

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



ITEM: 14.5
(ID # 29303)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, December 09, 2025

FROM : FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

SUBJECT: FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT: Adopt Resolution No. F2025-19, Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1, Project No. 2-0-00253, Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, District 2. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Resolution No. F2025-19, which finds the Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1 project ("Project") complies with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan; and
2. Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting 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 with the incorporation of feasible mitigation in compliance with CEQA.

ACTION:Policy

Jason Uhley, GENERAL MGR-CHF FLD CNTRL ENG

11/20/2025

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: December 9, 2025
xc: Flood

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board

By:
Deputy

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

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: N/A	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

The Project consists of construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project within approximately 2,200 linear feet of Bedford Canyon Channel to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. The Project site consists of unimproved channel downstream (east) of the I-15 Cajalco Road offramp and concrete-lined trapezoidal channel downstream of the natural channel segment west of Temescal Canyon Road that would replace the existing concrete-lined trapezoidal channel.

California Environmental Quality Act

Pursuant to CEQA, an Initial Study has been prepared for the Project, which studied the environmental impact related to the Project. As described in the attached Resolution No. F2025-19, with implementation of mitigation, the Project will not have a significant impact on the environment and an MND has been prepared. As such, in accordance with CEQA, a Notice of Determination has been prepared and will be filed to the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District") within five (5) days of the District's Board of Supervisors approving the Project.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The proposed Project will result in improved flood protection within the Project vicinity.

Additional Fiscal Information

N/A

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution No. F2025-19
2. Final Initial Study for the Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1 [Attachment "A"]
3. Mitigated Negative Declaration [Attachment "B"]
4. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program [Attachment "C"]
5. Notice of Determination [Attachment "D"]

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


Douglas Cordonez Jr. 12/2/2025


Aaron Gettis, Chief of Deputy County Counsel 11/24/2025

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT****RESOLUTION NO. F2025-19****ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND A MITIGATION
MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE BEDFORD CANYON
CHANNEL, STAGE 1 PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY ACT**

WHEREAS, the Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1 ("Project") consists of the construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project within approximately 2,200 linear feet of Bedford Canyon Channel to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Project is generally bounded by Cajalco Avenue to the north, Interstate 15 to the west and Temescal Canyon Road to the east; and

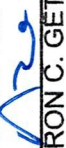
WHEREAS, pursuant to §21067 of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") [Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.] and §15367 of the CEQA Guidelines [14 California Code of Regulations §15000 et seq.], the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District ("District") is the Lead Agency for the Project; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the District prepared an Initial Study ("IS") (SCH No.2025090959) that thoroughly addresses the potential environmental effects of implementing the Project, including the construction, operation and maintenance of the various improvements identified therein; and

WHEREAS, the IS determined that all impacts were either less-than-significant or could be mitigated to less-than-significant, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan ("MMRP") was prepared for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the District has found the Project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") has been prepared; and

DEC 09 2025 14.5

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY:  11.24.25
AARON C. GETTIS DATE

1 **WHEREAS**, the Final IS/MND for the Project has been independently reviewed and
2 reflects the independent judgement of the District's Board of Supervisors and is deemed adequate
3 for the purposes of making decisions on the merits of the Project; and

4 **WHEREAS**, all provisions of CEQA and the District Rules to Implement CEQA have
5 been satisfied; and

6 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Public Resources Code §21092 and CEQA Guidelines §15087,
7 the District also provided a Notice of Availability to all organizations and individuals who had
8 previously requested such notice, and published the Notice of Availability on September 16, 2025
9 in the Press-Enterprise, a newspaper of general circulation in the Project area, and posted on the
District's website and was made available for public review at the District's office; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the District did not receive any comment letters on the Draft IS that needed
11 to be addressed in the Final IS; and

12 **WHEREAS**, no changes to the analyses nor the mitigation measures as proposed in the IS
13 are required, and the District has determined that an MND is the appropriate CEQA document for
the Project; and

14 **WHEREAS**, all requirements of the Public Resources Code, the CEQA Guidelines and
15 the District Rules to Implement CEQA have been satisfied; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the District is an active participant and Permittee in the Western Riverside
17 County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan ("MSHCP"); and

18 **WHEREAS**, the District's Project is in compliance with Sections 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.3.2, 6.1.4,
19 7.0 and Appendix C of the MSHCP as supported by the conclusions of the IS, Biological Technical
Report and MSHCP Consistency Analysis prepared for the District's Project; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the District has engaged in and completed Native American Tribal
21 Consultation in compliance with Assembly Bill 52; and

22 **WHEREAS**, all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, FOUND, DETERMINED AND**
2 **ORDERED** by the Board of Supervisors of the District in regular session assembled on December
3 9, 2025, based upon the evidence and testimony presented on the matter, both written and oral,
4 that:

5 1. The above recitals are incorporated herein by reference.

6 2. There is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the
7 Project, with mitigation, will have a significant adverse effect on the environment,
8 and the IS (Attachment "A") and the MND (Attachment "B") represent the
9 independent judgement of the District.

10 3. The MND (Attachment "B") is adopted based on the findings
11 incorporated in the IS and the determination that the Project will not have a significant
12 effect on the environment.

13 4. The MMRP attached to this Resolution (Attachment "C") is adopted
14 pursuant to Public Resources Code §21081.6.

15 5. All obligations set forth to the District pursuant to applicable
16 sections of the MSHCP have been analyzed and shall be implemented by the District
17 as prescribed in the MSHCP Implementation Agreement.

18 6. The custodians of the documents and materials that constitute the
19 record of proceedings on which this decision is based are with the Clerk of the Board.
20 These documents and materials are located at 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside,
21 California (Clerk of the Board) and 1995 Market Street, Riverside, California
22 (District). This information is provided in compliance with Public Resources Code
§21081.6.

1 7. The Board hereby directs District staff to file a Notice of
2 Determination (Attachment "D") with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
3 within five (5) working days of adoption of this Resolution.
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3 RESOLUTION NO. F2025-19

4 ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND A MITIGATION
5 MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM FOR THE BEDFORD CANYON
6 CHANNEL, STAGE 1 PURSUANT TO THE
7 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

8 ROLL CALL:

9 Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez

10 Nays: None

11 Absent: None

12 Abstain: None

13
14 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of
15 Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

16
17 KIMBERLY A. RECTOR, Clerk of said Board

18
19 By: _____

20 Deputy

21
22 12/09/2025 Item 14.5
23
24
25

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project:
Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1

State Clearinghouse Number:
2025090959

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

Project Contact:

Jason Swenson

Phone:

951.955.8082

Email:jdswenso@rivco.org**Project Description:**

The District proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project within approximately 2,200 linear feet of Bedford Canyon Channel to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. The extent of the project site consists of unimproved channel downstream (east) of the I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp and concrete-lined trapezoidal channel downstream of the natural channel segment, west of Temescal Canyon Road, that would replace the existing concrete-lined trapezoidal channel.

Project Location:

The approximately 16.78-acre project site is located in the southern part of Corona, in western Riverside County. The project site is located south of Cajalco Road, west of Temescal Canyon Road and east of I-15, with part of the project extending beneath the northbound I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp. The proposed improvements would be located within Assessor's Parcel Numbers 279-240-020 and 279-530-030, which are owned by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, with part of the project also occurring within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way associated with the off-ramp. The project site is located within Section 16, Township 4 South and Range 6 West of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey Corona South 7.5-minute quadrangle. The headwaters of Bedford Canyon Wash originate in the Santa Ana Mountains and flow east through the project site, continuing off site into Temescal Canyon Wash approximately 1,000 feet east/downstream of the project.

Lead Agency Finding:

The District has made a finding that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Supporting documents incorporated by reference include the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study (and related technical appendices) and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. This finding will become final upon adoption of this Mitigated Negative Declaration by the Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Signature: _____

JASON SWENSON

Environmental Project Manager

Dated: _____

11/05/2025

Board of Supervisors Action:

The Board of Supervisors of the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, assembled in regular session December 9, 2025, has determined that the Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1 project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signature: _____

KIMBERLY RECTOR
Clerk of the Board

Dated: _____

DEC 09 2025

Copies to: 1) County Clerk
2) State Clearinghouse

SGH:rlp

DEC 09 2025 14.5

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: X **Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation**
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: **Riverside County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District**
1995 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501
Contact: Jason Swenson, 951.955.8082

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

Lead Agency: Same as above.

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2025090959

Project Title: Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1

Project Location: The approximately 16.78-acre project site is located in the southern part of Corona, in western Riverside County. The project site is located south of Cajalco Road, west of Temescal Canyon Road and east of I-15, with part of the project extending beneath the northbound I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp. The proposed improvements would be located within Assessor's Parcel Numbers 279-240-020 and 279- 530-030, which are owned by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, with part of the project also occurring within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way associated with the off-ramp. The project site is located within Section 16, Township 4 South and Range 6 West of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey Corona South 7.5-minute quadrangle. The headwaters of Bedford Canyon Wash originate in the Santa Ana Mountains and flow east through the project site, continuing off site into Temescal Canyon Wash approximately 1,000 feet east/downstream of the project.

Project Description: The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project within approximately 2,200 linear feet of Bedford Canyon Channel to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. The extent of the project site consists of unimproved channel downstream (east) of the I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp and concrete-lined trapezoidal channel downstream of the natural channel segment, west of Temescal Canyon Road, that would replace the existing concrete-lined trapezoidal channel.

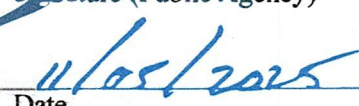
CEQA Determination: This is to advise that the District (Lead Agency) has approved the above-described project on December 9, 2025, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was adopted 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 and Reporting Program was adopted for the project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

Public Access to Environmental Document: The MND is available to the General Public at the Office of the Clerk of the Board, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92501. The MND is also available at the District office located at 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501.


Signature (Public Agency)


Title


Date

Date Received for Filing at LCI

SGH: rlp

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

Riverside, California



FINAL

**CEQA INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE
DECLARATION**

for

BEDFORD CANYON CHANNEL, STAGE 1

December 2025

**JASON E UHLEY
General Manager-Chief Engineer**

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1.0 Introduction

Project Description and Regulatory Framework

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 21000-21189.70.10), this Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared to evaluate potential significant impacts upon the environment related to the proposed Bedford Canyon Channel Project (project) for the construction and maintenance of a trapezoidal flood control channel. In accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, this IS is a preliminary analysis by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) as lead agency, to inform the lead agency decision makers, other affected agencies and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the approval and implementation of the proposed project.

The Final IS/MND Declaration (State Clearinghouse No. 2025090959) was made available for public review and comment pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15073. The public comment period for the Draft IS began on September 16, 2025 and closed October 16, 2025. The IS was made available for public review at the District office located at 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501. It was also provided online at www.rcflood.org and is included with this document. Additionally, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15105 the MND was circulated in the newspaper.

2.0 Mitigated Negative Declaration

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**Project:**

Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1

State Clearinghouse Number:

2025090959

Lead Agency and Project Sponsor:

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

Project Contact:

Jason Swenson

Phone:

951.955.8082

Email:jdswenso@rivco.org**Project Description:**

The District proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project within approximately 2,200 linear feet of Bedford Canyon Channel to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. The extent of the project site consists of an approximately 1,700-linear-foot segment of unimproved channel downstream (east) of the I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp and approximately 850 linear feet of concrete-lined trapezoidal channel downstream of the natural channel segment, west of Temescal Canyon Road, that would replace the existing 500 feet of concrete-lined trapezoidal channel.

Project Location:

The approximately 16.78-acre project site is located in the southern part of Corona, in western Riverside County. The project site is located south of Cajalco Road, west of Temescal Canyon Road and east of I-15, with part of the project extending beneath the northbound I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp (Figure 1, Project Location). The proposed improvements would be located within Assessor's Parcel Numbers 279-240-020 and 279-530-030, which are owned by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, with part of the project also occurring within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way associated with the off-ramp. The project site is located within Section 16, Township 4 South and Range 6 West of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey Corona South 7.5-minute quadrangle. The headwaters of Bedford Canyon Wash originate in the Santa Ana Mountains and flow east through the project site, continuing off site into Temescal Canyon Wash approximately 1,000 feet east/downstream of the project.

Lead Agency Finding:

The District has made a finding that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Supporting documents incorporated by reference include the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) IS (and related technical appendices) and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. This finding will become final upon adoption of this Mitigated Negative Declaration by the Board of Supervisors of the District.

Signature: _____

JASON SWENSON

Environmental Project Manager

Dated: _____

Board of Supervisors Action:

The Board of Supervisors of the District, assembled in regular session December 9, 2025, has determined that the Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1 project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and has adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Signature: _____

KIMBERLY RECTOR

Clerk of the Board

Dated: _____

Copies to: 1) County Clerk
 2) State Clearinghouse

SGH:rlp

3.0 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

3.1 Introduction

This section of the Final IS/MND is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1 project. This MMRP has been prepared pursuant to Section 21081.6 of the California Public Resources Code, which requires public agencies to "adopt a reporting and monitoring program for the changes made to the project or conditions of project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment". An MMRP is required for the proposed project because the IS/MND has identified significant adverse impacts, and measures have been identified to mitigate those impacts.

3.2 Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program

As the Lead Agency for CEQA, the District will be responsible for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures pertaining to compliance with CEQA. The MMRP identifies the department and or organization with the responsibility of ensuring the measure is completed; however, it is expected that one or more departments will coordinate efforts to ensure compliance.

The MMRP is presented in tabular form on the following pages. The components of the MMRP are described briefly below.

- Mitigation Measure
- Timing: Identifies at which stage of the project the mitigation must be completed.
- Monitoring Responsibility: Identifies the Agency with responsibility for mitigation monitoring.

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Bedford Canyon Channel

The District, as lead agency, is responsible for oversight of compliance of the mitigation measures in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP).

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Biological Resources	The proposed project contains suitable habitat for burrowing owl, and implementation of the project has the potential to impact burrowing owl.	BIO-1: Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey. A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted, in compliance with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to avoid direct impacts to the species. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer and follow the 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP Area. This requirement shall be included in project construction plans and specifications. If the species is detected, a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan shall be drafted to ensure protection of the species. The plan shall include appropriate avoidance buffers, passive and/or active relocation, construction monitoring and reporting requirements. The plan shall be reviewed and approved within 30 days of receipt by the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If the species is not detected, then no further action is required.	Pre-construction survey.	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Regional Conservation Authority (RCA)	No more than 30 days prior to grading or ground disturbance.
Biological Resources	The proposed project has the potential to impact nesting Crotch's bumble bees if construction occurs during the nesting season.	BIO-2: Pre-Construction Nest Survey for Crotch's Bumble Bee. Vegetation clearing and grubbing shall be conducted outside of the Crotch's bumble bee nesting season (February 1 st through October 31 st) to avoid loss of a nest. If avoidance of the Crotch's bumble bee nesting period is not feasible, and ground-disturbing construction activities occur during the Crotch's bumble bee nesting period (February 1 st through October 31 st), then a qualified biologist shall conduct a one-time pre-construction survey focused on active nests for Crotch's	Pre-construction survey.	District	CDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Prior to grading or ground disturbance if construction is scheduled to occur between February and October.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		bumble bee prior to commencing project activities to detect bumble bees and potential nesting sites. The survey shall be conducted within a survey area that includes a 50-foot buffer around the project footprint. If an active Crotch's bumble bee nest is found within the survey area, the nest will be flagged, and work shall not commence within 50 feet of the active nest until the nest is no longer active (typically September or October) to avoid take of Crotch's bumble bee. The District shall submit survey reporting to the CDFW at least 7 days prior to commencing any project activities. If avoidance of Crotch's bumble bee nest(s) is not feasible, the District is advised that an Incidental Take Permit for Crotch's bumble bee and amendment to this Agreement would be warranted prior to commencing or resuming the project. Alternatively, in the absence of surveys, the Permittee may assume presence and apply for and acquire an Incidental Take Permit for Crotch's bumble bee prior to initiating project activities.				
Biological Resources	The proposed project has the potential to impact nesting birds if construction occurs during the nesting season.	BIO-3: Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey. Vegetation clearing shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is generally identified as February through August each year. If avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, then a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within 3 days prior to any site disturbance, including disking, demolition activities and grading. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer. If additional areas are proposed for disturbance, a new nesting bird survey that covers those areas shall be conducted. This requirement shall be included in project construction plans and specifications. If nests with eggs or young are detected, the biologist shall establish suitable buffers around the nests, and the buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. If no active nests are detected, then no further action is required.	Pre-construction survey.	District	CDFW, USFWS	Prior to grading or ground disturbance if construction is scheduled to occur between December 15 th and September 15 th .

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Biological Resources	The proposed project has the potential to acquire a net loss of waters and impacts to aquatic resources.	BIO-4: Aquatic Resource Permitting and Mitigation. Prior to construction activity, the District shall coordinate with the RWQCB; Region 8 to assure conformance with the requirements of the Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Prior to activity within CDFW jurisdictional streambed or associated riparian habitat, the applicant shall coordinate with CDFW (Inland Deserts Region 6) relative to conformance to the Lake and Streambed Alteration permit requirements. Prior to activity within Western Riverside MSHCP riparian/riverine resources, the District shall coordinate with the RCA, CDFW and the USFWS to demonstrate consistency with the MSHCP. Development shall mitigate to ensure no net loss of waters at a minimum of 1:1 with re-establishment and 1:1 preservation for impacts to aquatic resources as part of an overall strategy to ensure no net loss of aquatic function and value. Mitigation shall be completed through applicant-sponsored mitigation at the off-site Potrero Basin parcel that would be conserved in perpetuity via establishment conservation easement. Final mitigation ratios shall be determined in consultation with RWQCB, CDFW, USFWS and RCA based on agency evaluation of current resource functions and values and through each agency's respective permitting process. Additionally, a habitat mitigation and monitoring plan (HMMP) shall be prepared in accordance with resource agency guidelines and approved by the agencies in accordance with the proposed program permits. The HMMP shall include a conceptual planting plan including planting zones, grading and irrigation, as applicable; a conceptual planting plant palette; a long-term maintenance and monitoring plan; annual reporting requirements and proposed success criteria.	Pre-construction coordination meeting.	District	CDFW, USFWS, RWQCB, RCA	Prior to construction activity.
Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing	CR-1: Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in	Preparation of a Cultural	District	State Historic Preservation	During earthwork

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
	activities have the potential to impact cultural resources within the project site.	origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. The archaeologist shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. • If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required. • If the professional archaeologist determines that the find represents a cultural resource, the handling of the cultural resource(s) shall follow the applicable recommendations as described in the Cultural Resources Management Plan prepared for the project, as required by TCR-1.	Resources Management Plan		Office (SHPO)	activities within the project site.
Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to impact cultural resources within the project site.	CR-2: Accidental Discovery of Human Remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted by the engineer to determine the most likely descendant for this area. Once the most likely descendant is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains will proceed pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The NAHC may become involved with decisions concerning the disposition of the remains.	Reporting of accidental discovery.	District	SHPO	During earthwork activities within the project site.
Geology	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to impact paleontological resources within the project site.	GEO-1: Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program. Prior to commencement of any grading activity on site, the applicant shall retain a qualified paleontologist listed on the County of Riverside, Paleontology Consultant List and subject to the review and approval of the District. The paleontologist shall prepare a Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) for the project. The PRIMP shall be consistent with the Society of	Preparation of a Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program.	District	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology	Prior to construction activities.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) guidelines and outline requirements for pre-construction meeting attendance and worker environmental awareness training, adequate monitoring within the project site based on construction plans and/or geotechnical reports, procedures for adequate paleontological monitoring, discoveries treatment, paleontological methods (including sediment sampling for micro vertebrate fossils), reporting and collections management. The PRIMP shall include protocols for spot-checking significant ground-disturbing activities below a depth of 5 feet below the ground surface or 5 feet below the depth of artificial fill in areas mapped as Holocene alluvium and full-time paleontological monitoring below the depth of artificial fill in areas underlain by Pleistocene alluvium. In the event that paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are unearthed during grading, the paleontological monitor shall temporarily halt and/or divert grading activity to allow recovery of paleontological resources. The area of discovery shall be roped off with a 50-foot radius buffer. Once documentation and collection of the find is completed, the monitor shall remove the rope and allow grading to recommence in the area of the find.				
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural resources within the project site.	TCR-1: Tribal/Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP). The District shall prepare a CRMP prior to ground disturbing activities in consultation with the Pechanga and Soboba Bands. The CRMP shall be based on the final construction grading plans prepared by the District and will include requirements for preconstruction cultural sensitivity training, notification and monitoring protocol. The CRMP will consider the concerns of the consulting Tribes, and the consulting Tribes will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft CRMP. Details in the plan shall include: a. Project description and location; b. Project grading and development scheduling;	Prepare Tribal/Cultural Resources Management Plan.	District	Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)	Prior to construction activities.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		c. Roles and responsibilities of individuals on the project; d. The pre-grading meeting and Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training details; e. The protocols and stipulations that the contractor, District, Consulting Tribes and project archaeologist will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural or Tribal Cultural resources discoveries, including any newly discovered cultural resource deposits that shall be subject to a cultural resource's evaluation; f. The type of recording needed for inadvertent finds and the stipulations of recording of sacred items; g. Confidentiality provisions; h. The requirements for content and format of the Phase IV report; and i. Contact information of relevant individuals for the project.				
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural resources within the project site.	TCR-2: Tribal/Cultural Resources Monitoring. Prior to ground disturbing activities, The District shall issue Tribal monitoring agreements to the Pechanga and Soboba Bands for tribal monitoring. The District will provide a minimum of 30 days advance notice to the Tribes of all mass grading and ground disturbing activities, if possible. The Native American Tribal representative(s) shall have the authority to temporarily halt and redirect earth moving activities in the affected area in the event that suspected Tribal cultural resources are unearthed.	Conduct archaeological monitoring.	District	NAHC	During earthwork activities.
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural	TCR-3: Archaeologist Retained and Worker Training. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the District shall retain a professional archaeologist to be on-call to provide Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training, respond to inadvertent discoveries, and, if needed, conduct monitoring as needed for mass	Provide Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training.	District	NAHC	Prior to construction activities.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
	resources within the project site.	grading and trenching activities. The project archaeologist shall have the authority to temporarily redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction. The project archaeologist and the Consulting Tribes(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the District, the construction manager and any contractors and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the project following the initial Training must take the Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the project archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as-needed basis.				
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural resources within the project site.	MM TCR-4: Inadvertent Finds. If during ground disturbance activities, tribal cultural resources or unique cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological report(s) and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to project approval, the following procedures shall be followed. Unique cultural resources are defined, for this condition only, as being multiple artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its sacred or cultural importance as determined in consultation with the Native American Tribe(s). Tribal cultural resources are excluded from the definition of unique cultural	Tribal cultural resources or unique cultural resources discovery.	District	NAHC	Prior to construction activities.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		resources as those resources are defined by the tribal values ascribed to them by their affiliated communities. Treatment of tribal cultural resources inadvertently discovered during the project's ground-disturbing activities shall be subject to the consultation process outlined below, as required by state law and AB 52. i. All ground disturbing activities within 100 feet of the discovered Tribal cultural resources shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the project applicant, the project archaeologist, the Tribal Representative(s), and the District to discuss the significance of the find. ii. At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and after consultation with the Tribal Representative(s) and the project archaeologist, a decision shall be made, with the concurrence of the District, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resources. The consultation shall also include procedures for final disposition. iii. Further ground disturbance, including, but not limited to, grading, trenching etc., shall not resume within the area of the discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties as to the appropriate mitigation. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area and will be monitored by additional Tribal Monitors if needed.				
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural resources within the project site.	MM TCR-5: Human Remains. If human remains are discovered, no further disturbance shall occur in the affected area until the County Coroner has made necessary findings as to origin. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are potentially Native American, the California NAHC shall be notified within 24 hours of the published finding to be given a reasonable opportunity to identify the "most likely	Identify the "most likely descendant."	District	NAHC	Prior to construction activities.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		descendant". The "most likely descendant" shall then make recommendations and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains (California Public Resources Code 5097.98). (GP Objective 23.3, CEQA).				

4.0 Notice of Determination

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: X **Office of Land Use and Climate
Innovation**
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: **Riverside County Flood Control
and Water Conservation District**
1995 Market Street
Riverside, CA 92501
Contact: Jason Swenson, 951.955.8082

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

Lead Agency: Same as above.

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2025090959

Project Title: Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1

Project Location: The approximately 16.78-acre project site is located in the southern part of Corona, in western Riverside County. The project site is located south of Cajalco Road, west of Temescal Canyon Road and east of I-15, with part of the project extending beneath the northbound I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp (Figure 1, Project Location). The proposed improvements would be located within Assessor's Parcel Numbers 279-240-020 and 279-530-030, which are owned by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, with part of the project also occurring within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way associated with the off-ramp. The project site is located within Section 16, Township 4 South and Range 6 West of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey Corona South 7.5-minute quadrangle. The headwaters of Bedford Canyon Wash originate in the Santa Ana Mountains and flow east through the project site, continuing off site into Temescal Canyon Wash approximately 1,000 feet east/downstream of the project.

Project Description: The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project within approximately 2,200 linear feet of Bedford Canyon Channel to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. The extent of the project site consists of an approximately 1,700-linear-foot segment of unimproved channel downstream (east) of the I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp and approximately 850 linear feet of concrete-lined trapezoidal channel downstream of the natural channel segment, west of Temescal Canyon Road, that would replace the existing 500 feet of concrete-lined trapezoidal channel.

CEQA Determination: This is to advise that the District (Lead Agency) has approved the above-described project on December 9, 2025, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was adopted 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 and Reporting Program was adopted for the project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

Public Access to Environmental Document: The MND is available to the General Public at the Office of the Clerk of the Board, County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside, CA 92501. The MND is also available at the District office located at 1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501.

Signature (Public Agency)

Title

Date

Date Received for Filing at LCI

SGH: rlp

5.0 Response to Comments

The Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Bedford Canyon Channel, Stage 1 project was posted for public comment as required under Section of the California Public Resources Code. The public comment period for the draft initial study began on September 16, 2025 and closed October 16, 2025.

During the public review period, no comment letters were received.

6.0 Initial Study

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Regulatory Framework

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.), this Initial Study has been prepared to evaluate potential significant impacts upon the environment related to the proposed Bedford Canyon Channel Project (project) for the construction and maintenance of a trapezoidal flood control channel. In accordance with Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Initial Study is a preliminary analysis by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) as lead agency, to inform the lead agency decision makers, other affected agencies, and the public of potential environmental impacts associated with the approval and implementation of the proposed project.

1.2 Organization of the Initial Study

The Initial Study is organized as follows:

Introduction: Provides the regulatory context and a brief summary of the CEQA process.

Project Information: Provides fundamental project information, such as the project description, project location and figures.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures: Provides the District's standard operating procedures.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan: Provides project-specific features and mitigation measures that will be implemented to reduce any potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels. This table serves as the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the project.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected: Identifies environmental factors potentially affected by the project and identifies the lead agency's determination based on the initial evaluation.

Environmental Checklist and Discussion: Provides an environmental checklist and accompanying analysis for responding to checklist questions.

References: Includes a list of references and various resources utilized in preparing the analysis.

2 PROJECT INFORMATION

2.1 Project Title

Bedford Canyon Channel Project

2.2 Lead Agency and Project Proponent

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

2.3 Lead Agency Contact

Jason Swenson
Environmental Project Manager
Environmental Regulatory Services III
<mailto:jdswenso@rivco.org>
951.955.8082

2.4 Project Background

The District is a public agency with a mandate to control stormwaters for the protection of watercourses, watersheds, public highways, life and property, and to conserve stormwater for beneficial and useful purposes within its jurisdiction. Bedford Canyon Wash is a hydrologic feature within District jurisdiction that carries stormwater flows from the Santa Ana Mountains northeastward to Temescal Canyon Wash in the southern portion of Corona. Bedford Canyon Wash is approximately six miles long and is separated into three segments for flood-control planning purposes, referred to as Reaches 1, 2 and 3. Reach 1, a District facility, is an improved channel adjacent to the Arantine Hills development west of Interstate (I) 15. Reach 2 consists of both an improved segment of concrete-lined channel and an unimproved segment of natural wash flowing from I-15 to Temescal Canyon Road. Reach 3 is an existing concrete-lined trapezoidal channel owned by the City of Corona (City) and is located between the upstream face of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge and the end of the concrete channel. Reach 1 is mostly a trapezoidal channel with a soft-bottomed invert and riprap-lined side slopes. Reach 2 has been subject to erosion and carries a significant amount of upstream sediment that accumulates in Reach 3. As a result, the existing City-owned channel requires regular maintenance and removal of sediment. The subject of this CEQA Initial Study is a proposed District project to construct, operate and maintain a channel improvement project within Reach 2, which would stabilize the channel, safely convey the peak 100-year storm flow, and reduce sedimentation to downstream areas.

The City and the District have entered into a Cooperative Agreement whereby the District would accept ownership of the existing Reach 3 trapezoidal channel and responsibility for maintaining the conveyance under the Temescal Canyon Road bridge as well as structural maintenance of the downstream concrete-lined channel following the completion of all upstream facilities (Bedford Canyon Channel, Reaches 1 and 2). The City will be responsible for maintenance of the structural integrity of the bridge and the channel structure under the bridge.

2.5 Project Location

The approximately 16.78-acre project site is located in the southern part of Corona, in western Riverside County. The project site is located south of Cajalco Road, west of Temescal Canyon Road, and east of I-15, with part of the project extending beneath the northbound I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp (Figure 1, Project

Location). The proposed improvements would be located within Assessor's Parcel Numbers 279-240-020 and 279-530-030, which are owned by Riverside County Transportation Commission, with part of the project also occurring within California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right of way associated with the off-ramp. The project site is located within Section 16, Township 4 South and Range 6 West of the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian, U.S. Geological Survey Corona South 7.5-minute quadrangle. The headwaters of Bedford Canyon Wash originate in the Santa Ana Mountains and flow east through the project site, continuing off site into Temescal Canyon Wash approximately 1,000 feet east/downstream of the project.

2.6 Project Description

The District proposes the construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project within approximately 2,200 linear feet of Bedford Canyon Channel to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. The extent of the project site consists of an approximately 1,700-linear-foot segment of unimproved channel downstream (east) of the I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp and approximately 850 linear feet of concrete-lined trapezoidal channel downstream of the natural channel segment, west of Temescal Canyon Road, that would replace the existing 500 feet of concrete-lined trapezoidal channel (Figure 2, Site Plan).

The project would involve the following primary components:

- Demolition of existing 500 linear feet of concrete lining from the upstream extent down to the Temescal Canyon Road bridge.
- Excavation of earth material within the channel to establish engineered grade and slopes.
- Replacement of the 500 linear feet of concrete lining in the channel's downstream segment.
- Installation of new concrete lining up to approximately 350 feet upstream of the replaced 500 linear feet of concrete lining.
- Construction of a combination of riprap and soft/natural earthen-bottom trapezoidal channel in the segment upstream of the new concrete-lined channel for a span of approximately 1,350 linear feet.
- Construction of approximately 3,900 linear feet of gravel access road on both the north and south sides of the channel, with gravel turnaround areas connecting to proposed maintenance access ramps that descend into the channel bottom.

The proposed channel improvements first require excavation of existing earth material to establish the engineered grade necessary for the facility's hydraulic function. Prior to earthwork, this would entail removing vegetation throughout the work area, demolishing the existing concrete-lined trapezoidal channel and removing a leveed section of the existing channel.

Once the proposed grade is established, the project would entail pouring sections of concrete on the channel bed and slopes to replace the trapezoidal lined segment (approximately 500 linear feet) and extending the lining upstream by approximately 350 linear feet. The extended channel lining is intended to reduce the depth of sedimentation beneath the Temescal Canyon Road bridge under current conditions, reduce the frequency of sediment removals, and improve the District's ability to remove deposited sediment.

Upstream (southwest) of the concrete lining, the project would entail placement of riprap along the full extent of the channel slopes to the top of the channel banks to stabilize the slopes from further erosion. Two riprap grade control/drop structures would be installed to flatten the channel slope and stabilize the earthen channel invert, thereby managing the hydraulic flow in the channel bed. Riprap on the slopes would include both grouted rock and un-grouted rock. Two areas of earthen-bottom channel would be established between riprap drop structures, in which earth backfill would be left open, with no riprap placement. Either topsoil salvage and replacement or a native species hydroseed mix would be implemented to revegetate the earthen channel bottom.

following construction of the channel. Although these areas would remain in a "natural" state and be temporarily impacted to promote vegetation growth, it is considered a permanent impact to the wash, so it would be passively restored to creek bed/river wash. Existing riprap in place beneath the I-15 off-ramp would be protected in place. The extent of work occurring in the Caltrans right of way would be limited to the placement of new riprap as well as the protection in place of existing riprap beneath the I-15 off-ramp.

Gravel access roads would be established on both the north and south sides of the channel, with vehicle turnarounds and connections to the maintenance ramps into the channel and access off Temescal Canyon Road provided. The roads would generally be 15 feet wide and parallel to the channel banks. Existing disturbed areas on both the south and north sides of the channel's downstream ends would be graded and maintained by the District as laydown and stockpile yards for material removed during channel maintenance.

Upland areas north and south of the channel would be cleared and made available for contractor use, including earth stockpiles, materials laydown and equipment storage during construction. The temporary work area beyond the project's permanent facilities would be hydroseeded with a Riversidean sage scrub seed mix for erosion-control stabilization following completion of construction.

The proposed project would also include operation and maintenance of the proposed channel. The District would maintain the full extent of the District improvements, including slopes, invert, all interior flood control features and structures, chain-link perimeter fencing and gates; District maintenance would exclude the improvements within the Caltrans right of way. The District would also accept hydraulic conveyance maintenance responsibilities beneath the Temescal Canyon Road crossing after this project has been constructed. Maintenance and operation activities would include inspections, erosion repair and sediment removal within the channel using earth-moving equipment. Sediment removal is anticipated to occur every 3 to 5 years.

Upland areas temporarily impacted during construction would be subject to native habitat restoration or erosion-control stabilization, depending on the type of community subject to impact, and all temporary impacts will be returned to pre-project conditions. The project would not require fuel modification or weed abatement zones, and all staging of equipment and construction materials would be within the project impact areas.

2.6.1 Concrete Lining Demolition and Channel Excavation

The proposed channel improvements first require excavation of existing earth material to establish the engineered grade necessary for the facility's hydraulic function. Prior to earthwork, this would entail vegetation removal throughout the work area and demolishing the existing concrete lining that is present in the downstream segment, a span of approximately 500 feet adjacent to the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. Earthwork would entail removal of approximately 2,600 cubic yards (CY) of concrete and hauling it away for legal off-site reuse or disposal. Earthwork within the channel bed and slopes is estimated to include excavation of approximately 61,200 CY of earth material.

Earth material and demolished concrete would be stockpiled in upland work areas adjacent to the channel, with some earth reserved for on-site backfill and some hauled away for off-site reuse or disposal. Grading the project will include a cut slope on the south bank of the upstream end of the project. Where material is needed, fill will be placed to complete the cross sections of the channel. Approximately 6,025 CY are planned to be used as on-site backfill and riprap toe protection on the project. A total of 55,175 CY are estimated for off-site export. Assuming off-hauling would be accomplished in 10-cubic-yard loads, this would entail a total of approximately 5,200 haul trips.

2.6.2 Replace and Extend Concrete Channel Lining

Once the proposed grade is established, the project would entail pouring sections of concrete on the channel bed and slopes to replace the trapezoidal lined segment, approximately 500 linear feet, and extend the lining upstream by approximately 350 linear feet. Extended channel lining is intended to reduce the depth of sedimentation beneath the Temescal Canyon Road bridge under current conditions, reduce the frequency of sediment removals, and improve the District's ability to remove deposited sediment. The area of concrete replacement is approximately 0.8 acre, and the area of new concrete lining is approximately 1.6 acres. An estimated additional 2,300 CY of concrete will be imported for construction of the new concrete channel lining.

2.6.3 Riprap Drop Structures and Slope Protection

Upstream (southwest) of the concrete lining, the project would entail placement of riprap along the full extent of the channel slopes to stabilize the slopes from further erosion and create drop structures to manage the hydraulic flow in 3 areas of the channel bed. Riprap on the slopes would include both grouted rock and ungrouted rock. Grouted rock would serve as maintenance ramps from the proposed access road down to the bottom of the channel. Two areas of earthen-bottom channel would be established between riprap drop structures, in which earth backfill would be left open, with no riprap placement. Either topsoil salvage and replacement or a native species hydroseed mix would be implemented to revegetate the earthen channel bottom following construction of the channel. Existing riprap in place beneath the I-15 freeway off-ramp would be protected in place. Additional riprap for construction of the facility would be imported from off site. The volume of riprap is estimated at 21,500 CY, resulting in approximately 2,150 truck trips at 10 CY per load. Approximately 2,200 CY of backing material and 13,500 square feet of filter fabric will be imported for the construction of the riprap and soft/natural bottom trapezoidal channel. Approximately 750 CY of grouted rock will be imported for construction of the access ramps.

2.6.4 Access Roads and Maintenance Areas

Gravel access roads would be established on both the north and the south sides of the channel, with vehicle turnarounds and connections to the maintenance ramps into the channel and access off Temescal Canyon Road. The roads would generally be 15 feet wide and parallel to the channel banks. Existing disturbed areas on both the south and north sides of the channel's downstream ends would be graded and maintained by the District as laydown and stockpile yards for material removed during channel maintenance.

2.6.5 Temporary Construction Work Areas

Upland areas north and south of the channel would be cleared and made available for contractor use, including earth stockpiles, materials laydown and equipment storage during construction. The temporary work area beyond the project's permanent facilities would be hydroseeded with a Riversidean sage scrub seed mix for erosion-control stabilization following completion of construction.

2.6.6 Channel Maintenance Program

The proposed project also includes the operations and maintenance of the proposed channel. The District will maintain the full extent of the District improvements, including slopes, invert, all interior flood control features and structures, chain-link perimeter fencing and gates, excluding the improvements within Caltrans right of way. The District will also accept hydraulic conveyance maintenance responsibilities beneath the Temescal Canyon Road crossing after this project has been constructed. Maintenance and operation activities would include inspections, erosion repair, and sediment removal within the channel using earth-moving equipment. Sediment removal is anticipated to occur every 3 to 5 years.

2.7 Existing Conditions/California Environmental Quality Act Baseline

The proposed project will take place within the existing improved reach of Bedford Canyon Wash in Corona. The extent of the project includes an approximately 1,350-linear-foot segment of unimproved soft bottom and rock-lined channel downstream (east) of the I-15 Cajalco Road off-ramp and approximately 850 linear feet of concrete-lined trapezoidal channel downstream of the natural channel segment, west of Temescal Canyon Road. The existing wash bisects an undeveloped parcel located south of Cajalco Road, west of Temescal Canyon Road, and east of the I-15 Cajalco Road northbound off-ramp.

2.8 Lead Agency Discretionary Actions

Discretionary actions that may be taken by the District include accepting the right of way necessary to construct the proposed project from Riverside County Transportation Commission, which owns the land.

2.9 Responsible Agency Actions

The following approvals may be necessary for this project:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit
- Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board – Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit (Water Quality Certification)
- City of Corona
- Caltrans District 8

2.10 General Plan Designation

The project site is located in Corona and has a General Plan land use designation of Agriculture.

2.11 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The project site is located in the southern part of Corona within an area with commercial, industrial and residential land uses. The project site and surrounding land uses are described in **Table 1** below.

Table 1. Project Site and Surrounding Land Uses

Location	General Plan Land Use Designation	Existing Land Use
Project Site	AG – Agriculture	Undeveloped
North	GC – General Commercial	Commercial
East	GI – General Industrial, LI – Light Industrial, MU 1 – Mixed Use: Commercial/Residential	Industrial, Commercial
South	AG – Agriculture	Undeveloped, Residential
West	OS, OS/G – Open Space General, HDR – High Density Residential 15–36 dwelling units per acre, GC – General Commercial	Interstate 15, Commercial, Bedford Canyon Channel

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Site Plan

3 AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The following is a compilation of applicable standard operating procedures implemented by the District (Table 2).

Table 2. Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Issue	Potential Impact	Standard Operating Procedure	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Biological Resources	Regulatory and legal non-compliance	BIO SOP-1: Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Mitigation Fee. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) shall make payment of the required 3% total capital cost fee per the MSHCP and Implementing Agreement. Such payment may be offset through acquisition of replacement habitat or creation of new habitat for the benefit of Covered Species, as appropriate.	Make payment of 3% capital cost fee to Regional Conservation Authority (RCA).	District	RCA	Prior to construction activities.
Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential for the discovery of human remains	CR SOP-1: Accidental Discovery of Human Remains. If human remains or remains that are potentially human are found, the District shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist to ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance. The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Handling of the discovery shall follow the provisions set forth by Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code.	Contact County Coroner if human remains are discovered.	District	Riverside County Coroner	During earthwork activities within the project site.
Hydrology and Water Quality	Implementation of water quality best management practices (BMPs)	HYD SOP-1: Implementation of Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMP). All BMP materials are to be on site prior to maintenance activity and ready for use. BMPs shall be in compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation, operation and maintenance of such management practices.	BMP materials to remain on site.	District	Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB)	During earthwork activities within the project site.

Issue	Potential Impact	Standard Operating Procedure	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Hydrology and Water Quality	Equipment staging and maintenance	HYD SOP-2: Equipment Staging and Maintenance. All fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall be outside of Waters of the State and shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to Waters of the State.	Vehicle and equipment maintenance, storage and staging outside of Waters of the State.	District	SARWQCB	During earthwork activities within the project site.
Transportation	Emergency access	TRA SOP-1: A traffic control plan would be implemented during the construction phase to maintain traffic flow and provide emergency response access to the project site.	Prepare a traffic control plan.	District	California Department of Transportation	During construction activities.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project and have been assigned mitigation measures.

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

5.1 Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Signature

Date

Jason Swenson, Environmental Project Manager

5.2 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 into 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: No Impact or Less Than Significant" applies when the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment, does not require the incorporation of mitigation measures, and does not require the preparation of an EIR. The lead agency must briefly describe the reasons that a proposed project will not have significant effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an EIR.
5. "Mitigated Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced any effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact". The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses", as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
6. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(D)). The use of an earlier analysis as a reference should include a brief discussion that identifies the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated", describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
7. 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.
8. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

I. AESTHETICS Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The project site is located on land that is undeveloped apart from the existing channel. The site is surrounded by commercial and industrial land uses in the southern part of Corona. In the project area, scenic vistas include the Santa Ana Mountains to the west and the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. The proposed project would include improvements and construction of a trapezoidal channel from east of the I-15 Cajalco Road northbound off-ramp to west of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. All improvements would be located below or at ground surface level. Potential impacts to scenic vista would be limited to construction equipment and construction activity that would occur intermittently and be temporary. Therefore, scenic vistas available to the public in the project area would not be affected by the proposed project. No impact would occur.				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
There are no officially designated state scenic highways in the vicinity of the proposed project; however, the segment of I-15 located just west of the project site is an eligible state scenic highway (Caltrans 2024). The proposed project is the construction, operation and maintenance of a trapezoidal storm drain channel along the existing alignment of Bedford Canyon Wash. While project construction may be visible to motorists along I-15, visual impacts would be limited to construction equipment and construction activity that would occur intermittently and be temporary. The proposed project would not impact any scenic resources within a state scenic highway. No impact would occur.				
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Section 21071 of the California Public Resources Code defines an "urbanized area" as follows: (a) An incorporated City that meets either of the following criteria: (1) Has a population of at least 100,000 persons. (2) Has a population of less than 100,000 persons if the population of that city and not more than two contiguous incorporated Cities combined equals at least 100,000 persons. The project is located in Corona, which has a population of 157,136 as of April 1, 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau 2020). Therefore, the project site is considered to be located in an urbanized area. The project site is primarily zoned agricultural with a small portion zoned general industrial (City of Corona 2022). The City of Corona Municipal Code Sections 17.06 and 17.44 include design standards for the agricultural zone and general industrial zone, respectively. The proposed project would include improvements and construction of a soft bottom and rock-lined trapezoidal channel along Bedford Canyon Wash from east of the I-15 Cajalco Road northbound off-ramp to				

just west of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge. The project site is currently undeveloped apart from the existing channel and consists of native and non-native ruderal vegetation. The surrounding project area is primarily developed with commercial and industrial land uses. The proposed project would be compatible with the existing character of the project area and would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Additionally, the project would not include any structures or visual elements that would be inconsistent with the design guidelines in the Municipal Code. Visual impacts would be limited to construction equipment and construction activity that would occur intermittently and be temporary. Impacts associated with the visual quality of the site would be less than significant.

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



No new permanent lighting would be included in the proposed project. Lighting would be required for construction activities, which would mainly occur during normal business hours for the District, but this would be temporary and intermittent and would not be a substantial source of light or glare that would adversely affect views. Therefore, impacts to daytime or nighttime views would be less than significant.

II. AGRICULTURAL & FOREST RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

Potential
Significant
Impact

Potentially
Significant
Unless
Mitigation
Incorporated

Less than
Significant
Impact

No
Impact

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?



The project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (California Department of Conservation 2022). The project site is designated as Farmland of Local Importance and Urban and Built-up Land, which are designations not considered important farmland under CEQA. No impact would occur.

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



There are currently no Williamson Act contracts in Corona (City of Corona 2019). The project site is primarily zoned agricultural with a small portion zoned general industrial (City of Corona 2022). The project site is not currently under agricultural use. Even though a portion of the project site is zoned agricultural, the channelization of Bedford Canyon Wash would not preclude the rest of the site from being used for agricultural purposes. Furthermore, the proposed project does not propose a zone change. As such, no impact would occur.

c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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The project site is not located on land designated for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned timberland production. No impact would occur.

d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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There is no forest land in the project area; as such, no forest lands would be converted to non-forest use as a result of the proposed project. No impact would occur.

e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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The proposed project would include improvements to the existing wash and construction of a trapezoidal channel. While the project site is zoned agricultural, the proposed project would not change the project site's zoning or preclude the project site from being used for agricultural use. No impact would occur.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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The project site is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which includes all of Orange County and the western, non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The site is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD).

SCAQMD administers the SCAB's air quality management plan (AQMP), which is a comprehensive document outlining an air pollution control program for attaining the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The most recently adopted AQMP for the SCAB is the 2022 AQMP (SCAQMD 2022). The 2022 AQMP provides the regional path towards improving air quality and meeting federal standards for air pollutants. The 2022 AQMP builds upon measures already in place from previous AQMPs. It also includes a variety of additional strategies such as regulation, accelerated deployment of available cleaner technologies

(e.g., zero-emission technologies, when cost-effective and feasible, and low oxides of nitrogen [NO_x] technologies in other applications), best management practices (BMPs), co-benefits from existing programs (e.g., climate and energy efficiency), incentives, and other Clean Air Act measures to achieve the 2015 federal ozone (O₃) standard by 2037 (SCAQMD 2022).

The purpose of a consistency finding with regard to the AQMP is to determine if a project is consistent with the assumptions and objectives of the 2022 AQMP, and if it would interfere with the region's ability to comply with federal and state air quality standards. SCAQMD has established criteria for determining consistency with the currently applicable AQMP in Chapter 12, Sections 12.2 and 12.3 of the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook. These criteria are as follows (SCAQMD 1993):

- Consistency Criterion No. 1: Whether the project would result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations, cause or contribute to new violations, or delay timely attainment of the ambient air quality standards or interim emission reductions in the AQMP.
- Consistency Criterion No. 2: Whether the project would exceed the assumptions in the AQMP or increments based on the year of project buildout and phase.

To address the first criterion, project-generated criteria air pollutant emissions have been estimated and analyzed for significance and are addressed under threshold (b). Detailed results of this analysis are included in Appendix A, CalEEMod Outputs. As presented in that analysis and summarized in threshold (b), the proposed project would not generate construction criteria air pollutant emissions that exceed the SCAQMD construction thresholds. In addition, the project would result in a minimal increase in routine maintenance of the area during long-term operations. Therefore, the project would not conflict with Criterion No. 1.

The second criterion regarding the potential of the proposed project to exceed the assumptions in the AQMP or increments based on the year of project buildout and phase is primarily assessed by determining consistency between the proposed project's land use designations and its potential to generate population growth. In general, projects are considered consistent with, and not in conflict with or obstructing implementation of, the AQMP if the growth in socioeconomic factors is consistent with the underlying regional plans used to develop the AQMP (SCAQMD 1993). SCAQMD primarily uses demographic growth forecasts for various socioeconomic categories (e.g., population, housing and employment by industry) developed by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for its Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). Although SCAG's 2024–2050 RTP/SCS has been most recently adopted (SCAG 2024), SCAQMD used assumptions from SCAG's 2020–2045 RTP/SCS (Connect SoCal; SCAG 2020) in its 2022 AQMP (SCAQMD 2022). The SCAG 2020–2045 RTP/SCS and associated Regional Growth Forecast are generally consistent with the local plans; therefore, the 2022 AQMP is generally consistent with local government plans.

The project would consist of construction of flood control improvements and would not change the underlying land use and zoning designations of the site or result in an increase in population growth in the area. Accordingly, the project does not conflict with the SCAG RTP/SCS forecasts used in the SCAQMD AQMP development and does not propose activities that would induce additional population in the project area. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the second criterion. Overall, impacts with regard to the project's potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SCAQMD 2022 AQMP would be less than significant.

b) Result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is



non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. The nonattainment status of regional pollutants is a result of past and present development, and SCAQMD develops and implements plans for future attainment of ambient air quality standards. Based on these considerations, project-level thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants are used to determine whether a project's individual emissions would have a cumulatively considerable contribution to air quality. If a project's emissions would exceed the SCAQMD significance thresholds, it would be considered to have a cumulatively considerable contribution. Conversely, projects that do not exceed the project-specific thresholds are generally not considered to be cumulatively significant (SCAQMD 2003).

A quantitative analysis was conducted to determine whether the proposed project might result in emissions of criteria air pollutants that may cause exceedances of the NAAQS or CAAQS or cumulatively contribute to existing nonattainment of ambient air quality standards. Criteria air pollutants include O₃, nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide, particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM₁₀), particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}) and lead. Pollutants that are evaluated herein include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and NO_x, which are important because they are precursors to O₃, as well as CO, sulfur oxides, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}.

Regarding NAAQS and CAAQS attainment status, the SCAB is designated as a nonattainment area for national and California O₃ standards and PM_{2.5} standards. The SCAB is designated as a nonattainment area for California PM₁₀ standards; however, it is designated as an attainment area for national PM₁₀ standards. The SCAB is designated as an attainment area for national and California CO standards, national and California NO₂ standards, and national and California sulfur dioxide standards (EPA 2022; CARB 2022a).

The proposed project would result in emissions of criteria air pollutants for which the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have adopted ambient air quality standards (i.e., the NAAQS and CAAQS). Projects that emit these pollutants have the potential to cause, or contribute to, violations of these standards. SCAQMD has established Air Quality Significance Thresholds, as revised in March 2023, that set forth quantitative emission significance thresholds below which a project would not have a significant impact on ambient air quality (SCAQMD 2023). The quantitative air quality analysis provided herein applies the SCAQMD thresholds identified in **Table 4** to determine the potential for the project to result in a significant impact under CEQA.

Table 3. SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds

Criteria Pollutants Mass Daily Thresholds		
Pollutant	Construction (pounds per day)	Operation (pounds per day)
VOCs	75	55
NO _x	100	55
CO	550	550
SO _x	150	150
PM ₁₀	150	150
PM _{2.5}	55	55
Lead ^a	3	3
Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs) and Odor Thresholds		
TACs ^b	Maximum incremental cancer risk ≥10 in 1 million	
	Cancer burden >0.5 excess cancer cases (in areas ≥1 in 1 million)	
	Chronic and acute hazard index ≥1.0 (project increment)	
Odor	Project creates an odor nuisance pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 402	
Ambient Air Quality Standards for Criteria Pollutants ^c		
NO ₂ 1-hour average	SCAQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards:	

NO ₂ annual arithmetic mean	0.18 ppm (state) 0.030 ppm (state) and 0.0534 ppm (federal)
CO 1-hour average	SCAQMD is in attainment; project is significant if it causes or contributes to an exceedance of the following attainment standards:
CO 8-hour average	20 ppm (state) and 35 ppm (federal)
	9.0 ppm (state/federal)
PM ₁₀ 24-hour average	10.4 µg/m ³ (construction) ^d
	2.5 µg/m ³ (operation)
PM ₁₀ annual average	1.0 µg/m ³
PM _{2.5} 24-hour average	10.4 µg/m ³ (construction) ^d
	2.5 µg/m ³ (operation)

Source: SCAQMD 2023.

Notes: SCAQMD = South Coast Air Quality Management District; VOC = volatile organic compound; NO_x = oxides of nitrogen; CO = carbon monoxide; SO_x = sulfur oxides; PM₁₀ = coarse particulate matter; PM_{2.5} = fine particulate matter; TAC = toxic air contaminant; NO₂ = nitrogen dioxide; ppm = parts per million by volume; µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter.

Greenhouse gas emissions thresholds for industrial projects, as added in the March 2015 revision to the SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds, were not included in this table as they are addressed within the greenhouse gas emissions analysis and not the air quality analysis.

^a The phaseout of leaded gasoline started in 1976. Since gasoline no longer contains lead, the project is not anticipated to result in impacts related to lead; therefore, it is not discussed in this analysis.

^b TACs include carcinogens and noncarcinogens.

^c Ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants are based on SCAQMD Rule 1303, Table A-2, unless otherwise stated.

^d Ambient air quality thresholds are based on SCAQMD Rule 403.

A project would result in a cumulatively considerable net increase for O₃, which is a nonattainment pollutant, if the proposed project's construction or operational emissions would exceed the SCAQMD VOC or NO_x thresholds shown in **Table 4**. These emission-based thresholds for O₃ precursors are intended to serve as a surrogate for an O₃ significance threshold (i.e., the potential for adverse O₃ impacts to occur) because O₃ itself is not emitted directly, and the effects of an individual project's emissions of O₃ precursors (i.e., VOCs and NO_x) on O₃ levels in ambient air cannot be determined reliably or meaningfully through air quality models or other quantitative methods.

The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Version 2022.1 was used to estimate emissions from construction and operation of the project. CalEEMod is a statewide computer model developed in cooperation with air districts throughout the state to quantify criteria air pollutant emissions associated with construction and operational activities from a variety of land use projects.

Construction Emissions

Construction of the proposed project would include site preparation, grading, project construction, paving and site cleanup. These construction activities would result in the temporary addition of pollutants to the local airshed caused by on-site sources (e.g., off-road construction equipment, soil disturbance, and VOC off-gassing from architectural coatings and asphalt pavement application) and off-site sources (e.g., vendor trucks, haul trucks and worker vehicle trips). Specifically, entrained dust results from the exposure of earth surfaces to wind from the direct disturbance and movement of soil, resulting in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions. Internal combustion engines used by construction equipment, haul trucks, vendor trucks (i.e., delivery trucks), and worker vehicles would result in emissions of VOCs, NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}. Construction emissions can vary substantially from day to day depending on the level of activity; the specific type of operation; and, for dust, the prevailing weather conditions.

Proposed project construction emissions were estimated using a combination of CalEEMod default assumptions and information provided by the Project Engineer. Approximately 2,600 CY of concrete would be hauled off site during channel site preparation, 55,175 CY of soil would be exported during grading, and 26,750 CY of materials (2,300 CY of concrete, 21,500 CY of riprap, 2,200 CY of backing material, and 750 CY of grouted rock) would be imported during

project construction. Air quality emissions modeling assumed that construction of the project would commence in October 2025 and would last approximately 13 months. Default values for horsepower and load factor provided in CalEEMod were used for all construction equipment, and the equipment mix was provided by the District. For the analysis, it was generally assumed that heavy-duty construction equipment would be operating at the project site 5 days per week, 8 hours per day.

Emissions generated during construction and operation of the project are subject to the rules and regulations of the SCAQMD. Rule 403, Fugitive Dust,¹ requires the implementation of measures to control the emission of visible fugitive/nuisance dust, such as wetting soils that would be disturbed. It was assumed that the active sites would be watered at least 2 times daily, resulting in an approximately 61% reduction of fugitive dust (CalEEMod default value), to represent compliance with SCAQMD standard dust control measures in Rule 403.

CalEEMod calculates maximum daily emissions for summer and winter periods. As such, the estimated maximum daily construction emissions without mitigation for both summer and winter periods are summarized in **Table 5**. Detailed construction model outputs are presented in Appendix A.

Table 4. Estimated Maximum Daily Construction Criteria Air Pollutant Emissions – Unmitigated

Year	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
	Pounds per Day					
	Summer					
2026	3.95	33.43	38.78	0.10	5.61	2.87
	Winter					
2025	4.21	37.94	41.07	0.09	6.59	3.06
2026	3.94	33.56	38.27	0.10	5.61	2.87
Maximum Daily Emissions	4.21	37.94	41.07	0.10	6.59	3.06
<i>SCAQMD Threshold</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>550</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>55</i>
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: Appendix A.

Notes: VOC = volatile organic compound; NO_x = oxides of nitrogen; CO = carbon monoxide; SO_x = sulfur oxides; PM₁₀ = coarse particulate matter; PM_{2.5} = fine particulate matter; SCAQMD= South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Emissions estimates include watering of the active sites two times per day per Rule 403 compliance.

As shown in **Table 5**, the proposed project's maximum daily construction emissions would not exceed SCAQMD thresholds for any criteria pollutant, and impacts would be less than significant.

Operations

Maintenance and operation activities would include inspections, erosion repair, and sediment removal within the channel using earth-moving equipment. Sediment removal is anticipated to occur every 3 to 5 years. The project would thus entail a minimal net increase in routine operational activities, would be much less intense than construction (described above), and would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions.

¹ SCAQMD Rule 403 requires implementation of various best available fugitive dust control measures for different sources for all construction activity sources within its jurisdictional boundaries. Dust control measures include, but are not limited to, maintaining stability of soil through pre-watering of site prior to clearing, grubbing, cut and fill, and earth-moving activities; stabilizing soil during and immediately after clearing, grubbing, cut and fill, and other earth-moving activities; stabilizing backfill during handling and at completion of activity; and pre-watering material prior to truck loading and ensuring that freeboard exceeds 6 inches. Although SCAQMD Rule 403 requires fugitive dust control beyond watering control measures, compliance with Rule 403 is represented in CalEEMod by assuming twice daily watering of active sites.

Cumulative

As stated previously, if a project's emissions would exceed the SCAQMD significance thresholds, it would be considered to have a cumulatively considerable contribution, and, conversely, projects that do not exceed the project-specific thresholds are generally not considered to be cumulatively significant (SCAQMD 2003). As the project would not exceed SCAQMD project-specific thresholds during construction or operations, the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions of nonattainment pollutants, and impacts would be less than significant.

c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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Sensitive receptors are those individuals more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the population at large. People most likely to be affected by air pollution include children, older adults, and people with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases. According to SCAQMD, sensitive receptors include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, long-term healthcare facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers and retirement homes (SCAQMD 1993). The closest off-site sensitive receptors to the project site are residences located along Breezy Meadow Lane (about 1,000 feet south of the project) and the Kiddie Academy of Corona (about 1,400 feet to the west of the project).

Localized Significance Thresholds

SCAQMD recommends a localized significance threshold (LST) analysis to evaluate the potential of localized air quality impacts to receptors in the immediate vicinity of a proposed project from construction and operation; however, an operational LST analysis is not required for the project due to no substantial on-site sources of localized emissions. For projects that disturb 5 acres or less per day, the SCAQMD Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology (SCAQMD 2008a) includes lookup tables that can be used to determine the maximum allowable daily emissions that would satisfy the localized significance criteria (i.e., the emissions would not cause an exceedance of the applicable concentration limits for NO₂, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}) without performing project-specific dispersion modeling.

The LST significance thresholds for NO₂ and CO represent the allowable increase in concentrations above background levels in the vicinity of a project that would not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the relevant ambient air quality standards, while the threshold for PM₁₀ represents compliance with Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust). The LST significance threshold for PM_{2.5} is intended to ensure that construction emissions do not contribute substantially to existing exceedances of the PM_{2.5} ambient air quality standards. The allowable emission rates depend on the following parameters:

1. Source-Receptor Area (SRA) in which the project is located.
2. Size of the project site.
3. Distance between the project site and the nearest receptor.

The proposed project site is located in SRA 22 (Norco/Corona). The maximum number of acres disturbed on the peak day was estimated using the Fact Sheet for Applying CalEEMod to Localized Significance Thresholds (SCAQMD n.d.), which provides estimated acres per 8-hour day per piece of earth-moving equipment. Based on the SCAQMD guidance, it was estimated that the maximum acres on the project site that would be disturbed by off-road equipment would be 2 acres per day. According to the Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology, SCAQMD considers a sensitive receptor to be a location where it is possible an individual could remain for 24 hours (i.e., residence, hospital, etc.), which are appropriate for comparison to any of the pollutant LSTs. However, there are LSTs based on shorter averaging periods, specifically for NO₂ and CO, for receptor locations that include commercial, industrial, recreational, or any other areas where persons can be situated for an hour or longer at a time (SCAQMD 2008a). The nearest sensitive-receptor (i.e.,

residential) land use is located approximately 300 meters (984.25 feet) from the project site.² In addition, for NO₂ and CO, the nearest receptors would be the adjacent commercial and industrial uses. Therefore, the minimum recommended distance of 25 meters (82 feet) is used for the NO₂ and CO analysis.

According to the Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology, "off-site mobile emissions from the project should not be included in the emissions compared to the LSTs" (SCAQMD 2008a). Trucks and worker trips associated with the project are not expected to cause substantial air quality impacts to sensitive receptors along off-site roadways since emissions would be relatively brief in nature and would cease once the vehicles pass through the main streets. Nonetheless, vehicle activity may occur within the project boundary (i.e., fence line); therefore, a small portion (i.e., 0.25 miles) of the off-site vehicle travel for worker vehicles, vendor trucks, and haul trucks was conservatively assumed as on-site emissions for the LST analysis.

The maximum daily on-site emissions generated from construction of the proposed project are presented in **Table 6** and are compared to the SCAQMD LST criteria for SRA 22 to determine whether project-generated on-site emissions would result in potential LST impacts.

Table 5. Construction Localized Significance Thresholds Analysis – Unmitigated

Year	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
	Pounds per Day			
2025	37.08	39.50	5.68	2.80
2026	31.03	36.58	4.43	2.52
Maximum Daily Emissions	37.08	39.50	5.68	2.80
<i>SCAQMD LST Criteria^a</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>1,007</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>49</i>
Threshold exceeded?	No	No	No	No

Source: Appendix A.

Notes: NO_x = oxides of nitrogen; CO = carbon monoxide; PM₁₀ = coarse particulate matter; PM_{2.5} = fine particulate matter; SCAQMD = South Coast Air Quality Management District; LST = localized significance threshold.

The values shown are the maximum summer or winter daily emissions results from CalEEMod. Emissions estimates include watering of the active sites two times per day per Rule 403 compliance.

^a Localized significance thresholds are shown for a 2-acre disturbed area for receptor distances of 300 meters (for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and 25 meters (for NO₂ and CO) in Source-Receptor Area 22 (Norco/Corona).

As shown in **Table 6**, proposed construction activities would not generate emissions in excess of site-specific LSTs. Localized criteria air pollutant emissions impacts would be less than significant.

Carbon Monoxide Hotspots

Traffic-congested roadways and intersections have the potential to generate localized high levels of CO. Localized areas where ambient concentrations exceed federal and/or state standards for CO are termed CO "hotspots." CO transport is extremely limited and disperses rapidly with distance from the source. Under certain extreme meteorological conditions, however, CO concentrations near a congested roadway or intersection may reach unhealthy levels affecting sensitive receptors. Typically, high CO concentrations are associated with severely congested intersections operating at an unacceptable level of service (LOS) (LOS E or worse is unacceptable). Projects contributing to adverse traffic impacts may result in the formation of a CO hotspot. Additional analysis of CO hotspot impacts would be conducted if a project would result in a significant impact or contribute to an adverse traffic impact at a signalized intersection that would potentially subject sensitive receptors to CO hotspots.

² As there are no LSTs at 300 meters, these values were interpolated based on the published LSTs for 200 meters and 500 meters (SCAQMD 2008a).

Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 93.123(c)(5), Procedures for Determining Localized CO, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} Concentrations (Hot-Spot Analysis), states that "CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} hot-spot analyses are not required to consider construction-related activities which cause temporary increases in emissions. Each site which is affected by construction-related activities shall be considered separately, using established 'Guideline' methods. Temporary increases are defined as those which occur only during the construction phase and last five years or less at any individual site." While project construction would involve on-road vehicle trips from trucks and workers during construction, construction activities would last approximately 13 months and would not require a project-level construction hotspot analysis.

Regarding operations, given the minimal increase in daily trips for infrequent routine maintenance, project-related mobile emissions are not expected to contribute significantly to CO concentrations, and a CO hotspot is not anticipated to occur. In addition, due to continued improvement in vehicular emissions at a rate faster than the rate of vehicle growth and/or congestion, the potential for CO hotspots in the SCAB is steadily decreasing. The project would result in a less-than-significant impact to air quality with regard to potential CO hotspots.

Toxic Air Contaminants

The greatest potential for toxic air contaminant emissions during project construction would be diesel particulate matter emissions from heavy equipment operations and heavy-duty trucks. Use of heavy-duty construction equipment is subject to a CARB Airborne Toxics Control Measure for in-use diesel construction equipment to reduce diesel particulate emissions; use of diesel trucks is also subject to an Airborne Toxics Control Measure. Since the project would result in linear construction, construction would proceed along the alignment and would not require the extensive use of heavy-duty construction equipment or diesel trucks in any one location over the duration of development, which would limit the exposure of any proximate individual sensitive receptor to toxic air contaminants. Due to the relatively short period of exposure at any individual sensitive receptor, as well as the substantial distance to the nearest sensitive receptors, toxic air contaminants emitted by the project during construction and operations would not be expected to result in concentrations causing significant health risks, which would be a less-than-significant impact.

Health Effects of Criteria Pollutants

Short-term project construction and long-term project operations would not exceed any significance thresholds without mitigation.

VOCs and NO_x are precursors to O₃, for which the SCAB is designated as nonattainment with respect to the NAAQS and CAAQS. The health effects associated with O₃ are generally associated with reduced lung function. The contribution of reactive organic gases and NO_x to regional ambient O₃ concentrations is the result of complex photochemistry. The increases in O₃ concentrations in the SCAB due to O₃ precursor emissions tend to be found downwind from the source location to allow time for the photochemical reactions to occur. However, the potential for exacerbating excessive O₃ concentrations would also depend on the time of year that the VOC emissions would occur because exceedances of the O₃ CAAQS/NAAQS tend to occur between April and October when solar radiation is highest. The holistic effect of a single project's emissions of O₃ precursors is speculative due to the lack of quantitative methods to assess this impact. However, the project would not exceed the significance thresholds for VOC or NO_x; therefore, implementation of the project would contribute minimally to regional O₃ concentrations and the associated health effects.

Health effects that result from NO₂ and NO_x include respiratory irritation, which could be experienced by nearby receptors during the periods of heaviest use of off-road construction equipment. However, because project-generated NO_x emissions would not exceed the significance threshold during construction or operations, the project would not result in potential health effects associated with NO₂ and NO_x.

CO tends to be a localized impact associated with congested intersections. The associated potential for CO hotspots were discussed previously and are determined to be a less-than-significant impact. Thus, the project's CO emissions would not contribute to significant health effects associated with this pollutant.

The SCAB is designated as nonattainment for PM₁₀ under the CAAQS and nonattainment for PM_{2.5} under the NAAQS and CAAQS. Particulate matter contains microscopic solids or liquid droplets that are so small that they can get deep into the lungs and cause serious health problems. Particulate matter exposure has been linked to a variety of problems, including premature death in people with heart or lung disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function and increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing or difficulty breathing (EPA 2023). As with O₃ and NO_x, the project would not generate emissions of PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5} that would exceed the SCAQMD LSTs. Accordingly, the project's PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions are not expected to cause any increase in related health effects for these pollutants.

In summary, because implementation of the project would not result in exceedances of the SCAQMD significance thresholds during construction and operation, the potential health effects associated with criteria air pollutants are considered less than significant.

d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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Based on available information, the project is not anticipated to result in other emissions that have not been addressed under threshold (a) through threshold (c), above. As such, this analysis focuses on the potential for the project to generate odors.

The analysis of other emissions is focused on the potential for an odor impact to occur. The occurrence and severity of potential odor impacts depends on numerous factors. The nature, frequency, and intensity of the source; the wind speeds and direction; and the sensitivity of receiving location each contribute to the intensity of the impact. Although offensive odors seldom cause physical harm, they can be annoying and cause distress among the public and generate citizen complaints.

Odors would be generated from vehicles and/or equipment exhaust emissions during construction of the project. Odors produced during construction would be attributable to concentrations of unburned hydrocarbons from tailpipes of construction equipment, architectural coatings, and asphalt pavement application. Such odors would disperse rapidly from the project site and generally occur at magnitudes that would not affect substantial numbers of people. Therefore, impacts associated with odors during construction would be considered less than significant.

Land uses and industrial operations associated with odor complaints include agricultural uses, wastewater treatment plants, food-processing plants, chemical plants, composting operations, refineries, landfills, dairies and fiberglass molding facilities (SCAQMD 1993). The project does not propose and would not engage in any of these activities or other potential activities that would generate substantial operational odors. Therefore, the project would result in an odor impact that is less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐

A biological technical report (BTR) and Western Riverside County MSHCP consistency analysis was prepared for the proposed project (Dudek 2025). The following sections summarize the findings of the BTR for the proposed project.

Dudek conducted the following biological surveys between July 2021 and May 2023: field reconnaissance, including vegetation mapping and habitat assessment; aquatic resources delineation; focused surveys for bats and rare plants; and protocol-level surveys for burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*). The approximately 98.72-acre biological survey area (BSA) includes the 16.78-acre project site and a 500-foot buffer.

Special-Status Plants

No special-status plant species were detected within the BSA during the 2022 focused special-status plant survey. Additionally, no special-status plant species have a moderate or high potential to occur within the BSA based on known species distribution, species-specific habitat preferences and present habitat conditions. Additionally, the BSA does not occur within federally designated critical habitat for special-status plant species, and there would be no impacts to critical habitat. As such, no impacts to special-status plant species would occur.

Special-Status Wildlife

Three special-status wildlife species were assessed as having a moderate or high potential to occur in the BSA: Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), San Diegan tiger whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and red diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*). These species could be directly or indirectly impacted by the project. Impacts to species covered by the MSHCP (San Diegan tiger whiptail and red diamond rattlesnake) shall be mitigated through **BIO SOP-1** (Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan [MSHCP] Mitigation Fee) by payment of the MSHCP Mitigation Fee and are not analyzed further in this document. Crotch's bumble bee is not covered by the MSHCP and will be discussed further.

Additionally, focused burrowing owl surveys were completed in 2022 due to the presence of suitable habitat within the MSHCP burrowing owl survey area. Focused surveys were negative; however, due to the continued presence of suitable habitat there is a potential for this species to move on site or overwinter on the project site; therefore, burrowing owl is further discussed and analyzed below.

Two federally listed species were determined to have a low potential to occur within the BSA: coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) and Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*). Surveys were not conducted for these species because they are fully covered by the MSHCP and therefore are not further analyzed.

Lastly, the BSA does not occur within federally designated critical habitat for special-status wildlife species, and there would be no impacts to critical habitat.

Direct Impacts

Direct impacts can potentially occur to special-status wildlife species from impacts to habitat and impacts to the species from injury or mortality of individuals from construction activities. The project could result in significant, direct impacts to the three beforementioned special-status wildlife species that have a moderate to high potential to occur within the BSA. Additionally, potential significant direct impacts to one special-status species that is not expected to occur, burrowing owl, is analyzed due its potential to occupy the site prior to the start of construction.

Burrowing Owl

Per the MSHCP, protocol burrowing owl surveys were conducted on the project site and resulted in negative findings; therefore, burrowing owl are presumed absent from the site. While no burrowing owl individuals were observed, burrowing owls are a transient species and have the potential to occupy the site prior to initiation of construction activities. Direct impacts could occur if nesting or overwintering individuals occur within the BSA during construction. Adults of these species can reside below ground and therefore are susceptible to injury and mortality during construction activities. Construction activities could cause disruptions to breeding activities and mortality or injury to individuals in burrows if present within the disturbance footprint during construction. Harm to or loss of individuals as a result of construction activities would be significant absent mitigation.

Pursuant to the MSHCP, despite negative survey results, a pre-construction survey would be required due to the continued presence of suitable habitat. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance in accordance with MSHCP protocol. Project implementation of **Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-1** (Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey) would require pre-construction surveys for burrowing owl to be conducted in areas supporting potentially suitable habitat. In the event burrowing owl are found, additional measures such as avoidance and/or relocation will be implemented as described in **MM BIO-1**. Therefore, direct impacts to burrowing owl would be less than significant with mitigation.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

Crotch's bumble bee is a generalist forager and could forage anywhere within the BSA where suitable floral resources are present. Therefore, this species has a moderate potential to occur in the scrub-dominated vegetation communities containing the preferred plant genera within the BSA. There is also potential for the project to support nesting sites for Crotch's bumble bee. Nesting is primarily located underground in abandoned holes made by ground squirrels, mice and rats, but may be above ground in abandoned bird nests or empty cavities (Osborne et al. 2008; Williams et al. 2014). These microhabitats, such as small mammal burrows where the species may nest, and debris and other loose matter suitable for hibernation, likely occur on site in more limited areas.

Direct impacts to individuals of this uncommon species could occur with project implementation. Because Crotch's bumble bee typically nests underground, individuals would also be highly vulnerable to injury and mortality during construction, which could crush nests and individuals, if present on site. Therefore, the project has the potential to result in direct impacts to individuals that may be harmed or killed during vegetation removal and grading for the installation of the concrete channel, construction of access roads, or other on-site efforts. Project-related impacts to an individual species considered as a State Candidate as Endangered would be considered significant absent mitigation.

Additionally, the project could result in direct impacts to suitable habitat for this species. However, while this impact would be considered adverse, it would not be considered significant under CEQA due to abundant suitable habitat present in the region. These off-site areas will continue to provide higher quality habitat opportunities for this species. As a result, the loss of suitable habitat would not substantially reduce the habitat for the species and would not cause the species

population to drop below self-sustaining levels, particularly due to the fact that high quality habitat does not occur on the project site.

Implementation of **MM BIO-2** (Pre-Construction Nest Survey for Crotch's Bumble Bee) would reduce potential direct impacts to a less-than-significant level by requiring a pre-construction survey for Crotch's bumble bee and avoidance of nesting resources, if present, until the nesting period has concluded. The measure would require no-impact buffers to be established around nests if found, thereby avoiding potential direct impacts to Crotch's bumble bee resulting from the loss of individuals. Therefore, implementation of **MM BIO-2** would reduce potential project-related impacts to Crotch's bumble bee to less than significant with mitigation.

Nesting Birds

The study area contains opportunities for birds of prey (raptors) and other avian species to nest on site. Native nesting bird species are protected by California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5 and by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703–711). In particular, Section 3503 provides that it is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the active nests or eggs of any bird in California; Section 3503.5 protects all raptors and their eggs and active nests; and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading and transport) of native migratory bird species throughout the United States. Currently, California considers any nest that is under construction or modification or is supporting eggs, nestlings or juveniles as "active." Therefore, impacts to nesting migratory birds and raptors would be considered significant absent mitigation.

Project implementation of **MM BIO-3** (Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey) would reduce potential direct impacts to a less-than-significant level through the recommendation that vegetation removal activities be conducted outside the general nesting bird season (January 1st through September 30th, depending on the species). If vegetation cannot be removed outside the nesting bird season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey would be required prior to vegetation removal, and avoidance buffers and monitoring would be implemented if active nests are found. Therefore, direct impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant with mitigation.

Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts to special-status wildlife species are those that occur during construction to species present near the site, but not within the construction zone. Such impacts include fugitive dust that can degrade habitat and result in health implications for wildlife species; noise and vibration that can stress wildlife species or cause them to leave an area of otherwise suitable habitat or that can result in disruption of bird nesting and abandonment of nests; increased human presence, which can also disrupt daily activities of wildlife and cause them to leave an area; generation of trash, such as food packaging and cigarette butts, and debris from construction-related materials, which can degrade wildlife habitat and can attract nuisance and pest species; nighttime lighting, which can disrupt the activity patterns of nocturnal species, including many mammals and some birds, amphibians and reptiles; and release of chemical pollutants, such as from oil leaks from construction vehicles and machinery. BMPs will be implemented during construction activities to limit the potential for project activities to result in indirect impacts to adjacent off-site habitat for special-status species. With implementation of standard operating procedure **BIO SOP-1** and **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4**, the project would not result in any indirect impacts to special-status wildlife species.

Standard Operating Procedures

BIO SOP-1 Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Mitigation Fee. The District shall make payment of the required 3% total capital cost fee per the MSHCP and Implementing

Agreement. Such payment may be offset through acquisition of replacement habitat or creation of new habitat for the benefit of Covered Species, as appropriate.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-1 Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey. A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted, in compliance with the Western Riverside County MSHCP, within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to avoid direct impacts to the species. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer and follow the 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP Area. This requirement shall be included in project construction plans and specifications. If the species is detected, a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan shall be drafted to ensure protection of the species. The plan shall include appropriate avoidance buffers, passive and/or active relocation, construction monitoring and reporting requirements. The plan shall be reviewed and approved within 30 days of receipt by the RCA and CDFW. If the species is not detected, then no further action is required.

MM BIO-2 Pre-Construction Nest Survey for Crotch's Bumble Bee. Vegetation clearing and grubbing shall be conducted outside of the Crotch's bumble bee nesting season (February 1st through October 31st) to avoid loss of a nest. If avoidance of the Crotch's bumble bee nesting period is not feasible, and ground-disturbing construction activities occur during the Crotch's bumble bee nesting period (February 1st through October 31st), then a qualified biologist shall conduct a one-time pre-construction survey focused on active nests for Crotch's bumble bee prior to commencing project activities to detect bumble bees and potential nesting sites. The survey shall be conducted within a survey area that includes a 50-foot buffer around the project footprint. If an active Crotch's bumble bee nest is found within the survey area, the nest will be flagged, and work shall not commence within 50 feet of the active nest until the nest is no longer active (typically September or October) to avoid take of Crotch's bumble bee. The District shall submit survey reporting to the CDFW at least seven days prior to commencing any project activities. If avoidance of Crotch's bumble bee nest(s) is not feasible, the District is advised that an Incidental Take Permit for Crotch's bumble bee and amendment to this Agreement would be warranted prior to commencing or resuming the project. Alternatively, in the absence of surveys, the Permittee may assume presence and apply for and acquire an Incidental Take Permit for Crotch's bumble bee prior to initiating project activities.

MM BIO-3 Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey. Vegetation clearing shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is generally identified as February through August each year. If avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, then a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within three days prior to any site disturbance, including diking, demolition activities and grading. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer. If additional areas are proposed for disturbance, a new nesting bird survey that covers those areas shall be conducted. This requirement shall be included in project construction plans and specifications. If nests with eggs or young are detected, the biologist shall establish suitable buffers around the nests, and the buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. If no active nests are detected, then no further action is required.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) state rankings of 1, 2 or 3 are considered high priority for inventory or special-status and impacts to these communities typically require mitigation. Scale broom scrub is present in the project Site and is considered a sensitive biological resource by CDFW.

The project would impact a total of approximately 3.27 acres of scale broom scrub, consisting of approximately 3.27 acres of permanent impacts and less than 0.01 acre of temporary impacts. Project-related impacts to a sensitive natural community would be considered significant absent mitigation. The scale broom scrub is also considered a non-wetland water of the state by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and streambed by CDFW. Therefore, project implementation of **MM BIO-4** (Aquatic Resource Permitting and Mitigation) would be required to reduce impacts to this sensitive natural community to less than significant with mitigation through in-kind habitat restoration.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-4 Aquatic Resource Permitting and Mitigation. Prior to construction activity, the District shall coordinate with the Santa Ana RWQCB; Region 8 to assure conformance with the requirements of the Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Prior to activity within CDFW jurisdictional streambed or associated riparian habitat, the applicant shall coordinate with CDFW (Inland Deserts Region 6) relative to conformance to the Lake and Streambed Alteration permit requirements. Prior to activity within Western Riverside MSHCP riparian/riverine resources, the District shall coordinate with the RCA, CDFW and the USFWS to demonstrate consistency with the MSHCP.

Development shall mitigate to ensure no net loss of waters at a minimum of 1:1 with re-establishment and 1:1 preservation for impacts to aquatic resources as part of an overall strategy to ensure no net loss of aquatic function and value. Mitigation shall be completed through applicant-sponsored mitigation at the off-site Potrero Basin parcel that would be conserved in perpetuity via establishment conservation easement. Final mitigation ratios shall be determined in consultation with RWQCB, CDFW, USFWS and RCA based on agency evaluation of current resource functions and values and through each agency's respective permitting process.

Additionally, a HMMP shall be prepared in accordance with resource agency guidelines and approved by the agencies in accordance with the proposed program permits. The HMMP shall include a conceptual planting plan including planting zones, grading and irrigation, as applicable; a conceptual planting plant palette; a long-term maintenance and monitoring plan; annual reporting requirements; and proposed success criteria.

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



Direct Impacts

The project would result in direct impacts to a total of approximately 3.93 acres of non-wetland waters of the state potentially under jurisdiction of RWQCB, consisting of permanent impacts to 3.06 acres and temporary impacts to 0.88 acre. The project would also result in direct impacts to a total of approximately 5.35 acres of streambed and riparian habitat potentially subject to CDFW jurisdiction, consisting of permanent impacts to 4.00 acres and direct temporary impacts to 1.35 acres. These impacts are depicted on Figure 12 of the BTR (Appendix B) and are summarized in **Table 7**. These potential direct impacts to jurisdictional waters would be significant absent mitigation.

Table 6. Summary of Impacts to Potential Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources Within the Project Site (acres)

Aquatic Resource Type	Permanent Impacts	Temporary Impacts	Total
RWQCB			
Non-Wetland Waters of the State	3.06	0.88	3.93
Total RWQCB Jurisdiction	3.06	0.88	3.93
CDFW			
Streambed/Riparian	4.00	1.35	5.35
Total CDFW Jurisdiction	4.00	1.35	5.35

Notes: RWQCB = Regional Water Quality Control Board; CDFW = California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Regulatory permits to comply with the Clean Water Act and California Fish and Game Code Section 1600 would be required from RWQCB and CDFW, respectively, which would include mitigation to offset the impacts and loss of beneficial uses, functions and values to the jurisdictional waters and habitats. Project implementation of **MM BIO-4** would reduce potential direct impacts to a less-than-significant level by providing compensatory mitigation and obtaining permits from each of the regulatory agencies prior to ground-disturbing activities. Based on the project design, it is assumed that the project would require a Waste Discharge Requirement; therefore, an application must be submitted to the Santa Ana RWQCB. Additionally, a Streambed Alteration Agreement would be required for impacts to jurisdictional streambed under CDFW. Typically, permit conditions require compensatory mitigation as determined by the regulatory agencies. The project would include applicant-led mitigation at an off-site location (Potrero Basin parcel) via a combination of off-site re-establishment (creation) and in-perpetuity preservation. Therefore, project implementation of **MM BIO-4** would reduce direct project impacts to a less-than-significant level with mitigation.

Indirect Impacts

The project has the potential to result in indirect impacts to potential jurisdictional aquatic resources during construction. Potential short-term or temporary indirect impacts to jurisdictional aquatic resources resulting from construction activities include the generation of fugitive dust; changes in hydrology resulting from construction, including sedimentation and erosion; the release of chemical pollutants; and unintentional clearing, trampling, or grading outside of the proposed construction zone. Construction-related indirect impacts to jurisdictional aquatic resources would be potentially significant. The project would be required to prepare a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) to manage pollutants on the site as part of the Construction General Permit. Standard stormwater construction BMPs will be installed during construction as part of the SWPPP to minimize potential indirect effects to aquatic resources. Project implementation of these BMPs would reduce potential indirect impacts to a less-than-significant level.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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The project site occurs approximately 0.3 miles west of Temescal Canyon Wash, which is mapped as Conservation Land under the MSHCP. The project site is connected to Temescal Canyon Wash via Bedford Canyon Wash, which will be improved by the project. No project-related impacts will occur directly or indirectly to Temescal Canyon Wash, and water quality and water flow entering Temescal Canyon Wash from Bedford Canyon Wash would be improved by the project. Additionally, while the project site does function as a potential corridor for local wildlife movement, the surrounding upland areas will remain intact post-project and will still provide opportunities for wildlife to continue to move across the site when foraging or hunting. The project would also not create a barrier or physical impediment for wildlife to move through the site or surrounding habitat. Therefore, the project will have a less-than-significant impact on wildlife corridors and habitat.

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



As currently designed, the proposed project would be considered consistent with the policies and goals of the City of Corona General Plan, particularly Goals ER-6 and ER-9, which aim to protect significant plant and wildlife species, as well as regional washes and waterways. Significant project-related impacts to these resources would be mitigated through implementation of **MM BIO-1** through **MM BIO-4** and would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. Additionally, the project would be consistent with the City of Corona Municipal Code Section 17.02.030B, which protects watercourses and drainages, and City of Corona Municipal Code Section 12.22, which contains guidelines for the planning, planting, maintenance, alteration and removal of all City trees. Therefore, the project would result in a less-than-significant impact on local policies and ordinances.

- 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?



Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Reserve Assembly

The project site is located within the Plan Area of the Western Riverside County MSHCP, within the Temescal Canyon Area Plan, in Subunit 3 – Temescal Wash West. Portions of the project overlap Criteria Cells 2400 and 2402; therefore, the project is required to demonstrate consistency with the requirements of the MSHCP. As currently designed, the project will not preclude Cell Group C from meeting its Reserve Assembly requirements. The project will occur within portions of Cells 2400 and 2402 that are not proposed for conservation as the conservation requirements focus on the central and eastern portions of the Cell Group. Therefore, the project will have no impact on Reserve Assembly requirements.

Section 6.1.2 Riparian/Riverine Resources and Vernal Pools

Implementation of the proposed project will result in unavoidable direct impacts to MSHCP Section 6.1.2 riparian/riverine features on the project site. As the project's main purpose is to improve sedimentation transport and drainage within Bedford Canyon Wash, it is not feasible to avoid MSHCP Section 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources on site. The primary objective of the project is to safely convey peak 100-year storm flows from where the wash exits Caltrans right of way on the east side of I-15 to the existing concrete channel at Temescal Canyon Road, in a stabilized

system that reduces the amount of instream erosion and downstream sediment deposition caused by the high flows while minimizing costs and environmental impacts.

In total, 5.35 acres of MSHCP Section 6.1.2 riparian/riverine resources will be impacted; specifically, 3.98 acres of permanent impacts and 0.31 acre of temporary impacts will occur outside of the Criteria Cells, and 0.02 acre of permanent impacts and 1.04 acres of temporary impacts will occur inside the Criteria Cells (see Appendix B Table 9) (Figure 13, Impacts to MSHCP Riparian/Riverine Resources, of the BTR [Appendix B]).

Permanent impacts to Bedford Canyon Wash include concrete channel installation for channelization improvements, which will ultimately provide superior functions and values compared to existing conditions, which are mired by severe sedimentation and bank erosion. Additional permanent impacts to Bedford Canyon Wash include installation of riprap, access roads and concrete pads. Temporary impacts include existing concrete channel replacement and work areas for equipment staging and access. The project is located approximately 0.3 miles west of Temescal Canyon Wash, which is mapped as Conservation Land under the MSHCP. The project site is connected to Temescal Canyon Wash via Bedford Canyon Wash. In addition, channelization improvements within Bedford Canyon Wash will improve both water quality and water flow entering downstream to Temescal Canyon Wash by reducing sediment transport, scour, deposition, and bank erosion and will improve fluvial action and reduce flood risk by increasing flood capacity.

Due to project-related impacts to MSHCP riparian/riverine areas, a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation report has been prepared and will be submitted to RCA and the Wildlife Agencies (CDFW and USFWS) prior to project approval to demonstrate consistency with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP. The Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation report documents the proposed mitigation strategy for the project to reduce impacts to riparian/riverine resources and demonstrate how the mitigation would result in biologically equivalent or superior preservation when compared to pre-project conditions. The mitigation strategy proposes off-site restoration/creation of in-kind habitat through applicant-led mitigation. The District shall mitigate to ensure no net loss of waters at a minimum of 1:1 with re-establishment and 1:1 preservation for impacts to riparian/riverine resources as part of an overall strategy to ensure no net loss of aquatic function and value. Mitigation shall be completed through applicant-sponsored mitigation at the off-site Potrero Basin parcel that would be conserved in perpetuity and placed under a conservation easement.

Additionally, a habitat mitigation and monitoring plan shall be prepared in accordance with resource agency guidelines and reviewed and approved by RCA, the Wildlife Agencies, and any additional agencies (e.g., RWQCB) in accordance with the proposed program permits. The habitat mitigation and monitoring plan shall include a conceptual planting plan including planting zones, grading and irrigation, as applicable; a conceptual planting plant palette; a long-term maintenance and monitoring plan; annual reporting requirements; and proposed success criteria. Project implementation of **MM BIO-4** would reduce project impacts to a less-than-significant level with mitigation.

Section 6.1.3 Narrow Endemic Plants

Portions of the project site occur within an MSHCP Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area for San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*), Brand's phacelia (*Phacelia stellaris*), and San Miguel savory (*Clinopodium chandleri*). Suitable habitat for Brand's phacelia and San Miguel savory was absent; therefore, focused surveys were not warranted. However, suitable habitat for San Diego ambrosia was determined present, and therefore, focused surveys for this species were conducted in 2022 that resulted in negative findings. Therefore, the project is expected to result in no impact to San Diego ambrosia.

Section 6.1.4 Urban/Wildlands Interface

While the project site occurs upstream of the Temescal Canyon Wash conservation area, the project will not result in any direct impacts to this conservation area and will essentially improve water quality through improved habitat quality within Bedford Canyon Wash on site. However, to limit potential indirect impacts to Temescal Canyon Wash, the project will implement standard MSHCP BMPs that relate to minimizing edge effects in proximity to a MSHCP Conservation Area. Implementation of BMPs would reduce potential indirect impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Section 6.3.2 Additional Surveys – Burrowing Owl

Focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted in 2022 that resulted in negative findings of burrowing owl. However, due to the continued presence of suitable habitat, a 30-day pre-construction clearance survey is required per the MSHCP. Therefore, project implementation of **MM BIO-1** would reduce potential project-related impacts to a less-than-significant level with mitigation.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

Potential
Significant
Impact

Potentially
Significant
Unless
Mitigation
Incorporated

Less than
Significant
Impact

No
Impact

☐
☐
☐
☒

A Cultural Resources Phase I Survey was completed for the proposed project, and a version excluding confidential materials is included as Appendix C. A cultural resources records search was conducted at the Eastern Information Center (EIC), University of California, Riverside, and a pedestrian survey of the project site was also completed. No cultural resources were identified within the project site during the archival research or pedestrian survey of the project site (Dudek 2022). Based on the lack of identified cultural resources during the survey, the negative EIC records search data, the disturbed nature of the project area, and the resulting general low potential for unknown cultural resources, no cultural resources will be uncovered by the proposed project. Furthermore, if the project proceeds and during groundbreaking activities unanticipated cultural resources are discovered, the resources would be properly treated in accordance with any federal laws, state laws and appropriate City and/or County guidelines. No impact to known historical resources would occur.

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

☐
☐
☐
☒

The records search conducted for the proposed project did not identify archaeological resources on the project site. The majority of the ground surface at the project site appears to have been previously disturbed by adjacent construction. As such, the project site has a low potential to contain archaeological deposits below the ground surface (Dudek 2022). Furthermore, no archaeological resources were identified during field survey. However, 20 previously recorded sites were identified within one mile of the area of potential effect (Appendix C Table 1). Of the 20 sites previously recorded within the record search buffer, 14 are prehistoric resources. No impacts to archaeological resources are expected; however, if the project proceeds and during groundbreaking activities unanticipated cultural resources are discovered, the resources would be properly treated in accordance with any federal laws, state laws and appropriate City and/or County guidelines. No impact would occur.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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There are no known human remains within the vicinity of the project site, and no conditions exist that suggest human remains are likely to be found on the project site. It is not anticipated that implementation of the project would disturb human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. However, ground-disturbing activities, such as grading or excavation, have the potential to disturb unknown human remains. Per State Health and Safety Code 7050.5, if human remains are encountered during construction, no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The Riverside County Coroner must be notified within 24 hours by the engineer. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

MM CR-1 Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. The archaeologist shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment.

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find represents a cultural resource, the handling of the cultural resource(s) shall follow the applicable recommendations as described in the Cultural Resources Management Plan prepared for the project, as required by TCR-1.

MM CR-2 Accidental Discovery of Human Remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted by the engineer to determine the most likely descendant for this area. Once the most likely descendant is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains will proceed pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The NAHC may become involved with decisions concerning the disposition of the remains.

Standard Operating Procedure

CR SOP-1 Accidental Discovery of Human Remains. If human remains or remains that are potentially human are found, the District shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist to ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance. The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Handling of the discovery shall follow the provisions set forth by Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code.

VI. ENERGY		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Project implementation would result in energy use for construction and operation.

Electricity

Electricity consumed during project construction and operations would vary throughout the construction period based on the construction activities being performed. Various activities may require electricity, including conveying water that would be used for dust control (supply and conveyance), powering any necessary lighting or electronic equipment, or other activities necessitating electrical power. Such electricity demand would be temporary and nominal and would cease upon the completion of construction or operational maintenance activities. Therefore, the use of electricity during project construction and operations would not be wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary.

Natural Gas

Natural gas use is not anticipated during construction or operational maintenance activities. Equipment and vehicles would be powered by petroleum-based fuels as discussed below. Therefore, the use of natural gas during project construction and operations would not be wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary.

Petroleum-Based Fuels

Construction of the project would consume energy resources as a result of the use of heavy-duty construction equipment, on-road delivery and haul trucks, and workers commuting to and from the project site. Petroleum emissions associated with the use of construction equipment and vehicles, which were used to calculate gallons of petroleum consumed, were calculated using CalEEMod and are provided in Appendix A. Fuel consumption from construction equipment was estimated by converting the total carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from each construction phase to gallons using the conversion factors for CO₂ to gallons of gasoline or diesel. The conversion factor for gasoline is 8.78 kilograms per metric ton (MT) CO₂ per gallon, and the conversion factor for diesel is 10.21 kilograms per MT CO₂ per gallon (The Climate Registry 2023). The estimated fuel usage from the total construction period of the project is shown in **Table 8**.

Table 7. Total Proposed Project Construction Petroleum Demand

Scenario	Off-Road Equipment (diesel)	Haul Trucks (diesel)	Vendor Trucks (diesel)	Worker Vehicles (gasoline)
	Gallons			
Project Construction	37.08	39.50	5.68	2.80
Total Petroleum Consumed for Project Construction				140,281

Source: Appendix A.

In summary, construction associated with the development of the project is estimated to consume a total of approximately 140,281 gallons of petroleum. Notably, the project would be subject to CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation that applies to certain off-road diesel engines, vehicles or equipment greater than 25 horsepower. The regulation (1) imposes limits on idling, requires a written idling policy, and requires a disclosure when selling vehicles; (2) requires all vehicles to be reported to CARB (using the Diesel Off-Road Online Reporting System) and labeled; (3) restricts the adding of older vehicles into fleets starting on January 1, 2014 and (4) requires fleets to reduce their emissions by retiring, replacing, or repowering older engines or installing Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategies (i.e., exhaust retrofits). The fleet must either show that its fleet average index was less than or equal to the calculated fleet average target rate, or that the fleet has met the Best Achievable Control Technology requirements.

For long-term operations, as the project would entail a minimal net increase in routine operational activities for sediment removal every 3 to 5 years, this maintenance activity would be much less intense than construction (described above) and would result in less petroleum demand.

Overall, while construction and operational activities would consume petroleum-based fuels, consumption of such resources would be typical of construction projects of similar types and sizes and would not necessitate new petroleum resources beyond what are typically consumed in California. Therefore, because petroleum use during project construction would be intermittent and minimal and would not be wasteful or inefficient, impacts are determined to be less than significant.

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

☐☐☐☒

As discussed under threshold (a), the proposed project would not result in wasteful, inefficient and unnecessary consumption of energy during construction or operation. Petroleum use during construction would be minimal and temporary. Petroleum use during operational maintenance activities would be infrequent (every 3 to 5 years) and less than during construction. Based on the above considerations, no impacts associated with the potential of the project to conflict with a state or local renewable energy or energy efficiency plan would occur.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

Potential
Significant
Impact

Potentially
Significant
Unless
Mitigation
Incorporated

Less than
Significant
Impact

No
Impact

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

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

☐☐☒☐

There are no known earthquake faults that traverse the project site (City of Corona 2019). The nearest active fault zone is the Elsinore Fault Zone approximately 1.5 miles to the southwest of the project site. The Elsinore Fault Zone contains both the Glen Ivy North Fault and the Eagle Fault. The Cajalco Canyon Fault and an unknown Riverside County fault are located approximately 2,300 feet to the northeast and 1 mile to the southeast, respectively (Converse Consultants 2022). Just like most of southern California, in the event of an earthquake, strong ground shaking is expected to occur on the project site. No habitable structures would be constructed by the proposed project. Design and construction of the proposed channel would comply with current codes and standards, which would reduce the risk of loss, injury, or death resulting from strong ground-shaking. Impacts would be less than significant.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

☐☐☒☐

The proposed project would be constructed using approved District design standards and the recommendations in the project's Geotechnical Investigation Report. Because the project site is within southern California, strong seismic events

are a possibility throughout the region. As such, the proposed project would be built to a condition to withstand most seismic events. Therefore, impacts from strong seismic ground shaking would be less than significant.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

☐☐☒☐

Liquefaction is a phenomenon where water-saturated granular soils lose shear strength during strong ground shaking produced by earthquakes. The loss of soil strength occurs as a consequence of cyclic pore water pressure increases below the groundwater surface. Potential hazards due to liquefaction include loss of bearing strength beneath structures, possibly causing foundation failure and/or significant settlements and differential settlements. Liquefaction generally occurs where the groundwater table is less than 50 feet below the surface.

According to the City's General Plan EIR, the project site is located in an area with a low liquefaction hazard (City of Corona 2019). However, according to the project's Geotechnical Investigation Report, the project site is in a State of California designated liquefaction zone. A Liquefaction and Seismic Settlement Analysis was performed for the project site and concluded that the project site's liquefaction potential was very low risk, with no surface manifestation of liquefaction (Converse Consultants 2022). The proposed project would be constructed using approved District design standards. Because the project site is within southern California, strong seismic events are a possibility throughout the region. Routine maintenance activities would ensure that any damage to project facilities due to seismic-related ground failure is repaired. Impacts would be less than significant.

iv) Landslides?

☐☐☐☒

The project site is not located within a mapped landslide hazard area (City of Corona 2019). Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects involving landslides. No impact would occur.

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

☐☐☒☐

Implementation of the proposed project would require ground-disturbing activities, such as grading, that could potentially result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Construction of the proposed project would be required to comply with the Construction General Permit, either through a waiver or through preparation and implementation of a SWPPP. BMPs would be included as part of the SWPPP to manage erosion and the loss of topsoil during construction-related activities. The proposed project's grading plan would also ensure that the proposed earthwork is designed to avoid soil erosion. Impacts as a result of soil erosion or the loss of topsoil would be less than significant.

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

☐☐☒☐

Please refer to the responses to threshold (a)(i–iv), above. Impacts related to on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse would be less than significant.

d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994 or most current edition), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Expansive soils can shrink and swell with drying and wetting. The shrink-swell potential of expansive soils can result in differential movement beneath foundations. The extent of shrinking and swelling is influenced by the amount and kind of clay in the soil. Soils on the project site are composed of Cortina cobbly loamy sand (2% to 8% slopes) and Garretson gravelly very fine sandy loam (2% to 8% slopes) (USDA 2022). The Geotechnical Investigation Report included sampling and analysis of soils on site. The results determined that the surficial soils at the site have a very low expansion potential. Therefore, soil expansion would not pose a potential concern for project implementation. If such conditions are encountered, the project would employ standard engineering protocols to limit the potential effects on project-related infrastructure (Converse Consultants 2022). Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.					
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project does not include septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impact would occur.					
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site of unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐
A paleontological resources review memorandum was prepared for the proposed project (Dudek 2021a). The paleontological memorandum included paleontological records searches of the project area conducted by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and the Western Science Center. The records searches from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and Western Science Center did not result in any paleontological resource localities within the project site. However, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles does have several nearby localities from deposits similar to those underlying the project site. The project site is located within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province and is underlain by alluvial fan deposits dating from the middle to late Pleistocene and Holocene alluvium and colluvium. The Holocene alluvial and colluvial deposits have a low paleontological sensitivity on the surface and high sensitivity with increasing depth, while Pleistocene alluvial fan deposits have high sensitivity. The closest vertebrae fossil locality from Pleistocene deposits is located approximately 1 mile north-northwest of Corona. While the project site has low sensitivity for paleontological resources, the presence of Pleistocene alluvium on the eastern boundary of the project site and vertebrate fossil localities found in nearby areas with similar deposits, paleontological resources may be present below topsoil and below the depth of Holocene, alluvial and colluvial deposits. It is possible that excavation and ground-disturbing activities during construction could uncover previously unknown paleontological resources. If fossil remains are encountered during construction and are directly or indirectly destroyed, a significant impact would occur. With the implementation of MM GEO-1 (Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program) impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation Measure MM GEO-1 Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program. Prior to commencement of any grading activity on site, the applicant shall retain a qualified paleontologist listed on the County of Riverside, Paleontology Consultant List and subject to the review and approval of the District. The paleontologist shall					

prepare a PRIMP for the project. The PRIMP shall be consistent with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) guidelines and outline requirements for pre-construction meeting attendance and worker environmental awareness training, adequate monitoring within the project site based on construction plans and/or geotechnical reports, procedures for adequate paleontological monitoring, discoveries treatment, paleontological methods (including sediment sampling for microvertebrate fossils), reporting and collections management. The PRIMP shall include protocols for spot-checking significant ground-disturbing activities below a depth of 5 feet below the ground surface or 5 feet below the depth of artificial fill in areas mapped as Holocene alluvium and full-time paleontological monitoring below the depth of artificial fill in areas underlain by Pleistocene alluvium. In the event that paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are unearthed during grading, the paleontological monitor shall temporarily halt and/or divert grading activity to allow recovery of paleontological resources. The area of discovery shall be roped off with a 50-foot radius buffer. Once documentation and collection of the find is completed, the monitor shall remove the rope and allow grading to recommence in the area of the find.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are those that that absorb infrared radiation (i.e., trap heat) in the earth's atmosphere. The trapping and buildup of heat in the atmosphere near the earth's surface (the troposphere) is referred to as the "greenhouse effect" and is a natural process that contributes to the regulation of the earth's temperature, creating a livable environment. The earth's temperature depends on the balance between energy entering and leaving the planet's system, and many factors (natural and human) can cause changes in the earth's energy balance. Human activities that generate and emit GHGs to the atmosphere increase the amount of infrared radiation that gets absorbed before escaping into space, thus enhancing the greenhouse effect and causing the earth's surface temperature to rise. This rise in temperature has led to large-scale changes to the earth's system (e.g., temperature, precipitation, wind patterns), which are collectively referred to as climate change. Global climate change is a cumulative impact; a project contributes to this impact through its incremental contribution combined with the cumulative increase of all other sources of GHGs. Thus, GHG impacts are recognized exclusively as cumulative impacts (CAPCOA 2008).

As defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 38505(g) for purposes of administering many of the state's primary GHG emissions reduction programs, GHGs include CO₂, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride (see also CEQA Guidelines Section 15364.5). The primary GHGs that would be emitted by project-related construction and operations include CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O.³

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change developed the global warming potential (GWP) concept to compare the ability of each GHG to trap heat in the atmosphere relative to another gas. The reference gas used is CO₂; therefore, GWP-weighted emissions are measured in MT of CO₂ equivalent (MT CO₂e). The current version of CalEEMod assumes

³ Emissions of hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride are generally associated with industrial activities, including the manufacturing of electrical components and heavy-duty air conditioning units and the insulation of electrical transmission equipment (substations, power lines and switch gears.). Therefore, emissions of these GHGs were not evaluated or estimated in this analysis because the project would not include these activities or components and would not generate hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride in measurable quantities.

that the GWP for CH₄ is 25 (so emissions of 1 MT of CH₄ are equivalent to emissions of 25 MT of CO₂), and the GWP for N₂O is 298, based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC 2007).

Section 15064.7(c) of the CEQA Guidelines specifies that "when adopting or using thresholds of significance, a lead agency may consider thresholds of significance previously adopted or recommended by other public agencies or recommended by experts, provided the decision of the lead agency to adopt such thresholds is supported by substantial evidence." The CEQA Guidelines do not prescribe specific methodologies for performing an assessment, establish specific thresholds of significance, or mandate specific mitigation measures. Rather, the CEQA Guidelines emphasize the lead agency's discretion to determine the appropriate methodologies and thresholds of significance that are consistent with the manner in which other impact areas are handled in CEQA (CNRA 2009).

As discussed under Section III Air Quality, the proposed project is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of SCAQMD. In October 2008, SCAQMD proposed recommended numeric CEQA significance thresholds for GHG emissions for lead agencies to use in assessing GHG impacts of residential and commercial development projects as presented in its Draft Guidance Document—Interim CEQA GHG Significance Threshold (SCAQMD 2008b). This document, which builds on the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's previous guidance, explored various approaches for establishing a significance threshold for GHG emissions. The draft interim CEQA thresholds guidance document was not adopted or approved by the Governing Board. However, in December 2008, SCAQMD adopted an interim 10,000 MT CO₂e per year screening level threshold for stationary source/industrial projects for which SCAQMD is the lead agency (SCAQMD 2010). The 10,000 MT CO₂e per year threshold, which was derived from GHG reduction targets established in Executive Order S-3-05, was based on the conclusion that the threshold was consistent with achieving an emissions capture rate of 90% of all new or modified stationary source projects.

SCAQMD formed a GHG CEQA Significance Threshold Working Group to work with SCAQMD staff on developing GHG CEQA significance thresholds until statewide significance thresholds or guidelines are established. From December 2008 to September 2010, SCAQMD hosted working group meetings and revised the draft threshold proposal several times, although it did not officially provide these proposals in a subsequent document. SCAQMD has continued to consider adoption of significance thresholds for residential and general land-use development projects. The most recent proposal issued by SCAQMD, issued in September 2010, uses the following tiered approach to evaluate potential GHG impacts from various uses (SCAQMD 2010):

Tier 1. Determine if CEQA categorical exemptions are applicable. If not, move to Tier 2.

Tier 2. Consider whether or not the proposed project is consistent with a locally adopted GHG reduction plan that has gone through public hearing and CEQA review, that has an approved inventory, includes monitoring, etc. If not, move to Tier 3.

Tier 3. Consider whether the project generates GHG emissions in excess of screening thresholds for individual land uses. The 10,000 MT CO₂e per year threshold for industrial uses would be recommended for use by all lead agencies. Under option 1, separate screening thresholds are proposed for residential projects (3,500 MT CO₂e per year), commercial projects (1,400 MT CO₂e per year) and mixed-use projects (3,000 MT CO₂e per year). Under option 2, a single numerical screening threshold of 3,000 MT CO₂e per year would be used for all non-industrial projects. If the project generates emissions in excess of the applicable screening threshold, move to Tier 4.

Tier 4. Consider whether the project generates GHG emissions in excess of applicable performance standards for the project service population (population plus employment). The efficiency targets were established based on the goal of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The 2020 efficiency targets are 4.8

MT CO₂e per service population for project-level analyses and 6.6 MT CO₂e per service population for plan-level analyses. If the project generates emissions in excess of the applicable efficiency targets, move to Tier 5.

Tier 5. Consider the implementation of CEQA mitigation (including the purchase of GHG offsets) to reduce the project efficiency target to Tier 4 levels.

To determine the proposed project's potential to generate GHG emissions that would have a significant impact on the environment, its GHG emissions were compared to the SCAQMD 3,000 MT CO₂e per year screening threshold recommended for non-industrial projects.

Construction

Construction of the project would result in GHG emissions, which are primarily associated with off-road construction equipment, on-road haul and vendor trucks, and worker vehicles. SCAQMD recommends that construction emissions be amortized over a 30-year project lifetime, so that GHG reduction measures will address construction GHG emissions as part of the operational GHG reduction strategies (SCAQMD 2008b). CalEEMod was used to calculate the annual GHG emissions, with detailed assumptions and results included in Appendix A. Table 9 presents the GHG emissions resulting from construction of the project.

Table 8. Estimated Annual Construction Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Year	CO ₂	CH ₄	N ₂ O	R	CO ₂ e
	Metric Tons				
2025	295.86	0.01	0.01	0.06	299.08
2026	1,129.68	0.04	0.05	0.31	1,145.53
Total	1,425.54	0.05	0.06	0.37	1,444.61
				<i>Amortized Construction Emissions (Over 30-Years)</i>	<i>48.15</i>

Source: Appendix A.

Notes: CO₂ = carbon dioxide; CH₄ = methane; N₂O = nitrous oxide; R = refrigerants; CO₂e = carbon dioxide equivalent.

As shown in **Table 9** the estimated total GHG emissions during construction would be approximately 1,445 MT CO₂e. Estimated project-generated construction emissions amortized over 30 years would be approximately 48 MT CO₂e per year. In addition, as with project-generated construction criteria air pollutant emissions, GHG emissions generated during proposed construction activities would be short term, lasting only for the duration of the construction period, and would not represent a long-term source of GHG emissions.

Operational Emissions

The project would entail a minimal net increase in routine operational activities for sediment removal every 3 to 5 years, which would be much less intense than construction (described above). However, as a conservative and hypothetical estimate, assuming maintenance would result in GHGs equal to the first year (October through December) of construction (about 299 MT CO₂e), the project would result in a total net increase in GHG emissions of approximately 347 MT CO₂e per year when summed with amortized construction emissions. Overall, the proposed project would not exceed the SCAQMD threshold of 3,000 MT CO₂e per year. Projects below this significance criterion have a minimal contribution to global emissions and are considered to have less-than-significant impacts. Therefore, operational impacts associated with directly or indirectly generating a significant quantity of GHG emissions would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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Applicable plans for the project site include SCAG's 2024–2050 RTP/SCS and CARB's 2017 and 2022 Scoping Plan updates to address Senate Bill (SB) 32 and AB 1279. Each of these plans is described below along with an analysis of the proposed project's potential to conflict with the related GHG emissions reduction goals.

Project Consistency with Southern California Association of Governments' 2024–2050 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

The SCAG 2024–2050 RTP/SCS is a regional growth management strategy that targets per capita GHG reduction from passenger vehicles and light trucks in the southern California region pursuant to SB 375 by achieving per-capita GHG emissions reductions relative to 2005 of 8% by 2020 and 19% by 2035 (SCAG 2024). In addition to demonstrating the region's ability to attain the GHG emission reduction targets set forth by CARB, the 2024–2050 RTP/SCS outlines a series of actions and strategies for integrating the transportation network with an overall land use pattern that responds to projected growth, housing needs, changing demographics and transportation demands. Thus, successful implementation of the 2024–2050 RTP/SCS would result in more complete communities with a variety of transportation and housing choices, while reducing automobile use.

The primary objective of the RTP/SCS is to provide guidance for future regional growth (i.e., the location of new residential and non-residential land uses) and transportation patterns throughout the region, as stipulated under SB 375. Given that the proposed project involves the construction, operation and maintenance of a channel improvement project to address existing drainage deficiencies and significant sedimentation beneath and upstream of the Temescal Canyon Road bridge, the goals and strategies of the RTP/SCS are not directly applicable. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with the goals and policies of the RTP/SCS, and impacts would be less than significant.

Project Consistency with State Reduction Targets and the California Air Resources Board's Scoping Plan

The California State legislature passed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) to provide initial direction to limit California's GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 and initiate the state's long-range climate objectives. Since the passage of AB 32, the state has adopted GHG emissions reduction targets for future years beyond the initial 2020 horizon year. For the proposed project, the relevant GHG emissions reduction targets include those established by SB 32 and AB 1279, which require GHG emissions be reduced to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and 85% below 1990 levels by 2045, respectively. In addition, AB 1279 requires the state achieve net-zero GHG emissions by no later than 2045 and achieve and maintain net-negative GHG emissions thereafter.

As defined by AB 32, CARB is required to develop the Scoping Plan, which provides the framework for actions to achieve the state's GHG emission targets. The Scoping Plan is required to be updated every 5 years and requires CARB and other state agencies to adopt regulations and initiatives that will reduce GHG emissions statewide. The first Scoping Plan was adopted in 2008, and it was updated in 2014, 2017, and most recently in 2022. Although the Scoping Plan is not directly applicable to specific projects, nor is it intended to be used for project-level evaluations,⁴ it is the official framework for the measures and regulations that will be implemented to reduce California's GHG emissions in alignment

⁴ The Final Statement of Reasons for the amendments to the CEQA Guidelines reiterates the statement in the Initial Statement of Reasons that the Scoping Plan "may not be appropriate for use in determining the significance of individual projects...because it is conceptual at this stage and relies on the future development of regulations to implement the strategies identified in the Scoping Plan" (CNRA 2009).

with the adopted targets. Therefore, a project would be found to not conflict with the statutes if it would meet the Scoping Plan policies and would not impede attainment of the goals therein.

CARB's 2017 Scoping Plan update was the first to address the state's strategy for achieving the 2030 GHG reduction target set forth in SB 32 (CARB 2017); the most recent CARB 2022 Scoping Plan update outlines the state's plan to reduce emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 in alignment with AB 1279 and assesses progress toward the 2030 SB 32 target (CARB 2022b). As such, given that SB 32 and AB 1279 are the relevant GHG emission targets, the 2017 and 2022 Scoping Plan updates are the most applicable to the proposed project.

The 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan update included measures to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency (including the mandates of SB 350), measures to increase stringency of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, measures identified in the Mobile Source and Freight Strategies, measures identified in the proposed Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Plan, and measures to increase stringency of SB 375 targets. The 2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality builds upon and accelerates programs currently in place, including moving to zero-emission transportation; phasing out use of fossil gas use for heating homes and buildings; reducing chemical and refrigerants with high GWP; providing communities with sustainable options for walking, biking, and public transit; and displacement of fossil-fuel-fired electrical generation through use of renewable energy alternatives (e.g., solar arrays and wind turbines) (CARB 2022b).

Several of the measures and programs included in the Scoping Plan would result in the reduction of project-related GHG emissions with no action required at the project-level, including GHG emissions reductions through a reduction in carbon intensity of transportation fuels (Low Carbon Fuel Standard) and the accelerated efficiency and electrification of the statewide vehicle fleet (Mobile Source Strategy). Given that the proposed project is also not anticipated to result in substantial increase in mobile trips, the project would also not conflict with the 2017 update's goal of reducing GHG emissions through reductions in vehicle miles traveled statewide.

The 2045 carbon neutrality goal required CARB to expand proposed actions in the 2022 update to include those that capture and store carbon in addition to those that reduce anthropogenic sources of GHG emissions. The proposed project would support the state's carbon neutrality goals, as implementation includes addition of urban trees and native plantings throughout the project site, which represent opportunities for potential carbon removal and sequestration over the project lifetime. However, the 2022 update emphasizes that reliance on carbon sequestration in the state's natural and working lands will not be sufficient to address residual GHG emissions, and achieving carbon neutrality will require research, development, and deployment of additional methods to capture atmospheric GHG emissions (e.g., mechanical direct air capture). Given that the specific path to neutrality will require development of technologies and programs that are not currently known or available, the project's role in supporting the statewide goal would be speculative and cannot be wholly identified at this time.

Overall, the proposed project would comply with all regulations adopted in furtherance of the Scoping Plan to the extent applicable and required by law. As mentioned above, several Scoping Plan measures would result in reductions of project-related GHG emissions with no action required at the project-level, including those related to reduced fossil fuel use. As demonstrated above, the proposed project would not conflict with CARB's 2017 or 2022 Scoping Plan updates or with the state's ability to achieve the 2030 and 2045 GHG reduction and carbon neutrality goals.

Based on the preceding considerations, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions, and impacts would be less than significant.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
No acutely hazardous materials (as defined in Title 22 California Code of Regulations Section 66261.30) are required to be used or stored within the project site during the construction or maintenance activities. Hazardous materials to be used during construction and maintenance activities include gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and lubricants associated with construction equipment and vehicles. These materials will be transported, used, and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and District protocols designed to protect the environment, workers, and the public. Storage, handling, and use of these materials would occur in accordance with standard construction BMPs to minimize the potential for spill or release and ensure that any such spill or release would be controlled on site. Project construction contractors are required by state law to implement and comply with existing hazardous material regulations. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.					
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Limited quantities of hazardous materials will be used during construction and maintenance activities, including gasoline, diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and lubricants associated with the heavy equipment and vehicles used for operation and maintenance activities. The potential reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions may include minor spills and/or drips onto the ground. However, all proposed project activities will utilize BMPs that are designed to protect the environment and contain any spills. Additionally, the District employees are trained to properly prevent and clean up minor spills and are familiar with protocols to manage larger spills should they occur. Therefore, the impact of risk of upset by a potential release of hazardous materials is less than significant due to the limited quantities used and compliance with existing hazardous material regulations.					
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The project site is not located within 0.25 miles of existing schools. No impact would occur.					
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
A hazardous materials technical memorandum was prepared for the proposed project (Dudek 2021b). The findings of this report are summarized below.					

A search of regulatory records for the project site and vicinity was conducted as part of the hazardous materials technical memorandum. The project site was not identified in any of the databases (Dudek 2021b). However, one adjacent site, Liston Brick Co of Corona or Liston Aluminum Company, was identified in several databases. The site is located directly adjacent to the wash to the north and is no longer in operation (the site is vacant). The Liston Aluminum Company site underwent significant environmental investigation and remediation. Near the project site, unlawful dumping of hazardous materials or soil was documented for the Liston Aluminum site with leaching pits of unknown locations and slag piles along the southern fence property. Soil samples were collected within Bedford Canyon Wash, two within the project site, as part of the environmental investigation and remediation activities completed for this site. None of the samples identified impacted soils; however, low levels of metals were detected. These levels were below the total threshold limit concentration and below 10 times the soluble threshold limit concentration. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control issued a site closure and no further action status for the Liston Aluminum Brick Company site based on the investigations, sampling, and remediation activities that have been completed (DTSC 2022). Based on this data, there are no known hazardous material impacts on the project site; however, due to Liston Aluminum Brick Company's former slag storage along its property boundary and the history of dumping, there is the potential that the Liston site has affected the project site with metals (Dudek 2021b).

Furthermore, based on a review of aerial photographs, the northern and southern banks of portions of the wash have been used for agricultural purposes since at least 1938. As such, there is a potential for residual pesticides to be present in the shallow soils of the project site.

A Shallow Soils Assessment Report was prepared for the project (Citadel EHS 2024), and soil sampling results indicated that no contaminants were present at concentrations exceeding regulatory thresholds that would necessitate further investigation or remediation. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment, and impacts would be less than significant.

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



The project site is not within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of an existing public airport. Therefore, there is no impact to airports and people residing or working on the project site.

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



The proposed project would not impact traffic circulation, increase demand on existing emergency response activities, or impact emergency access in the area. However, construction of the proposed project may require temporary partial road closures or detours. Prior to any lane closures, the District (or its contractor) will have a traffic control plan in place to ensure proper access to residences and businesses by emergency vehicles during construction and to maintain traffic flow. Impacts to emergency access would be less than significant.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The project site is within moderate, high, and very high fire hazards severity zones in a Local Responsibility Area (CAL FIRE 2025). The project would consist of channel improvements and does not include structures intended for long-term occupancy nor development that could exacerbate fire risk. The project site is surrounded by I-15 and commercial, residential, and industrial development. Implementation of the proposed project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Impacts would be less than significant.				
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The District must comply with all state, federal, and local regulations related to water quality, including the Clean Water Act and Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The proposed project would provide conditions designed to avoid and minimize potential water quality impacts associated with construction, operation and maintenance activities. Because the proposed project is greater than 1 acre, a SWPPP will be prepared, and the contractor will obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity, General Permit Order 2022-0048-DWQ. Therefore, the proposed project can benefit water quality and is not expected to conflict with any adopted water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. District maintenance activities will also continue to be conducted in accordance with any applicable State Water Resources Control Board and/or any RWQCB requirements, including all conditions and BMPs, the 404 and 401 permits, and applicable provisions of the Clean Water Act. Furthermore, the District is the Principal Permittee for the three Riverside County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits related to the District's jurisdiction within the Santa Ana (Santa Ana Watershed), Colorado River Basin (Whitewater Watershed), and San Diego (Santa Margarita Watershed) regions, and the District is required to implement BMPs during maintenance activities. In addition, the District implements the following standard operating procedures to protect water quality. Standard Operating Procedure HYD SOP-1 Implementation of Water Quality Best Management Practices. All BMP materials are to be on site prior to maintenance activity and ready for use. BMPs shall be in compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation, operation and maintenance of such management practices. HYD SOP-2 Equipment Staging and Maintenance. All fueling, lubrication, maintenance, storage, and staging of vehicles and equipment shall be outside of waters of the state and shall not result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the state. Therefore, proposed project activities will continue to be conducted in accordance with any applicable State Water Resources Control Board and/or any RWQCB requirements. Therefore, the individual and cumulative impacts to water quality would be less than significant.				

b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project does not include any new groundwater diversion, recharge projects or management projects. Therefore, there will be no impacts to groundwater supplies or recharge capabilities.					
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i)	Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is designed to resolve erosion issues that have affected the segment of Bedford Canyon Wash where the proposed trapezoidal channel would be constructed. Erosion would be minimized by armoring the channel's side slopes with riprap and incorporating grade control structures. As such, the proposed project would result in a beneficial impact.					
ii)	Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is designed to convey stormwater flows via a trapezoidal channel and would not in itself increase the rate or amount of surface runoff. As such, no impact in this regard is anticipated.					
iii)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The proposed project is the construction, operation, and maintenance of a storm drain facility. Surface runoff emanating from the project site would be directed to the proposed channel that would be sized to accommodate anticipated flows. Thus, runoff volumes associated with the proposed project would not exceed the capacity of the proposed drainage facilities. Although the proposed project could result in polluted runoff, compliance with regulatory requirements for water quality and BMPs would minimize these impacts to a less-than-significant level.					
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed facilities are not located within an area that would be subjected to tsunami or seiche hazards because it is not adjacent to the ocean or a large body of water. The project area is located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map Zone A (FEMA 2008). Zone A is defined as areas with no base flood elevations determined. However, the project site is also within a special flood hazard area subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood (100-year flood). The proposed project itself would alleviate potential flooding in the project area by conveying flows through a trapezoidal channel and discharging the flows into an existing improved segment of Bedford Canyon Wash. As such, no impact in this regard is anticipated.					

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The District is responsible for implementing water quality programs within District facilities. The proposed project would construct a stormwater channel and comply with the requirements of the local National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program by implementing a SWPPP, which would list BMPs to prevent construction pollutants and products from violating any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The project site is located within the Santa Ana River Watershed and would comply with the Riverside County Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (Order No. R8-2010-0033, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CAS618033) issued by the California RWQCB (Santa Ana Region). Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed project would not conflict or obstruct the implementation of a water quality control plan. Impacts would be less than significant.				
XI. LAND USE PLANNING				
Would the project:	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The project site is located within an established community. The proposed channel would be located along the existing alignment of Bedford Canyon Wash. As such, the proposed project would not physically divide an established community. No impact would occur.				
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project has been designed consistent with the City's General Plan land use designation, zoning and relevant ordinances. As demonstrated in this Initial Study, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No impact would occur.				
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES				
Would the project:	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The project site is within an area designated as MRZ-3, which is a mineral resource zone where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data (City of Corona 2019). The project site is not located within an area with mineral resources of regional significance (City of Corona 2020). The proposed project would channelize an existing wash for the purpose of conveying stormwater and would not preclude adjacent areas from future mining uses. Therefore, no impacts to known mineral resources are anticipated.				

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Please see the response to threshold (a), above. No impact would occur.					
XIII. NOISE					
Would the project result in:		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The project vicinity already experiences significant ambient noise levels due to the surrounding land uses, including I-15, commercial uses and industrial uses. Due to the short-term and temporary nature of construction and maintenance, the ambient noise level increase is not anticipated to be substantial. Furthermore, public utility projects, such as the proposed project, are exempt from the City's noise ordinance per City of Corona Municipal Code Section 17.84.040 (E)(8). Therefore, impacts are less than significant.					
b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Construction and maintenance of the proposed storm channel would involve the temporary use of large construction equipment, which would result in temporary vibrational noise. Vibrational noise is a concern when sensitive receptors are in close proximity to the vibration sources. The proposed project would be located along a segment of Bedford Canyon Wash located in an undeveloped parcel adjacent to I-15 and industrial land uses. No sensitive receptors are located in the immediate vicinity of the project site. While the temporary and short-term use of construction equipment would generate groundborne vibration, no impacts to sensitive receptors would occur.					
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
There are no airports or private airstrips located within 2 miles of the project site. Therefore, no impact would occur.					

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is the construction and operation of a channel for the purpose of stormwater conveyance and does not involve the construction of new housing or businesses. As such, it is not anticipated to directly or indirectly induce population growth in the project area. Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to generate a permanent increase in employment opportunities in the project area capable of inducing population growth. No impact would occur.					
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The project site is undeveloped and does not contain housing; therefore, the proposed project would not result in the displacement of people or housing. No impact would occur.					
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a)	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:				
	Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is the construction and operation of a stormwater channel, which would not create a substantial new fire hazard. The project would not involve the construction of any new land uses that could increase the permanent or temporary population in the area and thus would not increase demand for fire protection or emergency response services. With the incorporation of a traffic control plan, Fire and Police access and response times are not anticipated to be impacted. No impact would occur.					
	Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is the construction and operation of a stormwater channel, which would not create a new public safety hazard or result in an increased need for police protection. The project would not involve construction of any new land uses that could increase the permanent or temporary population in the area and thus would not increase demand for					

police protection or emergency response services. With the incorporation of a traffic control plan, Fire and Police access and response times are not anticipated to be impacted. No impact would occur.				
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project would not result in population growth that would increase the use of schools. No impact would occur.				
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project would not result in population growth that would increase the use of parks. No impact would occur.				
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project would not result in population growth that would increase the use of other public facilities. No impact would occur.				
XVI. RECREATION				
Would the project:	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is the construction and operation of a stormwater channel. No increase in demand or use of existing parks or other recreational facilities would result from the implementation of the proposed project. No impact would occur.				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. No impact would occur.				
XVII. TRANSPORTATION				
Would the project:	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The proposed project would generate short-term construction-related vehicle trips. However, traffic generated by construction of the proposed project would be temporary and would not conflict with the Circulation Element of the City's General Plan. Impacts would be less than significant.				

Once the construction of the proposed project is completed, there would be no increase in automobile trips to the area because the improved facilities would not require daily visits. While it is anticipated that the proposed project would require intermittent maintenance to be conducted by District staff, such maintenance would be minimal, requiring a negligible amount of traffic trips on an annual basis. Operational impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

☐
☐
☐
☒

According to the California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation Technical Advisory on SB 743, many local agencies have developed screening thresholds to indicate when detailed traffic analysis is needed. Absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially significant level of vehicle miles traveled or inconsistency with an RTP/SCS or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than-significant transportation impact (OPR 2018).

Trips generated during operation of the proposed project would be attributed to maintenance activities, which would require a negligible amount of traffic trips on an annual basis. The proposed project would not generate 110 trips per day or more during operations. As such, the proposed project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b). No impact would occur.

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

☐
☐
☐
☒

The proposed project is for the construction and operation of a stormwater channel. No street modifications and/or improvements are proposed. As such, the proposed project would not include a design feature or introduce an incompatible use in the project area. No impact would occur.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

☐
☐
☒
☐

Construction and maintenance of the proposed project may require temporary lane closures. However, a traffic control plan would be implemented to maintain traffic flow and emergency response access in the project area, in accordance with the District's standard operating procedures. Impacts would be less than significant.

Standard Operating Procedure

TRA SOP-1 A traffic control plan would be implemented during the construction phase to maintain traffic flow and provide emergency response access to the project site.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES					
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is:		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Impact Analysis

As discussed in Section V, Cultural Resources, no cultural resources were identified within the project site during the archival research or pedestrian survey of the project site (Dudek 2022). However, a Sacred Lands File record search from the NAHC was conducted for the project and indicated that Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR) are present within the project site. The Pechanga Band of Indians and Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians identified that the project lies within a recorded Tribal Cultural Property and identified surface tribal resources within the area of effects. Public disclosure of protected TCRs is prohibited by law, as such, details of the location of such resources were communicated in government-to-government consultation between the District and the Tribes. It is also possible that unknown buried TCRs could be present within the area during ground-disturbing activities and Tribal monitoring is warranted during ground disturbing activities. Significant impacts may occur from the discovery of unknown TCRs during ground disturbing activities from project construction. Impacts to unknown TCRs would be less than significant with the implementation of Mitigation Measures TCR-1 through TCR-5. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

MM TCR-1 Tribal/Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP). The District shall prepare a CRMP prior to ground disturbing activities in consultation with the Pechanga and Soboba Bands. The CRMP shall be based on the final construction grading plans prepared by the District and will include requirements for preconstruction cultural sensitivity training, notification, and monitoring protocol. The CRMP will consider the concerns of the consulting Tribes and the consulting Tribes will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft CRMP. Details in the plan shall include:

- Project description and location;
- Project grading and development scheduling;
- Roles and responsibilities of individuals on the project;
- The pre-grading meeting and Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training details;
- The protocols and stipulations that the contractor, District, Consulting Tribes and project archaeologist will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural or Tribal Cultural resources discoveries, including any newly discovered cultural resource deposits that shall be subject to a cultural resource's evaluation.
- The type of recording needed for inadvertent finds and the stipulations of recording of sacred items.
- Confidentiality provisions;
- The requirements for content and format of the Phase IV report; and
- Contact information of relevant individuals for the project.

MM TCR-2 Tribal/Cultural Resources Monitoring. Prior to ground disturbing activities. The District shall issue Tribal monitoring agreements to the Pechanga and Soboba Bands for tribal monitoring. The District will provide a minimum of 30 days advance notice to the Tribes of all mass grading and ground disturbing activities, if possible. The Native American Tribal representative(s) shall have the authority to temporarily halt and redirect earth moving activities in the affected area in the event that suspected Tribal cultural resources are unearthed.

MM TCR-3 Archaeologist Retained and Worker Training. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the District shall retain a professional archaeologist to be on-call to provide Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training, respond to inadvertent discoveries, and, if needed, conduct monitoring as needed for mass grading and trenching activities. The project archaeologist shall have the authority to temporarily redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction. The project archaeologist and the Consulting Tribes(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the District, the construction manager and any contractors and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the project following the initial training must take the Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the project archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as needed basis;

MM TCR-4 Inadvertent Finds. If during ground disturbance activities, tribal cultural resources or unique cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological report(s) and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to project approval, the following procedures shall be followed. Unique cultural resources are defined, for this condition only, as being multiple artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its sacred or cultural importance as determined in consultation with the Native American Tribe(s). Tribal cultural resources are excluded from the definition of unique cultural resources as those resources are defined by the tribal values ascribed to them by their affiliated communities. Treatment of tribal cultural resources inadvertently discovered during the project's ground-disturbing activities shall be subject to the consultation process outlined below, as required by state law and AB 52.

- i. All ground disturbing activities within 100 feet of the discovered Tribal cultural resources shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the project applicant, the project archaeologist, the Tribal Representative(s), and the District to discuss the significance of the find.
- ii. At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and after consultation with the Tribal Representative(s) and the project archaeologist, a decision shall be made, with the concurrence of the District, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resources. The consultation shall also include procedures for final disposition.
- iii. Further ground disturbance, including, but not limited to, grading, trenching etc., shall not resume within the area of the discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties as to the appropriate mitigation. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area and will be monitored by additional Tribal Monitors if needed.

MM TCR-5 Human Remains. If human remains are discovered, no further disturbance shall occur in the affected area until the County Coroner has made necessary findings as to origin. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are potentially Native American, the California Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified within 24 hours of the published finding to be given a reasonable opportunity to identify the "most likely descendant". The "most likely descendant" shall then make recommendations, and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains (California Public Resources Code 5097.98). (GP Objective 23.3, CEQA).

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe?



Assembly Bill (AB) 52 requires good faith consultation with California Native American Tribes on the potential for impacts to TCRs. TCRs are defined by Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21074 as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe" that are either "included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources" or "included in a local register of historical resources". TCRs also include those resources determined by a lead agency in its discretion, supported by substantial evidence, to be significant. Additionally, PCR Section 21074 describes Tribal Cultural Landscapes (TCL) as being considered "a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape."

Summary of Assembly Bill 52 Consultation

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, an AB 52 invitation to initiate Tribal consultation for the Project was sent on June 2, 2022, to Tribe(s)/Band(s) based on the traditional use area maps that were previously provided to the District. Tribe(s)/Band(s) contacted for AB 52 consultation responded to this request by either deferring their right to consult on the project to Tribe(s)/Band(s) that are closer to the project area, indicating that they did not have any additional information to provide regarding the project area, or providing sufficient evidence of known Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR) that occur within the project vicinity and thus initiating formal consultation.

In accordance with the requirements of AB 52, the District sent Project notification letters to the list of California Native American Tribes below, which had previously submitted general consultation request letters pursuant to 21080.3.1(d) of the Public Resources Code:

- Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Agua Caliente)
- Morongo Band of Mission Indians (Morongo)
- Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation (Kizh Nation)
- Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians (Rincon)
- Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians (Pechanga)
- Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (Soboba)

Each recipient was provided a brief description of the project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the Tribe has 30 days to request consultation. The 30-day response period concluded on July 6, 7 and 8, 2022.

As a result of the initial notification letters, the District received the following responses:

- Agua Caliente – Responded via email on June 30, 2022, stating that the project site is not located within the Tribe's traditional use area and they defer to other Tribes in this area
- Pechanga – Responded by email on June 17, 2022, with a formal request to begin consultation under AB 52
- Soboba – Responded by email on July 11, 2022, requesting AB 52 consultation

No response was received from the Morongo, Kizh Nation, and the Rincon. Of the Tribes contacted, consultation proceeded with the Pechanga Band of Indians (Pechanga) and Soboba Band of Luiseño.

The District responded via email to the Pechanga on July 7, 2022, and to the Soboba on August 2, 2022, to establish consultation with both Tribes (Consulting Tribes). The Consulting Tribes informed the District that the project site is in a culturally sensitive area. There are known village sites in the project vicinity, and the alignment of Cajalco Road follows a prehistoric trail leading to a village site. Several archaeological sites, including human remains, have been found along the trail and in the vicinity, including recent finds in close proximity to the project site. Furthermore, the Consulting Tribes expressed the sensitivity of waterways especially at the confluence of two or more waterways, such as the area just downstream of the project site. The Consulting Tribes also stated that the project site is within a Traditional Cultural Property that extends from Lake Mathews to Cajalco Road.

Impact Analysis

As summarized previously, TCRs were identified within the project site during AB 52 consultation. Additionally, the project site and the vicinity were identified by the Pechanga and Soboba as being sensitive due to the numerous known TCRs documented in the region, including villages and human remains, and the cultural importance of waterways and/or confluences of one or more waterways. As such, the project site is considered sensitive and has a high potential for inadvertent discovery of TCRs. Impacts to unrecorded TCRs that may be discovered during ground-disturbing construction activities would be less than significant with the implementation of **MM TCR-1 through MM TCR-5, and MM CR-1 and MM SOP-1**. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

Additional Proposed Cultural Resource Mitigation Measure and Standard Operation Procedure

MM CR-1 Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. The archaeologist shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment.

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find represents a cultural resource, the handling of the cultural resource(s) shall follow the applicable recommendations as described in the Cultural Resources Management Plan prepared for the project, as required by TCR-1

CR SOP-1 Accidental Discovery of Human Remains. If human remains or remains that are potentially human are found, the District shall retain a qualified professional archaeologist to ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance. The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code. Handling of the discovery shall follow the provisions set forth

by Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS		Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The proposed project is the construction and operation of stormwater drainage facilities and does not include new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion. Impacts associated with the construction of stormwater drainage facilities are discussed throughout this Initial Study. With the implementation of the mitigation measures discussed in this Initial Study, impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed storm channel would be less than significant.					
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The proposed project does not include land uses that would require permanent water supplies. Water will only be necessary during construction and maintenance to control fugitive dust from leaving the site. The proposed project does not require water once constructed to operate. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.					
c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is the construction and operation of a stormwater channel. This proposed facility would not generate wastewater. No impact would occur.					
d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Construction and operation activities may generate small quantities of solid waste, inert materials, and green waste. All waste would be disposed of in accordance with all local statutes and regulations. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.					
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Construction waste would be limited to earthen material and concrete lining removal. All construction-related solid waste would be disposed of at a landfill approved for the disposal of construction and demolition recycling and waste. Operations would be the same as existing conditions and would not require service of a landfill on a long-term basis. Waste generated by the proposed project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

XX. WILDFIRE If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
The project site is within moderate, high, and very high fire hazards severity zones in a Local Responsibility Area (CAL FIRE 2025). Construction and operation of the proposed project would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan. However, the construction and maintenance of the proposed project may require temporary lane closures, which has the potential to interfere with emergency response access. Prior to any lane closures, the District (or its contractor) will have a traffic control plan in place to ensure proper access to residences and businesses by emergency vehicles during construction and maintenance to maintain traffic flow. Impacts would be less than significant.				
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is the construction and operation of a storm channel and would not include the permanent siting of employees or housing on the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from wildfire as a result of slope, prevailing winds or other factors. No impact would occur.				
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The proposed project is the construction and maintenance of channel improvements within the existing Bedford Canyon Wash. The project would not require the installation or maintenance of additional infrastructure that would exacerbate fire risk resulting in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. No impact would occur.				
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The primary purpose of the proposed project is to safely convey peak 100-year storm flows through the project area. The construction and maintenance of the proposed facility is necessary to maintain flood protection in the project area. Therefore, no impacts associated with downstream flooding are anticipated.				

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potential Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
The proposed project has the potential to adversely affect biological, cultural, and tribal cultural resources. Impacts to biological, cultural, and tribal cultural resources are discussed in detail in Sections IV, Biological Resources V, Cultural Resources and XVIII Tribal Cultural Resources of this Initial Study. With the adoption and implementation of MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-4, MM CR-1 through MM CR-2, and MM TCR-1 through MM TCR-5, impacts would be less than significant.				
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual (and potentially less-than-significant) project effects that, when considered together or in concert with other projects combine to result in a significant impact within an identified geographic area. In order for a project to contribute to cumulative impacts, it must result in some level of impact on a project specific level. As discussed throughout this Initial Study, potentially significant impacts were identified for biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources and paleontological resources. With mitigation measures included in this Initial Study, the proposed project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be considerable. Furthermore, other foreseeable projects would be subject to CEQA and would undergo the same level of review as the proposed project and include mitigation measures to minimize potentially significant impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.				
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒
The construction of the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse effect on human beings. The proposed improvements would protect life and property by reducing flood risk in the project area. No Impact would occur.				

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Appendix A

CalEEMod Outputs

Appendix B

Biological Technical Report and MSHCP Consistency Analysis for the Bedford Canyon Channel Stage 1 Project

Appendix C

Negative Cultural Resources Phase I Survey for the Bedford Canyon Channel Stage 1 Project, City of Corona, Riverside County, California

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Bedford Canyon Channel

The District, as lead agency, is responsible for oversight of compliance of the mitigation measures in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP).

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
Biological Resources	The proposed project contains suitable habitat for burrowing owl, and implementation of the project has the potential to impact burrowing owl.	BIO-1: Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Survey. A pre-construction survey for burrowing owls shall be conducted, in compliance with the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), within 30 days prior to ground disturbance to avoid direct impacts to the species. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer and follow the 2006 Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions for the Western Riverside MSHCP Area. This requirement shall be included in project construction plans and specifications. If the species is detected, a Burrowing Owl Protection and Relocation Plan shall be drafted to ensure protection of the species. The plan shall include appropriate avoidance buffers, passive and/or active relocation, construction monitoring and reporting requirements. The plan shall be reviewed and approved within 30 days of receipt by the Regional Conservation Authority (RCA) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If the species is not detected, then no further action is required.	Pre-construction survey.	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District)	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and Regional Conservation Authority (RCA)	No more than 30 days prior to grading or ground disturbance.
Biological Resources	The proposed project has the potential to impact nesting Crotch's bumble bees if construction occurs during	BIO-2: Pre-Construction Nest Survey for Crotch's Bumble Bee. Vegetation clearing and grubbing shall be conducted outside of the Crotch's bumble bee nesting season (February 1 st through October 31 st) to avoid loss of a nest. If avoidance of the Crotch's bumble bee nesting period is not feasible, and ground-disturbing construction activities occur during the Crotch's bumble bee nesting period (February 1 st through October 31 st), then a qualified biologist shall	Pre-construction survey.	District	CDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Prior to grading or ground disturbance if construction is scheduled to occur between February and October.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
	the nesting season.	conduct a one-time pre-construction survey focused on active nests for Crotch's bumble bee prior to commencing project activities to detect bumble bees and potential nesting sites. The survey shall be conducted within a survey area that includes a 50-foot buffer around the project footprint. If an active Crotch's bumble bee nest is found within the survey area, the nest will be flagged, and work shall not commence within 50 feet of the active nest until the nest is no longer active (typically September or October) to avoid take of Crotch's bumble bee. The Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District) shall submit survey reporting to the CDFW at least 7 days prior to commencing any project activities. If avoidance of Crotch's bumble bee nest(s) is not feasible, the District is advised that an Incidental Take Permit for Crotch's bumble bee and amendment to this Agreement would be warranted prior to commencing or resuming the project. Alternatively, in the absence of surveys, the Permittee may assume presence and apply for and acquire an Incidental Take Permit for Crotch's bumble bee prior to initiating project activities.				
Biological Resources	The proposed project has the potential to impact nesting birds if construction occurs during the nesting season.	BIO-3: Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey. Vegetation clearing shall be conducted outside of the nesting season, which is generally identified as February through August each year. If avoidance of the nesting season is not feasible, then a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within 3 days prior to any site disturbance, including disking, demolition activities and grading. The survey shall encompass suitable habitat in the construction footprint plus a 500-foot buffer. If additional areas are proposed for disturbance, a new nesting bird survey that covers those areas shall be conducted. This requirement shall be included in project construction plans and specifications. If nests with eggs or young are detected, the biologist shall establish suitable buffers around the	Pre-construction survey.	District	CDFW, USFWS	Prior to grading or ground disturbance if construction is scheduled to occur between December 15 th and September 15 th .

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
		nests, and the buffer areas shall be avoided until the nests are no longer occupied and the juvenile birds can survive independently from the nests. If no active nests are detected, then no further action is required.				
Biological Resources	The proposed project has the potential to acquire a net loss of waters and impacts to aquatic resources.	BIO-4: Aquatic Resource Permitting and Mitigation. Prior to construction activity, the District shall coordinate with the RWQCB; Region 8 to assure conformance with the requirements of the Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Prior to activity within CDFW jurisdictional streambed or associated riparian habitat, the applicant shall coordinate with CDFW (Inland Deserts Region 6) relative to conformance to the Lake and Streambed Alteration permit requirements. Prior to activity within Western Riverside MSHCP riparian/riverine resources, the District shall coordinate with the RCA, CDFW, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to demonstrate consistency with the MSHCP. Development shall mitigate to ensure no net loss of waters at a minimum of 1:1 with re-establishment and 1:1 preservation for impacts to aquatic resources as part of an overall strategy to ensure no net loss of aquatic function and value. Mitigation shall be completed through applicant-sponsored mitigation at the off-site Potrero Basin parcel that would be conserved in perpetuity via establishment conservation easement. Final mitigation ratios shall be determined in consultation with RWQCB, CDFW, USFWS and RCA based on agency evaluation of current resource functions and values and through each agency's respective permitting process. Additionally, a habitat mitigation and monitoring plan (HMMP) shall be prepared in accordance with resource agency guidelines and approved by the agencies in accordance with the proposed program permits. The HMMP shall include a conceptual planting plan including planting zones, grading and irrigation, as applicable; a conceptual planting plant	Pre-construction coordination meeting.	District	CDFW, USFWS, RWQCB, RCA	Prior to construction activity.

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		palette; a long-term maintenance and monitoring plan; annual reporting requirements; and proposed success criteria.				
Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to impact cultural resources within the project site.	CR-1: Accidental Discovery of Cultural Resources. If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find. The archaeologist shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. • If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required. • If the professional archaeologist determines that the find represents a cultural resource, the handling of the cultural resource(s) shall follow the applicable recommendations as described in the Cultural Resources Management Plan prepared for the project, as required by TCR-1.	Preparation of a Cultural Resources Management Plan	District	State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	During earthwork activities within the project site.
Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to impact cultural resources within the project site.	CR-2: Accidental Discovery of Human Remains. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are not historic, but prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted by the engineer to determine the most likely descendant for this area. Once the most likely descendant is determined, treatment of the Native American human remains will proceed pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The NAHC may become involved with decisions concerning the disposition of the remains.	Reporting of accidental discovery.	District	SHPO	During earthwork activities within the project site.

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Geology	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to impact paleontological resources within the project site.	GEO-1: Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program. Prior to commencement of any grading activity on site, the applicant shall retain a qualified paleontologist listed on the County of Riverside, Paleontology Consultant List and subject to the review and approval of the District. The paleontologist shall prepare a Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) for the project. The PRIMP shall be consistent with the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (2010) guidelines and outline requirements for pre-construction meeting attendance and worker environmental awareness training, adequate monitoring within the project site based on construction plans and/or geotechnical reports, procedures for adequate paleontological monitoring, discoveries treatment, paleontological methods (including sediment sampling for micro vertebrate fossils), reporting and collections management. The PRIMP shall include protocols for spot-checking significant ground-disturbing activities below a depth of 5 feet below the ground surface or 5 feet below the depth of artificial fill in areas mapped as Holocene alluvium and full-time paleontological monitoring below the depth of artificial fill in areas underlain by Pleistocene alluvium. In the event that paleontological resources (e.g., fossils) are unearthed during grading, the paleontological monitor shall temporarily halt and/or divert grading activity to allow recovery of paleontological resources. The area of discovery shall be roped off with a 50-foot radius buffer. Once documentation and collection of the find is completed, the monitor shall remove the rope and allow grading to recommence in the area of the find.	Preparation of a Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program.	District	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology	Prior to construction activities.
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal	TCR-1: Tribal/Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (CRMP). The District shall prepare a CRMP prior to ground disturbing activities in consultation with the Pechanga and Soboba Bands. The CRMP shall be based on the final construction grading plans	Prepare Tribal/Cultural Resources Management Plan.	District	Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)	Prior to construction activities.

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	cultural resources within the project site.	prepared by the District and will include requirements for preconstruction cultural sensitivity training, notification and monitoring protocol. The CRMP will consider the concerns of the consulting Tribes, and the consulting Tribes will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft CRMP. Details in the plan shall include: a. Project description and location; b. Project grading and development scheduling; c. Roles and responsibilities of individuals on the project; d. The pre-grading meeting and Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training details; e. The protocols and stipulations that the contractor, District, Consulting Tribes and Project Archaeologist will follow in the event of inadvertent cultural or Tribal Cultural resources discoveries, including any newly discovered cultural resource deposits that shall be subject to a cultural resource's evaluation; f. The type of recording needed for inadvertent finds and the stipulations of recording of sacred items; g. Confidentiality provisions; h. The requirements for content and format of the Phase IV report; and i. Contact information of relevant individuals for the project.				
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural	TCR-2: Tribal/Cultural Resources Monitoring. Prior to ground disturbing activities, The District shall issue Tribal monitoring agreements to the Pechanga and Soboba Bands for tribal monitoring. The District will provide a minimum of 30 days advance notice to the Tribes of all mass grading and ground disturbing	Conduct archaeological monitoring.	District	NAHC	During earthwork activities.

Issue	Potential Impact	Mitigation Measures	Action	Implementation Responsibility	Governing Agency	Implementation Timing
	resources within the project site.	activities, if possible. The Native American Tribal representative(s) shall have the authority to temporarily halt and redirect earth moving activities in the affected area in the event that suspected Tribal cultural resources are unearthed.				
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural resources within the project site.	TCR-3: Archaeologist Retained and Worker Training. Prior to the issuance of a grading permit, the District shall retain a professional archaeologist to be on-call to provide Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training, respond to inadvertent discoveries, and, if needed, conduct monitoring as needed for mass grading and trenching activities. The Project Archaeologist shall have the authority to temporarily redirect earthmoving activities in the event that suspected archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction. The Project Archeologist and the Consulting Tribes(s) shall attend the pre-grading meeting with the District, the construction manager and any contractors and will conduct a mandatory Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training to those in attendance. The training will include a brief review of the cultural sensitivity of the project and the surrounding area; what resources could potentially be identified during earthmoving activities; the requirements of the monitoring program; the protocols that apply in the event inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources are identified, including who to contact and appropriate avoidance measures until the find(s) can be properly evaluated; and any other appropriate protocols. All new construction personnel that will conduct earthwork or grading activities that begin work on the project following the initial Training must take the Cultural Sensitivity Training prior to beginning work and the project archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) shall make themselves available to provide the training on an as-needed basis.	Provide Cultural Resources Worker Sensitivity Training.	District	NAHC	Prior to construction activities.

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Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural resources within the project site.	MM TCR-4: Inadvertent Finds. If during ground disturbance activities, tribal cultural resources or unique cultural resources are discovered that were not assessed by the archaeological report(s) and/or environmental assessment conducted prior to project approval, the following procedures shall be followed. Unique cultural resources are defined, for this condition only, as being multiple artifacts in close association with each other, but may include fewer artifacts if the area of the find is determined to be of significance due to its sacred or cultural importance as determined in consultation with the Native American Tribe(s). Tribal cultural resources are excluded from the definition of unique cultural resources as those resources are defined by the tribal values ascribed to them by their affiliated communities. Treatment of tribal cultural resources inadvertently discovered during the project's ground-disturbing activities shall be subject to the consultation process outlined below, as required by state law and AB 52. i. All ground disturbing activities within 100 feet of the discovered Tribal cultural resources shall be halted until a meeting is convened between the Project applicant, the Project Archaeologist, the Tribal Representative(s), and the District to discuss the significance of the find. ii. At the meeting, the significance of the discoveries shall be discussed and after consultation with the Tribal Representative(s) and the Project Archaeologist, a decision shall be made, with the concurrence of the District, as to the appropriate mitigation (documentation, recovery, avoidance, etc.) for the cultural resources. The consultation shall also include procedures for final disposition.	Tribal cultural resources or unique cultural resources discovery.	District	NAHC	Prior to construction activities.

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		iii. Further ground disturbance, including but not limited to grading, trenching etc., shall not resume within the area of the discovery until an agreement has been reached by all parties as to the appropriate mitigation. Work shall be allowed to continue outside of the buffer area and will be monitored by additional Tribal Monitors if needed.				
Tribal Cultural Resources	Ground-disturbing activities have the potential to encounter tribal cultural resources within the project site.	MM TCR-5: Human Remains. If human remains are discovered, no further disturbance shall occur in the affected area until the County Coroner has made necessary findings as to origin. If the County Coroner determines that the remains are potentially Native American, the California NAHC shall be notified within 24 hours of the published finding to be given a reasonable opportunity to identify the "most likely descendant". The "most likely descendant" shall then make recommendations and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains (California Public Resources Code 5097.98). (GP Objective 23.3, CEQA).	Identify the "most likely descendant."	District	NAHC	Prior to construction activities.