ R - Restricted ☐

a. 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 that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Changes in absorption rates or the rate and	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
amount of surface runoff?				
c. 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 (Dam Inundation Area)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-9 "100- and 500-Year Flood Hazard Zones," Figure S-10 "Dam Failure Inundation Zone," Riverside County Flood Control District Flood Hazard Report/ Condition.

Findings of Fact:

a) A blueline stream runs along the mining property's western boundary. Construction and operation of the project will require minimal ground disturbance and generate an insubstantial amount of impervious cover (1,500 square feet). No substantial alterations to drainages and, therefore, no significant impact would occur.

b) As stated in the response to Question 25 d), the project would not result in a significant increase in impervious surfaces. Therefore, it is not expected to change absorption rates of the rate and amount of surface runoff. Impacts are less than significant.

c) The proposed project would not 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 due to existing drainage improvements. Although Perris Dam is located approximately 6.3 miles to the northwest, the project site is not located within any identified dam inundation area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) The installation of approximately 1,800 square feet of decanting uses, of which 300 square feet will be permeable infiltration trenches. The concrete pad surfaces would not appreciably alter the amount of runoff from project site. All decanting liquids will be captured by the proposed infiltration trenches. No change in the amount of any surface water would occur. No impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

LAND USE/PLANNING Would the project				
27. Land Use				
a. Result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Affect land use within a city sphere of influence and/or within adjacent city or county boundaries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Land Use Map, GIS database, Lakeview-Nuevo Community Plan, Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

a) The Riverside County General Plan designates the project site as Open Space – Mineral Resources. Portions of the project site have been and continue to be mined for decomposed granite. The proposed subsequent use for this property (after cessation of mining and reclamation) is rural residential, which will utilize areas leveled during mining activities for residential development. This will not occur until after the mining operation is complete and reclamation activities begin. The projected completion date of the reclamation is December 31, 2033.

The project would modify the existing Reclamation Plan to allow decanting activities at the site. These proposed activities will not interfere with existing or future mining operations and will cease upon completion of on-site mining and reclamation. The decanting facilities will then be removed from the site, so that they do not impede future use of the project site. As a result, the project will not result in substantial alteration of the present of planned land use of the area; therefore, impacts are less than significant.

b) The proposed project site is not located within the Sphere of Influence (SOI) of any city; therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

28. Planning				
a. Be consistent with the site's existing or proposed zoning?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Be compatible with existing surrounding zoning?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Be compatible with existing and planned surrounding land uses?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Be consistent with the land use designations and policies of the General Plan (including those of any applicable Specific Plan)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Land Use Element, GIS database.

Findings of Fact:

a–b) The project site's existing zoning is Mineral Resources (M-R). The proposed decanting use is not specifically referenced in the Riverside County Zoning Ordinance. Mining of aggregate material for use in road construction currently takes place at the site and will continue to with project implementation. The proposed project, while not referenced in the zoning ordinance, is consistent with the current on-site usage in its support of the County of Riverside Transportation Department activities. Development of the project site would not introduce a conflicting use with the existing adjacent zoning. Impacts are less than significant.

c–d) The project is consistent with the proposed uses of the existing General Plan land use designation, Open Space – Mineral Resources. Development of the project site would not introduce a conflicting use with the existing adjacent land uses and would have no impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

e) The project is consistent with the land use designations and policies of the General Plan. As no residential neighborhoods are located in the immediate vicinity of the project site, the proposed project would not disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community. No impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project				
29. Mineral Resources				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or the residents of the State?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Be an incompatible land use located adjacent to a State classified or designated area or existing surface mine?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Expose people or property to hazards from proposed, existing or abandoned quarries or mines?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure OS-5 “Mineral Resources Area”, Project Application Materials.

Findings of Fact:

a–b) The project site and adjacent area is identified as a Mineral Resource Zone-3a (likely having mineral deposits of undetermined significance). There are no State-Designated Aggregate Resource Areas located proximate to the site. Decomposed granite weathered from granodiorite is mined at the location and used for road base, sub-base, and roadway maintenance for County roads. However, the proposed project would occur concurrently with mining operations, and would not result in the loss of the decomposed granite resource; therefore, no loss in the availability of a delineated locally important mineral resource recovery site would occur.

c) The proposed decanting sites will be located within an existing surface mine. The proposed decanting activities will operate concurrently with ongoing mining operations. The existing Reclamation Plan for the mine will be revised and submitted to the State for approval of the proposed decanting activity. Once permitted, the proposed uses will be compatible with mining operations; therefore, no impact would occur.

d) The proposed project will not expose people to existing mining operations. The existing mining operation consists of excavating decomposed granite. Equipment used during mining operations includes bulldozers, scrapers or trucks and front-end loaders. No blasting occurs on site or adjacent to the proposed project site. The project will not result in any change to these operations. Use of the site for decanting operations will minimally expose workers to potential hazards common to work in a mining environment. Only qualified RCTD staff members, who have been trained on the health and

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

safety requirements associated with mine operations, shall be permitted to access the site. Through adherence to standard (and required) workplace safety practices, a less than significant impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

NOISE Would the project result in

Definitions for Noise Acceptability Ratings

Where indicated below, the appropriate Noise Acceptability Rating(s) have been checked.

NA - Not Applicable A - Generally Acceptable B - Conditionally Acceptable
C - Generally Unacceptable D - Land Use Discouraged

30. Airport Noise a. 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? NA ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. 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? NA ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure S-19 “Airport Locations,” County of Riverside Airport Facilities Map.

Findings of Fact:

a) The proposed project is not located within an airport land use site or within two miles of a public or public use airport. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) The project is not in the vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

31. Railroad Noise NA ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐	☐	☐	☐	☒

Source: Riverside County General Plan Figure C-1 “Circulation Plan.”

Findings of Fact:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

The nearest railroad is located approximately 3.5 miles south of the site. Trains along this railroad create intermittent noise impacts; however, the noise emitted by trains along the railroad is short-term in nature and intermittent. Due to the distance from this railroad and the absence from the project of any noise-sensitive use, no railroad noise impact would occur.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

32. Highway Noise NA ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: Riverside County Ordinance No. 847 and Riverside County General Plan Noise Element.

Findings of Fact:

Based on the County's General Plan Noise Element, the 55 dB noise contour for State Route 74 (SR-74) would occur approximately 1,373 feet from the highway. Since the project is located 1.4 miles away, highway noise will be less than adjacent roadway noise. The approximately 600 annual trips (1–2 per day) on SR-74 and Juniper Flats Road as part of decanting operations would not increase traffic volumes enough to cause any perceptible increase in noise on these roadways.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.

33. Other Noise NA ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Source: Project Application Materials; *Noise Impact Analysis*, LSA Associates, Inc. October 2014.

Findings of Fact:

Mining operations currently occur on site. Decomposed granite is excavated and extracted using bulldozers, scrapers, trucks, and front-end loaders. Material is stockpiled at the site for later transport. No blasting is used in the mining operation. Based on typical equipment usage, mining operations generate maximum sound levels between 73 and 94 dBA.

The proposed project would generate short-term construction noise and permanent noise from the use of trucks to deposit storm drain waste. Maximum sound levels for the project range between 73 and 92 dBA for construction, and 84 and 85 dBA for operation. Construction impacts are considered less than significant and no reasonably perceptible increase in permanent noise would occur. These activities are discussed in further detail in Question 34.

Mitigation: No mitigation is required.

Monitoring: No monitoring is required.