

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND  
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

212B



**FROM:** General Manager-Chief Engineer

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
October 22, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Resolution F2013-23 - Public Hearing for Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project and Adoption of the Associated Mitigated Negative Declaration; Project No. 2-0-00108; District 2/District 2; [\$0]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. F2013-23 which finds that the project will not have a significant adverse effect upon the environment and is in compliance with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan;
2. Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program for the project based on the findings incorporated in the initial study and the conclusion that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment;
3. Approve and Authorize the District to proceed with the Project; and;
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to deliver the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Notice of Determination to the office of the County Clerk and the State Office of Planning and Research for filing within five (5) working days of this Board hearing.

**BACKGROUND:**

Summary  
See Page 2.

WARREN D. WILLIAMS  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

JS:bjp  
P8\154119

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: MICHELLE CLACK  
DATE: 10/23/13

Departmental Concurrence

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$ N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
NET DISTRICT COST	\$ N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A	\$ N/A	

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> N/A	<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> N/A
	<b>For Fiscal Year:</b> N/A

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE  
  
BY: Steven C. Horn, MPA

County Executive Office Signature

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

On motion of Supervisor Stone, seconded by Supervisor Ashley and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: October 22, 2013  
xc: Flood, Recorder, State

Kecia Harper-Ihem  
Clerk of the Board  
By:   
Deputy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 11-8 of 08/20/13 | District: 2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> | Agenda Number:

**11-5**

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

**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**FORM 11:** Resolution F2013-23 - Public Hearing for Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project and Adoption of the Associated Mitigated Negative Declaration; Project No. 2-0-00108; District 2/District 2; [\$0]

**DATE:** October 22, 2013

**PAGE:** Page 2 of 2

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary (continued)**

The public hearing is in accordance with the requirements for Section 18 of the District Act.

All provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and the District Rules to Implement the California Environmental Quality Act have been met and the General Manager-Chief Engineer of the District has found that the Project will not have a significant adverse effect upon the environment and has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

During the public review period, comment letters were received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Orange County Public Works Department, California State Department of Parks and Recreation, State of California Office of Planning and Research, and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians. In addition, the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority submitted a comment letter after the public review period. These comment letters along with the District's written responses are included in the Final MND that is submitted to the Board for consideration.

**Impact on Citizens and Businesses**

Not Applicable.

P8\154119

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. F2013-23  
APPROVING SANTA ANA CANYON – BELOW PRADO INLAND EMPIRE  
BRINE LINE PROTECTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2013, the Board adopted Resolution No. F2013-22 pursuant to Section 18 of the District Act giving notice of its intention to construct a project in Zone 2, within unincorporated Riverside County, designated as Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project ("Project") and giving further notice that the Project would be considered at a public hearing on October 22, 2013; and

WHEREAS, notice of the public hearing was properly made by publication and posting as required by law, and all persons desiring to be heard on the matter were given the opportunity to appear and present testimony, both oral and written; and

WHEREAS, all provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act and the District Rules to Implement the California Environmental Quality Act have been met and the General Manager-Chief Engineer of the District has found that the Project will not have a significant adverse effect upon the environment and has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in regular session assembled on October 22, 2013 based upon the evidence and testimony presented on the matter, both written and oral, that:

1. The Project is partially within the Criteria Area set forth in and established by the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and is specifically within Subunit SU2 (Prado Basin) of the Temescal Canyon Area Plan and Cell No. 1612.

2. The Project has been submitted to and reviewed by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) pursuant to the Joint Project Review (JPR) process.

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY:  DATE: 10/8/13  
MICHELLE CLACK

1  
2 Pursuant to a Criteria Consistency Review letter (JPR #12-10-18-01) received from the RCA  
3 dated March 21, 2013, it was determined that the Project is consistent with both the Criteria and  
4 other MSHCP requirements.

5 3. The Project is consistent with the Riparian/Riverine Area and Vernal Pool  
6 requirements of the MSHCP. Pursuant to Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP, Riparian/Riverine areas  
7 are lands which contain habitat dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, or emergent  
8 mosses and lichens, which occur close to or which depend upon soil moisture from a nearby  
9 freshwater source, or areas with freshwater flow during all or a portion of the year. Vernal Pools  
10 are seasonal wetlands that occur in depression areas that have wetlands indicators of all three  
11 parameters (soils, vegetation, and hydrology) during the wetter portion of the growing season. It  
12 has been determined that although the Project area does not contain any vernal pools, the Project  
13 area does include Riparian/Riverine Area as defined by the MSHCP. Construction of the Project  
14 would result in temporary impacts to 0.046 acre of Riparian/Riverine Areas. In addition, the  
15 proposed Project area was determined to contain habitat suitable to support the least Bell's vireo  
16 and southwestern willow flycatcher but not western yellow-billed cuckoo. To mitigate for  
17 potential impacts to Riparian/Riverine Areas, least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow  
18 flycatcher, all temporary impacts to riparian and riverine resources would be restored to pre-  
19 project condition and riparian vegetation would be replanted where impacts occur. In addition,  
20 vegetation impacts would occur outside of the breeding season. Pursuant to Section 6.1.2, a  
21 Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) analysis of  
22 unavoidable impacts to Riparian/Riverine Areas has been completed and submitted to U.S Fish  
23 and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Resource Agencies) in  
24 March 21, 2013. In a letter dated April 5, 2013, the Resource Agencies responded to the DBESP  
25 in which they confirmed that the Project does not conflict with MSHCP Reserve Assembly  
26 objectives, nor degrade or limit the conservation value of Public/Quasi Public Lands. The letter  
27 also included concerns regarding nesting bird mitigation, burrowing owls and temporal loss of  
28

1  
2 riparian vegetation within the project area. The District provided a written response to these  
3 concerns which is incorporated herein by reference.

4 4. The Project is consistent with the Narrow Endemic Plant Species requirements of  
5 the MSHCP. Pursuant to Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP, habitat assessments and/or focused  
6 surveys for certain narrow endemic plant species are required for properties within mapped  
7 survey areas. The survey area maps included within the MSHCP have been reviewed and the  
8 Project is partially located within the survey areas for Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), San  
9 Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), and San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*). A habitat  
10 assessment was conducted and it was determined that suitable habitat for the above plant species  
11 does not occur on the Project site. Therefore, no further surveys or conservation measures are  
12 required.

13 5. The Project is consistent with the Urban-Wildlands Interface requirements of the  
14 MSHCP. Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP presents guidelines to minimize indirect effects of a  
15 project in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area. This section provides mitigation  
16 measures for impacts associated with: Drainage, Toxics, Lighting, Noise, Invasives, Barriers  
17 and Grading/Land Development. The Project has been reviewed and it has been determined the  
18 Project occurs within or adjacent to the Criteria Area and MSHCP designated Public/Quasi-  
19 Public conservation lands. The Project complies with Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP through the  
20 measures set forth in the DBESP and the Environmental Commitments and Mitigation  
21 Monitoring Program, and the implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

22 6. The Project is consistent with the Database Updates/Additional Surveys  
23 requirements of the MSHCP. Pursuant to Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP, habitat assessments  
24 and/or focused surveys for certain additional plant and animal species are required for properties  
25 within mapped survey areas. The survey area maps have been reviewed and the Project is only  
26 within a mapped survey area for the Burrowing Owl. A habitat assessment was conducted for  
27 the Burrowing Owl during February 2010 and a focused survey was conducted in August 2010.  
28 No Burrowing Owls or Burrowing Owl sign were observed within the Project area during the

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focused survey. In accordance with the MSHCP, a pre-construction survey for Burrowing Owls will be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance of the property for construction purposes.

7. The Project is consistent with the Pubic/Quasi-Public Land provisions contained in Section 3.2.1 of the MSHCP. Section 3.2.1 describes lands within the MSHCP conservation area including those designated as Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) Lands. Section 3.2.1 states that if a Permittee elects to use property currently depicted as PQP Lands in a way that alters the land use such that it would not contribute to Reserve Assembly, the Permittee shall locate and acquire or otherwise encumber replacement acreage at a minimum ratio of 1:1. The Permittee must make findings that the replacement acreage is biologically equivalent or superior to the existing property. The Project has been reviewed and it has been determined the Project does occur within MSHCP designated PQP Lands. The project impacts to habitats will be restored to pre-project conditions after construction; therefore, the project will not affect the biological conservation value of the PQP Lands, and no replacement of PQP Lands is required.

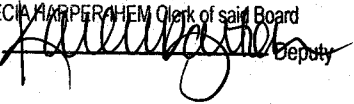
8. The Project will not have a significant adverse effect upon the environment and a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program is adopted based on the findings incorporated in the initial study.

9. The Project is approved and the District is hereby authorized to proceed with the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, within 5 working days of this Board hearing, the Clerk of the Board is directed to deliver the adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Notice of Determination to the Office of the County Clerk and Recorder and to the State Office of Planning and Research, who are thereby directed to file same, all as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.  
KECIA WAPPENHEM Clerk of said Board  
By:  Deputy

# Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research

From: Riverside County Flood Control

For U.S. Mail:  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

1995 Market Street  
Riverside, CA 92501  
Contact: Mike Wong  
Phone: 951.955.1233

County Clerk  
County of Riverside  
2724 Gateway Drive  
Riverside, CA 92507

Lead Agency (if different from above):  
Original Negative Declaration/Notice of  
Determination was routed to County  
Clerks for posting on.

SUBJECT:

10/24/13  
Date

kb  
Initial

Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): SCH 2013071020

Project Title: Santa Ana Canyon - Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection

### Project Location (include county)

The proposed Project is located adjacent to the northern bank of the Santa Ana River, between the Prado Dam outlet and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad bridge, (partially within APNs 101-120-002 and 101-120-005) within Riverside County. The proposed Project is located within Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Section 30 and Range 8 West, Section 25, Prado Dam/Black Star Quadrangle, San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

### Project Description

The Project consists of the installation of approximately 2,500 lineal feet of sheet pile. Construction will occur in two different locations along the existing Santa Ana River (SAR) Trail. The easternmost portion (near Prado Dam) will extend approximately 2,300 lineal feet. The westernmost portion at the outlet to Aliso Canyon will extend approximately 200 lineal feet. The sheet piles will be placed at the southerly edge of the existing road.

This is to advise that the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Lead Agency) has approved the above described project on October 22, 2013 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A Mitigation Monitoring Program was adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration is available to the General Public at: The Office of the Clerk of the Board, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92501.

[Signature]  
Signature (Public Agency)

Board Assistant  
Title

10/22/13  
Date

Date received for filing at OPR:

Revised 2004

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

OCT 22 2013 11-5

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**

**AUTHORIZATION TO BILL**

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**TO BE FILLED OUT BY SUBMITTING AGENCY**

DATE: 8/22/2013 BUSINESS UNIT/AGENCY: FLOOD CONTROL - FCARC

ACCOUNTING STRING:

ACCOUNT: 526410 ✓ FUND: 25120 ✓


DEPT ID: 947420 ✓ PROGRAM: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$2,206.25 ✓

REF: FINAL CEQA POSTING FOR SANTA ANA CANYON BELOW PRADO 222-2-8-00105-01-20-3250

THIS AUTHORIZES THE COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER TO ISSUE AN INVOICE FOR PAYMENT OF ALL FEES FOR THE ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS INCLUDED: \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DARRYLENN PRUDHOLME-BROCKINGTON  \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ JASON SWENSON EXT 58082 \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ DARRYLENN PRUDHOLME-BROCKINGTON \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE FILLED OUT BY COUNTY CLERK**

ACCEPTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENT NO(S)/INVOICE NO(S): \_\_\_\_\_



**SUBMITTAL TO THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

420 B



**FROM:** General Manager-Chief Engineer

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
August 20, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection  
Project No. 2-0-00108  
District 2/District 2

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

1. Adopt Resolution No. F2013-22 which sets October 22, 2013 as the date for a Public Hearing concerning the construction of the above referenced project in accordance with Section 18 of the District Act and gives Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to advertise and post said notice of public hearing and intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration in accordance with Section 18 of the District Act and CEQA.

**BACKGROUND:**

See Page 2.

**FINANCIAL:**

N/A

*Steve Thomas*  
 For **WARREN D. WILLIAMS**  
 General Manager-Chief Engineer

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. District Cost:	N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. County Cost:	N/A	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net District Cost:	N/A	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** N/A

Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE

BY: *Steven C. Horn*  
**Steven C. Horn, MPA**

County Executive Office Signature

**MINUTES OF THE FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Stone and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended, and is set for public hearing on Tuesday, October 22, 2013, at 10:30 a.m.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
 Nays: None  
 Absent: None  
 Date: August 20, 2013  
 xc: Flood, COB

Kecia Harper-Ihem  
 Clerk of the Board  
 By: *Kecia Harper-Ihem*  
 Deputy

5812

Prey Agn. Ref. RECEIVED DISTRICT BOARD

District: 2<sup>nd</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>

Agenda Number:

11-8

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
 BY: *Michelle Clack*  
 MICHELLE CLACK  
 DATE: 7/15/13

Policy  Policy   
 Consent  Consent   
 Dept's Recomm.:  
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

**FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD SUBMITTAL  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**SUBJECT:** Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection  
Project No. 2-0-00108  
District 2/District 2

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** August 20, 2013

**Page 2**

**BACKGROUND:**

Section 18 of the District's Act requires the Board to hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of considering all comments regarding any proposed facilities before authorizing the construction of such facilities.

In accordance with the State guidelines implementing the CEQA, the General Manager-Chief Engineer of the District has found that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration which will not be final until approved and adopted by this Board.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**RESOLUTION NO. F2013-22  
SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR  
SANTA ANA CANYON – BELOW PRADO INLAND EMPIRE  
BRINE LINE PROTECTION PROJECT  
AND GIVING NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION THEREFOR  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18 OF THE DISTRICT ACT  
AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

WHEREAS, this Board intends to undertake a project within unincorporated Riverside County, designated as Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project ["Proposed Project"]; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project is generally located adjacent to the northern bank of the Santa Ana River, between the Prado Dam outlet and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project consists of the installation and subsequent maintenance of approximately 2,500 lineal feet of sheet pile; and

WHEREAS, reference is made to the engineering cost estimate for the Proposed Project, entitled "Engineer's Statement" on file with the Clerk of the Board; and

WHEREAS, reference is made to a map dated October 2013, bearing the name and showing the general location and typical section of the Proposed Project which is also on file with the Clerk of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the General Manager-Chief Engineer of the District has found that the Proposed Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration which will not become final until adopted by this Board; and

WHEREAS, any person wishing to comment on the Proposed Project or the Mitigated Negative Declaration may do so in writing between the date of this notice and the public hearing, or may appear and be heard at the time and place noted below; and

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY:  7/15/13  
DATE  
MICHELLE CLACK

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WHEREAS, in a subsequent legal challenge any person may be limited to raising only those issues he, she or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written comments delivered before or at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, prior to making a decision on the Proposed Project or the Mitigated Negative Declaration, this Board will consider all written and oral comments; and

WHEREAS, the above-listed documents can be inspected at the District office, 1995 Market Street, Riverside, California 92501 and written comments will be received at the above address.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in regular session assembled on August 20, 2013 that:

1. A public hearing concerning the intent to approve the Proposed Project and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be held at 10:30 a.m. on October 22, 2013, at the meeting room of this Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California 92502, at which time all public comments shall be heard.

2. A copy of this resolution and copies of the above listed documents shall be posted at least thirty (30) days before said hearing at Corona Public Library, 650 S. Main Street, Corona, California 92882.

3. A copy of this resolution shall be posted at least thirty (30) days before said hearing at the Riverside County Clerk and Recorder's Office, 2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside, California 92507.

4. The Clerk of this Board is directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be published twice, once at least thirty (30) days before said hearing, and once seven (7) days following the initial publication in a newspaper of general circulation in accordance with Section 18 of the District Act and CEQA.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

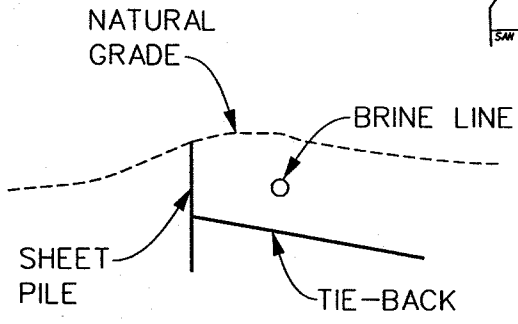
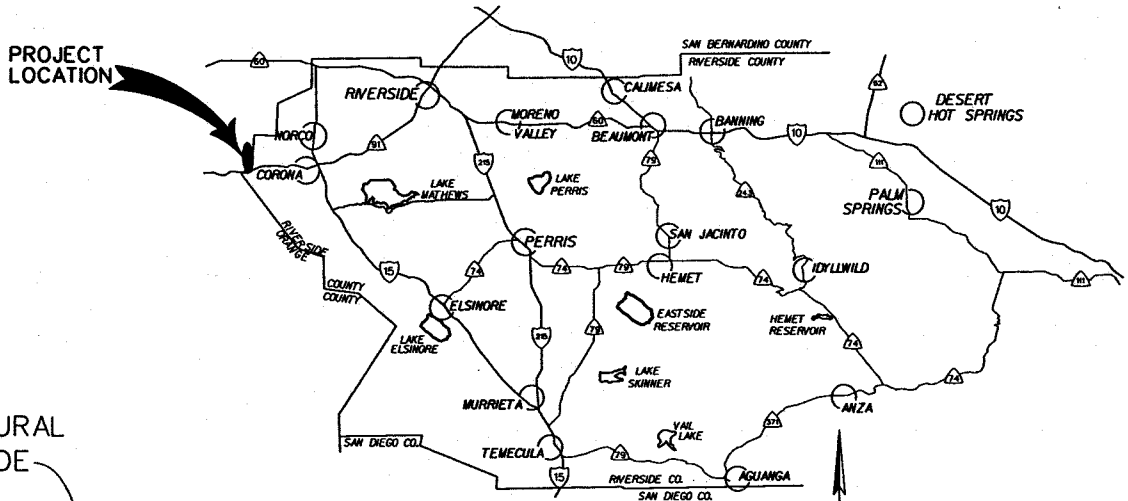
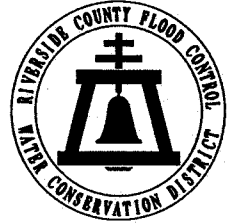
KECI HARPER-HEM Clerk of said Board

By  Deputy

# SECTION 18 PUBLIC HEARING MAP

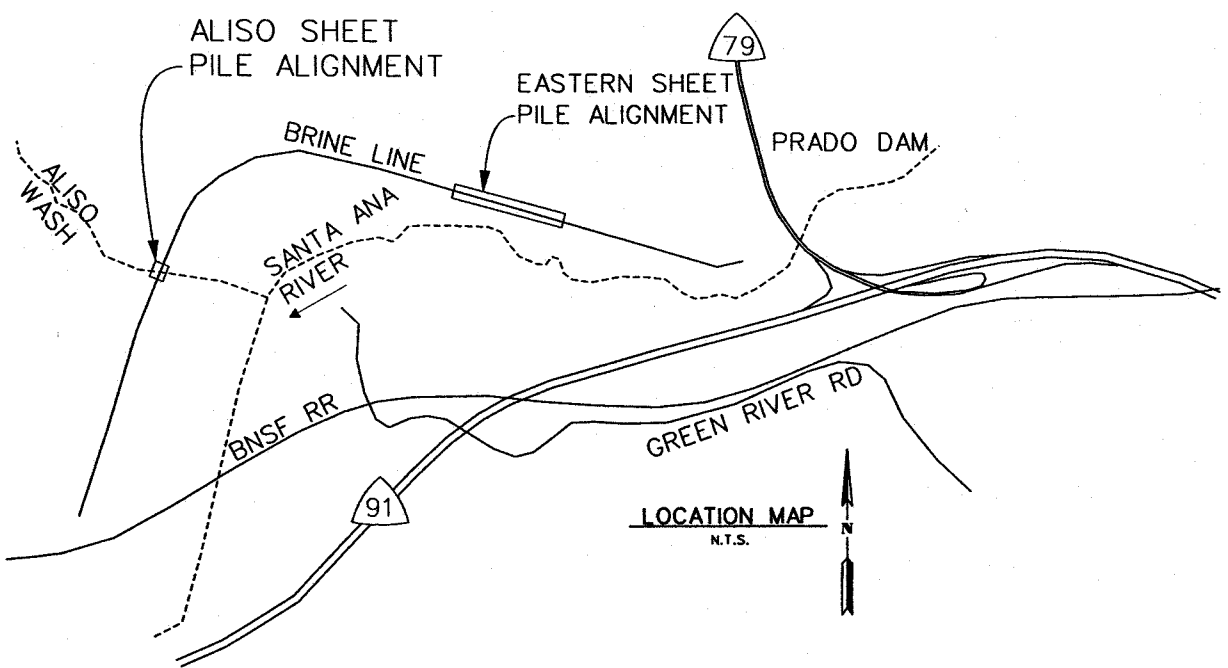
SANTA ANA CANYON - BELOW  
PRADO INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE  
PROTECTION PROJECT  
PROJECT NO. 2-0-00108

OCTOBER 2013

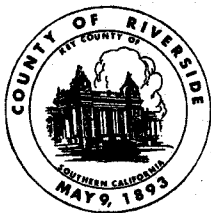


TYPICAL SECTION

VICINITY MAP  
N.T.S.



LOCATION MAP  
N.T.S.



OFFICE OF  
CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
1st FLOOR, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
P.O. BOX 1147, 4080 LEMON STREET  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92502-1147  
PHONE: (951) 955-1060  
FAX: (951) 955-1071

KECIA HARPER-IHEM  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

KIMBERLY A. RECTOR  
Assistant Clerk of the Board

September 17, 2013

RIVERSIDE COUNTY RECORD  
ATTN: LEGALS  
P.O. Box 3187  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92519

FAX (951) 685-2961  
E-MAIL: recordmde@aol.com

**RE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: RESOLUTION NO. F2013-22 SANTA ANA CANYON-  
BELOW PRADO INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE PROTECTION**

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is a copy for publication in your newspaper for **TWO (2) TIMES** on **TWO THURSDAYS: September 19 and 26, 2013.**

We require your affidavit of publication immediately upon completion of the last publication.

Your invoice must be submitted to this office in duplicate, **WITH TWO CLIPPINGS OF THE PUBLICATION.**

**NOTE: PLEASE COMPOSE THIS PUBLICATION INTO A SINGLE COLUMN FORMAT.**

Thank you in advance for your assistance and expertise.

Sincerely,

*Cecilia Gil*

Board Assistant to:  
KECIA HARPER-IHEM, CLERK OF THE BOARD

## Gil, Cecilia

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**From:** Michael Evans <recordmde@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 17, 2013 7:25 AM  
**To:** Gil, Cecilia  
**Subject:** Re: FOR PUBLICATION: Res. F2013-22 Santa Ana Cyn

Good Morning Cecilia,  
I have received your notice for publication.  
Thanks much, Mike

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gil, Cecilia <[CCGIL@rcbos.org](mailto:CCGIL@rcbos.org)>  
**To:** recordmde <[recordmde@aol.com](mailto:recordmde@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Mon, Sep 16, 2013 5:42 pm  
**Subject:** FOR PUBLICATION: Res. F2013-22 Santa Ana Cyn

Hello. Attached is a Notice of Public Hearing, for publication on 2 Thursdays: Sept. 19 and 26, 2013. Please confirm.  
THANK YOU!

Cecilia Gil  
Board Assistant  
Clerk of the Board  
951-955-8464  
MS# 1010

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**RESOLUTION NO. F2013-22**

**SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR  
SANTA ANA CANYON – BELOW PRADO INLAND EMPIRE  
BRINE LINE PROTECTION PROJECT  
AND GIVING NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION THEREFOR  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18 OF THE DISTRICT ACT  
AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

WHEREAS, this Board intends to undertake a project within unincorporated Riverside County, designated as Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project ["Proposed Project"]; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project is generally located adjacent to the northern bank of the Santa Ana River, between the Prado Dam outlet and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Project consists of the installation and subsequent maintenance of approximately 2,500 lineal feet of sheet pile; and

WHEREAS, reference is made to the engineering cost estimate for the Proposed Project, entitled "Engineer's Statement" on file with the Clerk of the Board; and

WHEREAS, reference is made to a map dated October 2013, bearing the name and showing the general location and typical section of the Proposed Project which is also on file with the Clerk of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the General Manager-Chief Engineer of the District has found that the Proposed Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration which will not become final until adopted by this Board; and

WHEREAS, any person wishing to comment on the Proposed Project or the Mitigated Negative Declaration may do so in writing between the date of this notice and the public hearing, or may appear and be heard at the time and place noted below; and

WHEREAS, in a subsequent legal challenge any person may be limited to raising only those issues he, she or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written comments delivered before or at the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, prior to making a decision on the Proposed Project or the Mitigated Negative Declaration, this Board will consider all written and oral comments; and

WHEREAS, the above-listed documents can be inspected at the District office, 1995 Market Street, Riverside, California 92501 and written comments will be received at the above address.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in regular session assembled on August 20, 2013 that:

1. A public hearing concerning the intent to approve the Proposed Project and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration will be held at **10:30 a.m. on October 22, 2013**, at the meeting room of this Board, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, California 92502, at which time all public comments shall be heard.

2. A copy of this resolution and copies of the above listed documents shall be posted at least thirty (30) days before said hearing at Corona Public Library, 650 S. Main Street, Corona, California 92882.

3. A copy of this resolution shall be posted at least thirty (30) days before said hearing at the Riverside County Clerk and Recorder's Office, 2724 Gateway Drive, Riverside, California 92507.

4. The Clerk of this Board is directed to cause a copy of this resolution to be published twice, once at least thirty (30) days before said hearing, and once seven (7) days following the initial publication in a newspaper of general circulation in accordance with Section 18 of the District Act and CEQA.



**ROLL CALL:**

**Ayes:** Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley  
**Nays:** None  
**Absent:** None

The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on August 20, 2013.

**KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board**  
**By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant**

Any person affected by the above matter(s) may submit written comments to the Clerk of the Board before the public hearing or may appear and be heard in support of or opposition to the project at the time of the hearing. If you challenge the above item(s) in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence, to the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing.

Please send all written correspondence to: Clerk of the Board, 4080 Lemon Street, 1st Floor, Post Office Box 1147, Riverside, CA 92502-1147

**Dated: September 17, 2013**      **Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board**  
**By: Cecilia Gil, Board Assistant**

**Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado  
Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project  
Project No. 2-0-00108**

**Engineer's Statement**

The proposed project is located within unincorporated Riverside County, California, near the city of Corona. The proposed project consists of approximately 2,500 lineal feet of steel sheet piles separated into two separate lineal sections. The easternmost section is approximately 2,300 lineal feet and the section near Aliso Canyon is approximately 200 lineal feet.

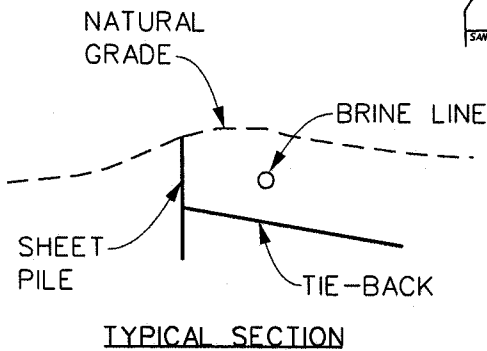
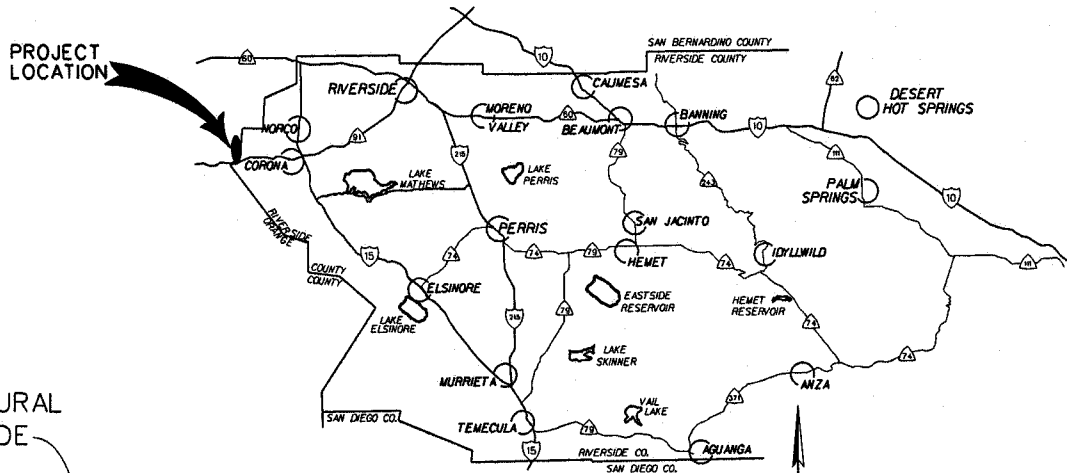
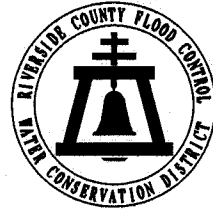
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Santa Ana River Mainstem project raised the crest of Prado Dam 28 feet and constructed new outlet works. These modifications, combined with future spillway improvements and planned changes in operational procedures, will result in increased discharges to the Santa Ana River of up to 30,000 cfs. The proposed Project is necessary as these increased flows would result in lateral erosion and scour, which could undermine and damage the Inland Empire Brine Line and adversely impact water quality in the watershed. The overall objective of the proposed Santa Ana Canyon - Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project is to reduce the risk of damage to the Brine Line during operation of the Santa Ana River Mainstem project.

The proposed project area may be found within Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Section 19 of the Prado Dam 7.5 Series USGS Topographic Quadrangle map. The cost of the proposed project is approximately \$6,000,000.

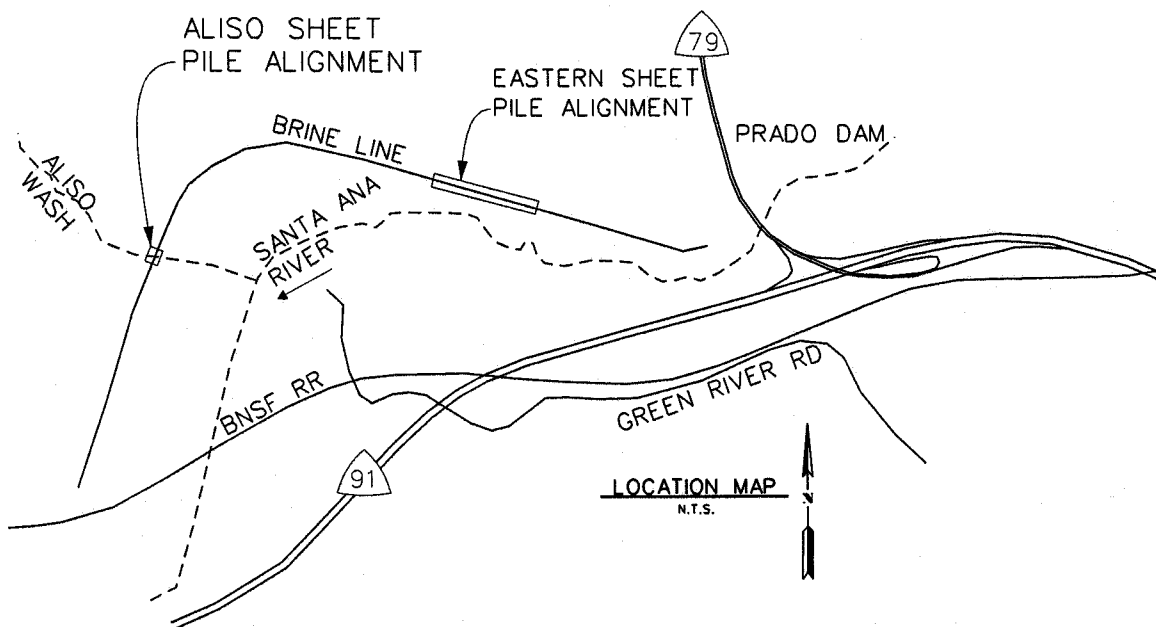
# SECTION 18 PUBLIC HEARING MAP

SANTA ANA CANYON - BELOW  
PRADO INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE  
PROTECTION PROJECT  
PROJECT NO. 2-0-00108

OCTOBER 2013



VICINITY MAP  
N.T.S.



LOCATION MAP  
N.T.S.

# CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

(Original copy, duly executed, must be attached to original at the time of filing)

I, Chris Tina Smith, Library Supervisor, do hereby certify that I am not  
(NAME AND TITLE)  
a party to the within action or proceeding; that on 9/17/2013, I posted a  
(DATE)  
copy of the following document:

**RESOLUTION NO. F2013-22 SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR SANTA ANA CANYON – BELOW PRADO INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE PROTECTION PROJECT AND GIVING NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION THEREFOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18 OF THE DISTRICT ACT AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

by posting at:

Corona Public Library  
650 S. Main Street  
Corona, California 92882



Date: 9/17/2013

Chris Tina Smith  
(Signature)

## CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

(Original copy, duly executed, must be attached to original at the time of filing)

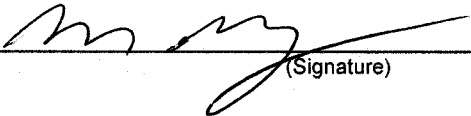
I, Mary Ann Meyer, do hereby certify that I am  
not  
(NAME AND TITLE)  
a party to the within action or proceeding; that on 9.17.13, I posted a  
(DATE)  
copy of the following document:

**RESOLUTION NO. F2013-22 SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR SANTA ANA CANYON –  
BELOW PRADO INLAND EMPIRE BRINE LINE PROTECTION PROJECT AND GIVING NOTICE  
OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION THEREFOR IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 18 OF THE DISTRICT ACT AND THE CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

by posting at:

**Riverside County Clerk and Recorder's Office  
2724 Gateway Drive  
Riverside, California 92507**

Date: 9.17.13

  
(Signature)

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

**FINAL  
CEQA INITIAL STUDY**

**Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire  
Brine Line Protection  
Project**

October 2013

Warren D. Williams  
General Manger-Chief Engineer

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### Appendices – Included on CD Rom

Appendix A	Inland Empire Brine Line Air Quality Analysis Supporting Information
Appendix B.1	Biological Technical Report, MSHCP Compliance Report, and DBESP Analysis
Appendix B.2	Inland Empire Brine Line Jurisdictional Delineation Report
Appendix B.3	Joint Project Review 12-10-18-01

## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Project:**  
Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line  
Protection

**State Clearinghouse Number:**  
SCH 2013071020

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

**Project Contact:** Albert Martinez      **Phone:** 951.955.1299      **Email:** [amart@rcflood.org](mailto:amart@rcflood.org)

**Project Description:** The Project consists of the installation of approximately 2,500 lineal feet of sheet pile. Construction will occur in two different locations along the existing Santa Ana River (SAR) Trail. The easternmost portion (near Prado Dam) will extend approximately 2,300 lineal feet. The westernmost portion at the outlet to Aliso Canyon will extend approximately 200 lineal feet. The sheet piles will be placed at the southerly edge of the existing road.

**Project Location:** The proposed Project consists of two separate linear sections, the Alternative RC3 Protection and Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection, located adjacent to the northern bank of the Santa Ana River, between the Prado Dam outlet and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad bridge, (partially within APNs: 101-120-002 and 101-120-005) within Riverside County. The proposed Project is located within Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Section 30 and Range 8 West, Section 25, Prado Dam/Black Star Quadrangle, San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

**Lead Agency Finding:** The General Manager-Chief Engineer of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District has made a finding that the proposed *Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection* project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. An Initial Study Supporting this finding is attached. This finding will become final upon adoption of this Mitigated Negative Declaration by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. The Mitigation Measures are attached herein.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

WARREN D. WILLIAMS  
General Manager-Chief Engineer

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

10/8/13

**Board of Supervisors Action:**

The Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District assembled in regular session on October 22, 2013 has determined that the *Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection* project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

KECIA HARPER-IHEM  
Clerk of the Board

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

**Attachments**

Copies to:    1) County Clerk;  
                  2) Flood Control



Table 1 –Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Monitoring Program

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Features, Environmental Commitments, Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementing Agency	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Frequency
IV. Biological Resources	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.	<p><b>MM Bio 1:</b> In order to avoid impacts to the least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher, all construction activities including vegetation removal for the Project shall be conducted outside of the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher nesting season (March 15 to August 31). However, if any construction activities will occur during this time period then the construction contractor shall install noise barriers between construction areas and riparian habitat prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> and kept in place until all construction in the area is complete or the end of the nesting.</p> <p><b>MM Bio 2:</b> A pre-construction presence/absence survey for burrowing owl within suitable habitat shall be conducted. Surveys will be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance. Take of active nests shall be avoided. Passive relocation (use of one-way doors and collapse of burrows) will occur when owls are present outside the nesting season.</p> <p><b>MM Bio 3:</b> In order to avoid violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code, vegetation removal shall be avoided, to the greatest extent</p>	<p>Remove vegetation outside least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher nesting season.</p> <p>Avoid take of active burrowing owl nests.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will conduct a 30-day pre-construction presence/absence burrowing owl survey.</p> <p>Avoid take of active nests protected</p>	District	None	<p>Prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> install noise barriers between construction areas and riparian habitat for construction occurring in nesting season of March 15-August 31.</p> <p>Within 30 days prior to construction.</p>	None
				District	None	Prior to construction if construction will	During construction.

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Features, Environmental Commitments, Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementing Agency	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Frequency
		<p>possible, during the nesting season (generally February 1 to August 31) of potentially occurring native and migratory bird species.</p> <p>If site-preparation activities are proposed during the nesting/breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a pre-activity field survey shall be conducted within suitable habitat by a qualified biologist prior construction, to determine if active nests of species protected by the MBTA or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the construction zone. If active nests are not located within the disturbance area and appropriate buffer (500 feet of an active listed species or raptor nest, 300 feet of other sensitive or protected bird nests (non-listed), or within 100 feet of sensitive or protected songbird nests) construction may be conducted during the nesting/breeding season. However, if active nests are located during the pre-activity field survey, and the appropriate buffer is not feasible then the construction contractor shall install noise barriers between construction areas and active nests prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> and kept in place until all construction in the area is complete or until the nest(s) is no longer active.</p>	<p>under MBTA and CA Fish and Game Code.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will conduct a pre-activity field survey if construction is proposed during nesting season.</p>			<p>occur during the nesting season (generally February 1 to August 31).</p> <p>Prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> install noise barriers between construction areas and active nests for construction occurring in general nesting season of February 1 to August 31.</p>	
<p><b>V. Cultural Resources</b></p>	<p>Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5.</p>	<p><b>EC Cultural 1:</b> If any cultural and/or archaeological resources are exposed during ground excavation disturbance, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery shall immediately halt and ground disturbance activities shall be moved to other parts of the Project site and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to determine the significance of the resource(s). If the find is determined to be a historical or unique archaeological resource, as defined in Section</p>	<p>Cease ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery until a qualified archeologist can assess the significance of the find.</p>	<p>District</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Throughout construction</p>	<p>Monitoring on an as needed basis during ground disturbance activities.</p>

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Features, Environmental Commitments, Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementing Agency	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Frequency
<b>V. Cultural Resources</b>	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.	<p>15064.5 of the California Code of Regulations (State <i>CEQA Guidelines</i>), avoidance or other appropriate measures shall be implemented.</p> <p><b>EC Cultural 2:</b> If any paleontological resources are exposed during ground excavation disturbance, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery will be terminated immediately and a qualified paleontological resources specialist will be retained to evaluate the resources. If the find is determined to be significant, avoidance or other appropriate measures as identified by the paleontologist shall be implemented. Appropriate measures would include that a qualified paleontologist be permitted to recover, evaluate; and curate the find(s) in accordance with current standards and guidelines.</p>	Cease ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery until a qualified paleontologist can assess the significance of the find.	District	None	Throughout construction	Monitoring on an as needed basis during ground disturbance activities.
<b>V. Cultural Resources</b>	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.	<p><b>EC Cultural 3:</b> Per State Health and Safety Code 7050.5, if human remains are encountered during construction, no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The Riverside County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted to determine the most likely descendent for this area. Once the most likely descendent is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains will proceed pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.</p>	Cease ground disturbance activities and notify Coroner's Office for proper identification of any human remains found on site. If necessary, the Riverside County Coroner will contact NAHC to assist in determining and notifying the MLD.	District	Riverside County Coroner	Throughout construction	Monitoring on an as needed basis during ground disturbance activities.
<b>VII. Hazards</b>	Expose people or structures to a	<b>MM Haz 1:</b> Appropriate fire-fighting equipment (e.g., extinguishers, shovels, water	Make available fire-fighting	District	None	Throughout	Throughout

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Features, Environmental Commitments, Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementing Agency	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Frequency
and Hazardous Materials	significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed?	trucks) shall be available on site during all phases of project construction to help minimize the chance of human-caused wildfires. Shields, protective mats, and/or other fire preventative methods shall be used during grinding, welding, and other spark-inducing activities.	equipment for the prevention of project-caused wildfires.			construction	construction
XV. Transportation/Traffic	Result in inadequate emergency access.	<p><b>EC Trans 1:</b> A Traffic Control Plan shall be implemented to coordinate all traffic movement through the Project area to ensure that at all times during construction, emergency fire or medical vehicles shall have access through the Project area. Additionally, construction equipment or activities must not obstruct or hinder traffic that might be generated during an evacuation.</p> <p><b>EC Trans 2:</b> Proposed construction would take place during daylight hours in accordance with California State Parks construction operating procedures unless approved otherwise. The existing access road is also the Santa Ana River Trail (unimproved fire trail) that connects to the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail of the Chino Hills State Park. During construction access for emergency and patrol vehicles, and others having easements will be maintained. The existing road/trail pathway will be maintained for pedestrians, bicycles, and horses, when feasible. If the existing road/trail were temporarily blocked by construction equipment pedestrians, bicycles, and horses would be able to slightly detour around</p>	<p>Traffic Control Plan shall ensure that all emergency vehicles are able to access all adjacent areas.</p> <p>Traffic Control Plan shall ensure that all emergency vehicles are able to access all adjacent areas.</p>	District	None	Throughout construction	Throughout construction

Issue	Potential Impact	Project Features, Environmental Commitments, Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementing Agency	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing	Monitoring Frequency
		equipment and continue along route as there are not features such as dense vegetation or steep inclines that would preclude access.					

RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**INITIAL STUDY FORM**

1. **Project title:** Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project<sup>1</sup>  
 (“Project”)
2. **Lead agency name and address:**  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)  
1995 Market Street  
Riverside, CA 92501
3. **Contact person email address and phone number:**  
Albert Martinez, Senior Civil Engineer  
amart@rcflood.org  
(951) 955-1299
4. **Project location:** The proposed Project consists of two separate linear sections, the Alternative RC3 Protection and Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection, located adjacent to the northern bank of the Santa Ana River, between the Prado Dam outlet and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad bridge, (partially within APNs: 101-120-002 and 101-120-005) within Riverside County (**Figure 1, Vicinity Map; Figure 2, Project Location**). The proposed Project is located within Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Section 30 and Range 8 West, Section 25, Prado Dam/Black Star Quadrangle, San Bernardino Base and Meridian (**Figure 3, USGS Topographic Map**).
5. **Project sponsor’s name and address:**  
Same as Lead Agency
6. **General plan designation:** The Project site is located within the Temescal Canyon (“TCAP”), as designated by the County of Riverside General Plan. The land use designations within the Project areas are Open Space – Conservation (OS-C). Additionally, the California Department of Parks and Recreation Chino Hills State Park General Plan currently does not have sub-classifications or formal land use designation within in.
7. **Zoning:** The associated zoning designation within the Project areas is Watercourse, Watershed and Conservation (W-1), as designated by the Riverside County Geographic Information System (Riv Co GIS). According to Chino Hills State Park’s General Plan Land Use Element the Project site is located within its Park Land Zones land use designation area.
8. **Project Description:** The Inland Empire Brine Line (Brine Line), aka Santa Ana Regional Interceptor Line (SARI), conveys primarily highly saline, non-domestic wastewater from industrial dischargers and municipal desalter facilities within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to the Orange County Sanitation District wastewater treatment facility. The Brine Line is a key component in improving water quality in the watershed, and the expansion of reclaimed water use within the two counties. In the Project vicinity, the Brine Line is 48 inches in diameter and runs along the north side the Santa Ana River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“ACOE”) Santa Ana River Mainstem project raised the crest of Prado Dam 28 feet and constructed new outlet works. These modifications, combined with future spillway improvements and planned changes in operational procedures, will result in increased discharges

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<sup>1</sup> The Project has also been referred to as the “Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project,” therefore various supporting technical studies refer to this shorter project name, which is the same project that is analyzed in this document. There were no changes to the proposed Project, only the project name.

to the Santa Ana River of up to 30,000 cfs. The proposed Project is necessary as these increased flows would result in lateral erosion and scour, which could undermine and damage the Brine Line and adversely impact water quality in the watershed. The overall objective of the proposed Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project is to reduce the risk of damage to the Brine Line during operation of the Santa Ana River Mainstem project.

The Project was previously analyzed in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/EIR) prepared by the ACOE and Orange County in May 2009. The District is responsible for the final design, and construction of the Project. The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) will be responsible for the ongoing operations, inspection, and maintenance of the Project. In the ACOE/Orange County SEIS/EIR, only a portion of the proposed Project was analyzed, the ACOE Alternative RC3 Protection. Additionally, the ACOE/Orange County SEIS/EIR did not fully analyze compliance with the Western Riverside County MSHCP, nor did it analyze the installation of erosion protection for the Brine Line at the Aliso Canyon Crossing. Therefore, the District is preparing this CEQA document to fully analyze the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project.

The Project consists of the installation of approximately 2,500 LF of AZ28-700 sheet pile, having a width of approximately two feet and an average toe depth of 55 feet (15 feet below the scour depth), with tiebacks spaced approximately every 10 feet. Construction will occur in two different locations along the existing Santa Ana River (SAR) Trail. The easternmost portion (near Prado Dam), will extend approximately 2,300 linear feet. The westernmost portion at the outlet to Aliso Canyon, will extend approximately 200 linear feet. (See **Figures 2 and 3**) A hydraulic jacking system, which uses a static load to install piles, will allow the piling work to be carried out silently and vibration-free. The tiebacks have an average length of approximately 50 feet. Each tieback will be installed by drilling a hole, starting 10 and 25 feet from the top of the sheet pile, approximately 50 foot back into the ground, then installing the tieback and grouting the hole. The tieback will then be tensioned by bolting it to the sheet pile. The top of the sheet pile will be covered with two feet of soil. The construction footprint anticipated is 25 to 30 feet on either side of the existing access/maintenance road, encompassing approximately 1.69 acres (for both locations). The sheet piles will be placed at the southerly edge of the existing road. Staging areas for the Project are along the existing road, within the construction footprint.

Site access will occur from the northbound State Highway 71 via an off ramp that provides access under the State Highway 71 and from the south bound State Highway 71 along an existing access/maintenance road for the Brine Line which also serves as a fire road and access for California State Parks patrol vehicles and CAL FIRE emergency vehicles and equipment. A gate control will be maintained for the duration of project construction and kept closed except for project construction entry and exit. The construction duration is expected to be six months. Proposed construction would take place during daylight hours in accordance with California State Parks construction operating procedures unless approved otherwise. Occasional overtime work may be required to maintain the construction schedule, but would be in compliance with local noise ordinances. The existing access road is also the Santa Ana River Trail (unimproved fire trail) that connects to the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail of the Chino Hills State Park. During construction access for emergency and patrol vehicles, and others having easements will be maintained. The existing road/trail pathway will be maintained for pedestrians, bicycles, and horses, when feasible. If the existing road/trail were temporarily blocked by construction equipment pedestrians, bicycles, and horses would be able to slightly detour around equipment and continue along route as there are not features such as dense vegetation or steep inclines that would preclude access. Signage of the temporary construction activities will be posted at the eastern and western limits of construction for the Alternative RC3 Protection portion of the Project (along the Santa Ana River Trail) and at the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection portion of the Project (where the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail connects to the Santa Ana River Trail). In order to minimize potential fires from construction equipment, construction operations will follow the State Park's fire safety precautions, including a fire watch personnel (either safety officer or superintendant) to manage appropriate equipment for the entire duration of all equipment operation. In addition an on-call water truck must be on hand for construction activity.

The Project site is located within the MSHCP criteria area, Public/Quasi-Public designation, as well as the survey areas for Narrow Endemic Plant Species and the Western burrowing owl.

As part of the ongoing operations, inspection and maintenance of the Brine Line, SAWPA will inspect the sheet pile for displacement and exposure. In the event of catastrophic, lateral displacement due to ground movement, additional and separate CEQA review will be conducted and notifications submitted to regulatory agencies, as applicable.

9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The Project area is within the County of Riverside within the Chino Hills State Park, which is operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and is primarily characterized by open space conservation. Parts of the Project are in proximity to the Green River Golf Course. Elevation ranges from 440–556 feet mean sea level.

**Adjacent Existing Land Use:**

North: Open Space – Conservation

East: Open Space – Conservation

South: Open Space – Conservation, Open Space Recreation

West: Open Space – Conservation

**Adjacent zoning:**

North: Watercourse, Watershed and Conservation (W-1)

East: Watercourse, Watershed and Conservation (W-1)

South: Open Area (R-5), Open Space Recreation

West: Watercourse, Watershed and Conservation (W-1)

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

**Federal Agencies**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**State Agencies**

California Department of Parks and Recreation

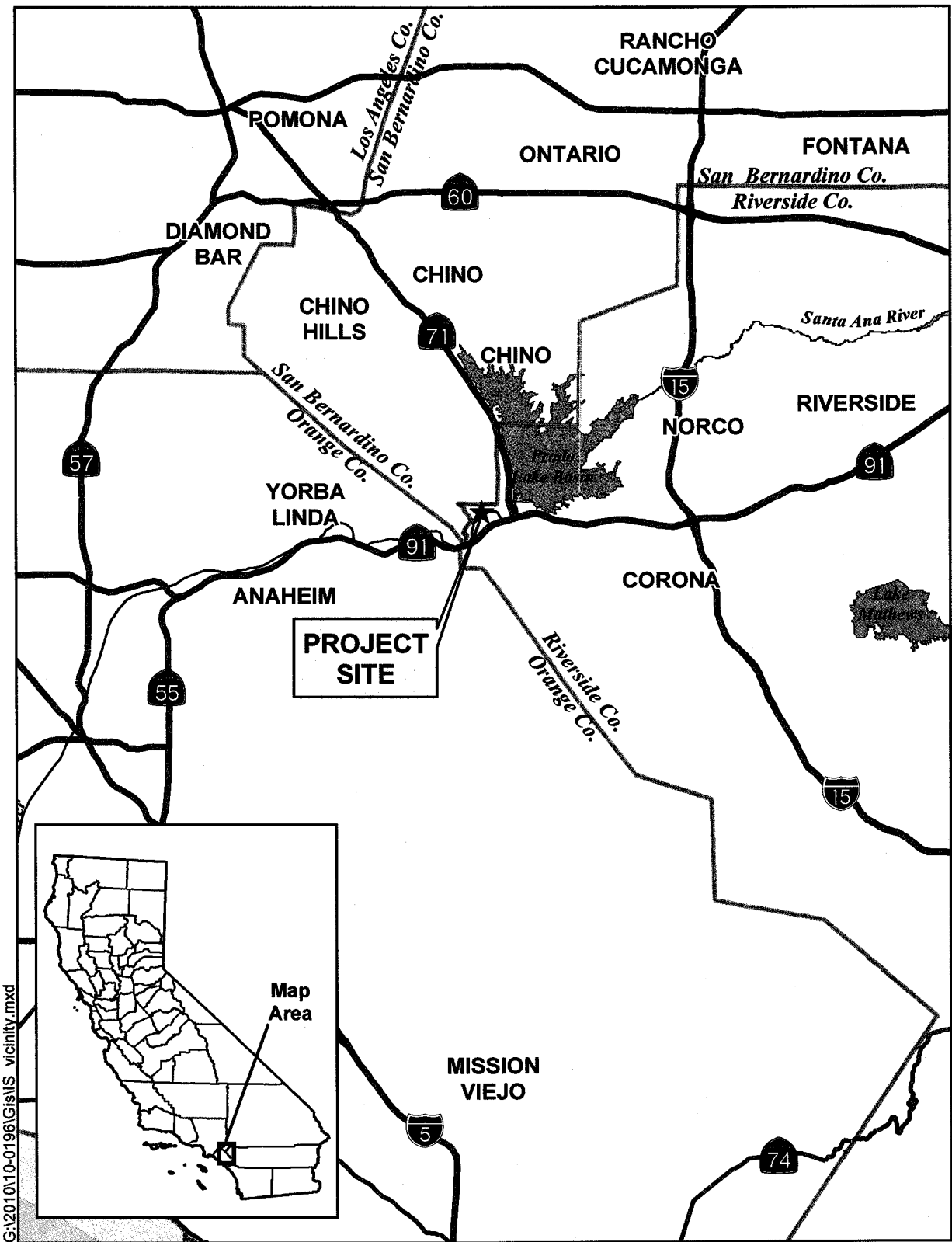
California Department of Fish and Game

Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board

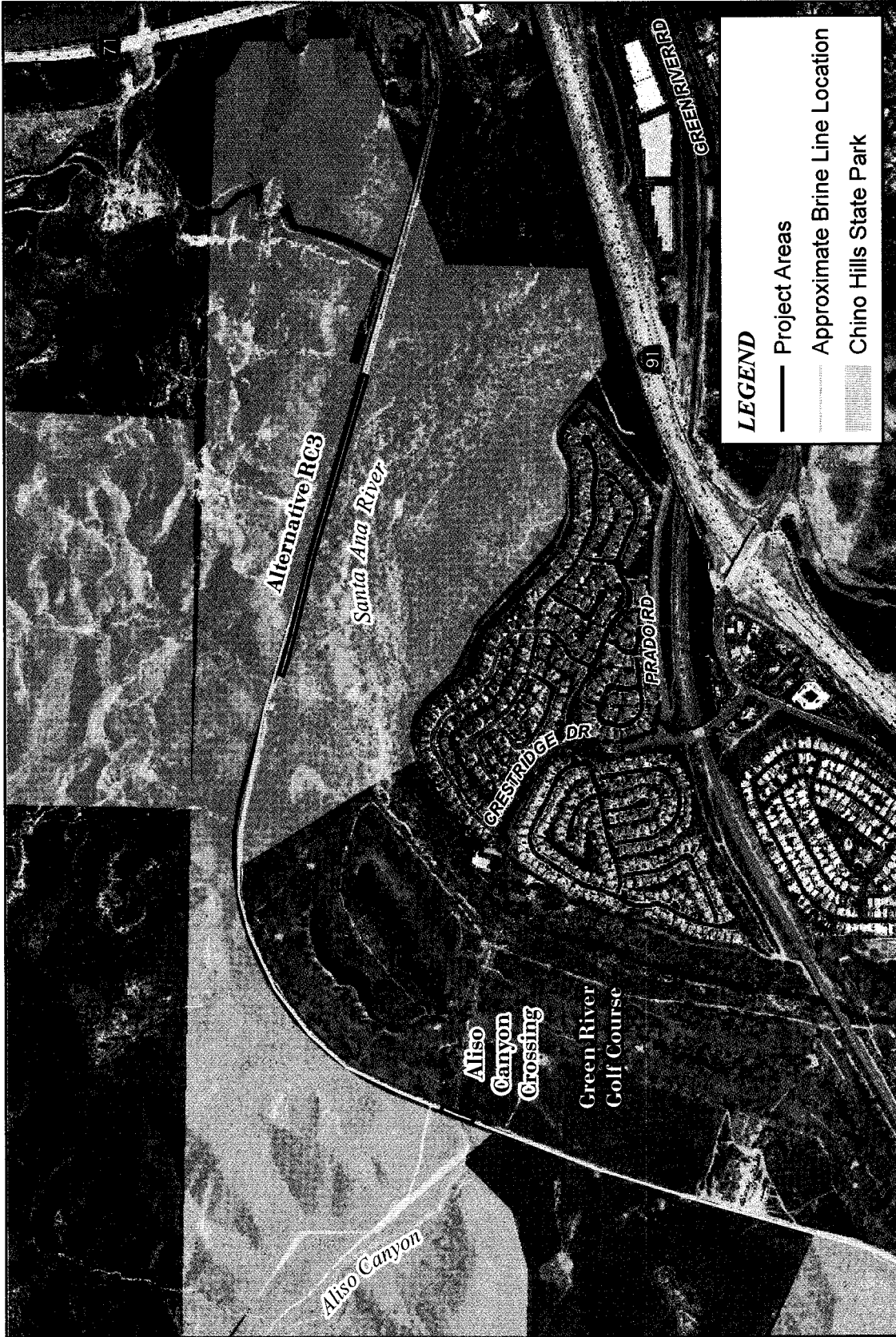
**City/County Agencies**

Western Riverside County RCA (Joint Project Review)



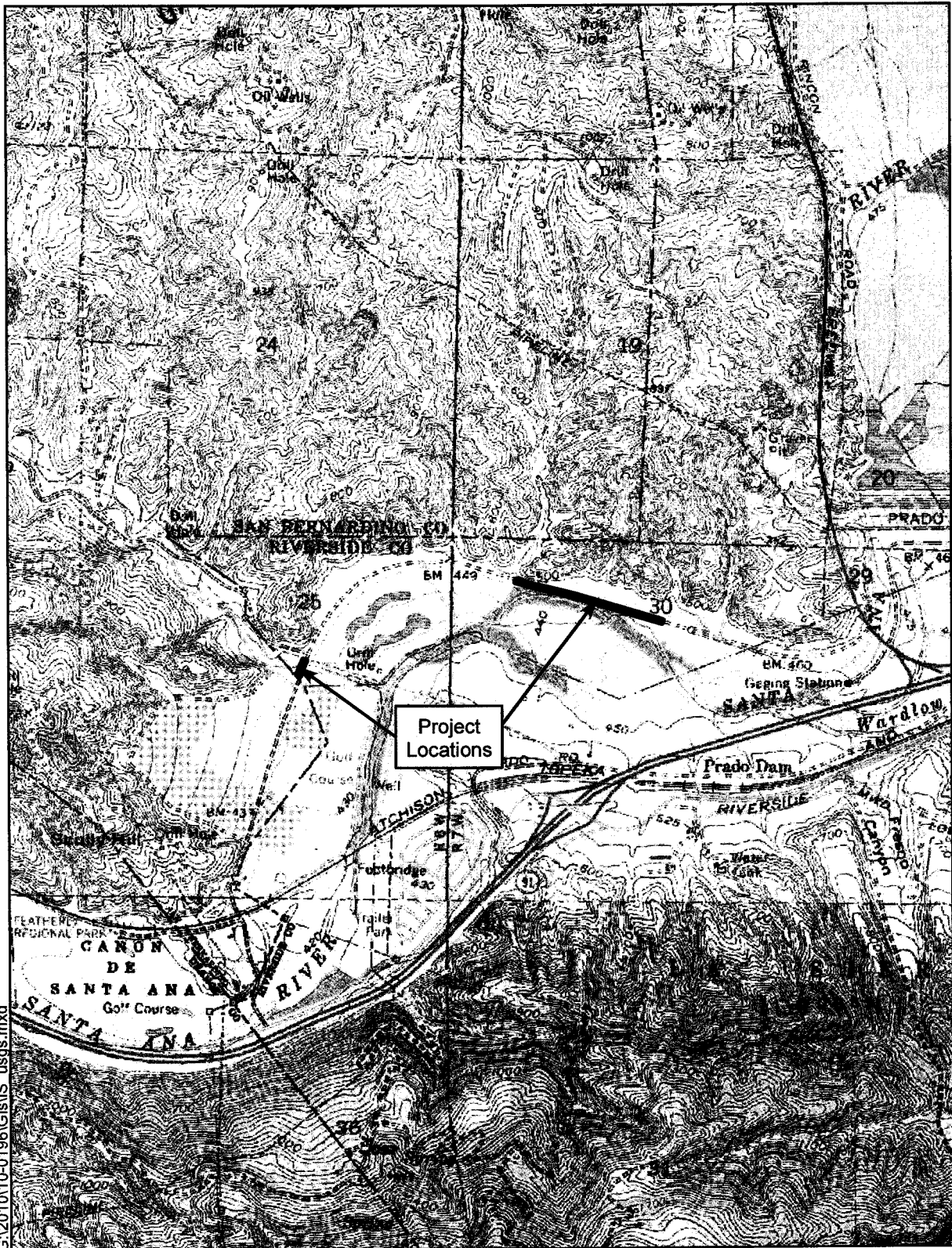


**Figure 1. Vicinity Map**  
 Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project



Sources: County of Riverside, 2010;  
Eagle Aerial, April 2010.

**Figure 2. Project Location**  
Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project

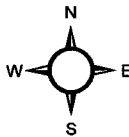


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Source: USGS 7.5min Quad DRGs:  
Prado Dam / Black Star

**Figure 3. USGS Topographic Map**  
Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project

0 1,000 2,000 3,000  
Feet



**Photographs of the Project Areas taken November 17, 2010**



**Figure 3A** – Westerly view of Aliso Canyon crossing. Access road is in the forefront.



**Figure 3B** – Easterly view of Project site along the Brine Line Maintenance Road.

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

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

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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

- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). Earlier analyses are discussed below:
- a. **Earlier Analysis Used.** Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b. **Impacts Adequately Addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. **Mitigation Measures.** For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measure which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (*e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances*). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list should be attached and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) The explanation of each issue should identify:
- a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>I. AESTHETICS.</b> Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Aesthetics Discussion:**

**a) *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?***

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The site is adjacent to the Chino Hills State Park; however, the sheet-pile protection will be installed below the Earth's surface. Construction of the sheet-pile protection could have short-term visual impacts from construction equipment and construction activity. Therefore, the Project will not substantially alter the views of, or from the Project area, and the impacts on scenic vistas are considered to be less than significant.

Source: Project Design; Thomas Guide

**b) *Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?***

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project is not located adjacent to any state scenic highways. Both portions of the sheet pile (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will be buried below grade. After construction, the sheet pile will not be visible. The sheet pile permanently, but minimally, displaces native vegetation with deep roots directly over the very narrow feature, and overhanging trees may need to be minimally trimmed to facilitate installation. Over time, erosion could expose portions of the sheet pile; however, the larger, native plants will grow directly over the feature partially obscuring the view of any exposed portions of sheet pile. The proposed Project will not substantially damage scenic resources and impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: Project Design; Thomas Guide; Figure 2, Project Site

**c) *Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?***

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See response to item I. a) and I. b), above.

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

***No Impact.*** Flood control facilities typically do not create new or additional light or glare, either during construction or operation and maintenance. Because the sheet pile (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will be located below the surface, the proposed Project does not include the installation of lights. The only artificial lighting that may be expected to be used on the Project site would be under emergency conditions; however, any impacts would be temporary and insignificant. Therefore, no impacts from light and glare will occur.

Source: Project Design



<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.</b> In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Agricultural Resources Discussion:**

- 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?*

**No Impact.** According to the Riverside County GIS report, the proposed Project abuts areas designated as Grazing Land, Farmland of Local Importance, Other Lands, and Urban Built-Up Land. As it is not located on designated Farmland, it will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural uses. Therefore, no impacts to Farmland are anticipated.

Source: Conservation; Project Design; Riv Co GIS

- b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*

**No Impact.** The California Land Conservation Act (CLCA) of 1965, also known as the Williamson Act, allows owners of agricultural land to have their properties assessed for tax purposes on the basis of agricultural production rather than current market value. Agricultural preserves are designated as conservation areas and allow agriculture and associated uses (including limited commercial, industrial, and single-family residential use) and open space.

The proposed Project is not located in an agricultural preserve and will not affect agricultural land nor affect properties with active Williamson Act contracts. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Conservation; Project Design; Riv Co GIS

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

*No Impact.* See response II. a), above.

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

*No Impact.* The Project site does not conflict with existing zoning or rezoning of forest land, timberland or timberland zoned timberland production as it is not currently zoned as forest land, timberland or timberland production.

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

*No Impact.* Additionally, there will be no loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to forest land or timberland.

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>III. AIR QUALITY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.</b> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Conflict with any plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Air Quality Discussion:**

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

*No Impact.* The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) sets forth a comprehensive program that will lead the SCAB into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. The AQMP control measures and related emission reduction estimates are based upon emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, conformance with the AQMP for development projects is determined by demonstrating compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections.

The proposed Project involves the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations). The proposed Project is considered to be compatible with all zoning designations pursuant to Section 18.2.b of Riverside County Ordinance No. 348, which exempts public agency projects from zoning designations. Since the proposed Project consists of the installation of sheet pile that, in and of itself, will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns in the Project area, the Project does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: AQMP; Riv Co Ordinance No. 348

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

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project involves the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations). Air quality impacts can be described in short-term and long-term perspectives. Short-term impacts relate to site grading/preparation and Project construction. Long-term air quality impacts relate to maintenance of the feature.

The short-term construction emissions of criteria pollutants from this Project were modeled using URBEMIS 2007, Version 9.2.4 for Windows computer program (Appendix A). Maximum daily emissions are estimated to be 5.33 pounds per day (lbs/day) for volatile organic compounds; 42.99 lbs/day for oxides of nitrogen; 27.29 lbs/day for carbon monoxide; 0.01 lbs/day for sulfur dioxide; 10.83 lbs/day for particulate matter less than 10 microns; and 4.60 lbs/day for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns, which do not exceed the regional thresholds set by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The short-term emissions do not exceed SCAQMD's localized significance thresholds either, as contained in supporting analysis in Appendix A. Therefore, the impacts to air quality from construction of this Project will be less than significant.

The long-term operational emissions from this Project are a result of infrequent vehicle trips associated with maintenance. Operational emissions would be negligible and would have a less than significant effect on air quality.

Source: WEBB

**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)?***

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The portion of the SCAB within which the Project is located is designated as a non-attainment area for ozone, PM-10, and PM-2.5 under both state and federal standards.

Since the proposed Project does not conflict with any land uses, it is in conformance with the AQMP, and the Project's short-term and long-term emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD-established thresholds of significance; the Project's net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the Project region is non-attainment is not cumulatively considerable and impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: AQMP; WEBB

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

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** As described in Appendix A, the closest potential sensitive receptors are the patrons utilizing the golf course adjacent to the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection section of the proposed Project. To ensure a worst-case analysis, the nearest sensitive receptor position of 85 feet (25) meters was used.

Short-term emissions will be generated in the Project area during construction of the Project and have been found to be less than significant (Appendix A). In addition, the operational emissions were also found to be less than significant, as indicated above, hence the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Source: WEBB

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the Project site. Recognizing the short-term duration and quantity of emissions in the Project area, the Project will result in less than significant impact relating to objectionable odors.

Source: Project Description

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** As described in Appendix A, there are no adopted thresholds of significance for greenhouse gases (GHG). The proposed Project does not fit into the categories provided (industrial, commercial, and residential) in either the draft thresholds from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and SCAQMD. The Project's emissions were compared to the most conservative threshold and are well below the proposed draft thresholds. Due to the lack of adopted emissions thresholds, the estimated amount of emissions from Project construction and infrequent operational emissions from maintenance vehicles, the proposed Project will not generate a significant amount of GHG emissions and the impact is considered less than significant.

Source: WEBB

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

**No Impact.** As discussed above, the Project's GHG emissions are below the recommended draft thresholds. Therefore, the Project will not conflict any plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.

Source: Project Description; WEBB

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
ordinance?				
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Biological Resource Discussion:**

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

**Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated.** As outlined in the biological assessment reports (Appendix B), the Project site consists of an existing dirt road (and adjacent areas) that is situated above the Brine Line. The majority of the Project site is disturbed to some degree, with the existing road being un-vegetated, and the adjacent areas predominately supporting non-native vegetation and native ruderal vegetation. The Project site does contain some native plant species, including sparse riparian vegetation, although most of the native vegetation will not be impacted by the Project.

No special-status plants were observed on site during the focused plant survey (conducted on 6/30/2010), and none are expected to occur on site due to a lack of suitable habitat and/or the level of disturbance. The Project will temporarily impact foraging habitat for a number of special-status animals, including the trimming/removal of up to approximately 0.033 acre of riparian vegetation consisting of 0.004 acre of sparse mule fat shrubs in the Aliso Canyon crossing, and up to 0.029 acre of riparian vegetation occurring within the larger alignment (Alternative RC3 Protection). Approximately half of the riparian vegetation in the larger alignment consists of the canopies of trees (cottonwood, willow, coast live oak) that overhang into the Project footprint.

The federally and state listed least Bell’s vireo (LBV) occurs within the Santa Ana River in proximity to the Project site, and the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWWF) has the potential to occur within the adjacent portion of the Santa Ana River. The Project will temporarily affect only a very small amount of riparian vegetation (up to 0.029 acre) within the Project footprint. This area is assumed to be part of a larger off-site area of occupied habitat for the LBV, and potentially the SWWF. Temporary impacts to riparian vegetation will be restored following the completion of the Project. Following completion of construction activities, the affected streambed in Aliso Canyon will be restored to its pre-Project condition and riparian vegetation will be re-planted where impacts occur, ensuring that the riparian areas within the Project site will be biologically equivalent to the pre-Project condition. The restored habitat will maintain the pre-project habitat function for LBV and other riparian species.

In order to avoid any physical impact to individual LBV or SWWF, **MM Bio 1** ensures that the impact to riparian vegetation will occur outside of the LBV and SWWF nesting season, when those species would be absent from the overall area. Implementation of this mitigation measure will also ensure the project will not result in impacts to LBV and SWWF from construction activity and noise. However, if construction during the LBV and SWWF nesting season cannot be avoided, **MM Bio 1** also outlines the additional measures required to avoid impacts to LBV and SWWF.

**MM Bio 1:** In order to avoid impacts to the least Bell’s vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher, all construction activities including vegetation removal for the Project shall be conducted outside of the least Bell’s vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher nesting season (March 15 to August 31). However, if any construction activities will occur during this time period then the construction contractor shall install noise barriers between construction areas and riparian habitat prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> and kept in place until all construction in the area is complete or the end of the nesting.

A habitat assessment and focused survey for the burrowing owl was conducted in August 2010. No burrowing owls were detected on site during focused surveys. Only two suitable burrows were detected within the Project site, occurring on the banks of the drainage within the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection of the Project. No diagnostic owl sign (e.g., pellets, excrement, bones, feathers) was detected at the burrows. Although burrowing owls were not detected during the focused survey effort, the site contains suitable habitat and there is a potential that burrowing owls could occupy the site

prior to construction start. Therefore, implementation of mitigation measure **MM Bio 2** is required to ensure potential impacts to burrowing owl are reduced to less than significant levels.

**MM Bio 2:** A pre-construction presence/absence survey for burrowing owl within suitable habitat shall be conducted. Surveys will be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance. Take of active nests shall be avoided. Passive relocation (use of one-way doors and collapse of burrows) will occur when owls are present outside the nesting season.

The project site contains trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation with the potential to support nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code. In order to avoid take of active nests protected under these regulations **MM Bio 3** is required.

**MM Bio 3:** In order to avoid violation of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code, vegetation removal shall be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the nesting season (generally February 1 to August 31) of potentially occurring native and migratory bird species.

If site-preparation activities are proposed during the nesting/breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a pre-activity field survey shall be conducted within suitable habitat by a qualified biologist prior construction, to determine if active nests of species protected by the MBTA or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the construction zone. If active nests are not located within the disturbance area and appropriate buffer (500 feet of an active listed species or raptor nest, 300 feet of other sensitive or protected bird nests (non-listed), or within 100 feet of sensitive or protected songbird nests) construction may be conducted during the nesting/breeding season. However, if active nests are located during the pre-activity field survey, and the appropriate buffer is not feasible then the construction contractor shall install noise barriers between construction areas and active nests prior to February 1<sup>st</sup> and kept in place until all construction in the area is complete or until the nest(s) is no longer active.

Coast horned lizard, a State Species of Special Concern has been observed in the project area in the past. Coast horned lizard is also covered species under the MSHCP. There are no project level survey, avoidance, or conservation requirements for this species under the MSCHP. As the project is consistent with the plan (outlined in detail below), and with payment of mitigation fees any potential adverse impacts to the coast horned lizard are mitigated pursuant to CEQA through compliance with the MSHCP.

Source: GLA 1

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project site contains MSHCP riparian/riverine areas, but does not contain vernal pools. The Project site crosses Aliso Canyon, representing 0.013 acre of unvegetated riverine area and 0.004 acre of riparian vegetation consisting of a few mule fat shrubs. The larger portion of the Project site contains approximately 0.029 acre of riparian vegetation associated with the Santa Ana River, consisting of Fremont's cottonwood, black willow, arroyo willow, mule fat, and one coast live-oak tree. The Project will temporarily impact approximately 0.013 acre of unvegetated riverine areas associated with Aliso Canyon, and up 0.033 acre of riparian vegetation overall, including 0.004 acre of scattered mule fat shrubs in Aliso Canyon, and 0.029 acre of shrubs and trees within the Project footprint of the larger alignment.

Impacts to riparian/riverine areas require a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP); also performed by Glenn Lukos Associates and included as a section of the *Biological Technical Report, MSHCP Compliance Report, and DBESP Analysis* (Appendix B). According to the DBESP, the Project will result in temporary impacts to 0.013 acre of unvegetated streambed (riverine areas) at the Aliso Canyon crossing, and 0.004 acre of scattered mule fat shrubs. In addition, the Project will temporarily affect up to 0.029 acre of riparian vegetation adjacent to the Santa Ana River. However, the Project will not impact the streambed of the Santa Ana River.

The complete avoidance of MSHCP riparian/riverine areas by the proposed Project is not feasible. The purpose of the Project is to construct flood protection along the Brine Line, adjacent to the northern bank of the Santa Ana River, as well at the Aliso Canyon crossing. The construction footprint required is 25–30 feet on either side of the existing access/maintenance road. The Project will avoid all but a very small portion of riparian vegetation along the River, consisting of low shrubs occurring within the Project footprint. Since the purpose of the sheet piling in the Aliso Canyon

watercourse crossing is to prevent head-ward erosion from propagating up the Aliso Canyon streambed and undermining the Brine Line, the temporary impact to the unvegetated streambed and scattered mule fat shrubs is also unavoidable.

The Project will not adversely impact habitat function for riparian species. The sparse mule fat shrubs located at the Aliso Canyon crossing represent limited potential foraging habitat for smaller birds, but are unlikely to support bird nests. Riparian habitat in general within the adjacent Santa Ana River does represent important habitat for riparian species including the federal- and state-listed least Bell's vireo, and potentially the southwestern willow flycatcher, as well as numerous other non-listed, sensitive birds. However, the small amount of vegetation within the Project footprint has a low potential to support bird nests, and is not likely to support nests of the least Bell's vireo and/or the southwestern willow flycatcher. Regardless, the impact to vegetation would occur outside of the nesting season to ensure that no active bird nests would be removed. Temporary impacts to foraging habitat for riparian birds would be very minimal.

Following completion of construction activities, the affected streambed in Aliso Canyon will be restored to its pre-Project condition and riparian vegetation will be re-planted where impacts occur, ensuring that the riparian areas within the Project site will be biologically equivalent to the pre-Project condition. The restored habitat will maintain the pre-project habitat function for LBV and other riparian species.

Additional mitigation measures are not required and impacts are considered to be less than significant.

Source: GLA 1

- c) *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?*

**Less Than Significant Impact.** See IV. b), above. The ACOE jurisdiction associated with the Project totals approximately 0.014 acres, none of which consist of jurisdictional wetlands. The Project site contains one drainage feature (Aliso Canyon), which crosses a portion of the Project site. Drainage A is an ephemeral drainage that is a tributary to the Santa Ana River, which is a tributary to the Pacific Ocean. The majority of the Project site occurs adjacent to the Santa Ana River, but does not occur within the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of the River.

CDFG jurisdiction associated with the Project totals approximately 0.046 acre (of which 0.033 acre consists of riparian vegetation) and includes all areas within ACOE jurisdiction (Aliso Canyon), as well as a small amount of riparian vegetation associated with the Santa Ana River.

Therefore, the Project will temporarily impact waters subject to the jurisdiction of the ACOE and CDFG, specifically the crossing at Aliso Canyon. Impacts to ACOE jurisdiction will require a Section 404 permit from the ACOE, and a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Impacts to CDFG jurisdiction will require a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement. Project proponents will apply for a Section 404 permit from the ACOE, a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFG. The Project will not impact federally protected wetlands, therefore impacts are considered to be less than significant.

Source: GLA 1, 2

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project involves the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) below the ground surface, which will be buried after installation. The impact to vegetation would occur outside of the nesting season to ensure that no active bird nests would be removed. Temporary impacts to foraging habitat for riparian birds would be very minimal. Additionally, the majority of the Project site occurs adjacent to the Santa Ana River, but does not occur within the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of the River.

Therefore, the proposed Project would not substantially interfere with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.

Source: GLA 1; Project Design

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

***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is not subject to any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources other than the MSHCP. Refer to IV. f), below, for a more detailed discussion of compliance with the MSHCP.

Source: Figure 2, Project Design

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

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project site is located within the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The MSHCP serves as a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), pursuant to Section (a)(1)(B) of the ESA, as well as a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the State NCCP Act of 2001. The plan encompasses all unincorporated Riverside County land west of the crest of the San Jacinto Mountains to the Orange County line, as well as the jurisdictional areas of the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Norco, Corona, Riverside, Moreno Valley, Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Perris, Hemet, and San Jacinto. The overall biological goal of the MSHCP is to conserve covered species and their habitats, as well as maintain biological diversity and ecological processes while allowing for future economic growth within a rapidly urbanizing region.

As outlined in Section 6.1.1 of the MSHCP, *Payment of the mitigation fee and compliance with the requirements of Section 6.0 are intended to provide full mitigation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal Endangered Species Act, and California Endangered Species Act for impacts to the species and habitat covered by the MSHCP pursuant to agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game and/or any other appropriate participating regulatory agencies and as set forth in the Implementing Agreement for the MSHCP.*

The District is a permittee of the MSHCP and is required to ensure District projects comply with applicable sections of the MSHCP. As outlined in Section 13.4 of the Implementing Agreement, the District has the following obligations under the MSHCP and the Implementing Agreement (IA):

- *Adopt and maintain resolutions as necessary to implement the requirements and to fulfill the purposes of the Permits, the MSHCP and the IA for its Covered Activities. Such requirements include: (1) compliance with the policies of the Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools as set forth in Section 6.1.2 of this document; (2) compliance with the policies of the protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species as set forth in Section 6.1.3 of this document; (3) conduct surveys as set forth in 6.3.2 of this document; (4) compliance with all requirements of Section 7.3.7 of this document; (5) compliance with Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines as set forth in Section 6.1.4 of this document; (6) compliance with the Best Management Practices and the siting requirements and design criteria as set forth in Section 7.0 and Appendix C of this document [MSHCP].*
- *Contribute mitigation through payment of three (3) percent of total capital costs for a Covered Activity. Such payment may be offset through acquisition of replacement Habitat or creation of new Habitat for the benefit of Covered Species, as appropriate. Such mitigation shall be implemented prior to impacts to Covered Species and their Habitats.*
- *Manage land owned or leased within the MSHCP Conservation Area that has been set aside for Conservation purposes pursuant to a management agreement to be executed between the District and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).*
- *Carry out all other applicable requirements of the MSHCP, the IA and Permits. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in the IA shall be construed to require the District to provide funding, or any other form of compensation, beyond the fees collected or dedicated lands required pursuant to the Permits, the IA and the MSHCP, consistent with the terms and conditions of the MSHCP.*
- *Participate as a member of the RMOC as set forth in Section 6.6.4 of this document.*

#### **Section 6.1.2**



The Project site consists primarily of an existing dirt road that is unvegetated. Areas north and south of the road are dominated by non-native grasses and forbs, as well as native ruderal vegetation, but also with some native shrubs, including coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). Based on the predominance of ruderal vegetation, the road and adjacent areas were lumped together as disturbed/ruderal vegetation, totaling approximately 1.812 acres (95.5%) of the Project site. Examples of non-native grasses and ruderal vegetation include ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oat (*Avena sp.*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), red brome (*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), long-stemmed filaree (*Erodium botrys*), broad-leaved peppergrass (*Lepidium latifolium*), tumbling pigweed (*Amaranthus albus*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), doveweed (*Croton setiger*), smooth cat's ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*), lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*), sour clover (*Melilotus indica*), sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*), rancher's fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), and telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*). Additional species include tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculoides*), branching phacelia (*Phacelia ramosissima*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), California croton (*Croton californicus*), wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpus*), jimsonweed (*Datura wrightii*), and bur-sage (*Ambrosia acanthicarpa*). The Project will temporarily impact approximately 0.013 of unvegetated riverine areas associated with Aliso Canyon, and as much as 0.033 acre of riparian vegetation overall, including 0.004 acre of scattered mule fat shrubs in Aliso Canyon, and up to 0.029 acre of low shrubs that extend into the existing road along the Santa Ana River.

See IV. b), above for a complete discussion regarding protection of species associated with riparian/riverine areas and vernal pools.

#### **Section 6.1.3**

The proposed Project is located within the Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area, Group 7. Habitat assessments are required for Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), San Miguel savory (*Satureja chandleri*), and San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*). A habitat assessment was conducted in June 2010 within the proposed Project site. Suitable habitat to support these three plant species was not recorded on site. Therefore, no additional plant surveys or conservation measures are required. The Project satisfies the Protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species requirements of the MSHCP.

#### **Section 6.3.2**

The proposed Project is located within the Burrowing Owl Survey Area. Thus, a habitat assessment was conducted in February 2010. No direct burrowing owl observations or sign were recorded during the habitat assessment, however, potential nesting/foraging habitat for the burrowing owl is present and the site could be occupied by burrowing owl at anytime of the year (moderate occurrence potential). A focused survey was conducted in August 2010 and no direct burrowing owl observations or sign (pellets, fecal material, or prey remains) were recorded on site. However, because the burrowing owl is well known to occur in the site vicinity it may utilize portions of the site during various times of the year.

Because burrowing owls were not observed within the Project site during the focused survey effort, additional conservation measures are not required pursuant to the MSHCP. To avoid impacts to any active nests, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted in areas supporting suitable burrowing owl habitat. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM Bio 2** will ensure potential impacts to burrowing owls are less than significant. The proposed Project satisfies all the plant, mammal, amphibian, and bird Additional Survey Needs and Procedures requirements of the MSHCP.

#### **Section 6.1.4**

As outlined in the MSHCP, *The guidelines presented in this section are intended to address indirect effects associated with locating Development in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area, where applicable. Existing local regulations are generally in place that addresses the issues presented in this section.*

The MSHCP Conservation Area is made up of Criteria Area, Public/Quasi-Public Lands, Rural Mountainous Designations, and American Indian Lands. The Conservation Area is comprised of a variety of existing and proposed Cores, extensions of Existing Cores, Linkages, Constrained Linkages, and Noncontiguous Habitat Blocks. The Project is located within the Temescal Area Plan of the MSHCP. The Temescal Canyon Area Plan is divided into five Subunits. For each Subunit, target conservation acreages are established along with a description of Planning Species, biological Issues and Considerations, and Criteria for each Subunit (MSHCP, Vol. 1., p. 252). Portions of the Project are located in Subunit 2 – Prado Basin within Criteria Cell 1612 in Cell Group B. The Biological Issues and Considerations for Subunit 2 are the following (MSHCP, Vol 1., p. 253):

- Provide for and maintain connection(s) from Prado Basin and the Santa Ana River to Chino Hills State Park outside the Plan Area.
- Maintain linkage area for bobcat and mountain lion.
- Maintain Core and Linkage Habitat for coast ran newt and western pond turtle.

The Project site occurs within existing Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) Conserved Lands and is adjacent to the Santa Ana River. The Project will not permanently impact habitats and covered species associated with the PQP lands within the project footprint. The project footprint within PQP lands will be restored to pre-Project conditions; therefore, the project will not directly affect the biological conservation value of the PQP lands. With the implementation of measures pursuant to the MSHCP Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines (Volume I, Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP) the Project is not expected to result in significant indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources and habitat and PQP lands. These guidelines are intended to address indirect effects associated with locating projects (particularly development) in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area. To minimize potential edge effects, the guidelines are to be implemented in conjunction with review of individual public and private development projects in proximity to the MSHCP Conservation Area. The proposed Project has the potential to result in temporary indirect impacts during construction, but would not result in long-term indirect impacts. Regardless, the Project will implement measures consistent with the MSHCP guidelines to address the following:

- Drainage
- Toxics
- Lighting
- Noise
- Invasives
- Barriers
- Grading/Land Development

#### Drainage

The Project's contractor will develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to control runoff and water quality during construction. However, following the completion of activities, the Project area will not contain any developed or paved areas, and will not, in any way, result in increased drainage to the Santa Ana River, or affect the water quality of the River. As such, no measures would be required post-construction.

#### Toxics

Measures such as those employed to address drainage issues shall be implemented. The proposed Project will implement a SWPPP that will address runoff during construction.

#### Lighting

If night lighting is required during construction, shielding shall be incorporated to ensure ambient lighting in the MSHCP Conservation Area is not increased. The Project does not include lighting.

#### Noise

Noise generated during the construction phase may have the potential to indirectly affect wildlife within the adjacent Conservation Area. As noted above, several special-status birds occur within adjacent riparian areas, including the least Bell's vireo. The Project will not adversely impact habitat utilized by special-status species. However, excessive noise levels adjacent to the riparian habitat during the breeding season may have the potential to affect the least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and other riparian birds. A hydraulic jacking method, which uses a static load to install piles, will allow piling work to be carried out silently and vibration-free. Other activities generating noise that would exceed residential noise standards will be not occur during the LBV/SWWF breeding season (March 15 to August 31) adjacent to riparian habitat (**MM Bio 1**) or will be minimized through installation of noise barriers between construction activity and riparian habitat.

#### Invasives

Projects adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area shall avoid the use of invasive plant species in landscaping, including invasive, non-native plant species listed in Volume I, Table 6-2 of the MSHCP. Re-vegetation at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection crossing will include the replacement of existing native species. Re-vegetation will not include species listed in Table 6-2 of the MSHCP.

#### Barriers

Proposed land uses adjacent to the MSHCP Conservation Area shall incorporate barriers, where appropriate, in individual Project designs to minimize unauthorized public access, domestic animal predation, illegal trespassing or dumping in the MSHCP Conservation Area. Such barriers may include native landscaping, rocks/boulders, fencing, walls, signage, and/or other appropriate mechanisms. This does not apply to the proposed Project.

**Grading/Land Development**

The MSHCP states that manufactured slopes associated with development shall not extend into the MSHCP Conservation Area. The proposed Project does not include grading that would result in manufactured slopes in the Conservation Area.

**Section 7.0 Design Criteria and Appendix C BMPs**

Section 7.3.7 of the MSHCP outlines that flood control facilities (improvements and new construction) that are undertaken by a permittee in the Criteria Area is a covered activity; those outside of the Criteria Area are also covered activities. It also identifies potential flood control projects within the MSHCP criteria area and implementation is subject to the construction guidelines detailed in Section 7.5.3 and as well as the standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) contained in Appendix C.

Section 7.5 of the MSHCP sets forth the *Guidelines for Facilities Within the Criteria Area and Public/Quasi-Public Lands*. Section 7.5.3 outlines construction guidelines required when constructing facilities within the Criteria Area or within Public/Quasi-Public Lands. The proposed Project is located within existing Public/Quasi-Public (PQP) Conserved Lands. As discussed previously, the Project will implement applicable measures as it relates to temporary construction impacts to minimize adverse indirect impacts on special-status resources within Conserved Lands. The proposed Project will satisfy the standard BMP requirements of the MSHCP.

The Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) completed a Joint Project Review for this Project. As outlined in the JPR the RCA found the Project to be consistent with the requirements of the MSHCP, "Consistency Conclusion: The proposed project demonstrates consistency with the requirements for covered flood control projects and with other requirements of the MSHCP." (JPR p. 1)

Source: MSHCP; IA; GLA 1, 2, JPA

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:</b>				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Cultural Resource Discussion:**

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The State *CEQA Guidelines* state that the term "historical resources" applies to any such resources listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the *California Register of Historical Resources*, included in a local register of historical resources, or determined to be historically significant by the Lead Agency. According to the ACOE SEIS/EIR for the Alternative RC3 portion of the proposed Project, the potential impact to buried former segments of the Anaheim Union Water Canal would be possible. However, these segments would have already been disturbed or

destroyed by previous construction activities. This is also true for the Aliso Canyon Crossing portion of the proposed Project. Therefore, both segments of the proposed Project would have less than significant impacts to the potential National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) significance of the canal for the Anaheim Union Water Canal. The Project site does not contain any above-ground structures or other improvements that would be considered historic resources. Due to the disturbed nature of the Project site from previous construction activities, impacts to historic resources are not anticipated.

Source: Site Visit

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

**Less than Significant Impact.** Due to the disturbed nature of the Project site from previous construction activities, impacts to archaeological resources are not anticipated. However, in the unlikely event that archaeological resources are unearthed during excavation at the proposed Project site, implementation of a standard District construction practice, environmental commitment **EC Cultural 1**, will ensure potential impacts remain at less than significant levels.

**EC Cultural 1:** If any cultural and/or archaeological resources are exposed during ground excavation disturbance, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery shall immediately halt and ground disturbance activities shall be moved to other parts of the Project site and a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to determine the significance of the resource(s). If the find is determined to be a historical or unique archaeological resource, as defined in Section 15064.5 of the California Code of Regulations (State *CEQA Guidelines*), avoidance or other appropriate measures shall be implemented.

Source: GP EIR; Project Design

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

**Less than Significant Impact.** According to Riverside County GIS, the Project site is located within areas of high potential for finding paleontological resources. Too add, the CHSP GP indicates that the park has never been systematically surveyed for paleontological resources; however, unique Pliocene-age fossil deposits may be present in the southeastern portion of the park. Nonetheless, due to the highly disturbed nature of the Project site from previous construction activities, impacts to paleontological resources are not anticipated. To ensure that potential impacts to paleontological resources are avoided and maintained at a less than significant level, implementation of a standard District construction practice, environmental commitment **EC Cultural 2**, will ensure potential impacts remain at less than significant levels:

**EC Cultural 2:** If any paleontological resources are exposed during ground excavation disturbance, ground disturbance activities in the vicinity of the discovery will be terminated immediately and a qualified paleontological resources specialist will be retained to evaluate the resources. If the find is determined to be significant, avoidance or other appropriate measures as identified by the paleontologist shall be implemented. Appropriate measures would include that a qualified paleontologist be permitted to recover, evaluate; and curate the find(s) in accordance with current standards and guidelines.

Source: CHSP GP, Riv Co GIS

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

**Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project is not located near any known formal cemeteries. Therefore, the Project site is not expected to disturb any known human remains. However, in the unlikely event that human remains are encountered on the Project site, implementation of a standard District construction practice, environmental commitment **EC Cultural 3**, will ensure potential impacts remain at less than significant levels.

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

Source: Thomas Guide

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.</b> Would the project:				
a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides or mudflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial changes in topography, unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill, or soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Geology and Soils Discussion:**

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

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

*Less Than Significant Impact.* The Project site is not located within or near a currently delineated State of California Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone ; however, Project site does lie within a ½ mile of an unnamed fault in the Elsinore Fault Zone and lays ¾ of a mile west of the Chino Fault line. However, the proposed Project involves the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) and does not involve the construction of any above-ground structures; therefore, impacts are considered to be less than significant.

Source: BWA, Riv Co GIS; CGS

ii) *Strong seismic ground shaking?*

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Most of Southern California is subject to strong seismic ground shaking due to the sheer number of faults traversing the region. According to Riverside County GIS, the Project area is located within less of a mile of two faults. However, the proposed Project involves the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) and the District's routine inspection and maintenance activities will ensure that the sheet pile is repaired, if damage does occur during a seismic event. Furthermore, research performed by ACOE for Alternative RC 3, shows that the area is underlain by Quaternary-age alluvial deposits and that the mountains rising over this area to the north are comprised of sedimentary marine rocks of Tertiary, Cretaceous, or Triassic age. In addition, geotechnical tests were conducted and analyzed in the Riverside County portion of the Project area which verified the feasibility of sheet pile installation. Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

Source: BWA, Riv Co GIS; SEIS/EIR

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** According to the Riverside County GIS, the Project is located within an area of "low to moderate" susceptibility for liquefaction. However, the proposed Project involves the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) and does not provide habitable structures. In addition, routine inspection and maintenance activities will ensure that the sheet pile protection is repaired if damage does occur during a seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Therefore, the Project is anticipated to have a less than significant impact.

Source: Riv Co GIS

**iv) Landslides or mudflows?**

**No Impact.** The Project site is relatively flat, with an elevation of approximately 446 feet above mean sea level. There are no known or mapped geologic units or soils that are unstable on the Project site, or could become unstable as a result of the Project implementation. There are no known geologic units that could potentially result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, collapse, or create rockfall hazards as a result of the proposed Project. The Project area is relatively flat and is not mapped as having susceptibility to seismically induced landslides. Additionally, as the Project is not located on a hillside and does not provide habitable structures, potential impacts to people or structures due to landslides or mudflows are not anticipated. The proposed sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will be installed below the ground surface and will be returned to existing conditions following construction. Therefore, there are no anticipated impacts.

Source: Riv Co GIS; Project Description

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed alignment is generally located on level ground and would not entail substantial changes in topography or unstable soil conditions. The primary components of the Project are below ground and will reduce erosion and the loss of topsoil. The proposed Project has the potential to result in the short-term loss of top soil during construction due to runoff and soil erosion. This will be minimized, however, by compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general construction permit which requires that a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) be prepared prior to construction activities and implemented during construction activities. The SWPPP will incorporate applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the loss of topsoil or substantial erosion, thus, potential impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: GP; Riv Co GIS

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

**Less than Significant Impact.** According to Riverside County GIS, the proposed Project is located in an area that may be susceptible to subsidence and low to moderate levels of liquefaction. However, the Project alignment spans a small area and the Project itself does not contain structures that would be inhabited by humans, which thereby, will not expose

persons directly to substantial adverse effects from seismic-related ground failure. Additionally, the area is not susceptible to landslides as discussed in VI. a) iv), above. Therefore, potential impacts are less than significant.

Source: Riv Co GIS

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

*No Impact.* There are no known mapped expansive soils (greater than three percent linear extensibility) on the Project site; the soil types are primarily GaC-Garretson very fine sandy loam and MeD-loamy sand channeled. In addition, the Project itself will not include any structures that would be inhabited by humans and will not create a substantial risk to life or property. Therefore, impacts are not anticipated.

Source: GP EIR; Riv Co GIS; USDA

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

*No Impact.* The proposed Project consists of the installation and maintenance of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations). There are no housing units or businesses proposed as part of the Project. No sewer or wastewater disposal facilities would be required. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed?				

**Hazards and Hazardous Materials Discussion:**

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

*No Impact.* The proposed Project does not include or require the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, therefore, the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

- 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?*

*No Impact.* The Project does not involve the use or transport of hazardous materials. The Project is not located on a known hazardous materials site as outlined in the search of available environmental records conducted by EDR for the SEIS/EIR. Additionally, best management practices would be in place to prevent risk of any construction equipment failure that could ultimately produce soil contamination. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design; SEIS/EIR

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

*No Impact.* The proposed Project does not involve the use of hazardous materials, substances, or waste and is not located within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design; Thomas Guide

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

*No Impact.* The proposed Project is not located on a known hazardous materials site as outlined in the search of available environmental records conducted by EDR for the SEIS/EIR. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: SEIS/EIR

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

*No Impact.* The Project site is located within the Riverside County Airport Land Use Plan. The closest airport to the Project site is Corona Municipal Airport which is located approximately three miles east of the Project site. However, the Project area lies outside of the airport influence area boundary. Additionally, because the sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will be subsurface and construction activities are short-term and temporary, the Project is not expected to result in a safety hazard. Therefore, the Project would not result in a safety hazard for people working in the Project area. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: GP EIR

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



**No Impact.** The proposed Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Thomas Guide

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

**No Impact.** According to the Riverside County General Plan, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency plans do not exist within the proposed Project area. The Project is not located within a public road and will be located below the ground surface therefore, no impacts are anticipated. The existing access road is also the Santa Ana River Trail (unimproved fire trail) that connects to the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail of the Chino Hills State Park. During construction access for emergency and patrol vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles and horses and others having easements will be maintained. Signage of the temporary construction activities will be posted at the eastern and western limits of construction for the Alternative RC3 Protection portion of the Project (along the Santa Ana River Trail) and at the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection portion of the Project (where the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail connects to the Santa Ana River Trail).

Source: GP

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

**Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.** The potential for a major wildfire within the Project area is considered low per Riverside County GIS. As outlined above in the project description, in order to minimize potential fires from construction equipment, construction operations will follow the State Park’s fire safety precautions, including a fire watch personnel (either safety officer or superintendent) to manage appropriate equipment for the entire duration of all equipment operation. In addition an on-call water truck must be on hand for construction activity. Implementation of the proposed Project will not expose people or structures to risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed. The following standard District construction practice shall be implemented as a safeguard. Impacts are considered less than significant.

**MM HAZ 1:** Appropriate fire-fighting equipment (e.g., extinguishers, shovels, water trucks) shall be available on site during all phases of project construction to help minimize the chance of human-caused wildfires. Shields, protective mats, and/or other fire preventative methods shall be used during grinding, welding, and other spark-inducing activities.

Source: Riv Co GIS

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:</b>				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial discharges of typical storm water pollutants (e.g. sediment from construction activities, hydrocarbons, and metals from motor vehicles, nutrients and pesticides from landscape maintenance activities, metals of other pollutants from industrial operation) or substantial changes to surface water quality including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, or turbidity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
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. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of a watercourse or wetland, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Place structures or fill within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Hydrology and Water Quality Discussion:**

**a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?**

*Less Than Significant Impact.* The Project has the potential to result in storm water discharges from soil disturbance during construction. However, the Project will be required to comply with the County NPDES Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Permit R8-2010-0033). The MS4 permit requires that the District and other municipalities implement a broad range of BMPs to reduce the discharge of storm water pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. The District will file a Notice of Intent with the RWQCB and prepare/implement a SWPPP with BMPs incorporated to minimize water quality impacts from construction.

The potential short-term discharge of storm water pollutants during construction activities will be minimized to an insignificant level through the implementation of the BMPs stipulated in the SWPPP to prevent storm water pollution, reduce loss of topsoil, substantial erosion, or discharge of polluted runoff associated with Project construction. Through compliance with the regulatory requirements of the NPDES Statewide General Construction Permit, implementation of the Project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

Source: Project Design; NPDES; SWRCB

**b) Result in substantial discharges of typical storm water pollutants (e.g. sediment from construction activities, hydrocarbons, and metals from motor vehicles, nutrients and pesticides from landscape maintenance activities, metals**

of other pollutants from industrial operation, ) or substantial changes to surface water quality including, but not limited to, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, or turbidity?

*Less Than Significant Impact.* See response to item VIII. a), above.

- 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)?*

*Less Than Significant Impact.* The Project will not result in the withdrawal or use of groundwater. The proposed Project consists of the installation of sheet pile protection. Therefore, the proposed Project will not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. Less than significant impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

*Less Than Significant Impact.* The proposed Project will not alter any surface water-bodies or significantly change drainage patterns that would induce substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The proposed Project consists of the installation of erosion protection sheet piles (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) to protect the Brine Line which is entirely below grade. The existing topography of the site and the surrounding area will not be altered permanently, as the area would be restored after sheet pile installation. It is not anticipated that any single event would cause significant enough erosion to expose the sheet piles. Although erosion of the soil around the sheet piles could occur from regular events, operation and maintenance activities will address adverse affects of incremental erosion before it becomes a significant impact. Operation and Maintenance activities will include regular inspection of the area and maintenance to restore eroded areas as needed. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: Project Design

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

*Less Than Significant Impact.* The purpose of the Project is to protect the Brine Line from increased flows that would result in lateral erosion and scour, which could undermine and damage the Brine Line and adversely impact water quality in the watershed. The sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will be located below the ground surface and will not impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

Source: Project Design

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

*No Impact.* See VIII. a) through e), above. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

- g) *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?*

*No Impact.* No housing is proposed as part of the Project; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** Portions of the project alignment are located within the 100-year flood hazard area (Zone A). The purpose of the Project is to protect the Brine Line from increased surface flows from the Santa Ana River and Aliso Canyon that could result in lateral erosion and scour, which could undermine and damage the Brine Line and adversely impact water quality in the watershed. The sheet pile protection will be located below the ground surface and will not impede or redirect flood flows of the Santa Ana River or Aliso Canyon. Therefore, impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

Source: Project Design; FEMA

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project is located near Prado dam; however, the proposed sheet pile installation (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will not expose people or structures to a significant risk involving flooding. Impacts are considered to be less than significant.

Source: Project Design

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

**No Impact.** The Project does not involve the construction of structures or designed to accommodate people and is not located within an area that would be subjected to seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>IX. LAND USE PLANNING. Would the project:</b>				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Land Use and Planning Discussion:**

- a) **Physically divide an established community?**

**No Impact.** The Project consists of the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) below the ground surface and would, therefore, not physically divide an established community. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Figure 2; Project Design

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

**No Impact.** The Project lies within an area designated by the Riverside County General Plan as Open Space Conservation land uses. To add, a portion of the project lies within an area designated by the Chino Hills State Park General Plan as Developed Park Zones. Installation of the proposed sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and RC3 Alternative locations) would not affect the surrounding land use designations or other policies or

regulations. In addition, Riverside County Ordinance No. 348, Section 18.2a(b), exempts public agency projects, such as this proposed Project, from County zoning regulations. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design; RC Ordinance No. 348; Riv Co GIS

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>X. MINERAL RESOURCES.</b> Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Mineral Resources Discussion:**

- a) *Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?*

*No Impact.* The proposed Project is located within an area designated as MRZ-3, as determined by the State Mining and Geology Board. This mineral resource zone includes areas where the available geologic information indicates that mineral deposits exist, or are likely to exist, however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined. Installation of the sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will be located below the ground surface and will not preclude significant area from being mined, if resources occur. The proposed Project is not located on a locally important mineral resource recovery site; therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: GP

- b) *Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

*No Impact.* See response X. a), above.

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XI. NOISE.</b> Would the project result in:				
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Noise Discussion:**

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project would involve the temporary use of construction equipment for installation. Construction equipment may result in temporary increases in noise levels. Residential areas are located approximately ¼ mile south of the Project site. Park staff and park visitors that use the trail during the construction period would be closer to construction activities and would experience increased noise levels as compared to existing conditions. However, park staff and visitors will be advised of construction activities when entering the area as signage of the temporary construction activities will be posted at the eastern and western limits of construction for the Alternative RC3 Protection portion of the Project (along the Santa Ana River Trail) and at the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection portion of the Project (where the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail connects to the Santa Ana River Trail). Park staff and visitors would only experience the increased noise levels from construction while passing through the project area and periphery. Additionally, to reduce impacts associated with construction-related activities, Project construction will involve the use of mechanical equipment, such as the Silent Piler ECO 700 S by Giken, which utilizes a hydraulic, press-in operation system for the installation of the sheet pile. This equipment uses a static load to install piles which allows piling work to be carried out silently and vibration-free. Therefore, potential impacts associated with temporary and construction-related noise impacts will be minimized. Once the sheet pile protection is installed, the only source of operation noise impacts would be from period visits from maintenance staff's vehicles, therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: Project Design

- b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

**Less Than Significant Impact.** See XI. a), above. The proposed Project would involve the temporary use of construction equipment for installation. Construction equipment may result in temporary increases above existing noise levels. To reduce impacts associated with construction-related activities, Project construction will involve the use of mechanical equipment, such as the Silent Piler ECO 700 S by Giken, which utilizes a hydraulic, press-in operation system for the installation of the sheet pile. This equipment uses a static load to install piles which allows piling work to be carried out silently and vibration-free. Maintenance activities would be infrequent and involve less equipment than the initial construction of the proposed Project. Residential areas are located approximately ¼ mile south of the Project site. In addition, the terrain in-between the Project area and the residential land use is highly vegetated and would absorb much of the sound generated by the equipment. Therefore, potential impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: Project Design

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

**No Impact.** The periodic maintenance activities (discussed under item XI. a), of the proposed protection does not involve activities that would permanently increase noise levels in the Project vicinity.

Source: Project Design

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

*Less Than Significant Impact.* See response to items XI. a) and c).

Source: Project Design

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

*No Impact.* The closest airport to the Project site is Corona Municipal Airport which is located approximately three miles east of the Project site. The Project area lies outside of the airport influence area boundary; therefore, no impact will occur.

Source: Thomas Guide

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

*No Impact.* The Project site is not located within the vicinity (or within two miles) of a private airstrip; therefore, no impact will occur.

Source: Thomas Guide

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.</b> Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Population and Housing Discussion:**

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

*No Impact.* Implementation of the Project will not directly induce substantial population growth, as it does not include the construction of homes and businesses. The proposed Project does not include infrastructure that could indirectly induce substantial population growth. Therefore, no impact will occur.

Source: Project Design;

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

*No Impact.* There are no existing residences within the Project site. As such, the Project will not result in the displacement of any persons or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Figure 2, Project Site

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

*No Impact.* See response to item XII. b), above.

Source: Figure 2, Project Site

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.</b> Would the project:				
a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
i. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Public Service Discussion:**

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

*i. Fire protection?*

*No Impact.* The nature of this Project will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand on fire services. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

*ii. Police protection?*

*No Impact.* The nature of this Project will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand on police protection services. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

*iii. Schools?*

*No Impact.* The nature of this Project will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand on schools. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

*iv. Parks?*

*No Impact.* The nature of this Project will not necessitate the construction of new facilities or increase the demand on park services. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design



v. **Other public facilities?**

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

Source: Project Design

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XIV. RECREATION.</b>				
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Recreation Discussion:**

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

**No Impact.** The proposed Project does not involve new housing or employment opportunities that would directly generate users which would result in an increased use of existing parks or recreational facilities. No impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

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

Source: Project Design

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC. Would the project:</b>				
a. Conflict with an adopted plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an adopted congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
the appropriate congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, pedestrian facilities, or other alternate transportation or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Transportation and Traffic Discussion:**

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project proposes the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations), which is not a traffic-generating Project. Temporary truck traffic will be incrementally increased on area roadways during the construction period; however, the quantity of these trips will not be considered significant in relation to existing vehicular volume. Ongoing maintenance will involve infrequent visits to the site, likely utilizing a light truck; this will not contribute to any significant increase in traffic on area roadways. Since the Project will not cause an increase in traffic that is considered substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system, less than significant impacts are anticipated.

The Project area is within the County of Riverside within the Chino Hills State Park, which is operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and is primarily characterized by open space conservation. Site access will occur from the northbound State Highway 71 via an off ramp that provides access under the State Highway 71 and along an existing access/maintenance road for the Brine Line which also serves as a fire road and access for California State Parks patrol vehicles and CAL FIRE emergency vehicles and equipment. A gate control will be maintained for the duration of project construction and kept closed except for project construction entry and exit. Proposed construction would take place during daylight hours in accordance with California State Parks construction operating procedures unless approved otherwise. The existing access road is also the Santa Ana River Trail (unimproved fire trail) that connects to the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail of the Chino Hills State Park. During construction access for emergency and patrol vehicles, and others having easements will be maintained. The existing road/trail pathway will be maintained for pedestrians, bicycles, and horses, when feasible. If the existing road/trail were temporarily blocked by construction equipment pedestrians, bicycles, and horses would be able to slightly detour around equipment and continue along route as there are not features such as dense vegetation or steep inclines that would preclude access. Signage of the temporary construction activities will be posted at the eastern and western limits of construction for the Alternative RC3 Protection portion of the Project (along the Santa Ana River Trail) and at the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection portion of the Project (where the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail connects to the Santa Ana River Trail). There are no permanent impacts because the sheet pile (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) will be entirely below grade. Therefore, the Project does not include any factor that would cause a conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. This includes all modes of transportation, taking into account mass transit and non-motorized methods of travel.

Source: Project Description; Thomas Guide; Chino SP

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** As described under item XV. a), there are no components of the proposed Project that could cause a substantial increase in traffic which would result in an individual or cumulative exceedance of an established level of service standard. Truck trips related to construction and ongoing maintenance will be minor in relation to existing traffic volumes on area roadways. Therefore, with respect to a Project-specific exceedance, either individually or cumulatively, of an established level of service standard, less than significant impacts are expected.

Additionally, for the same reasons, the proposed Project will not conflict with any applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to travel demand measures or other standards.

Source: Project Description

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

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

Source: Project Description

- d) *Result in inadequate emergency access?*

**Less than Significant Impact.** As described under item XV. a), during construction, access for emergency and patrol vehicles, and easement holders will be maintained. The proposed Project will be constructed within and/or adjacent to an existing dirt access and maintenance road for the Brine Line. The maintenance road is not readily accessible for non-emergency and patrol vehicles as the entrances have locked gates. As the Project will be located below grade, the operation and maintenance of the proposed Project would not result in inadequate emergency access. A Traffic Control Plan that will detail and coordinate all traffic movement through the Project area will be implemented throughout Project construction. Additionally, measures to provide an adequate level of access to public and private properties shall be maintained to allow delivery of emergency services. With the implementation of the Traffic Control Plan, combined with the short-term nature of trail closures and the inclusion of the following District construction practices, impacts to emergency access will remain less than significant:

**EC Trans 1:** A Traffic Control Plan shall be implemented to coordinate all traffic movement through the Project area to ensure that at all times during construction, emergency fire or medical vehicles shall have access through the Project area. Additionally, construction equipment or activities must not obstruct or hinder traffic that might be generated during an evacuation.

**EC Trans 2:** Proposed construction would take place during daylight hours in accordance with California State Parks construction operating procedures unless approved otherwise. The existing access road is also the Santa Ana River Trail (unimproved fire trail) that connects to the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail of the Chino Hills State Park. During construction access for emergency and patrol vehicles, and others having easements will be maintained. The existing road/trail pathway will be maintained for pedestrians, bicycles, and horses, when feasible. If the existing road/trail were temporarily blocked by construction equipment pedestrians, bicycles, and horses would be able to slightly detour around equipment and continue along route as there are not features such as dense vegetation or steep inclines that would preclude access. Signage of the temporary construction activities will be posted at the eastern and western limits of construction for the Alternative RC3 Protection portion of the Project (along the Santa Ana River Trail) and at the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection portion of the Project (where the Lower Aliso Canyon Trail connects to the Santa Ana River Trail).

Source: Project Description; Thomas Guide; Chino SP

- e) *Result in inadequate parking capacity?*

**No Impact.** Since there is vacant land on and adjacent to the Project site, parking requirements associated with temporary construction activities will be sufficient. Long-term operation for a Project of this type does not require parking. Parking for the Project's ongoing maintenance needs will be sufficed on site and no additional parking requirements are necessary for the Project. Therefore, with regards to parking capacity, no impact is anticipated.

Source: Project Description

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

**Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed Project consists of the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations). The Project is not located within the vicinity of any public transit facilities, only a portion of the Santa Ana River Trail, would be temporarily closed during construction. This portion of the Santa Ana River Trail is not utilized by pedestrians and/or cyclists for commuting purposes. Therefore, the proposed Project will not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, pedestrian facilities, or other alternate transportation or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities and impacts are considered to be less than significant.

Source: Project Description; Thomas Guide; Chino SP

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:</b>				
a. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment or transmission facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Utilities and Service Systems Discussion:**

**a) Require or result in the construction or relocation of new water or wastewater treatment or transmission facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

**No Impact.** The proposed Project does not require or result in the expansion of new water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated

Source: Project Design

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

*No Impact.* The proposed Project consists of the installation of sheet pile protection (at Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection and Alternative RC3 Protection locations) for the Brine Line and will not require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

*No Impact.* The proposed Project will not result in new or expanded water supplies. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

*No Impact.* The proposed Project would not generate wastewater. No new wastewater facilities are required as a result of the proposed Project. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

*No Impact.* Construction of the Project does not present the potential for generation of significant volumes of solid waste. The Project includes installation of sheet piles which will be brought to the site ready for installation. No demolition of existing buildings or other improvements are required that would generate solid waste to be transported off-site. In addition as the materials used for the Project will be brought to the site for installation the Project does not entail on-site construction of structures in which excess or discarded building materials would be generated. Additionally, maintenance of the facility will not generate significant volumes of solid waste therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

Source: Project Design

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

*No Impact.* Refer to item XVI. e), above.

Source: Project Design

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
<b>MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</b>				
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:</b>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Mandatory Findings of Significance Discussion:**

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

*Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.* The Project site consists of an existing dirt road (and adjacent areas) that is situated above the Brine Line. The majority of the Project site is disturbed to some degree, with the existing road being un-vegetated, and the adjacent areas predominately supporting non-native vegetation and native ruderal vegetation. The Project site does contain some native plant species, including sparse riparian vegetation, although most of the native vegetation will not be impacted by the Project. The proposed Project is not expected to have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment or reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. Implementation of mitigation measures **MM Bio 1** and **MM Bio 2** will ensure the proposed Project does not impact sensitive bird species that may occupy the site when construction is initiated.

The Project is not expected to eliminate the important example of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The Project site has already been disturbed by previous construction activities. Although no archaeological, historic or paleontological resources are documented to occur in the Project area, potential archaeological, historic and paleontological resources may occur underground. However, these resources are not expected to be discovered because of the highly disturbed natures of the Project site. In the event that archaeological or paleontological resources are unearthed during construction, implementation of **EC Cultural 1** and **EC Cultural 2** will ensure the proposed Project does not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California prehistory, or archaeological and paleontological resources.

Source: Analysis contained in the above checklist.

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

*Less Than Significant Impact.* The proposed Project does not have any impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The Project is in conformance with the AQMP, and the Project’s short-term and long-term air quality emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD established thresholds of significance; the Project’s net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the Project region is non-attainment is not cumulatively considerable. Also the proposed Project will not exceed either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established for designated roads or highways. The potential impacts are considered less than significant.

Source: Analysis contained in the above checklist.

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

***Less Than Significant Impact.*** As discussed above, this Project would result in very minimal environmental impacts such as air quality, noise, and transportation due to construction related activities. Potential impacts to air quality will be less than significant and will not cause substantial adverse effects directly or indirectly on human beings. With the incorporation of the mitigation measures described in the above checklist, potential impacts will be less than significant and would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

Source: Analysis contained in the above checklist.

**EARLIER ANALYSES**

No earlier analysis was used pursuant to the tiering, program EIR or other CEQA process, nor does the analysis rely on an earlier EIR or negative declaration pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Section 15063(c)(3)(D).

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

On the basis of this initial evaluation which reflects the independent judgment of the District, it is recommended that:

- 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 have been made by 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.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.

Signature Warren D. Williams

Date 10/8/13

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



## REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following documents were referred to as information sources during preparation of this document. They are available for public review at the locations abbreviated after each listing and spelled out at the end of this section. Some of these documents may also be available at the Riverside City Public Library or the Riverside County Library System, or branches of these libraries.

<u>Cited As:</u>	<u>Source:</u>
AQMP	South Coast Air Quality Management District, <i>Air Quality Management Plan</i> , June 2007. (Available at SCAQMD.)
BWA	Bryant, W.A. (compiler), 2005, Digital Database of Quaternary and Younger Faults from the Fault Activity Map of California, version 2.0CGS California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones. (Accessed April 1, 2011 at <a href="ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/sp/SP42.pdf">ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/sp/SP42.pdf</a> )
CHSP GP	California State Parks, <i>Chino Hills State Park General Plan</i> , February 1999. (Accessed January 17, 2013 at <a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21299/files/Chino%20Hills%20FINALGP.pdf">http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21299/files/Chino%20Hills%20FINALGP.pdf</a> )
Conservation	California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, <i>Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program</i> , Land Use Conversion reports, 1996–1998. (Available at <a href="http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp">http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp</a> )
Chino SP	California State Parks, <i>Chino Hills State Park Map</i> . (Accessed April 20, 2011 at <a href="http://www.parks.ca.gov/mediagallery/?page_id=648&amp;viewtype=7">http://www.parks.ca.gov/mediagallery/?page_id=648&amp;viewtype=7</a> )
FEMA	Flood Emergency Management Agency, <i>Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 06065C0681G and 06065C0683G</i> . (Available at <a href="http://www.fema.gov">www.fema.gov</a> )
GLA 1	Glenn Lukos Associates, <i>Biological Technical Report, MSHCP Compliance Report, and DBESP Analysis for the Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project</i> , March 31, 2011. (Appendix B.1)
GLA 2	Glenn Lukos Associates, <i>Jurisdictional Delineation, Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project, Western Riverside County, California</i> , March 31, 2011. (Appendix B.2)
GP	County of Riverside, <i>County of Riverside General Plan</i> , adopted October 7, 2003. (Available at <a href="http://www.rctlma.org/genplan/default.aspx">http://www.rctlma.org/genplan/default.aspx</a> )
GP EIR	County of Riverside, <i>County of Riverside General Plan Final Program Environmental Impact Report</i> , adopted October 7, 2003. (Available at <a href="http://www.rctlma.org/genplan/default.aspx">http://www.rctlma.org/genplan/default.aspx</a> )
IA	<i>Implementing Agreement for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan</i> . (Available at <a href="http://www.wrc-rca.org/library.asp">http://www.wrc-rca.org/library.asp</a> )
JPA	Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, <i>Joint Project Review # 12-10-18-01</i> , March 21, 2013. (Appendix B.2)
MSHCP	County of Riverside, Transportation and Land Management Agency, <i>Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)</i> , approved June 17, 2003. (Available at <a href="http://www.wrc-rca.org/library.asp">http://www.wrc-rca.org/library.asp</a> )
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System. (Accessed April 1, 2011 at <a href="http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/">http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/npdes/</a> )
Riv Co GIS	Riverside County, <i>Geographical Information System</i> . (Accessed December 22, 2010 at <a href="http://www.rctlma.org/gis/content/apps_reports.aspx">http://www.rctlma.org/gis/content/apps_reports.aspx</a> )
RC Ord. 348	Riverside County, <i>Ordinance 348</i> , adopted August 24, 2009. (Accessed December 22, 2010 at <a href="http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/zoning/ordnance/ord348_toc.html">http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/zoning/ordnance/ord348_toc.html</a> )
RC Ord. 847	Riverside County, <i>Ordinance No. 847</i> , adopted April 4, 2006. (Accessed September 27, 2011 at <a href="http://www.clerkoftheboard.co.riverside.ca.us/ords/800/847.pdf">http://www.clerkoftheboard.co.riverside.ca.us/ords/800/847.pdf</a> )

SEIS/EIR U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Los Angeles District, *Santa Ana River Interceptor Line (SARI) Protection/Relocation, Orange and Riverside Counties, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report*, May 2009. (Available at Riverside County Flood Control.)

SWRCB State Water Resources Control Board. (Accessed April 1, 2011 at [www.swrcb.ca.gov/rqqcb8](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rqqcb8))

TCAP County of Riverside, *County of Riverside General Plan, Temescal Canyon Area Plan*, adopted October 7, 2003. (Available at <http://www.rctlma.org/genplan/default.aspx>)

Thomas Guide Thomas Guide for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, 2008. (Available at public libraries.)

USDA United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, *Soil Survey, Western Riverside Area, California*, November 1971. (Available at USDA.)

WEBB Albert A. Webb Associates, *The Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project Air Quality Modeling Assumptions*, March 16, 2011. (Appendix A)

WSS United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, *Web Soil Survey*. (Accessed April 1, 2011 at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>)

Location:

Address:

County of Riverside, Planning Dept

4080 Lemon Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, Riverside CA 92502

Riverside County Flood Control  
and Water Conservation District

1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

SCAQMD

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
(formerly Soil Conservation Service), 1299 Columbia Avenue, Suite E-5,  
Riverside, CA 92507

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# **RESPONSES TO COMMENTS**

## **CEQA INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (SCH 2013071020)**

**FOR**

**Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire  
Brine Line Protection**

**October 2013**

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

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## Section I Introduction

In July 2013, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared to determine if there was potential for any significant environmental effects associated with the implementation of the Santa Ana Canyon – Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection (hereinafter “the Project”).

Pursuant to State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073, the IS/MND was circulated for a 30-day period from July 8, 2013, to August 8, 2013, to the State Clearinghouse, responsible agencies, and interested parties for review and comment. No new, unavoidable significant effects were identified during the public comment period; thereby, pursuant to State *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15073.5, there is no requirement to re-circulate the environmental documents for the Project.

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

### Comments Received

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

Letter	Date of Letter	Commenter	Agency / Entity
A	August 5, 2013	Jeff Brandt	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
B	August 7, 2013	Polin Modanlou	Orange County Public Works Department
C	August 5, 2013	Kelly Elliot	California State Department of Parks & Recreation
D	August 7, 2013	Scott Morgan	State of California Office of Planning & Research
E	August 8, 2013	Joseph Ontiveros	Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
F	August 14, 2013	Glenn Parker	Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority

### Organization of the Responses to Comments Document

The Responses to Comments document is organized as follows:

- **Section 1 – Introduction:** Provides a summary of the Project description, the context for the review along with applicable citation pursuant to CEQA and the State *CEQA Guidelines*, and a table of summarizing the date of the comment letter, name of commenters, and commenting agencies.
- **Section 2 – Responses to Comments:** Contains copies of the comment letters and provides the District’s responses.

The District has prepared this Response to Comments to address environmental comments received during the CEQA public review period. Each comment letter is provided in this report with each comment numbered. The responses are provided following each letter. All written comments have been

made a part of the public record and have been forwarded to the District's Board of Supervisors for consideration.

## **Section II Comment Letters and Responses to Comments**

### **Letter A – California Department of Fish and Wildlife (August 05, 2013)**

[letter]



State of California - Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
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EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr., Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



August 5, 2013

Mr. Albert Martinez  
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
1995 Market Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

Subject: Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Santa Ana Canyon-Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection  
Project  
State Clearinghouse No. 2013071020

Dear Mr. Martinez:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Santa Ana Canyon-Below Prado Inland Empire Brine Line Protection Project (Project) [State Clearinghouse No. 2013071020]. The Department is responding to the IS/MND as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (California Fish and Game Code Sections 711.7 and 1802, and the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Section 15386), and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15381), such as the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 *et seq.*) and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for Incidental Take of Endangered, Threatened, and/or Candidate species (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1).

#### Project Description

The Project is located adjacent to the north bank of the Santa Ana River, between the Prado Dam outlet and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad bridge, within Riverside County. Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFC) proposes the installation of approximately 2,500 linear feet of AZ28-700 sheet pile in two locations along the existing Santa Ana River trail. The sheet piling will have a width of approximately two feet and an average toe depth of 55 feet, with tiebacks spaced approximately every 10 feet. The easternmost portion of the Project (Alternative RC3 Protection) will extend approximately 2,300 feet and the westernmost portion (Aliso Canyon Crossing) will extend approximately 200 feet. The sheet piles will be placed at the southerly edge of the existing access/maintenance road. The construction footprint



is anticipated to extend 25 to 30 feet on either side of the road and encompass approximately 1.69 acres.

### Biological Resources and Impacts

The CEQA document should contain sufficient, specific, and current biological information on the existing habitat and species at the Project site; measures to minimize and avoid sensitive biological resources; and mitigation measures to offset the loss of native flora and fauna and State waters. The CEQA document should not defer impact analysis and mitigation measures to future regulatory discretionary actions, such as a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

If sensitive species have the potential to occur on the Project site species specific surveys should be conducted using methods approved by the Department or assume the presence of the species throughout the project site. Surveys should be conducted with one year of submission of the CEQA document. To assist with review, an accompanying map showing the areas of impact should be included in the subsequent CEQA document. Additional maps detailing the location of sensitive species should also be included in the subsequent CEQA document.

The IS/MND did not provide adequate analysis of the potential impacts to Aliso Creek, and associated aquatic species, resulting from the installation of sheet pile within the creek. Aliso Creek is inhabited by native arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*), a State Species of Special Concern (SSC), and has also been considered potential refugia habitat for Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) (SSC; Federally Threatened). Analysis should be conducted to determine the potential for the structure to be exposed after high releases from Prado or regular runoff events from Aliso Creek. Exposure of the structure could result in a potential loss of connectivity, obstructions to passage, and further erosion issues.

### Natural Community Conservation Program (NCCP)

The Department is responsible for ensuring appropriate conservation of fish and wildlife resources including threatened, endangered, and/or candidate plant and animal species, pursuant to the CESA, and administers the Natural Community Conservation Plan Program (NCCP Program). Within the Inland Deserts Region, the Department issued Natural Community Conservation Plan Approval and Take Authorization for the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) per Section 2800, *et seq.*, of the California Fish and Game Code on June 22, 2004. The MSHCP establishes a multiple species conservation program to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permit.

Compliance with approved habitat plans, such as the MSHCP, is discussed in CEQA. Specifically, Section 15125(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the CEQA

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document discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed Project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans. An assessment of the impacts to the MSHCP as a result of this Project is necessary to address CEQA requirements. To obtain additional information regarding the MSHCP please go to: <http://www.rctlma.org/mshcp/>.

The proposed Project occurs within the MSHCP area and is subject to the provisions and policies of the MSHCP. In order to be considered a covered activity, Permittees must demonstrate that proposed actions are consistent with the MSHCP and its associated Implementing Agreement.

#### Lake and Streambed Alteration Program

Although the proposed Project is within the MSHCP, a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration is still required by the Department, should the site contain jurisdictional waters. The Department is responsible for assessing and evaluating impacts to jurisdictional waters; typically accomplished through reviewing jurisdictional delineation (JD) reports, supporting information, and conducting site visits. Following review of a JD, the Department may request changes to the JD. The Department may also recommend that additional project avoidance and/or minimization measures be incorporated, or request additional mitigation for project-related impacts to jurisdictional areas.

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

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

The project proposes the permanent placement of sheet piling within Aliso Creek. The IS/MND does not provide analysis of Aliso Creek and any rates of erosion that may affect the structure within the streambed. Photos provided in the IS/MND show a series of concrete culverts placed vertically between Aliso Creek and the existing access road. The photos display some level of erosion downstream of the culverts, but it is unclear when these structures were placed, if they were initially buried or exposed, and what purpose these culverts hold in managing the creek. The Department cannot comment on this aspect of the Project until further information is provided, and recommends that the document be revised to include adequate information regarding the Aliso Creek

crossing. If further analysis is not conducted, the Department recommends the pipeline span the creek to avoid any undisclosed and unanalyzed impacts.

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

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

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

In the absence of specific mitigation measures in the CEQA document, the Department believes that it cannot fulfill its obligations as a Trustee and Responsible Agency for fish and wildlife resources. Permit negotiations conducted after and outside of the CEQA process are not CEQA-compliant because they deprive the public and agencies of their right to know what project impacts are and how they are being mitigated (CEQA Guidelines Section 15002).

#### Department Recommendations

The Department has the following concerns about the Project, and requests that these concerns be addressed in the CEQA document:

1. The CEQA document should quantify impacts to habitats and species as per the informational requirements of CEQA. An accompanying map showing the areas of impact should also be included.
2. The CEQA document should include current biological surveys for fauna and flora (the Department recommends that surveys be completed within the 12 month period prior to circulation of the CEQA document). The Department recommends that the Lead Agency contact the Department's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) in Sacramento, (916) 327-5960, to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the California Fish and Game Code. If sensitive species may occur within the project area, species specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day, should be included with the CEQA document. Acceptable species specific surveys have been developed by the Department, and by the U.S. Fish and

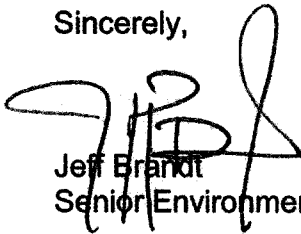
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Wildlife Service, and are accessible through each agencies websites. The Department recommends that assessments for rare plants and rare plant natural communities follow the Department's 2009 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities. The guidance document is available here:  
[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/protocols\\_for\\_surveying\\_and\\_evaluating\\_impacts.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/protocols_for_surveying_and_evaluating_impacts.pdf)

3. The analysis in the CEQA document should satisfy the requirements of the Department's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program and CESA (if deemed necessary).
4. The CEQA document should provide a thorough analysis of Aliso Creek and associated species that may be impacted by the Project.

If you should have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Kimberly Freeburn-Marquez at (909) 945-3484 or at [Kim.Freeburn@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Kim.Freeburn@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Jeff Brandt  
Senior Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse, Sacramento

## Responses to Comment Letter A (California Department of Fish and Wildlife)

**A-1** The CEQA document does contain sufficient, specific, and current biological information on the existing habitat and species at the Project site as well as measures to minimize and avoid sensitive resources and mitigation measures to offset impacts. A Biological Technical Report was prepared to support the CEQA document analysis and findings. The Biological Technical Report dated January 30, 2013 included the results of a field survey habitat assessment, a jurisdictional delineation, results of focused narrow endemic plant species survey as well as a focused burrowing owl survey. As outlined in Section IV. Biological Resources (p. 21-28) of the CEQA document, the Project footprint contains an existing dirt road (access for Brine Line), and adjacent areas predominately supporting non-native vegetation and native ruderal vegetation. The Project site does contain some native plant species, including sparse riparian vegetation, although most of the native vegetation will not be impacted by the project. The areas of impact from project implementation are included on Figure 2, Project Location of the CEQA document, Exhibit 4A and 4B (Vegetation Maps) of the Biotechnical Report, and Exhibits 3A and 3B (Jurisdictional Delineation Maps) of the Jurisdictional Delineation Report.

A focused plant survey was conducted and no special-status plants were observed on site. None are expected to occur on site due to the lack of suitable habitat and/or level of current site disturbance. The Project will temporarily impact foraging habitat for a number of special-status animals. The Project will impact a total of 0.033 acre of riparian vegetation overall, including 0.004 acre of sparse mule fat shrubs at the Aliso Canyon crossing, and 0.029 acre of riparian vegetation associated with/adjacent to the Santa Ana River. The federally and state listed least Bell's vireo (LBV) occurs within the Santa Ana River in proximity to the Project site, and the southwestern willow flycatcher (SWWF) has the potential to occur within the adjacent portion of the Santa Ana River. The Project will temporarily affect only a very small amount of riparian vegetation (up to 0.029 acre) within the Project footprint. This area is assumed to be part of a larger off-site area of occupied habitat for the LBV, and potentially the SWWF. Temporary impacts to riparian vegetation will be restored following the completion of the Project. Following completion of construction activities, the affected streambed in Aliso Canyon will be restored to its pre-Project condition and riparian vegetation will be re-planted where impacts occur, ensuring that the riparian areas within the Project site will be biologically equivalent to the pre-Project condition. The restored habitat will maintain the pre-Project habitat function for LBV and other riparian species.

In order to avoid any physical impact to individual LBV or SWWF, MM Bio 1 ensures that the impact to riparian vegetation will occur outside of the LBV and SWWF nesting season, when those species would be absent from the overall area. Implementation of this mitigation measure will also ensure the Project will not result in impacts to LBV and SWWF from construction activity and noise. However, if construction during the LBV and SWWF nesting season cannot be avoided, MM Bio 1 also outlines the additional measures required to avoid impacts to LBV and SWWF.

**MM Bio 1:** In order to avoid impacts to the least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher, all construction activities including vegetation removal for the Project shall be conducted outside of the least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher nesting season (March 15 to August 31). However, if any construction activities will occur during this time period then the construction contractor shall install noise barriers between construction areas

and riparian habitat prior to March 1st and they shall be kept in place until all construction in the area is complete or the end of the nesting.

A habitat assessment and focused survey for the burrowing owl was conducted in August 2010. No burrowing owls were detected on site during focused surveys. Only two suitable burrows were detected within the Project site, occurring on the banks of the drainage within the Aliso Canyon Crossing Protection of the Project. No diagnostic owl sign (e.g., pellets, excrement, bones, and feathers) was detected at the burrows. Although burrowing owls were not detected during the focused survey effort, the site contains suitable habitat and there is a potential that burrowing owls could occupy the site prior to construction start. Therefore, implementation of mitigation measure MM Bio 2 is required to ensure potential impacts to burrowing owl are reduced to less than significant levels.

**MM Bio 2:** A pre-construction presence/absence survey for burrowing owl within suitable habitat shall be conducted. Surveys will be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance. Take of active nests shall be avoided. Passive relocation (use of one-way doors and collapse of burrows) will occur when owls are present outside the nesting season.

The Project site contains trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation with the potential to support nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code. In order to avoid take of active nests protected under these regulations MM Bio 3 is required.

**MM Bio 3:** In order to avoid violation of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code, vegetation removal shall be avoided, to the greatest extent possible, during the nesting season (generally February 1 to August 31) of potentially occurring native and migratory bird species.

If site-preparation activities are proposed during the nesting/breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a pre-activity field survey shall be conducted within suitable habitat by a qualified biologist prior to construction, to determine if active nests of species protected by the MBTA or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the construction zone. If active nests are not located within the disturbance area and appropriate buffer (500 feet of an active listed species or raptor nest, 300 feet of other sensitive or protected bird nests (non-listed), or within 100 feet of sensitive or protected songbird nests) construction may be conducted during the nesting/breeding season. However, if active nests are located during the pre-activity field survey, and the appropriate buffer is not feasible then the construction contractor shall install noise barriers between construction areas and active nests prior to February 1st and kept in place until all construction in the area is complete or until the nest(s) is no longer active.

Pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Sections 1600-1603 of the California Fish and Game Code, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream or lake, which supports fish or wildlife. Any diversions, obstruction, or changes require a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW. As outlined in Section IV. Biological Resources (p. 23-24) of the CEQA document, the CDFW jurisdiction associated with the Project totals approximately 0.046 acre of which 0.033 acre consists of riparian vegetation. As outlined above temporary impacts to riparian vegetation will be restored following the completion of the Project. Following completion of construction activities, the affected streambed in Aliso Canyon will be restored to

its pre-Project condition and riparian vegetation will be re-planted where impacts occur, ensuring that the riparian areas within the Project site will be biologically equivalent to the pre-Project condition. The restored habitat will maintain the pre-Project habitat function for LBV and other riparian species.

As shown on Figure 3, USGS Topographic Map in the CEQA document, as well as Exhibit 2, Vicinity Map in the Biotechnical Report and Jurisdictional Delineation, the Project site includes the Aliso Canyon Crossing which is a crossing of an unnamed ephemeral wash that originates off site in Chino Hills State Park, follows the bottom of Aliso Canyon in a southeast direction to connect with the Santa Ana River. The unnamed drainage in Aliso Canyon, in this Project area is not "Aliso Creek." Aliso Creek is not located within the Project vicinity; rather it is located in Orange County where it originates in the Cleveland National Forest, runs southwest through Mission Viejo where it connects to the Pacific Ocean at Laguna Beach as shown on the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's San Diego Hydrologic Basin Planning Area Map (available on their website at [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/docs/sdrwqcb\\_basinplan\\_map.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/docs/sdrwqcb_basinplan_map.pdf)). The proposed Project will not affect Aliso Creek or any associated aquatic species. As outlined in the Biotechnical Report, page 21, the Project site does not contain suitable habitat for the Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) or the arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*).

The proposed project does not include above ground structures that would impede fish passage in the case of major flooding event. As outlined in Section VIII Hydrology and Water Quality (page 36) of the CEQA document, it is not anticipated that any single event would cause significant enough erosion to expose the sheet piles. Although erosion of the soil around the sheet piles could occur from regular events, operation and maintenance activities will address adverse effects of incremental erosion before it becomes a significant impact. Operation and Maintenance activities will include regular inspection of the area and maintenance to restore eroded areas as needed. Therefore, regular inspection and maintenance will be conducted to repair incremental erosion and prevent exposure of the sheet piles and therefore any further significant barrier impacts.

If portions of the bank covering the sheet pile significantly erode during severe events, the resulting segments of sheet cliff face could affect connectivity for fish movement from the Santa Ana River up into Aliso Canyon. Erosion in severe events, however, would occur with or without the Project. Erosion in a severe event could create an earthen cliff face that could also affect connectivity for fish movement from the Santa Ana River up into Aliso Canyon. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not create a greater potential for loss of connectivity than exists today in the project area. In addition, as outlined in the Biotechnical Report, the project site, including Aliso Canyon unnamed ephemeral drainage, does not include suitable habitat for the Santa Ana sucker or the arroyo chub.

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

- A-2** The Biotechnical Report includes a complete analysis of the Project's consistency with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), in Section 7.0, MSHCP Compliance, pages 34-39. The CEQA document also includes a thorough discussion of consistency with the MSHCP (as outlined for the District in the Implementing Agreement), in

Section IV., Biological Resources, threshold f., “*Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*” (pages 25-28). The proposed Project is consistent with all of the applicable requirements of the MSHCP.

As the Project site is located within the Criteria Area of the MSHCP (Criteria Cell 1612) the Project was reviewed for consistency with the MSHCP by the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) through the Joint Projects Review process, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The RCA issued a Joint Project Review on March 21, 2013 confirming the Project’s consistency with the MSHCP.

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

- A-3** As outlined in the CEQA document, Section IV.c) Biological Resources, page 24, the Project will temporarily impact waters subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and CDFW, specifically the crossing at Aliso Canyon. Impacts to ACOE jurisdiction will require a Section 404 permit from the ACOE, and a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Impacts to CDFW jurisdiction will require a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement. The District will apply for a Section 404 permit from the ACOE, a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW. A site specific jurisdictional delineation was prepared for the Project and was used to support the impact analysis in the CEQA document related to streambeds. The project specific Jurisdictional Delineation report was included with the CEQA document, in Appendix B, and provided to all entities on the distribution list for review, including CDFW. The August 5, 2013 comment letter from CDFW does not contain any comments on the project specific Jurisdictional Delineation Report that was provided with the CEQA document.

As outlined in the Biotechnical Report, Section 1.5 Existing Conditions (page 3) the Project site consist of an existing dirt road, associated with the existing below the ground surface Brine Line pipeline, and adjacent areas. The majority of the Project site is disturbed to some degree, with the existing dirt road being unvegetated, and the adjacent areas predominately supporting non-native vegetation and native ruderal vegetation. The Project site does contain some native plant species, including sparse riparian vegetation, although most of the native vegetation will not be impacted by the Project. The Project was located and designed to avoid sensitive biological resources to the greatest extent feasible while meeting the project objectives. Avoidance and minimization measures include construction footprint and staging areas to be located primarily within the exiting dirt road, avoidance of the bird nesting season or incorporation of noise barriers, and minimizing the extent of vegetation removed as much as possible. (Biotechnical Report, Section 5.0 Impact Analysis, pages 27-32)

The Biological Technical Report which includes a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) analysis was provided to CDFW (as well as USFWS) for review and comment prior to completion of the CEQA document. The DBESP analysis was revised to address CDFW and USFWS comments prior to incorporation into the CEQA document and circulation of the CEQA document for public review. The appropriate mitigation for impacts to streams and riparian habitat was developed with input from CDFW and USFWS through the DBESP analysis



and review process. As outlined in the Biotechnical Report/DBESP the proposed Project will result in temporary impacts to 0.013 acre of unvegetated streambed (riverine areas) at the Aliso Canyon crossing, and 0.004 acre of scattered/sparse mule fat shrubs. The Project will temporarily affect up to 0.029 acre of riparian vegetation occurring on the edge of the Santa Ana River. However, the Project will not impact the streambed of the Santa Ana River, and will avoid the trimming/removal of riparian vegetation to the maximum extent feasible (page 39). Following completion of Project activities, the affected streambed in Aliso Canyon will be restored to its pre-Project condition and riparian vegetation will be re-planted where impacts occur, ensuring that the riparian/riverine areas within the Project site will be biologically equivalent to the pre-Project condition. The restored habitat will maintain the pre-Project habitat function for least Bell's vireo, and other riparian species (page 40).

As outlined above the unnamed drainage in Aliso Canyon, in this Project area is not "Aliso Creek." Aliso Creek is not located within the Project vicinity; rather it is located in Orange County where it originates in the Cleveland National Forest, runs southwest through Mission Viejo where it connects to the Pacific Ocean at Laguna Beach as shown on the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's San Diego Hydrologic Basin Planning Area Map (available on their website at [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/docs/sdrwqcb\\_basinplan\\_map.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/docs/sdrwqcb_basinplan_map.pdf)). The proposed Project will not affect Aliso Creek or any associated aquatic species. As outlined in the Biotechnical Report, page 21, the Project site does not contain suitable habitat for the Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) or the arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*).

The structures shown in the in the CEQA document, Figure 3A, a photograph of the westerly view of the Aliso Canyon crossing, do show several concrete cylinders/large pipes placed vertically adjacent to the existing access road. It is unknown when these structures were placed and for what purpose. The proposed Project will not affect these structures, they will remain as is.

For clarification the proposed Project does not include installation of a pipeline. Rather, the proposed project includes placement of sheet piles and rip rap to prevent erosion and damage to the existing Brine Line pipeline.

The comment letter identified what information will be required for processing the Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration and recommends incorporation into the CEQA document.

"1) Delineation of lakes, streams, and associated habitat that will be temporarily and/or permanently impacted by the proposed Project (include an estimate of impact to each habitat type);"

As outlined above, a site specific jurisdictional delineation was prepared for the Project and was used to support the impact analysis in the CEQA document related to streambeds. The project specific Jurisdictional Delineation report was included with the CEQA document, in Appendix B, and provided to all entities on the distribution list for review, including CDFW.

"2) Discussion of avoidance and minimization measures to reduce Project impacts; and,"

As outlined above, the project was located and designed to avoid sensitive biological resources to the greatest extent feasible while meeting the project objectives. Avoidance and

minimization measures include construction footprint and staging areas to be located primarily within the exiting dirt road, avoidance of the bird nesting season or incorporation of noise barriers, and minimizing the extent of vegetation removed as much as possible.

“3) Discussion of potential mitigation measures required to reduce the project impacts to a level of insignificance.”

The appropriate mitigation for impacts to streams and riparian habitat was developed with input from CDFW and USFWS through the DBESP analysis and review process. As outlined in the Biotechnical Report/DBESP the proposed Project will result in temporary impacts to 0.013 acre of unvegetated streambed (riverine areas) at the Aliso Canyon crossing, and 0.004 acre of scattered/sparse mule fat shrubs. The Project will temporarily affect up to 0.029 acre of riparian vegetation occurring on the edge of the Santa Ana River. However, the Project will not impact the streambed of the Santa Ana River, and will avoid the trimming/removal of riparian vegetation to the maximum extent feasible (page 39). Following completion of Project activities, the affected streambed in Aliso Canyon will be restored to its pre-Project condition and riparian vegetation will be re-planted where impacts occur, ensuring that the riparian/riverine areas within the Project site will be biologically equivalent to the pre-Project condition. The restored habitat will maintain the pre-Project habitat function for least Bell’s vireo, and other riparian species (Biological Technical Report/DBESP, page 40).

“4) Analysis of Aliso Creek hydrology and potential erosive characteristics.”

As outlined above the unnamed drainage in Aliso Canyon, in this Project area is not “Aliso Creek.” Aliso Creek is not located within the Project vicinity; rather it is located in Orange County and outlets to the Pacific Ocean at Laguna Beach. The proposed Project will not affect Aliso Creek or any associated aquatic species.

The proposed project does not include above ground structures that would impede fish passage in the case of major flooding event. As outlined in Section VIII Hydrology and Water Quality (page 36) of the CEQA document, it is not anticipated that any single event would cause significant enough erosion to expose the sheet piles. Although erosion of the soil around the sheet piles could occur from regular events, operation and maintenance activities will address adverse effects of incremental erosion before it becomes a significant impact. Operation and Maintenance activities will include regular inspection of the area and maintenance to restore eroded areas as needed. Therefore, regular inspection and maintenance will be conducted to repair incremental erosion and prevent exposure of the sheet piles and therefore any further significant barrier impacts.

If portions of the bank covering the sheet pile significantly erode during severe events, the resulting segments of sheet cliff face could affect connectivity for fish movement from the Santa Ana River up into Aliso Canyon. Erosion in severe events, however, would occur with or without the Project. Erosion in a severe event could create an earthen cliff face that could also affect connectivity for fish movement from the Santa Ana River up into Aliso Canyon. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not create a greater potential for loss of connectivity than exists today in the project area. In addition, as outlined in the Biotechnical Report, the project site, including Aliso Canyon unnamed ephemeral drainage, does not include suitable habitat for the Santa Ana sucker or the arroyo chub.

The CEQA document that was circulated for the public and agency review included specific mitigation measures where the analysis concluded that impacts are potentially significant without mitigation. All of the mitigation measures and environmental commitments are culminated in Table 1, Environmental Commitments and Mitigation Measures of the CEQA document. There are 3 mitigation measures specifically dedicated to reducing potential impacts to sensitive biological resources. The CEQA document that was circulated for public and agency review specifically outlines what the Project's potential impacts are to jurisdictional streambeds and sensitive habitats as well as the appropriate mitigation to reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels.

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

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1. The CEQA document does quantify impacts to habitats and species as per the informational requirements of CEQA. A Biological Technical Report was prepared to support the CEQA document analysis and findings. The Biological Technical Report dated January 30, 2013 included the results of a field survey habitat assessment, a jurisdictional delineation, results of focused narrow endemic plant species survey as well as a focused burrowing owl survey. As outlined in Section IV. Biological Resources (p. 21-28) of the CEQA document, the Project footprint contains an existing dirt road (access for Brine Line), and adjacent areas predominately supporting non-native vegetation and native ruderal vegetation. The Project site does contain some native plant species, including sparse riparian vegetation, although most of the native vegetation will not be impacted by the Project. Per page 22 of the CEQA document "The Project will temporarily impact foraging habitat for a number of special-status animals, including the trimming/removal of up to approximately 0.033 acre of riparian vegetation consisting of 0.004 acre of sparse mule fat shrubs in the Aliso Canyon crossing, and up to 0.029 acre of riparian vegetation occurring within the larger alignment (Alternative RC3 Protection)." The areas of impact from project implementation are included on Figure 2, Project Location of the CEQA document, Exhibit 4A and 4B (Vegetation Maps) of the Biotechnical Report, and Exhibits 3A and 3B (Jurisdictional Delineation Maps) of the Jurisdictional Delineation Report.
  2. The Biological Technical Report dated January 30, 2013 included the results of a field survey habitat assessment, a jurisdictional delineation, results of focused narrow endemic plant species survey as well as a focused burrowing owl survey. Section 2.0 (pages 5-11) of the Biological Technical Report identifies the methodology for surveys conducted for flora and fauna including the focused Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey and the focused burrowing owl survey. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was reviewed. Appropriate survey protocols were followed (as required for compliance with the MSHCP as the District is a permittee of the Plan).
  3. The analysis in the CEQA document includes a thorough analysis (including impact acreages and exhibits) of the Projects impacts on CDFW regulated streams and sensitive biological habitats. The CEQA document also outlines the mitigation measures required (including the least Bell's vireo nesting season or installation of noise barriers) in order to avoid take of this listed species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).
  4. As shown on Figure 3, USGS Topographic Map in the CEQA document, as well as Exhibit 2, Vicinity Map in the Biotechnical Report and Jurisdictional Delineation, the project site includes the Aliso Canyon Crossing which is a crossing of an unnamed ephemeral wash that originates off

site in Chino Hills State Park, follows the bottom of Aliso Canyon in a southeast direction to connect with the Santa Ana River. The unnamed drainage in Aliso Canyon, in this Project area is not "Aliso Creek." Aliso Creek is not located within the Project vicinity; rather it is located in Orange County where it originates in the Cleveland National Forest, runs southwest through Mission Viejo where it connects to the Pacific Ocean at Laguna Beach as shown on the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board's San Diego Hydrologic Basin Planning Area Map (available on their website at [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/docs/sdrwqcb\\_basinplan\\_map.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/docs/sdrwqcb_basinplan_map.pdf)). The proposed Project will not affect Aliso Creek or any associated aquatic species. As outlined in the Biotechnical Report, page 21, the Project site does not contain suitable habitat for the Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) or the arroyo chub (*Gila orcutti*).

The CEQA document fully analyzed potential impacts to the unnamed ephemeral wash located in Aliso Canyon and in the Project area. The CEQA analysis did not include an analysis of Aliso Creek as it is not located in the Project area and will not be affected by implementation of this Project.

The proposed project does not include above ground structures that would impede fish passage in the case of major flooding event. As outlined in Section VIII Hydrology and Water Quality (page 36) of the CEQA document, it is not anticipated that any single event would cause significant enough erosion to expose the sheet piles. Although erosion of the soil around the sheet piles could occur from regular events, operation and maintenance activities will address adverse effects of incremental erosion before it becomes a significant impact. Operation and Maintenance activities will include regular inspection of the area and maintenance to restore eroded areas as needed. Therefore, regular inspection and maintenance will be conducted to repair incremental erosion and prevent exposure of the sheet piles and therefore any further significant barrier impacts.

If portions of the bank covering the sheet pile significantly erode during severe events, the resulting segments of sheet cliff face could affect connectivity for fish movement from the Santa Ana River up into Aliso Canyon. Erosion in severe events, however, would occur with or without the Project. Erosion in a severe event could create an earthen cliff face that could also affect connectivity for fish movement from the Santa Ana River up into Aliso Canyon. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not create a greater potential for loss of connectivity than exists today in the project area. In addition, as outlined in the Biotechnical Report, the project site, including Aliso Canyon unnamed ephemeral drainage, does not include suitable habitat for the Santa Ana sucker or the arroyo chub.

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

**Letter B – Orange County Public Works Department (August 7, 2013)**

[letter]