AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

CARPINTERIA CITY HALL 5775 CARPINTERIA AVENUE CARPINTERIA, CA 93013

Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

If interested in participating in a matter before the Board, you are strongly encouraged to provide the Board with a public comment in one of the following ways:

1. **Online:** Comments may be submitted online through the **"eComments"** function located in the **Upcoming Events** section on our website: https://cvwd.net/about/our-board/meetings/ **by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.**

2. **Submitting a Written Comment.** If you wish to submit a written comment, please email your comment to the Board Secretary at Public_Comment@cvwd.net by **5:00 P.M. on the day of the meeting**. Please limit your comments to 250 words. Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations.

3. If you wish to make either a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda item in person, please: attend the Board Meeting at the location noted above and fill out a speaker slip prior to the hearing the item.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, President Van Wingerden

II. ROLL CALL, Secretary McDonald

III. PUBLIC FORUM (Any person may address the Board of Directors on any matter within its jurisdiction which is not on the agenda)

IV. APPROVAL ITEMS

A. **Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on July 26, 2023

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
(805) 684-2816

**Indicates attachment of document to agenda packet.

VI. NEW BUSINESS –

A. **Consider Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ventura- Santa Barbara Counties (for information, General Manager McDonald)

B. Public Hearing on Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties

1. **Opening of Public Hearing (President Van Wingerden)**
2. **Receipt of Public Comment (President Van Wingerden)**
3. **Closing of Public Hearing (President Van Wingerden)**
4. **Director Comments**

C. **Consider Resolution No. 1145 Approving and Adopting Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project (for action, General Manager McDonald)

D. **Consider authorizing President to execute IRWM Grant Sub Agreement with Santa Barbara County Water Agency (for action, General Manager McDonald)

E. **Consider Resolution No. 1146 Approving and Adopting Categorical Exemption under CEQA for the Annexation of two parcels located at 3197 Padaro Lane (for action, General Manager McDonald)

F. **Consider Resolution No. 1147 authorizing LAFCO Application Initiating Proceedings for the Annexation of Parcels located at 3197 Padaro Lane (for action, General Manager McDonald)

G. **Consider Authorizing the Board President to enter into a Temporary Construction Agreement for the CAPP Project (for action, General Manager McDonald)

H. **Carpinteria WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest Winner 2023 (for information, General Manager McDonald)

VII. DIRECTOR REPORTS –

A. **CCWA Board Meeting – July 27, 2023 – Director Johnson

VIII. GENERAL MANAGER REPORTS (for information) – None

IX. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL: POTENTIAL LITIGATION, [GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(2)]: Cachuma Operations & Maintenance Board

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
(805) 684-2816

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X. CONSIDER DATES AND ITEMS FOR AGENDA FOR:

CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2023, AT 5:30 P.M., CARPINTERIA CITY HALL, 5775 CARPINTERIA AVENUE, CARPINTERIA, CALIFORNIA.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.

Robert McDonald, Secretary

Note: The above Agenda was posted at Carpinteria Valley Water District Administrative Office in view of the public no later than 5:30 p.m., August 6, 2023. The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied benefits of, the District's programs, services, or activities because of any disability. If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Office at (805) 684-2816. Notification at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make appropriate arrangements. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Carpinteria Valley Water district offices located at 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue, Carpinteria during normal business hours, from 8 am to 5 pm.

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue
Carpinteria, CA 93013
(805) 684-2816

**Indicates attachment of document to agenda packet.

	MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
	CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
	July 26, 2023
	President Van Wingerden called the regular meeting of the Carpinteria Valley Water District Board of Directors held in the Carpinteria City Hall Chamber to order at 5:33 p.m., Wednesday, July 26, 2023, and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
AB2449 TELECONFERENCE PROVISION	Under AB 2449, Director Holcombe requested to attend the board meeting virtually for "Just Cause". Following discussion, Director Johnson moved, and Director Balch seconded the motion to approve Director Holcombe's Virtual Attendance under AB2449. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts
ROLL CALL	Directors Present; Johnson, Holcombe, Balch and Van Wingerden Directors Absent: Roberts
	Others Present: Bob McDonald
	Cari Ann Potts Norma Rosales Lisa Silva Kevin Kostiuk
PUBLIC FORUM	No one from the public addressed the Board.
MINUTES	Following discussion, Director Balch moved, and Director Johnson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on July 12, 2023. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The minutes were approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts

DISBURSEMENT REPORT	Following discussion, Director Johnson moved, and Director Balch seconded the motion to approve the monthly bills for the period of May 16, 2023 through June 15, 2023. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts
ANNUAL VENDOR PAYMENT REPORT FY 22/23	Following discussion, Director Balch moved, and Director Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Annual Vendor Payment Report for FY 22/23 with correction of vendor County of Santa Barbara changed to City of Santa Barbara. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts
DIRECTOR QUARTERLY MEETING REIMBURSEMENT	Following discussion, Director Balch moved, and Director Johnson seconded the motion to approve the Director 4th Quarter Meeting Reimbursement report. The motion carried by a 3-0-2 vote with Directors Roberts and Holcombe absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts and Holcombe
RESOLUTION 1144	General Manager McDonald presented to consider Resolution No. 1144 Authorizing Agreement with UMPQUA Bank Commercial Card Program. UMPQUA Bank will take the place of the District's current Commercial credit card with Card Member Services, formerly Elan, formerly Santa Barbara Bank & Trust. Following discussion, Director Balch moved, and Director Johnson seconded the motion to approve Resolution No. 1144. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts

ADDENDUM TO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT	General Manager McDonald presented to consider Addendum to Cooperative Agreement between COMB and CVWD. Proposal is to amend the Cooperative Agreement to eliminate the SCC Valve #2 and apply the money to Phase 2 of the LIVR project so that each agency would stay within their budgeted $1.1M. Following discussion, Director Johnson moved, and Director Balch seconded the motion to approve the Addendum to Cooperative Agreement. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts
FY 24-26 BUDGET, WATER RATES & CHARGES AND DRAFT FEE STUDY	General Manager McDonald presented to consider and discuss the Proposed FY 24-26 Budget, Rates & Charges and Draft Fee Study. Discussion of Prop 218 re-noticing, delayed implementation of the Rates that were adopted in June which will go into effect in September. Public Hearing is scheduled for September 13, 2023 Board Meeting. Minor changes to the Budget and Rates & Charges were presented by Assistant General Manager Rosales and Kevin Kostiuk from Raftelis.
PROP 218 RE-NOTICING	General Manager McDonald presented to consider Prop 218 Re-noticing of Rates & Charges for FY 24-26, adding Statute of Limitations statement. Following discussion, Director Johnson moved, and Director Balch seconded the motion to approve Prop 218 Re-noticing. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION	General Manager McDonald presented to discuss Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties. No action was taken.

	Public Hearing is scheduled for August 9, 2023 Board Meeting.
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	Directors Holcombe and Van Wingerden gave a verbal report on the Administrative Committee meeting that was held on July 11, 2023
CACHUMA OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE BOARD FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETING	Director Holcombe gave a verbal report on the COMB Fisheries Committee meeting that was held on July 12, 2023 (not June 12, 2023 as noted in the agenda)
CACHUMA OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING	Director Holcombe gave a verbal report on the COMB Administrative Committee meeting that was held on July 18, 2023
CACHUMA OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE BOARD MEETING	Director Holcombe gave a verbal report on the COMB Board meeting that was held on July 24, 2023
CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING	Director Johnson & General Manager McDonald gave a verbal report on the CCWA Operating Committee meeting that was held on July 13, 2023
CLOSED SESSION	President Van Wingerden adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m. to convene the Board into closed session for the following matters: **IX. REMOVED FROM AGENDA** **X. [CLOSED SESSION]: CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6 DISTRICT NEGOTIATOR: ROBERT MCDONALD; UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES:** **1. Accountant/IT Technician**
BOARD RECONVENED IN OPEN SESSION	At 7:03 p.m. President Van Wingerden reconvened the Board meeting with the following reportable actions: **IX. REMOVED FROM AGENDA** **X. NO REPORTABLE ACTION**
UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS	Following Closed Session discussion, Director Johnson moved, and Director Van Wingerden seconded the motion to approve Unrepresented Employment Agreement for Accountant/IT Technician as presented. The motion carried by a 4-0-1 vote with Director Roberts absent. The motion was approved by roll call as follows; Ayes: Holcombe, Johnson, Balch, and Van Wingerden Nayes : none Absent: Roberts

NEXT BOARD MEETING	The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled to be held on August 9, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., Carpinteria City Hall, 5775 Carpinteria Avenue, Carpinteria California.
ADJOURNMENT	President Van Wingerden adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.
NEXT BOARD MEETING	Robert McDonald, Secretary

Carpinteria Valley Water District

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue • Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 684-2816

To: CVWD Board of Directors
From: Bob McDonald, General Manager
Date: August 4, 2023

For Consideration: Item VI.A – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ventura- Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project

Background

In 2020 CVWD entered into an MOU with Casitas Municipal Water District to develop and construct a high-capacity pipeline intertie between the two agencies. The Project will benefit CVWD with an alternative water source in times of emergency and will benefit CMWD with a new route to move waters from the State Water Project System into their service area. CMWD has 5000 AF allocation in the SWP. The project could also assist both agencies with water supply management opportunities.

Analysis

Several significant milestones have been achieved including CEQA certification (of a Mitigated Negative Declaration) by CMWD and 95% Final Design for the project. The remaining project barriers are NEPA compliance, land acquisition and Coastal Development permit issuance. It is expected that these elements will be completed by July 2024.

CVWD must also approve and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) since it is a project co-sponsor. To do this CVWD must advertise for and will hold a public hearing to consider public comment on the CEQA document. Staff advertised the attached Notice of Intent (NOI) last two weeks in the Coastal View News and on the District website. A copy of the MND without appendices and a copy of the Mitigation, Monitoring & Reporting Plan (MMRP) is attached to Resolution 1145 contained in the agenda packet.

Staff has thoroughly reviewed the MND and MMRP believes that the MND adequately analyzed, identified the potential impacts from the project and adequately developed mitigations for said potential impacts. The MMRP contains mitigation for a number of potential impacts to traffic, air quality, noise, cultural and biologic resources and others that could impact the portion of the

project within CVWD's service area. For the construction phase of the project- when most of the potential impacts could occur- Casitas Municipal Water District will be the lead agency and therefore responsible for implementing the mitigations. However, CVWD will ultimately own and operate that section of the project within its service area and will be required to implement mitigations, if any, after the project completion. Primarily, the project component within CVWD service area is 4000 feet of 16-inch pipeline both conventionally installed and directionally drilled.

Recommendation

Adopt Resolution 1145 approving the project and adopting the MND and MMRP for the project.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE INTENT TO ADOPT THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE VENTURA-SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES INTERTIE PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) and Casitas Municipal Water District propose to construct and operate an intertie pipeline with pumping and treatment facilities between the two districts, (herein referred to as "proposed project" or "project").

The Project will improve regional water supply reliability for both agencies. Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are susceptible to natural disasters such as wildfires, landslides, and earthquakes which can lead to water supply outages. The project would allow Casitas and Santa Barbara County water purveyors to transfer local potable water supplies in either direction, as necessary. In addition, the project would provide Casitas with a means of accessing its State Water Project water allocations to supplement existing supplies resulting in a more resilient water supply portfolio. The proposed project would not be utilized to increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or to provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or Carpinteria Valley Water District.

Project Location: The project site is located in the unincorporated southwestern portion of Ventura County and the unincorporated southeastern portion of Santa Barbara County and is approximately 0.3 mile east of the City of Carpinteria boundary. The project site traverses State Route (SR) 192 and SR 150, both of which are under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Pipeline would be constructed running from Lake Jocelyn southwest along SR192 across SR 150 into farmland within Ventura County where it will tie into the Rincon Pipeline operated by Casitas Municipal Water

Public Comment: The CVWD is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the CVWD prior to the close of the public comment period. Comments should be provided to the CVWD General Manager, Bob McDonald at 1301 Santa Ynez Avenue, Carpinteria, (805) 684-2816, bob@cvwd.net prior to the close of the public comment period on August 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. CVWD will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled Board Meeting on August 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM located at CARPINTERIA CITY HALL, 5775 CARPINTERIA AVE, CARPINTERIA, CA 93013.

PROJECT DETAILS: The project involves the construction and operation of potable water infrastructure to connect the Casitas and Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) water transmission systems. The proposed project includes approximately 7,100 linear feet (LF; 1.3 miles) of new 16-inch-diameter potable water pipeline, two new booster pump stations, replacement of select portions of the existing Rincon Main, and improvements to infrastructure at other existing Casitas facilities. The pipeline would traverse the boundary between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and act as a two-way intertie to allow the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD, as necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: The CMWD has prepared and adopted an MND pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The MND may be reviewed by visiting the CMWD's website at https://www.casitaswater.org/home/showpublisheddocument/4747/638144874579505030 or a hard copy can be reviewed at the CVWD District Offices at 1301 Santa Ynez Ave.

RESOLUTION 1145

RESOLUTION OF THE CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT ADOPTING RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FIDINGS PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE VENTURA- SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES INTERTIE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Carpinteria Valley Water District ("CVWD") desires participate in the construction and operation of the Ventura County- Santa Barbara County Intertie Project (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Casitas Municipal Water District ("Casitas") is the lead agency for the environmental analysis of the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Res. Code, § 21000, et seq.) ("CEQA") and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14 § 15000 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, portions of the Project will be located within the CVWD service area; and

WHEREAS, CVWD will have control of the operation of the portion of the Project within its service area and will be responsible for maintaining and operating said Project portion, and is therefore considered a Responsible Agency pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, Casitas has prepared and publicly circulated a Mitigate Negative Declaration (the "MND") for the Project in coordination with CVWD as a Responsible Agency; and

WHEREAS, Casitas has adopted the MND along with a Mitigation, Monitoring & Reporting Program (the "MMRP") and approved the Project on April 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, CVWD must make certain Responsible Agency findings as required by CEQA prior to its approval of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (the "Board") of CVWD, at a regularly scheduled public meeting on August 9, 2023, independently reviewed and considered the MND, and MMRP, and other related documents in the record before it; and

WHEREAS, all the procedures of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines have been met; and

WHEREAS, prior to taking action, the Board has heard, been presented with, reviewed and considered all the information and data presented to it, including the MND and MMRP and oral and written evidence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Carpinteria Valley Water District as follows:

1. The Board of Directors hereby so finds the above recitals are true and correct.

2. CVWD has, in its independent judgment, reviewed and considered the MND prepared by Casitas, which is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference, and finds, as to those potential impacts within CVWD's powers and authorities as a responsible agency, that the MND contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the Project's potential impacts.

3. CVWD further finds that, while the project may have potentially significant impacts as identified in the MND, the mitigation measures in the MND and MMRP avoid and/or substantially lessen any of the potentially significant effects of the Project, specifically as to those portions of the Project within CVWD's service area. The MMRP is attached as Exhibit B and incorporated by reference.

4. The Board supports the implementation of the MMRP for the project.

5. In its limited role as Responsible Agency, the Board hereby approves the Project and authorizes staff to carry out all mitigation measures and other responsibilities allocated to CVWD, as the Responsible Agency, in the MND and MMRP for the Project.

6. The Board directs the District General Manager or his designees to file the required CEQA Notice of Determination (the "NOD") with the Clerk of the Board Office for Santa Barbara County and the State Clearing House within five (5) working days of approval of the Project.

Vote on the Resolution by roll call resulted as follows:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th day of August 2023

APPROVED:

_____

Case Van Wingerden, President

Attest:

_____

Robert McDonald, Secretary

APPENDIX A

Mitigated Negative Declaration without

Appendices

Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project

Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration

prepared by

Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 North Ventura Avenue
Oak View, California 93022
Contact: Julia Aranda, Engineering Manager

prepared with the assistance of

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003

March 2023

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.
Environmental Scientists | Planners | Engineers
rinconconsultants.com

Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project

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March 2023

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Table of Contents

Tables

Figures

Appendices

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
ACS	United State Census Bureau's American Community Survey
AE	Agriculture Exclusive zone
AEP	Association of Environmental Professionals
Basin	South Central Coast Air Basin
Basin Plan	Central Coastal Basin Water Quality Control Plan
BGI	Bajada Geosciences, Inc.
BMP	Best Management Practice
BPS	Booster Pump Station
BSA	Biological Study Area
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CA	Coastal Agriculture zone
CALFIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
Casitas	Casitas Municipal Water District
CBC	California Building Code
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CMA	Congestion Management Agency
CMP	Congestion Management Plan
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CH_4	methane
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide

CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
CVWD	Carpinteria Valley Water District
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWRP	Comprehensive Water Resources Plan
dB	decibel
dB(A)	A-weighted decibel
DCM	DCM Consulting, Inc.
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
ECAP	County of Santa Barbara's Energy and Climate Action Plan
EIA	United States Energy Information Administration
EO	Executive Order
ESHA	environmentally sensitive habitat area
ERMs	emission reduction measures
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	greenhouse gas
HDD	horizontal directional drilling
HMMP	Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
HMMSCP	Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan
HP	horsepower
IS-MND	Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration
kWh	kilowatt-hours
lbs/day	pounds per day
L_{eq}	one-hour equivalent noise level
LF	linear feet
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MLD	most likely descendant
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
MT	metric tons
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
N_2O	nitrous oxide

NO_X	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Properties
OS	Open Space zone
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter
PM_{10}	particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter
ppv	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
ROC	reactive organic compound
Rms	root mean square
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SBCAPCD	Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District
SCADA	supervisory control and data acquisition
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SCE	Southern California Edison
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO_X	sulfur oxides
SR	State Route
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SWP	State Water Project
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
tpy	tons per year
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
VCAPCD	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District
VCTC	Ventura County Transportation Commission
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program

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Initial Study

1. Project Title

Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie

2. Lead Agency Name and Address

Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 North Ventura Avenue
Oak View, California 93022

3. Contact Person and Phone Number

Julia Aranda, PE
Engineering Manager
Casitas Municipal Water District
Phone: (805) 649-2251 ext. 107; email: jaranda@casitaswater.com

4. Project Location

The project site is located in the unincorporated southwestern portion of Ventura County and the unincorporated southeastern portion of Santa Barbara County and is approximately 0.3 mile east of the city of Carpinteria. The project site traverses State Route (SR) 192 and SR 150, both of which are under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Figure 1 shows the project site in the regional context. Figure 2 shows an overview of the project site, including the pipeline alignment, booster pump station sites, and infrastructure improvement areas. Figure 3 shows the western portion of the project site, which includes the pipeline alignment and Booster Pump Station A (BPS-A) site. Figure 4 shows the Booster Pump Station B (BPS-B) site.

5. Project Sponsors' Names and Addresses

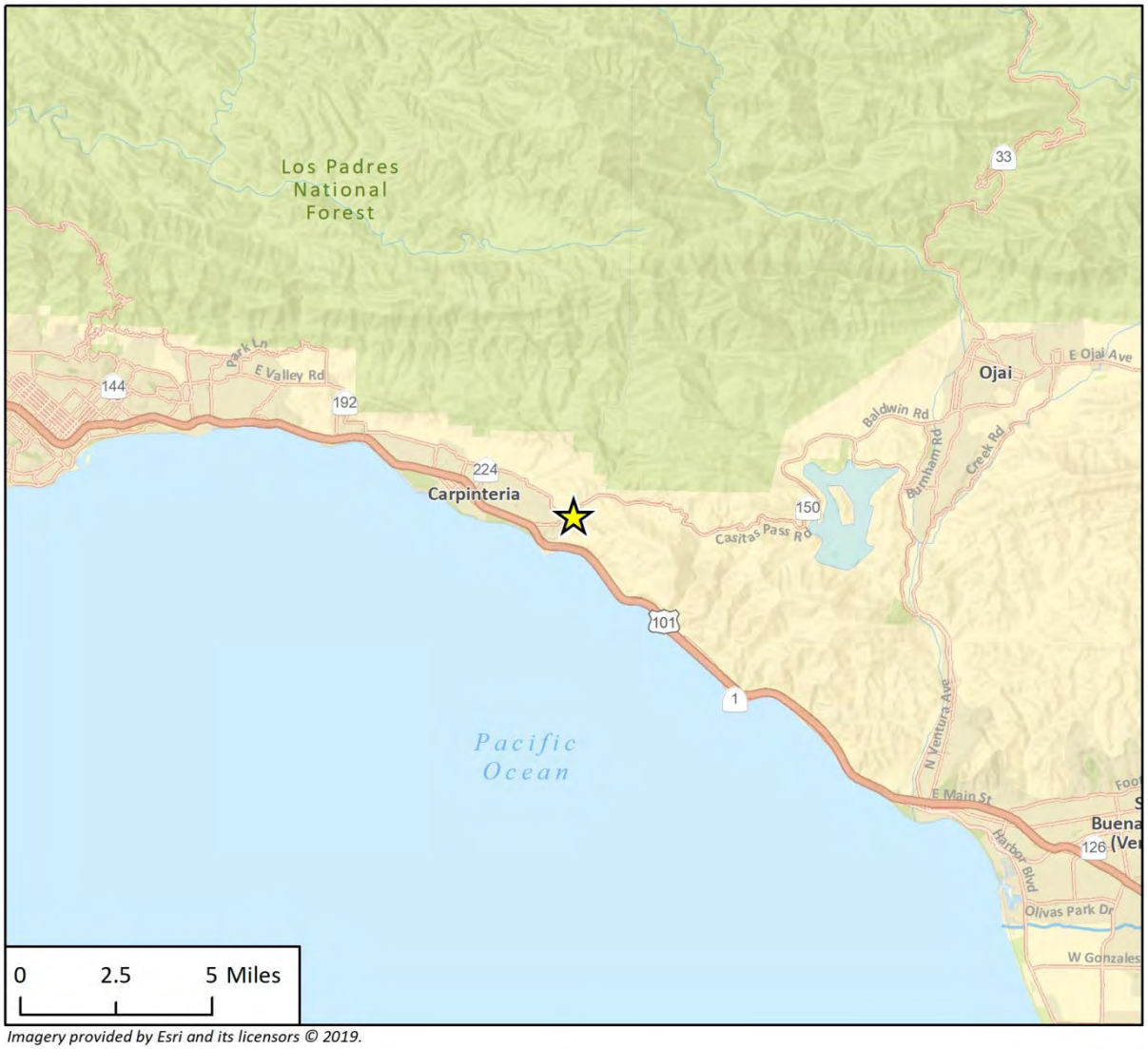
CEQA Lead Agency

Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 North Ventura Avenue
Oak View, California 93022

Project Co-sponsor

Carpinteria Valley Water District
1301 Santa Ynez Avenue
Carpinteria, California 93013

Figure 1 Regional Project Location



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Project Location

N

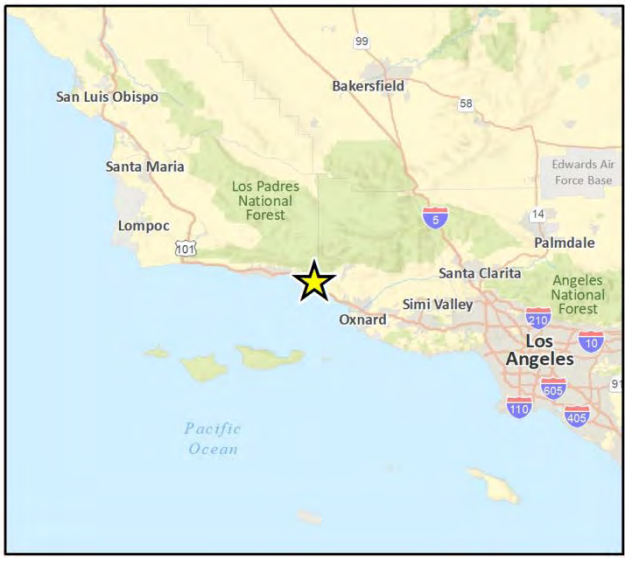

Figure 2 Overview of Project Site

Figure 3 Proposed Pipeline Alignment and Booster Pump Station Site A

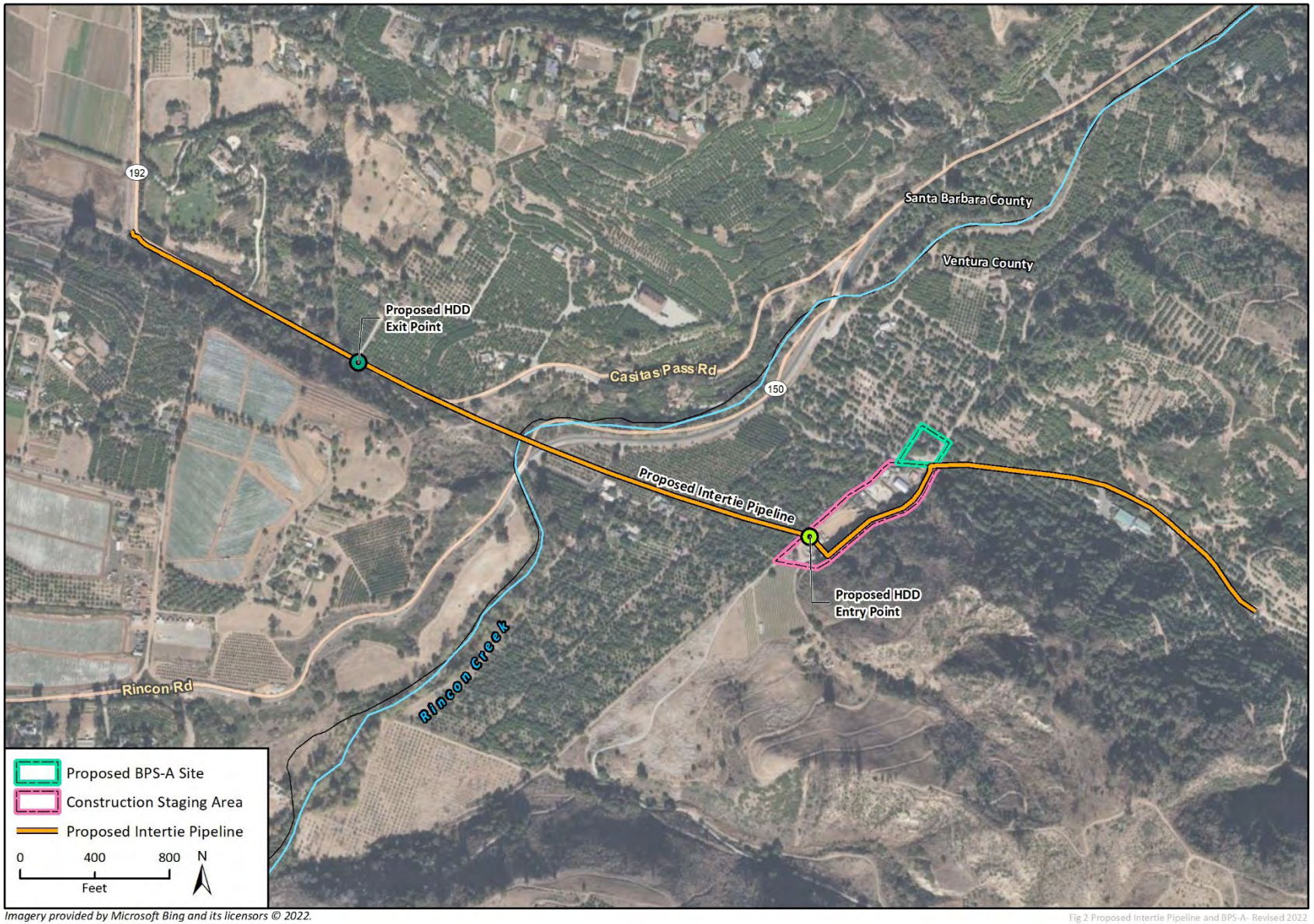

Figure 4 Proposed Booster Pump Station Site B

6. General Plan Designation

Ventura County: Open Space

Santa Barbara County: AC (Agricultural Commercial/Minimum parcel size – 40 acres), A-I-10 (Agriculture I/Minimize parcel size-10 aces)

7. Zoning

Ventura County: Agricultural Exclusive (AE-40 ac), Coastal Agriculture (CA-40 ac-sdf), Open Space (OS-40 ac, OS-80 ac/SRP, OS-80 ac/TRU/DKS, OS-160 ac)

Santa Barbara County: AG-I-5 (Agriculture I/Minimum Lot Size – 5 Acres gross), AG-I-10 (Agriculture I/Minimum Lot Size – 10 Acres gross)

8. Description of Project

The Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie Project (herein referred to as "proposed project" or "project") involves the construction and operation of potable water infrastructure to connect the Casitas and Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD) water transmission systems. The proposed project includes approximately 7,100 linear feet (LF; 1.3 miles) of new 16-inch-diameter potable water pipeline, two new booster pump stations, replacement of select portions of the existing Rincon Main, and improvements to infrastructure at other existing Casitas facilities. The pipeline would traverse the boundary between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and act as a two-way intertie to allow the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD, as necessary.

Comprehensive Water Resources Plan Background

In June 2020, Casitas developed a Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Plan (CWRP) to identify, analyze, and prioritize strategies for providing a reliable water supply to meet the future needs of Casitas' customers. The Draft CWRP was prepared in response to the recent extended drought in California, which resulted in historic low storage levels in Lake Casitas, and in response to concerns about the impacts of climate change on future supplies. With stakeholder engagement, Casitas developed an analysis of future system supplies and demands to evaluate future water needs. The Draft CWRP included goals for long-term water supply augmentation, short-term risk management, and portfolio diversification. These goals informed the investigation and prioritization of future water supply options. The Draft CWRP identified all potential supply options, then screened those to select the most feasible options, then combined those feasible options into portfolios (Casitas 2020).

The proposed project is identified as one of the water supply options in the Draft CWRP's recommended water supply portfolio. It is the only option addressing all three goals for long-term water supply augmentation, short-term risk mitigation, and portfolio diversification (Casitas 2020).

Project Objectives

The proposed project would facilitate the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD, thereby improving regional water supply reliability. Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are susceptible to natural disasters such as wildfires, landslides, and earthquakes. The project would allow Casitas and

Santa Barbara County water purveyors to transfer local potable water supplies in either direction, as necessary, and improve the resiliency of the local water distribution network. In addition, the project would provide Casitas with a means of accessing its State Water Project water allocations to supplement existing supplies resulting in a more resilient water supply portfolio. The proposed project would not be utilized to increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or to provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or CVWD.

Project Description

This section describes the specific facilities included in the proposed project.

Pipeline

ALIGNMENT

The proposed project would include approximately 7,100 LF of 16-inch-diameter, underground potable water pipeline. Up to approximately 4,800 LF of the proposed pipeline would be constructed in unincorporated Ventura County; the remainder of the pipeline would be constructed in unincorporated Santa Barbara County. The western terminus of the pipeline would connect to the existing CVWD 15-inch pipeline at the southeastern corner of Lake Jocelyn, located immediately northwest of the southernmost portion of the segment of SR 192 in Santa Barbara County which traverses north-south. From Lake Jocelyn, the pipeline would traverse southeast along SR 192, cross underneath Rincon Creek and SR 150, and extend east to connect to the existing Rincon Pipeline approximately 0.5 miles east of Rincon Creek.

The crossing of Rincon Creek and SR 150 would be completed via underground horizontal directional drilling (HDD) construction. After crossing Rincon Creek and SR 150, the pipeline would continue southeast through an orchard for approximately 1,500 LF before turning north at Avocado Hill Road, a private unpaved access road. The pipeline would continue for approximately 800 LF in Avocado Hill Road, where the pipeline would connect with another private, unpaved access road. The pipeline would turn east at the access road and continue for 2,000 LF, where the pipeline would connect to the existing Rincon Main Pipeline.

The project also includes the replacement of four portions of the existing Rincon Main Pipeline with insufficient capacity, referred to as Replacements 1a, 1b, 1c, and 2a. Replacements 1a, 1b, and 1c are located directly east of the proposed BPS-A site, within the existing orchard. Replacements 1a, 1b, and 1c would include the replacement of approximately 10 LF, 200 LF, and 100 LF of the Rincon Main Pipeline, respectively. Replacement 2a is located directly east of the proposed BPS-B site, and would include the replacement of approximately 210 LF of the Rincon Main Pipeline.

CONSTRUCTION

Materials required for pipeline construction include: pipe; fittings and appurtenances; sand, cement slurry, and natural earth material for backfill; and paving materials. All materials would be delivered to the staging areas at the beginning of construction and materials needed for the day's work would be taken from the staging areas to the work site. The staging areas for pipeline construction would be at existing, previously disturbed areas near the proposed alignment or along the pipeline alignment within paved roadways or the road shoulder. It is estimated for each 1,000 LF of pipeline construction, five material deliveries per day would occur.

Proposed pipeline construction would primarily entail conventional, open-trench excavation within existing roadways. Open-trench excavation is a construction method typically utilized to install pipelines and their appurtenant structures, which include blow-offs, service meters, valves, and vaults. In general, the process of pipeline construction in a roadway would consist of site preparation, excavation and shoring, pipe installation and backfilling, and street restoration (where applicable). Pipeline construction using open-trench method requires the use of an excavator, wheeled loader, dump truck, and vibrating compactor.

The following is a description of the phases of construction for open-cut trenching:

- **Site Preparation.** The existing pavement along the pipeline alignment is cut with a concrete saw or otherwise broken and removed using jackhammers, pavement breakers, and loaders. Other similar equipment may be used. The pavement is removed from the project site and recycled or disposed of at an appropriate facility.
- **Excavation and Shoring.** A trench is excavated along the alignment using backhoes, excavators, or other types of excavation equipment. Portions of the trench adjacent to existing utilities may be manually excavated. Approximately 2,900 cubic yards of soil and pavement[1] would be hauled away and disposed of at an appropriate facility. The remainder of the excavated soil would be temporarily stored adjacent to the trenches or stored at staging areas to be used as trench backfill.

  The pipeline requires a minimum 30-inch width at its deepest location to a five-foot-wide trench at the surface in which to work and place the pipe. Trenches would generally be no more than six feet deep, unless there is a need to cross another utility or a trenchless-construction crossing requires a deeper, rectangular boring pit. If crossing another utility is required, the proposed trench depth depends on the depth of the existing utility and required clearance (generally, at least one foot) between the proposed pipeline and the existing utility line. Maximum trench depth would be approximately ten feet in these areas.
- **Pipe Installation and Backfilling.** Once the trench is excavated and shored (if necessary), the pipe and backfill material are placed in the trench. Backfill material around pipeline includes sand bedding, imported aggregate material, or a sand-cement slurry. Such material is placed at least four inches under the pipe, six inches on each side, and one foot above the pipe. Generally, every linear foot of pipeline requires 0.11 cubic foot of sand (i.e., 1,000 feet of pipeline requires 110 cubic feet of sand). Assuming approximately two feet of cover over the sand backfill, required earth (soil) backfill is 0.22 cubic foot per linear foot of pipeline. The remaining one foot of trench backfill is comprised of paving materials (see Street Restoration below). At the end of each workday, the trench is covered with steel plates for public safety and so traffic can resume use of the roadway in both directions.
- **Street Restoration.** Final paving is performed once the entire pipeline segment is installed. Paving progresses at the rate of approximately 1,000 square feet per day. Paving requires a wheeled loader, paving machine, and roller. Once the pavement is restored, traffic delineation (striping) is also restored.

[1] This approximated 2,900 cubic yards of soil and pavement is based on open-cut trenching for the proposed pipeline, which equates to approximately 4,400 LF of open-cut trenching (not including the segment of pipeline to be installed under Rincon Creek via trenchless crossing). It is estimated that approximately 0.65 cubic yard of soil and/or pavement would be hauled off-site for disposal (i.e., not used as trench backfill) per linear foot of pipeline installed (4,400 LF x 0.65 cubic yard per LF of open-cut trenching = 2,900 cubic yards of soil and/or pavement to be hauled off site).

Typical open-cut pipeline construction, including trenching, installing the pipe, backfilling, and temporary plating, is accomplished at approximately 200 to 300 LF per day.

CREEK CROSSING

The crossing of Rincon Creek would occur using the trenchless HDD method. Trenchless HDD construction involves excavating an entrance pit on one side of the creek and a receiving pit on the opposite side of the creek. A pilot hole is drilled along the pipeline alignment, followed by the enlarging of the hole by passing a larger cutting tool (back reamer) through the hole. The pipe is then placed in the hole beneath the creek using a drill stem; the back reamer pulls the pipe into place behind it. HDD requires the use of drilling fluid (comprised of a mixture of water and bentonite or polymer) to remove cuttings, stabilize the bore hole, cool the cutting head, and lubricate the passage of the pipe. Used drilling fluid is collected in a reclaimer machine to remove drill cuttings and maintain the proper viscosity during reuse of the fluid. Upon completion of pipe installation, the entrance pit and receiving pit are backfilled and the disturbed land or habitat is restored. The project-specific SWPPP would include measures to avoid/minimize potential impacts to water quality from this method of creek crossing, including, but not limited to, ensuring the drilling fluid is properly contained and avoiding frac-outs.[2] Approximately 500 cubic yards of spoils would be removed during HDD construction, based on a 30-inch borehole.

Booster Pump Stations

The proposed project also involves the construction and operation of two booster pump stations: BPS-A and BPS-B. BPS-A would consist of an approximately 2,000-square-foot concrete masonry unit (CMU) block wall building including the following water treatment facilities to provide the required secondary disinfectant conversion from one district's source water to the other: (1) a mechanical room with four vertical turbine pumps (two duty, one standby, and one jockey pump); (2) 500-gallon ammonia (40 percent liquid ammonium sulfate) storage tank and two ammonia feed pump skids housed in dedicated ammonia room; (3) 2,500-gallon, 12.5 percent sodium hypochlorite vertical storage tank with secondary chemical containment housed in a dedicated sodium hypochlorite room; (4) two sodium hypochlorite feed pump skids housed in dedicated sodium hypochlorite room; (5) electrical room with the pump variable frequency drives and electrical panels; and (6) an outdoor, 3,000-gallon surge tank. In addition, a temporary booster pump station consisting of a packaged pump system containing eight pumps would potentially be installed at the BPS-A site to provide pumping capacity while the BPS-A permanent structure is being constructed. The temporary booster pump station would only be implemented if water is available and would operate for up to a maximum of approximately three years or until the permanent pump station is constructed. The temporary booster pump station, if constructed, would be hauled onto the site on a skid roller and minimal ground disturbance would be required. The temporary booster pump station would tie directly into the electrical grid and no generator would be required. Minor ground disturbance would be required to tie the temporary booster pump station into the water piping. BPS-A would be located in unincorporated Ventura County adjacent to the pipeline alignment at the northwest intersection of Avocado Hill Road and an unpaved access road. The BPS-A building would be located within an approximately 20,900 square foot fenced area.

[2] HDD operations have a potential to release drilling fluids into the surface environment through frac-outs. A frac-out is the condition where drilling mud is released through fractured bedrock into the surrounding rock and sand and travels toward the surface. During the final design phase and upon close examination of geotechnical boring results and subsurface characteristics, the depth of the HDD is designed to achieve a minimum depth of cover to minimize the risk of a frac-out.

BPS-B would consist of an approximately 900 square-foot CMU block wall building housing three vertical turbine pumps (two duty and one standby pump) within a mechanical room. The building would also house the electrical room with the pump variable frequency drives and electrical panels. BPS-B would be located on a 7,500-square foot, previously disturbed site in unincorporated Ventura County, approximately 740 feet south of SR 150 and 0.6 mile west of the intersection of SR 150 and Red Mountain Fire Road. Development of BPS-B would include an access road extension totaling approximately 1,400 square feet.

Each booster pump station would include an outdoor transformer and a meter/main switchboard. Construction of the booster pump stations would include: site grading; underground and aboveground piping; concrete pads for pumps, piping, and electrical equipment; electrical service from Southern California Edison; installation of pumps, motors, and electrical equipment; minor site improvements such as fencing and awnings over equipment; and start-up and testing. Typical construction equipment would include an excavator, grader, crane, and standard work trucks. Construction supplies and equipment would be staged at each pump station site.

Improvements to Existing Casitas Infrastructure

The proposed project would require miscellaneous infrastructure improvements at a number of existing Casitas facilities:

- Rincon Main Pipeline
- Rincon Control Reservoir
- Rincon Vents
- Chlorination Station
- Rincon Pump Plant

RINCON MAIN PIPELINE

The proposed project would replace approximately 530 LF of existing Rincon Main Pipeline and would implement minor surge protection improvements at several existing air-relief valve locations along the existing Rincon Main Pipeline.

RINCON CONTROL RESERVOIR

The Rincon Control Reservoir is an existing 250,000-gallon welded steel tank facility located between the proposed BPS-A and BPS-B along the Rincon Main Pipeline. Currently, the facility accommodates water flows from the Casitas system towards the CVWD system. The proposed project would modify the existing facility to allow for water flow in the reverse direction. Improvements would include new bypass piping and valve configuration, as well as electrical and communication system modifications.

CHLORINATION STATION

The existing Chlorination Station is currently out of operation. The facility is located adjacent to an 18-inch shepherds hook vent. The project would replace the existing vent at the Chlorination Station site with a new equivalent combination air release valve to accommodate the proposed project. The project would not result in operation of the Chlorination Station.

RINCON VENTS

The Rincon Vents are existing vent structures for the Rincon Main Pipeline, located along the southern side of SR 150, approximately 4,940 feet west of Lake Casitas. To accommodate the proposed project, minor electrical and mechanical improvements would be conducted. Two options for mechanical improvements are under consideration: (1) the existing vent structures would be replaced with combination air release valves or taller standpipe vents, or (2) a new level-indicating transmitter would be added to the existing vent structure stilling well and the northern vent would be raised by 10 feet.

RINCON PUMP PLANT

The Rincon Pump Plant is an existing pump facility located southeast of Lake Casitas and east of the Lake Casitas Dam. The proposed project would include installation of a new pressure sustaining and reducing valve, a check valve, isolation valves, and approximately 130 LF of 18-inch bypass pipeline at the Rincon Pump Plant.

Construction Schedule and Practices

Project construction would likely be phased and would be implemented between Summer 2023 and Spring 2025. Project construction activities would generally occur during normal Casitas working hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays observed by Casitas. Pipeline construction along SR 192 is subject to an encroachment permit from Caltrans, which may limit construction activities to: (1) 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or (2) nighttime hours. Trenchless HDD construction work hours would take place from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with exception of a 48-hour period of continuous work to complete the HDD pull through operation. Casitas intends to conduct construction activities during the day; however, if an emergency situation requires construction beyond 3:00 p.m., nighttime construction may be required.

For open cut pipeline construction and construction of the HDD exit pit, contractor employees would likely park at the nearest turnout in the construction zone. For construction of the booster pump stations and HDD entry pit, contractor employees would park on site. Approximately 10 two-way worker trips would occur per workday.

Pipeline construction would progress at the rate of approximately 200 to 300 LF of pipeline per day. Full public roadway closures are likely not necessary, as the trench would be limited to one lane of the roadways. Full roadway closures along smaller, private roads or access easements may be utilized but would be dependent on conditions negotiated in right-of-entry or permanent easement agreements with individual landowners. Workspace, traffic control, and work duration within Caltrans right-of-way would be dependent on individual permit restrictions which would be determined during final design. Traffic control with flag-persons would likely be set up to allow vehicular travel within one lane during pipeline construction.

In addition, construction noise controls would be implemented consistent with Casitas' Standard Contractor Specifications, which include maximum noise limits and monitoring requirements. Controls are described in detail in Section 13, Noise.

Operation and Maintenance

BPS-A would be equipped with three 500-horsepower (HP) pumps, two operational pumps and one pump on standby, as well as one 15-HP jockey pump. BPS-B would be equipped with three 150-HP pumps, two operational pumps and one pump on standby. BPS-A and BPS-B pumps would operate

as needed. For the purpose of this Initial Study, it is conservatively estimated the booster pump stations would be used for approximately 680 hours per year on average. Under these conditions, the booster pump stations would require approximately 662,200 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually. In addition, the water treatment equipment at BPS-A would require approximately 2,200 kWh of electricity annually under the same conditions.

Following completion of construction, maintenance of the project facilities would include remote monitoring via Casitas' supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system, meter reading, routine inspections and maintenance of facilities, periodic testing, and emergency repairs. Trash and weeds would be regularly removed from the vicinity of aboveground facilities. Maintenance activities would occur monthly and on an as-needed basis, and approximately 50 vehicle trips by maintenance staff per year would occur. Regular and routine maintenance activities would not include any ground-disturbing activities.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

Land uses in and around the project area are predominantly agricultural with some undisturbed, open space areas. The pipeline alignment primarily traverses public roads and agricultural use areas.

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

Casitas is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) with responsibility for approving the project. CVWD is a responsible agency with discretionary approval over the project. Table 1 lists the other approvals potentially required for the project.

Table 1 Summary of Potentially Required Approvals

Regulating Agency	Potential Permit/Approval	Reason for Permit/Approval
State Water Resources Control Board, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Regional Quality Control Board	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Construction General Permit, NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Groundwater from Construction, Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Construction activities resulting in ground disturbance exceeding one acre, discharge of groundwater encountered during construction
Caltrans	Encroachment Permit	Pipeline construction within Caltrans rights-of-way
County of Ventura	Coastal Development Permit, Discretionary Tree Permit	Project implementation in Coastal Zone; project may impact protected trees
County of Santa Barbara	Coastal Development Permit	Project implementation in Coastal Zone; project may impact protected trees
U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit	Potential disturbance of jurisdictional wetlands/waters
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	SF299 Application for Transportation, Utility Systems, Telecommunications, and Facilities on Federal Lands and Property	Modifications to Rincon Main Pipeline

Regulating Agency	Potential Permit/Approval	Reason for Permit/Approval
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Streambed Alteration Agreement	Potential disturbance of riparian habitat
Ventura County Public Works Agency—Watershed Protection	Watercourse Permit	Work under Rincon Creek
Ventura County Public Works Agency – Land Development Services	Floodplain Development Permit	Construction of BPS-A within the floodplain
Division of Drinking Water Santa Barbara District	Water Supply Permit amendment	Changes to a water supply source, storage, treatment, or for the operation of new water system components

11. Have California Native American Tribes Traditionally and Culturally Affiliated with the Project Area Requested Consultation Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1?

On June 22, 2019, Casitas distributed Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation letters for the proposed project, including project information, map, and contact information, to the Native American tribes which requested AB 52 consultation for projects requiring CEQA clearance from Casitas, as well as CVWD. Under AB 52, Native American tribes have 30 days to respond and request further project information and request formal consultation. No response was received from the tribes.

Since the time of initial AB 52 consultation, the project description has been revised to include a selected route for the intertie pipeline, new locations for BPS-A and BPS-B, and additional improvements at existing Casitas facilities. In response to those revisions, Casitas distributed updated AB 52 consultation letters on September 1, 2022, which included project information, map and contact information to three Native American tribes for the purposes of CEQA. On September 8, 2022, CVWD distributed updated AB 52 consultation letters to seven Native American tribes for the purposes of CEQA.

Requests for additional information regarding the project were received from the Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians tribe and Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians. No requests for formal tribal consultation were received. Accordingly, AB 52 consultation is complete for the project.

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Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This project would potentially affect the environmental factors checked below, involving at least one impact which is "Potentially Significant" or "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

Determination

Based on 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 revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "less than significant with mitigation incorporated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potential significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature	Date
Printed Name	Title

Environmental Checklist

1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	■
c. In non-urbanized areas, 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 a 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?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	■	☐

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

The project site is surrounded by agricultural lands which include some residences in unincorporated Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The following photographs are representative of existing site conditions in the vicinity of the project site.

Photograph 1. Casitas Pass Road where the western portion of pipeline is proposed; view facing east.

Photograph 2. Casitas Pass Road where the western portion of pipeline is proposed; view facing west.

Photograph 3. Overview of Rincon Creek where HDD activities are proposed; view facing southeast.

Photograph 4. View of Rincon Road crossing over Rincon Creek; facing southwest.

Photograph 5. View of Rincon pipeline tie-in location neighbored by agricultural land; facing southwest.

Photograph 6. Back view of the Rincon Pumping Plant and Coyote Creek to the right; facing west.

Photograph 7. View of the Rincon Vent Station; facing west.

According to the Background Report for the Ventura County 2040 General Plan (2020a), the nearest designated Scenic Resource Area is Lake Casitas. Two infrastructure improvements, Rincon Vents and Rincon Pump Plant, are located in the Lake Casitas Scenic Resource Area. The proposed modifications in these areas primarily consist of underground components, such as bypass piping systems. Any necessary aboveground facilities proposed for the Rincon Vents and/or Rincon Pump Plant would be limited to minor infrastructure such as air-relief valves, which would be aesthetically consistent with the existing aboveground infrastructure on site. Therefore, impacts to scenic vistas in Ventura County would be less than significant.

The Santa Barbara County General Plan does not specifically designate scenic vistas. The project site is not located in an area identified as a Santa Barbara County scenic buffer area. Therefore, no impact to scenic vistas in Santa Barbara County would occur as a result of the project. Overall, impacts to scenic vistas would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

According to the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, SR 150 is a State Masterplanned Scenic Highway which is eligible for designation as a scenic highway (County of Santa Barbara 2017). In addition, although not officially designated as a State Scenic Highway, Caltrans has identified SR 150 as an Eligible State Scenic Highway (Caltrans 2019a, 2019b). The proposed project would include an underground water pipeline traversing underneath SR 150. As the pipelines would be belowground,

they would not interfere with views from SR 150. In addition, the project includes two booster pump stations. BPS-A would be located approximately 732 feet southeast of SR 150 and BPS-B would be located approximately 700 feet south of SR 150. The booster pump stations would be approximately 420 square feet in area and 10 feet in height. Security fencing would also be installed around the pump stations. The awnings, structure, and fencing for the booster pump stations would be designed to include neutral earth-tone or green (similar to nearby vegetation) colors and/or landscaping to minimize the potential for adverse changes to the existing visual character and quality of the project area. The booster pump stations would not be visible from SR 150 due to the distance from SR 150, the low height of the booster pump stations, and intervening vegetation and landforms. Therefore, there would be no impact to scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, 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 a 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?

The project site is located in a non-urbanized area. The project would consist of underground pipelines, two aboveground booster pump stations, and modifications to existing water infrastructure facilities. Short-term visual impacts would occur due to trenching, stockpiling, and other construction-related activities during installation of the proposed pipeline. However, the pipeline alignment would be restored to its current condition following the construction period. The underground pipelines would not be visible once construction is complete and would therefore not degrade the visual character of the project site. The proposed infrastructure modifications would involve subgrade modifications, which would also not visually degrade existing infrastructure. Any necessary aboveground facilities proposed in Infrastructure Improvement Areas 1 and 2 would be limited to minor infrastructure such as air-relief valves, which would be aesthetically consistent with the existing aboveground infrastructure on site.

The proposed project would construct two booster pump stations. The pump stations would be visible from the public roadways. The pumps at each booster pump station would be covered with an awning and the electrical equipment would be housed in a weatherproof structure, approximately 420 square feet in area and 10 feet in height. Security fencing would also be installed around the pump stations. The awnings, structure, and fencing for the booster pump stations would be designed to include neutral earth-tone or green (similar to nearby vegetation) colors and/or landscaping to minimize the potential for adverse changes to the existing visual character and quality of the project area. Additionally, due to intervening topography and vegetation currently present along SR 150 in the vicinities of the booster pump station sites and the posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour along SR 150, the pump stations would be visible to drivers and passengers of vehicles traveling along SR 150 in the project area for brief periods (a few seconds), thereby resulting in minimal impacts to visual character and quality from public viewpoints. Therefore, impacts to visual character and quality would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?

Project construction would occur mainly during daylight hours, except for a 48-hour period during which HDD construction would occur continuously. During nighttime construction hours, artificial lighting may be used for illuminating workspaces and providing safety lighting. However, lights would be shielded and directed downwards onto the work area. Based on the extremely short-term duration associated with such potential conditions (i.e., HDD construction) and the use of appropriate shielding, construction-related lighting effects would be nominal.

Following construction, the proposed underground pipelines would not introduce a new source of light or glare. The proposed pump stations could include artificial lighting for nighttime security purposes. However, the lights would be shielded, directed downwards onto the buildings, and at a low wattage to minimize the potential of the lights from adversely affecting nighttime views in the project area. Nighttime lighting impacts during project operation would be less than significant.

Construction and operation of the proposed project would not result in a new source of glare. Therefore, no impact associated with glare would occur.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	■	☐
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))?	☐	☐	☐	■
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	☐	☐	■

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

The proposed project would involve construction and operation of an underground water pipeline, two booster pump stations, and underground infrastructure improvements at existing Casitas facilities. The pipeline alignment and BPS-A site contain lands designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance. Figure 5 provides an overview of mapped Farmland for all locations of the proposed project, and Figure 6 shows mapped Farmland in and near the pipeline alignment and BPS-A site.

Figure 5 Mapped Farmland – Project Overview

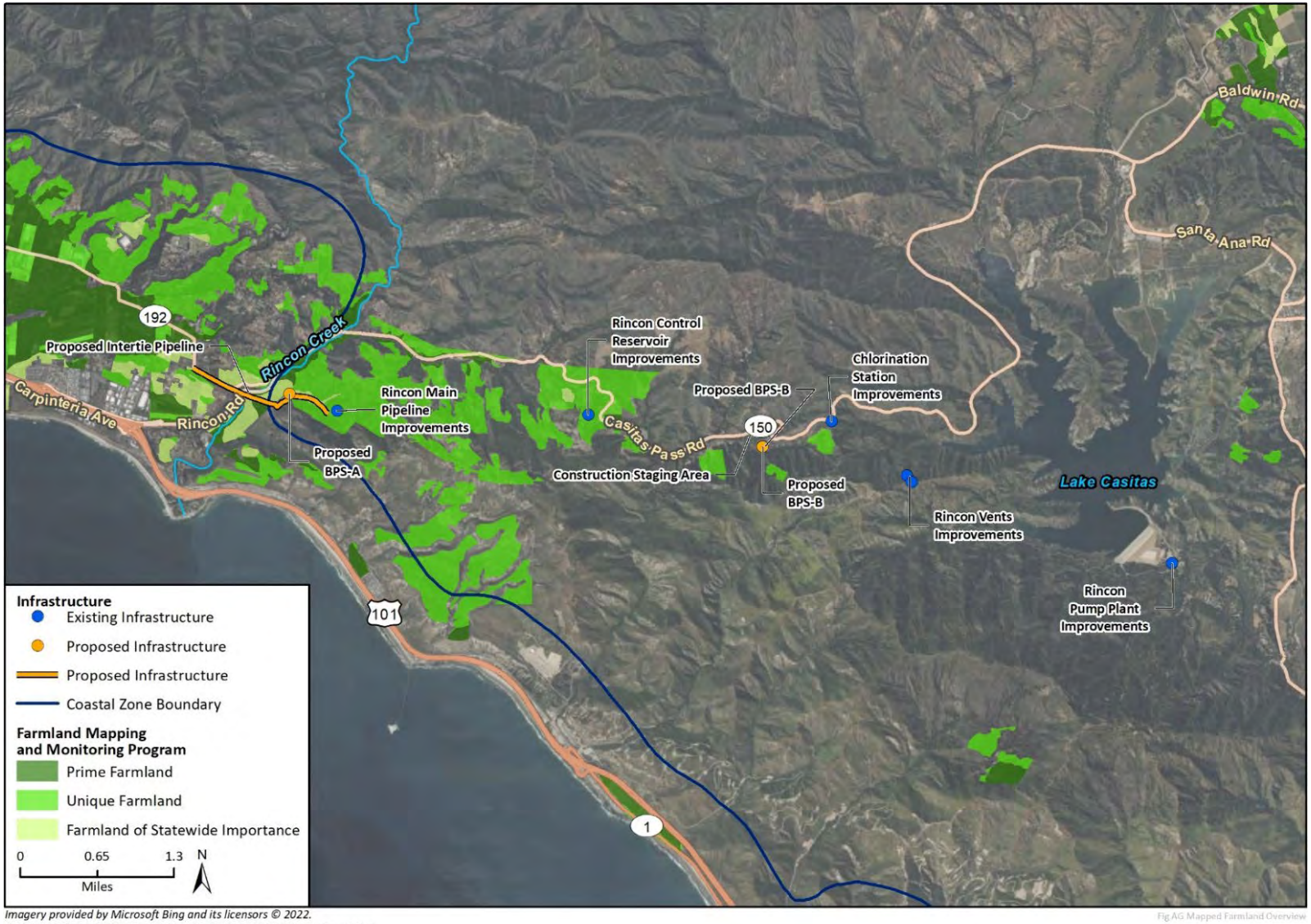
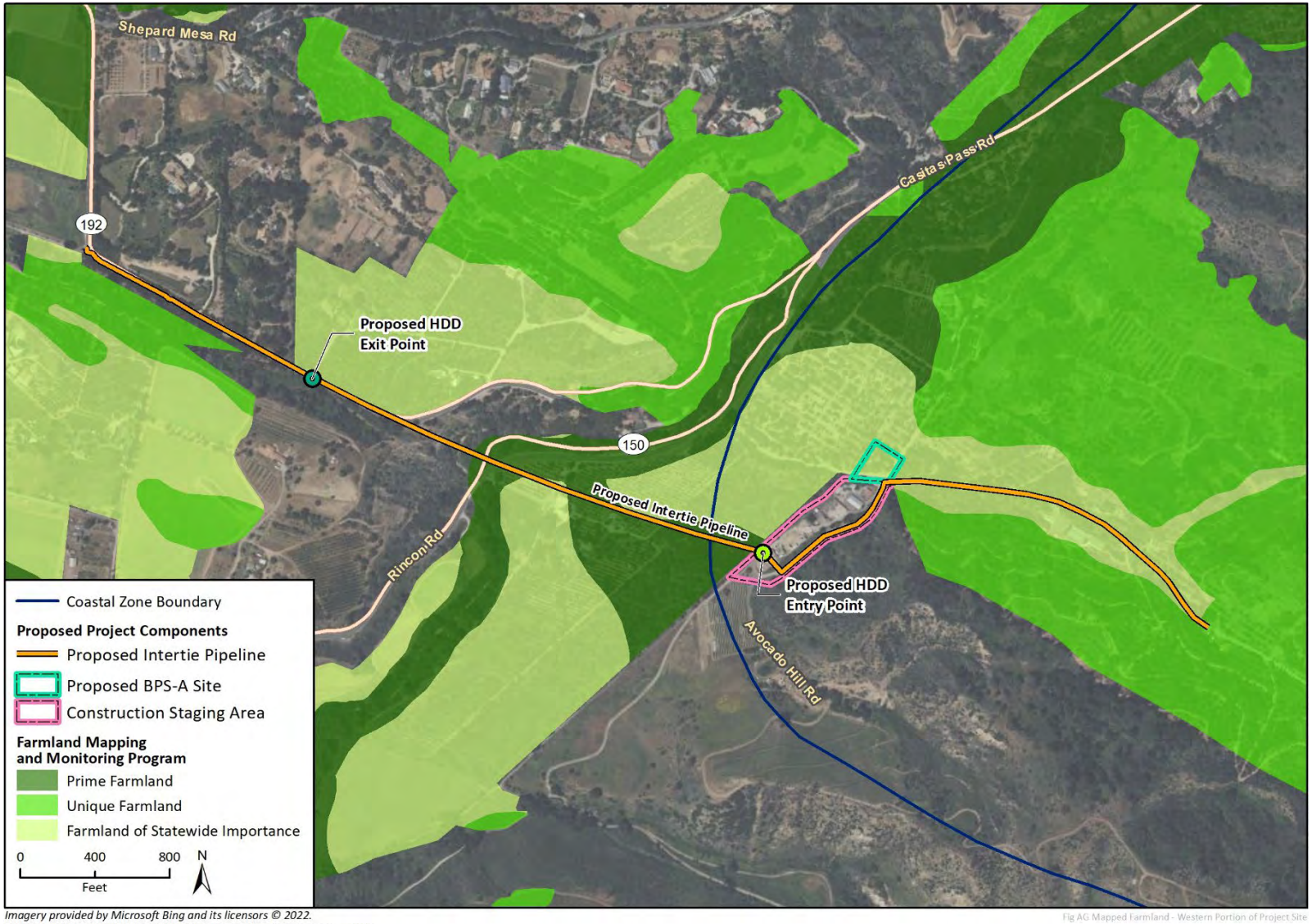


Figure 6 Mapped Farmland – Pipeline Alignment Options and Booster Pump Station A



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2022.
Additional data provided by California Department of Conservation, 2016.

Fig AG Mapped Farmland - Western Portion of Project Site

Casitas does not have identified thresholds for the conversion of agricultural land. This analysis therefore relies on the County of Ventura's Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (2011) thresholds for agricultural impacts, as the agricultural lands potentially affected by the proposed project are located in unincorporated Ventura County. According to the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, a project which would result in the conversion of five acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance would result in a significant impact (County of Ventura 2011).

The proposed pipeline would primarily be constructed underneath existing roadways, Caltrans rights-of-way, and previously disturbed, graded areas which are not currently in agricultural production. No conversion of agricultural land would occur. BPS-B site would not result in the conversion of land currently used for agriculture into non-agricultural use, as the BPS-B site is classified as grazing lands (California Department of Conservation [DOC] 2018). Infrastructure improvements at existing Casitas facilities would not result in land use changes, and would therefore not convert agricultural lands to non-agricultural use.

The construction of BPS-A would result in the conversion of approximately 25,800 square feet (0.6 acre) of Farmland of Statewide Importance. The total Farmland disturbed would not exceed the five-acre threshold identified by the County of Ventura as a significant impact. Furthermore, while the project would result in a small conversion of Farmland, the project would not preclude agricultural use near the vicinity of the project site. Once complete, the project would serve to assist Casitas in providing reliable water supplies to meet the needs of its customers, including for agricultural operations.

As such, the project would not substantially convert mapped Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use. This impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?

The project site includes areas in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties which are currently zoned for agricultural use. Pursuant to California Government Code 53091, local zoning ordinances do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water. The following paragraphs discuss local zoning ordinances for informational purposes.

According to the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Division 8, Chapter 1.1), public works facilities are allowed on land zoned as Coastal Agriculture (CA). The Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance states the purpose of the Coastal Agriculture (CA) zone is "to preserve and protect commercial agricultural lands… from the encroachment of nonresidential uses that, by their nature would have detrimental effects on the agriculture industry" (County of Ventura 2017a). The proposed project would not be utilized to increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or to provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or CVMD. The project objectives include improving regional water supply reliability in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties in areas susceptible to natural disasters such as wildfires, landslides, and earthquakes, including water supply reliability within Casitas' and CVWD's service area. Therefore, the proposed project is considered a consistent use in land zoned as Coastal Agriculture (CA).

According to the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Division 8, Chapter 1), "efficient municipal services and facilities" are "promoted" on land zoned as Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and

Open Space (OS) to confine urban development. In addition, the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance allows for public health and safety improvements within Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and Open Space (OS) zones, specifically for the purpose of managing and regulating hazardous or special conditions, including high fire risk areas. Because the project objectives include improving regional water supply reliability in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties in areas susceptible to natural disasters such as wildfires, landslides, and earthquakes, the proposed project is considered a consistent use in land zoned as Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and Open Space (OS) in Ventura County (County of Ventura 2019a).

In Santa Barbara County, water supply facilities are allowed in agricultural zones (including AG-I-5 and AG-I-10) in non-coastal areas (Santa Barbara County Code, Article 35.21.040; County of Santa Barbara 2019a). The County of Santa Barbara also allows for water supply facilities, including distribution pipelines and pump stations, within the coastal zone (County of Santa Barbara 2019b).

Many parcels within the vicinity of the project site are contracted under the Williamson Act. As previously discussed in item (a), the proposed project would not result in the permanent conversion of mapped Farmland into non-agricultural uses. Although portions of the proposed pipeline and BPS-A would result in direct impacts to mapped Farmland, such impacts would be minimized to the maximum extent practicable and removed orchard trees would be replaced after pipeline installation. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with a Williamson Act contract.

In summary, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project 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))?

d. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The project site and vicinity are not designated or zoned for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not convert any forest land to non-forest use, nor would it conflict with existing zoning for such lands. No impact to forest land would occur.

NO IMPACT

e. Would the project 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?

The proposed project would allow Casitas and CVWD to transfer available potable water supplies, as necessary, and improve the resiliency of the local water distribution network. The proposed infrastructure would not increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or CVMD, and would provide resiliency for water supplies. The post-construction condition of the project site would be similar to what currently exists. Therefore, the proposed project would not introduce new elements into the project area contributing to future conversion of agricultural use to non-agricultural use or forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	■
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	■	☐	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	■	☐

The project site is located in the South Central Coast Air Basin (Basin), which extends across San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) monitors and regulates the local air quality in Ventura County and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) monitors and regulates local air quality in Santa Barbara County.

Air quality is affected by stationary sources (e.g., industrial uses and oil and gas operations) and mobile sources (e.g., motor vehicles). Air quality at a given location is a function of several factors, including the quantity and type of pollutants emitted locally and regionally, and the dispersion rates of pollutants in the region. Primary factors affecting pollutant dispersion are wind speed and direction, atmospheric stability, temperature, the presence or absence of inversions, and topography. The project site is located in the southeastern portion of the Basin, which has moderate variability in temperatures, tempered by coastal processes. The air quality within the Basin is influenced by a wide range of emission sources, such as dense population centers, heavy vehicular traffic, industrial uses, and weather.

Air Quality Standards and Attainment

The VCAPCD and SBCAPCD are required to monitor air pollutant levels to ensure National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are met. If the standards are met, the Basin is classified as being in "attainment." If the standards are not met, the Basin is classified as being in "nonattainment" and the affected air pollution control districts are required to develop strategies to meet the standards. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Area Designation Maps, the project site is located in a region identified as being in nonattainment (Ventura County portion) and nonattainment-transitional (Santa Barbara County portion) for the ozone NAAQS and CAAQS. In addition, both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are

designated nonattainment for the particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter (PM_{10}) CAAQS (CARB 2017a, 2018a).

The VCAPCD adopted the 2016 Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan, which provides a strategy for the attainment of federal ozone standards (VCAPCD 2017). The SBCAPCD adopted the 2019 Ozone Plan, which builds upon prior Clean Air Act Plans focused on reducing ozone precursor emissions to achieve State and federal ozone standards (SBCAPCD 2019).

San Joaquin Valley Fever (formally known as coccidioidomycosis, hereafter referred to as "Valley Fever") is an infectious disease caused by a fungus which grows in the soil and dirt in some areas of California. Airborne fungal spores can infect the lungs of people and animals, causing respiratory symptoms, including cough and fever. Fungal spores can be made airborne when dry, dusty soil or dirt is disturbed by natural processes, such as wind or earthquakes, or by human-induced ground-disturbing activities, such as construction, farming, or other activities. In 2020, Valley Fever prevalence rates were 63 and 265 cases per 100,000 people in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, respectively (California Department of Public Health 2020).

Air Emission Thresholds

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District

The VCAPCD's Ventura County Air Quality Assessment Guidelines (2003) recommend specific air criteria pollutant emission thresholds for determining whether a project may have a significant adverse impact on air quality within the Basin. VCAPCD does not have an established quantitative threshold for particulate matter for construction; however, VCAPCD recommends emission reduction measures as conditions of approval on discretionary permits or best management practices (BMP) if a project's emissions are above 25 pounds per day (lbs/day) for ozone precursors, which are composed of reactive organic compounds (ROC) and/or nitrogen oxides (NO_X). Therefore, the project's impact would be considered significant if the project's emissions exceed 25 lbs/day for ozone precursors.

The VCAPCD has not established quantitative thresholds for particulate matter for either operation or construction. The VCAPCD indicates a project generating fugitive dust emissions in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons, or which may endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person, or which may cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property, would have a significant air quality impact. This threshold is applicable to the generation of fugitive dust during grading and excavation activities. The 2003 VCAPCD guidelines recommend fugitive dust mitigation measures be applied to all dust-generating activities. Such measures include minimizing a project's disturbance area, watering a site prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, covering all truck loads, and limiting on-site vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less.

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

The SBCAPCD has not yet adopted quantitative significance criteria for temporary construction emissions associated with conventional land development projects. However, the SBCAPCD recommends quantification of construction-related emissions, and uses 25 tons per year for ROC or NO_X (ozone precursors) as a guideline for determining the significance of construction impacts for all types of projects.

According to the SBCAPCD (2021), a project would result in a significant air quality effect on the environment if operation of a project would:

- Emit (from all project sources, both stationary and mobile) more than 55 pounds per day for ROC and NO_X or more than 80 pounds per day for PM_{10} (there is no daily operational threshold for CO, as it is an attainment pollutant);
- Emit more than 25 pounds per day of NO_X or ROG from motor vehicle trips only;
- Cause or contribute to a violation of any CAAQS or NAAQS (except ozone);
- Exceed the SBCAPCD health risk public notification thresholds adopted by the SBCAPCD Board (10 excess cancer cases in one million for cancer risk and a Hazard Index of more than one for non-cancer risk); and/or
- Be inconsistent with the latest adopted federal and State air quality plans for Santa Barbara County.

Significance Thresholds for the Proposed Project

Because the project site is located in both the VCAPCD and SBCAPCD jurisdictions, this analysis conservatively applies both air districts' thresholds for each criteria pollutant. Table 2 summarizes the quantitative significance thresholds for the construction and operation of the proposed project.

Table 2 Construction and Operational Air Quality Thresholds of Significance for Proposed Project

Pollutant/Precursor	VCAPCD Construction Emission Thresholds (pounds per day)	SBCAPCD Construction Emission Thresholds (tons per year)	VCAPCD Operational Emission Thresholds (pounds per day)	SBCAPCD Operational Emission Thresholds (pounds per day)
ROC	25	25	25	240 (25 for mobile)
NO_X	25	25	25	240 (25 for mobile)
PM_{10}	N/A	N/A	N/A	80

ROC = reactive organic compounds; NO_X = nitrogen oxides; PM_{10} = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; N/A = Not Available

Source: VCAPCD 2003; SBCAPCD 2021.

Applicable Rules and Regulations

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District

The VCAPCD implements rules and regulations for emissions generated by various uses and activities. The rules and regulations detail pollution-reduction measures to be implemented during construction and operation of projects. This section discusses the rules and regulations relevant to the project.

RULE 50 (OPACITY)

This rule sets opacity standards on the discharge from sources of air contaminants. This rule would apply during construction of the proposed project.

RULE 51 (NUISANCE)

This rule prohibits any person from discharging air contaminants or any other material from a source which would cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or the public or which endangers the comfort, health, safety, or repose to any considerable number of persons or the public. The rule would apply during construction and operational activities.

RULE 55 (FUGITIVE DUST)

This rule requires fugitive dust generators, including construction and demolition projects, to implement control measures limiting the amount of dust from vehicle track-out, earth moving, bulk material handling, and truck hauling activities. The rule would apply during construction and operational activities.

RULE 55.1 (PAVED ROADS AND PUBLIC UNPAVED ROADS)

This rule requires fugitive dust generators to begin the removal of visible roadway accumulation within 72 hours of any written notification from the VCAPCD. The use of blowers is expressly prohibited under any circumstances. This rule also requires controls to limit the amount of dust from any construction activity or any earthmoving activity on a public unpaved road. This rule would apply throughout all construction activities.

RULE 55.2 (STREET SWEEPING EQUIPMENT)

This rule requires the use of PM_{10} efficient street sweepers for routine street sweeping and for removing vehicle track-out pursuant to Rule 55. This rule would apply during all construction activities.

RULE 74.4 (CUTBACK ASPHALT)

This rule sets limits on the type of application and volatile organic compound (VOC) content of cutback and emulsified asphalt. The proposed project is required to comply with the type of application and VOC content standards set forth in this rule.

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

EQUIPMENT EXHAUST

The SBCAPCD requires the following measures for equipment exhaust (SBCAPCD 2017):

- All portable diesel-powered construction equipment shall be registered with the State's portable equipment registration program or shall obtain an APCD permit.
- Fleet owners of mobile construction equipment are subject to the California Air Resource Board (CARB) Regulation for In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicles (Title 13, California Code of Regulations [CCR], §2449), the purpose of which is to reduce NO_X, diesel particulate matter (DPM), and other criteria pollutant emissions from in-use off-road diesel-fueled vehicles. Off-road heavy-duty trucks shall comply with the State Off-Road Regulation.
- Fleet owners of mobile construction equipment are subject to the CARB Regulation for In-Use (On-Road) Heavy-Duty Diesel-Fueled Vehicles (Title 13, CCR, §2025), the purpose of which is to reduce DPM, NO_X, and other criteria pollutants from in-use (on-road) diesel-fueled vehicles. On-road heavy-duty trucks shall comply with the State On-Road Regulation.

- All commercial off-road and on-road diesel vehicles are subject, respectively, to Title 13, CCR, §2449(d)(3) and §2485, limiting engine idling time. Idling of heavy-duty diesel construction equipment and trucks during loading and unloading shall be limited to five minutes; electric auxiliary power units should be used whenever possible.

In addition, the SBCAPCD recommends the following measures (SBCAPCD 2017):

- Diesel equipment meeting the CARB Tier 3 or higher emission standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines should be used to the maximum extent feasible.
- On-road heavy-duty equipment with model year 2010 engines or newer should be used to the maximum extent feasible.
- Diesel powered equipment should be replaced by electric equipment whenever feasible.
- Equipment/vehicles using alternative fuels, such as compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, propane, or biodiesel, should be used on-site where feasible.
- Catalytic converters shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment, if feasible.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications.
- The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum practical size.
- The number of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure the smallest practical number is operating at any one time.
- Construction worker trips should be minimized by requiring carpooling and by providing for lunch on-site.

FUGITIVE DUST

The SBCAPCD requires the following dust control measures for all earthmoving activities (SBCAPCD 2017):

- During construction, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this should include wetting down such areas in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Increased watering frequency should be required whenever the wind speed exceeds 15 miles per hour. Reclaimed water should be used whenever possible. However, reclaimed water should not be used in or around crops for human consumption.
- Minimize amount of disturbed area and reduce on site vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less.
- If importation, exportation and stockpiling of fill material is involved, soil stockpiled for more than two days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Trucks transporting fill material to and from the site shall be tarped from the point of origin.
- Gravel pads shall be installed at all access points to prevent tracking of mud onto public roads.
- After clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation is completed, treat the disturbed area by watering, revegetating, or spreading soil binders until the area is paved or otherwise developed so dust generation will not occur.
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust off-site. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The

name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the SBCAPCD prior to grading/building permit issuance and/or map clearance.

a. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

A project may be inconsistent with the applicable air quality plan if the project would generate population, housing, or employment growth exceeding the forecasts used in the development of the plan. This analysis examines the proposed project's consistency with the VCAPCD's 2016 Ventura County AQMP and the SBCAPCD's 2019 Ozone Plan. The 2016 Ventura County AQMP relies on the Southern California Association of Governments' 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy forecasts of regional population growth in its projections for managing Ventura County's air quality (Southern California Association of Governments 2016). The SBCAPCD's 2019 Ozone Plan relies on population growth estimates from the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' Regional Growth Forecast 2050 (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2019).

The proposed project would not include new housing or businesses, nor would construction or operation and maintenance of the proposed project require new employees which could result in population growth in Ventura or Santa Barbara County. likewise, the proposed project would not be utilized to increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or to provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or CVMD. The project would not generate population, housing, or employment growth or result in exceedance of the Southern California Association of Governments' or Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' projected growth forecasts. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plans. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?

The proposed project would generate short-term emissions associated with project construction and long-term emissions associated with operation of the booster pump stations. Construction and operational emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2020.4.0. CalEEMod was developed by BREEZE Software and is used by jurisdictions throughout the state to quantify criteria pollutant emissions.

Construction Emissions

The analysis relied upon the following assumptions:

Pipeline

- **Construction Method.** The approximately 7,100 LF pipeline would primarily be constructed via open-trench construction with five-foot-wide trenches. Pipeline construction using open-trench method would require the use of an excavator, wheeled loader, dump truck, and vibrating compactor. Trenchless HDD construction would be used to cross Rincon Creek, resulting in up to 2,000 LF of trenchless construction. The project would also replace approximately 530 LF of the existing Rincon Main Pipeline. For purposes of this analysis, it was conservatively assumed open-trench, HDD, and replacement pipeline construction would occur simultaneously.

- **Disturbance Area.** The open-trench, HDD, and replacement construction of the proposed pipelines would disturb a total of approximately 0.87 acre (38,100 square feet), with approximately 200 to 300 LF of pipeline constructed per day.
- **Fugitive Dust Control.** Measures pertaining to fugitive dust control, including watering exposed areas, reducing vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads, and cleaning/sweeping paved roads, were incorporated into the modeling of construction emissions. Other measures, such as those reducing emissions of ozone precursors, were not incorporated into the modeling of construction emissions, but would also further reduce construction emissions below those presented in this analysis.
- **Material Export and Import.** For open-trench construction, approximately 2,900 cubic yards of soil and pavement would be hauled away. The proposed open-trench construction would total approximately 4,400 LF of open-cut trenching (not including the segment of pipeline to be installed under Rincon Creek via trenchless crossing). Approximately 0.65 cubic yards of soil and/or pavement would be hauled off site for disposal (i.e., not used as trench backfill) per linear foot of pipeline installed (4,400 LF x 0.65 cubic yards per LF of open-cut trenching = 2,900 cubic yards of soil and/or pavement to be hauled off site). Additionally, approximately 500 cubic yards of soils would be removed for HDD construction, based on a 30-inch borehole. Therefore, the total soil removal for open cut trench excavation and HDD is approximately 4,000 cy.
- **Construction Haul and Worker Trips.** Approximately 2,900 cubic yards of soil would be exported off site. CalEEMod assumptions for truck hauling capacity (16 cubic yards of soil per load) was used, equating to approximately 287 haul truck trips to export excavated soil off site. Approximately five truck trips per day would occur for the delivery of construction materials. Therefore, approximately 77 delivery trips are assumed in the analysis. Additionally, approximately 10 two-way worker trips would occur per workday.
- **Construction Schedule and Phases.** Construction of the pipeline is assumed to occur between Summer 2023 and Spring 2025.
- **Pumps and Generators.** Continuous (24-hour) pumps and generators may be needed during trenchless excavation and trenchless pipeline installation. Well pump specifications were based on Model 2P5X 2-inch Engine Driven Portable High Pressure Pumps (approximately 5 HP class; AMT Pump Company 2012). Generator HP was based on Generac MLG8K Mobile Diesel Generator (approximately 13.5 HP; Generac Mobile Products LLC 2019).

Pump Stations and Improvements

- **Disturbance Area.** Construction of BPS-A and BPS-B would consist of one 2,000-square-foot and one 900-square-foot CMU block wall building, respectively. In addition, the ground disturbance for BPS-A would be approximately 25,800 square feet and approximately 8,900 square feet for BPS-B. While the extent of ground disturbance for other improvements to existing Casitas infrastructure is not currently known, it was assumed to be less than 10 percent of the proposed pipeline disturbance area. Therefore, for purposes of impact modeling, the ground disturbance for improvements were overlapped with BPS-B, for a total of 0.29 acre of disturbance area (12,710 square feet).
- **Construction Method.** Typical construction equipment would include an excavator, grader, crane, and standard work trucks.
- **Fugitive Dust Control.** Measures pertaining to fugitive dust control, including watering exposed areas, reducing vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads, and cleaning/sweeping paved roads, were incorporated into the modeling of construction emissions. Other measures,

such as those reducing emissions of ozone precursors, were not incorporated into the modeling of construction emissions, but would also further reduce construction emissions below those presented in this analysis.

- **Construction Schedule and Phases.** Construction of BPS-A and BPS-B is assumed to occur between Summer 2023 and Spring 2025, and it was conservatively assumed construction of BPS-A and BPS-B would occur simultaneously.

Project construction would generate temporary air pollutant emissions. These impacts are associated with fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from heavy-duty construction vehicles. The excavation phase of the project would involve the largest use of heavy equipment and generation of fugitive dust. As shown in Table 3, annual construction emissions would be below the SBCAPCD annual threshold for all years of construction. Therefore, construction activities for the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant pursuant to the SBCAPCD thresholds and guidance.

Table 3 Construction Air Pollutant Emissions (SBCAPCD Thresholds)

	SBCAPCD Annual Emissions (Tons/Year)					
Construction Year	**ROC**	**NO_x**	**CO**	**SO_2**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
2023	<1	3	3	<1	<1	<1
2024	<1	2	3	<1	<1	<1
2025	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Maximum Annual Emissions	**<1**	**3**	**3**	**<1**	**<1**	**<1**
SBCAPCD Thresholds	25	25	–	–	–	–
Threshold Exceeded?	**No**	**No**	–	–	–	–

ROC = reactive organic compounds, NO_X = nitrogen oxides, CO = carbon monoxide, SO_2 = sulfur dioxide, PM_{10} = particulate matter 10 microns in diameter or less, $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter

See Appendix A for modeling details and CalEEMod results.

Notes: Some totals may not add up correctly due to rounding. Emissions data is sourced from "mitigated" results, which incorporate emissions reductions from measures to be implemented during project construction, such as watering of soils during construction required under VCAPCD Rule 55.

However, as shown in Table 4, maximum daily emissions associated with the project from construction would exceed the VCAPCD-recommended threshold of 25 lbs/day for ozone precursors. Therefore, because NO_X emissions would exceed the 25 lbs/day threshold, air quality impacts would be potentially significant.

Table 4 Construction Air Pollutant Emissions (VCAPCD Thresholds)

	Maximum Daily Emissions (Pounds/Day)[1]					
	ROC	NO_x	CO	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Pipeline	5	39	49	<1	2	2
Temporary Booster Pump Station	1	7	6	<1	1	<1
Booster Pump Station A	3	28	24	<1	4	2
Booster Pump Station B & Rincon Main Improvements	3	28	24	<1	4	2
Maximum Daily Emissions	**11**	**102**	**103**	**<1**	**10**	**7**
VCAPCD Thresholds	25	25	–	–	–	–
Threshold Exceeded?	**No**	**Yes**				

VCAPCD = Ventura County Air Pollution Control District; ROC = reactive organic compounds; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; SO_x = sulfur oxides; PM_{10} = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter

[1] This table provides a conservative analysis and presents the maximum daily emissions when the construction phases overlap.

See Appendix A for modeling details and CalEEMod results.

Notes: Some totals may not add up due to rounding. Emissions data is sourced from "mitigated" results, which incorporate emissions reductions from measures to be implemented during project construction, such as watering of soils during construction required under VCAPCD Rule 55.

With respect to fugitive dust (PM_{10}) emissions, the VCAPCD Guidelines (2003) state significant construction-related air quality impacts would result if fugitive dust emissions are generated in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or which may endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person or the public. For construction impacts, the VCAPCD recommends minimizing fugitive dust through dust control measures.[3]

Fugitive dust control measures are required by VCAPCD Rule 55. Such measures include securing tarps over truck loads, removing vehicle track-out using PM_{10} efficient sweepers, and watering bulk material to minimize fugitive dust. As a result, compliance with VCAPCD Rule 55 would ensure construction emissions would not be generated in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public, or endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person or the public. Compliance with VCAPCD Rule 55 would reduce potential impacts associated with PM_{10} to less than significant in the Ventura County portion of the project site.

Similarly, the SBCAPCD requires implementation of fugitive dust control measures and equipment exhaust measures, as previously described. Compliance with these requirements would reduce potential impacts associated with PM_{10} to less than significant in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

[3] Measures pertaining to fugitive dust control, including watering exposed areas, reducing vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads, and cleaning/sweeping paved roads, were incorporated into the modeling of construction emissions as "mitigation." Other measures, such as those reducing emissions of ozone precursors, were not incorporated into the modeling of construction emissions, but would also further reduce construction emissions beyond those presented in this analysis.

Operational Emissions

Maintenance activities would occur monthly and on an as-needed basis, and approximately 50 vehicle trips by maintenance staff per year would occur. Regular and routine maintenance activities would not include any ground-disturbing activities. Annual maintenance vehicle trips would yield less than one ton per year of NO_X and ROG (Appendix A).

The pump stations would not generate substantial operational emissions because they would be connected to the regional electricity grid, which is increasingly powered by renewable energy. Existing stationary sources (e.g., power plants) are permitted by air districts and/or the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and are subject to local, State, and federal control measures. Emissions of criteria air pollutants generated at power plants are not attributed to individual projects or electricity users. Therefore, this analysis does not calculate indirect emissions of criteria pollutants from the operational electricity needs of the booster pump stations. The air quality impact associated with ozone precursors and PM_{10} during operation and maintenance of the project would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would reduce construction emissions of NO_X in accordance with VCAPCD guidance.

AQ-1 NO_X Construction Reduction Measures

Pursuant to VCAPCD Guidelines, when construction emissions exceed 25 pounds per day for NO_X, the following measures shall be implemented:

- Casitas shall ensure all on-site vehicles and equipment with 50 horsepower or more shall meet, at a minimum, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Tier IV final engine certification requirements. If Tier IV final equipment is not available, the contractor may apply other technologies available for construction equipment which would achieve a reduction in NO_X (as well as PM) emissions comparable to Tier IV final construction equipment. Where alternatives to USEPA Tier IV are utilized, the contractor shall be required to provide evidence these alternative technologies would achieve comparable emissions reductions. Certifications or alternative reduction strategies shall be required prior to receiving a construction permit.
- Minimize equipment idling time.
- Maintain equipment engines in good condition and in proper tune as per manufacturers' specifications.
- Lengthen the construction period during smog season (May through October) to minimize the number of vehicles and equipment operating at the same time.
- Use alternatively fueled construction equipment, such as compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, or electric, if feasible.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would reduce construction emissions of NO_X in accordance with VCAPCD guidance. Project construction emissions with implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 are shown in Table 5. As shown in the table, emissions of NO_X would be reduced below 25 lbs/day from the use of Tier IV final equipment as compared to no specified tier. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant after mitigation.

Table 5 Construction Air Pollutant Emissions – Mitigated

Project Component	Maximum Daily Emissions (Pounds/Day)[1]					
	ROC	NO_x	CO	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Pipeline	1	6	57	<1	<1	<1
Temporary Booster Pump Station	<1	2	7	<1	<1	<1
Booster Pump Station A	1	3	31	<1	3	1
Booster Pump Station B & Rincon Main Improvements	1	3	31	<1	3	1
Maximum Daily Emissions	**3**	**13**	**126**	**<1**	**7**	**3**
VCAPCD Thresholds	25	25	–	–	–	–
Threshold Exceeded?	**No**	**No**				

VCAPCD = Ventura County Air Pollution Control District; ROC = reactive organic compounds; NO_X = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; SO_X = sulfur oxides; PM_{10} = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter

[1] This table provides a conservative analysis and presents the maximum daily emissions when the construction phases overlap.

See Appendix A for modeling details and CalEEMod results.

Notes: Some totals may not add up due to rounding. Emissions data is sourced from "mitigated" results, which incorporate emissions reductions from measures to be implemented during project construction, such as watering of soils during construction required under VCAPCD Rule 55.

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c. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The VCAPCD defines sensitive receptors as facilities or land uses which include members of the population particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Sensitive receptors listed in the VCAPCD Guidelines include residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers (VCAPCD 2003). The SBCAPCD identifies schools, residences, daycares, and eldercare facilities as examples of sensitive receptors (SBCAPCD 2019). Potential sensitive receptors within 500 feet of the project site include several single-family residences. The nearest sensitive receptor to the proposed pipeline alignment is a residence approximately 35 feet west of Avocado Hill Road.

Both booster pump stations would be in Ventura County and within the jurisdiction of VCAPCD. The nearest sensitive receptor to the proposed Booster Pump Stations is a single-family residence located approximately 100 feet west of the BPS-A. For informational purposes, the nearest SBCAPCD-defined sensitive receptor within Santa Barbara County is a single-family residence located approximately 1,135 feet west of BPS-A.

As discussed under item (b) of this section, project construction would result in emissions of criteria pollutants, including PM_{10}, ROC, and NO_X. Such emissions would be temporary in nature and reduced through compliance with existing regulations, such as VCAPCD Rule 55 and SBCAPCD's measures relating to fugitive dust and equipment exhaust. Furthermore, construction emissions at a given sensitive receptor would occur for only a limited portion of the overall construction period.

Traffic-congested roadways and intersections have the potential to generate elevated localized carbon monoxide (CO) levels (i.e., CO hotspots). In general, CO hotspots occur in areas with poor

circulation or areas with heavy traffic. CO levels in Ventura County have been historically low enough the VCAPCD monitoring stations throughout the county ceased monitoring ambient CO concentrations in March and July 2004 (VCAPCD 2010). Due to the relatively low background ambient CO levels in Santa Barbara County, the SBCAPCD no longer requires CO hotspot analyses, even for development projects with concentrated and prolonged vehicle idling such as drive-through facilities. The SBCAPCD does not anticipate such project traffic would exceed the CO health-related air quality standards (SBCAPCD 2017).

Construction activities would cause a temporary increase in vehicle traffic. Because construction is a short-term activity and related impacts would move as work progresses along the pipeline corridor, construction-related traffic impacts with potential to cause temporary CO hotspots would not be substantial. Therefore, the project would not result in CO hotspots. Following completion of construction, maintenance activities would occur monthly and on an as-needed basis, and approximately 50 vehicle trips by maintenance staff per year would occur.

With implementation of emissions reduction measures required by the VCAPCD and SBCAPCD, the project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. This impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

The populations of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties have been and will continue to be exposed to Valley Fever from agricultural and construction activities occurring throughout the region. The fungal spores responsible for Valley Fever generally grow in virgin, undisturbed soil. Soils along the project alignment, pump stations, and proposed infrastructure improvements are already disturbed from construction of roadways, commercial structures, and residences, as well as activities associated with agricultural production. Due to the previous amount of disturbance on the project site, disturbance of soils during construction activities is unlikely to pose a substantial risk of infection of Valley Fever to people in the project area. Substantial increases in the number of reported cases of Valley Fever tend to occur only after major ground-disturbing events such as the 1994 Northridge earthquake (VCAPCD 2003). Furthermore, the standard construction measures listed above would reduce fugitive dust generation, which would further minimize the potential risk of infection. Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not substantially increase the risk to public health above existing background levels. Because the project area does not pose a substantial risk for Valley Fever, Valley Fever-specific mitigation measures detailed in the VCAPCD Guidelines would not be required. In addition, given the temporary nature of construction emissions, as well as incorporation of fugitive dust reduction measures through compliance with existing VCAPCD and SBCAPCD regulations, the potential impact associated with Valley Fever would be less than significant.

Project construction could generate odors associated with heavy-duty equipment operation and earth-moving activities. Such odors would be temporary in nature and limited to the duration of construction in the vicinity of a given receptor. The proposed pipeline would be installed below ground and would not create objectionable odors during project operation. Normal operation of the booster pump stations would not use equipment known to generate objectionable odors. ~~Each proposed pump station would be equipped with an emergency diesel generator, which would only be operational on a short-term basis to provide power in the event traditional power is not available. Otherwise, the booster pump stations would not use equipment known to generate~~

~~objectionable odors. Use of emergency diesel generators, if necessary, would be short-term and temporary in nature.~~ Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	■	☐	☐
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	■	☐	☐
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?	☐	■	☐	☐
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	■	☐	☐
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	■

In June 2019, Rincon Consultants, Inc. conducted a Biological Resources Assessment, including a literature review and field reconnaissance survey to document existing site conditions and the potential presence of special-status biological resources, including plant and wildlife species, plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, and habitat for nesting birds. The biological reconnaissance survey encompassed the proposed project footprint (i.e., areas which are expected to be affected by the proposed project) and a 50-foot survey buffer beyond the limits of the project footprint (Biological Study Area [BSA]). In September 2022, Rincon Consultants, Inc. updated the project-specific Biological Resources Assessment to include the modified project design. The following summarizes the findings of the updated assessment. The complete revised Biological Resources Assessment is contained in Appendix B of this document. Eleven special status plant species were determined to have a low potential to occur within the BSA:

- Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var*. subspicata*)
- Davidson's bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus davidsonii*)
- White-veined monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp*. hypoleuca*)
- Ojai navarretia (*Navarretia ojaiensis*)
- Nuttall's scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*)
- Sonoran maiden fern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*)
- Brewer's calandrinia (*Calandrinia breweri*)
- Catalina mariposa-lily (*Calochortus catalinae*)
- monkey-flower savory (*Clinopodium mimuloides*)
- Rattan's cryptantha (*Cryptantha rattanii*)
- south coast branching phacelia (*Phacelia ramosissima* var*. austrolitoralis*)

In addition, nine special status animal species were determined to have a low potential to occur within the BSA:

- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)
- western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)
- least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)
- southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
- Crotch bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*)
- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus* pop. 1)
- coast range newt (*Taricha torosa*)
- two striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*)
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*)

Three special status animal species were determined to have moderate to high potential to occur within the BSA:

- yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)
- California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)
- San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*)

Vegetation within and adjacent to the BSA provides potential nesting habitat for bird species protected under California Fish and Game Code 3503 and the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Four potentially jurisdictional hydrologic features are present within the BSA: Rincon Creek, Casitas Creek, Coyote Creek, and an unnamed drainage tributary to Casitas Creek. These four features are potentially subject to United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) jurisdiction pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and the California Water Code (Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to California Fish and Game Code 1600.

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

California legless lizard and San Diego desert woodrat have a moderate potential to occur within coast live oak woodlands and scrub habitats within the BSA. The yellow warbler has a high potential to occur within the riparian corridors within the BSA, including Rincon Creek, Casitas Creek, Coyote Creek, and the unnamed drainage. As a result, project activities could potentially directly or indirectly impact individuals of these species. However, these Species of Special Concern with potential to occur are not geographically restricted to the vicinity of the BSA, and injury/death to limited individuals would not contribute to a loss of population viability of these Species of Special Concern. Adherence to Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2 would reduce potential direct and indirect effects to these species to a less-than-significant level by delineating construction limits and training to identify special status species.

Additionally, the BSA contains habitat which can support protected nesting birds, including raptors, protected under the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The native, non-native, and ornamental vegetation throughout the BSA provides suitable nesting habitat for avian species. Specifically, the mature coast live oak, California sycamore, and eucalyptus trees throughout the BSA contain suitable habitat for raptor species while the various shrub layers provide suitable habitat for passerine species. Potentially significant direct impacts to raptors and other nesting birds may result if construction occurs while they are present within or adjacent to the project footprint, through direct mortality or abandonment of nests. The loss of a nest due to construction activities would be a violation of the MBTA and CFGC Section 3503.

Eleven special status plant species have a low potential to occur within the BSA and none were observed during the biological reconnaissance surveys conducted July 14, 2022. The species with low potential to occur are associated with the coast live oak woodland, foothill grassland, coastal scrub, and riparian corridors throughout the BSA. Given the minimal size of the impact area, surrounding agricultural and developed land cover, and the low potential for occurrence, potential impacts would not likely reduce the populations of the identified special status plant species below self-sustaining levels. Therefore, potential impacts to Santa Barbara honeysuckle, Davidson's bush-mallow, White-veined monardella, Ojai navarretia, Nuttall's scrub oak, Sonoran maiden fern, Brewer's calandrinia, Catalina mariposa-lily, monkey-flower savory, Rattan's cryptantha, and south coast branching phacelia would be less than significant.

No special status wildlife species were observed or detected during the biological reconnaissance surveys. Twelve special status wildlife species were determined to have low potential to occur

within the BSA based upon known ranges, habitat preferences for the species, and species occurrence records from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB).

Crotch bumblebee, California monarch, California red-legged frog, coast range newt, western pond turtle, two striped garter snake, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and American badger have a low potential to occur within the BSA. The BSA lacks essential habitat elements needed to support the species. Therefore, these species are not expected to be impacted by the project.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures during project construction would reduce the potential impact to special status animal species and nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

BIO-1 Worker Environmental Awareness Program

Prior to initiation of all construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training conducted by a qualified biologist and arborist to assist workers in recognizing special status biological resources which may occur in the BSA. The training shall include information about nesting birds and the special status species potentially occurring in the BSA.

The specifics of this program shall include identification of special status species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of special status resources, and review of the limits of construction and measures required to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources within the work area. The arborist shall instruct the contractors on tree protection practices. This training shall include information on the location and marking of protected trees, the necessity of preventing damage, and the discussion of work practices. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. All employees shall sign a form provided by the trainer documenting they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The crew foreperson shall be responsible for ensuring crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions designed to avoid impacts to special status species. If new construction personnel are added to the project, the crew foreman shall confirm new personnel receive the WEAP training before starting work. The subsequent training of personnel can include video of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by a biologist.

BIO-2 Wildlife Avoidance During Construction

The following measures shall be adhered to during project construction:

- Parking, driving, lay-down, stockpiling, and vehicle and equipment storage shall be limited to previously compacted and developed areas.
- No off-road vehicle use shall be permitted beyond the project site and designated access routes.
- Disturbances to adjacent native vegetation shall be minimized.
- The contractor shall clearly delineate the construction limits and prohibit any construction-related traffic outside those boundaries.
- Project-related vehicles shall observe a 10-mile-per-hour speed limit within the unpaved limits of construction.

- All open trenches or excavations shall be fenced and/or sloped to prevent entrapment of wildlife species.
- All food-related trash shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project site at the end of each day. Construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the construction area.
- At project completion, all project-generated debris, vehicles, building materials, and rubbish shall be removed from the project site.
- No construction worker pets shall be allowed on the project site.
- No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.
- If vehicle or equipment maintenance is necessary, it shall be performed in designated staging areas.
- If construction must occur at night (between dusk and dawn), all lighting shall be shielded and directed downward to minimize the potential for glare or spillover onto adjacent properties and to reduce impacts on local wildlife.
- During construction, heavy equipment shall be operated in accordance with standard construction BMPs. All equipment used on site shall be properly maintained to avoid leaks of oil, fuel, or residues. Provisions shall be in place to remediate any accidental spills immediately.

BIO-3 Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys

To avoid disturbance of nesting and special status birds, including raptor species, protected by the MBTA and CFGC, activities related to the project including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside the bird breeding season for migratory birds (January 1 through September 15), if practicable.

If construction must begin during the breeding season, a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal activities. The preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted on foot within the project footprint plus a 300-foot buffer. Inaccessible areas (e.g., private lands) shall be surveyed from afar using binoculars to the extent practicable. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in southern California coastal communities. If active nests are found, an avoidance buffer (dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground-disturbing activities shall occur inside this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed breeding/nesting is completed and the young have fledged the nest, or the nest has failed. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

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

California sycamore woodland is found within the footprint of the proposed BPS-B site and its associated construction staging area. Up to 2.34 acres of this sensitive vegetation community could be directly impacted by removal or degradation by project construction. Impacts to California

sycamore woodland would be significant without mitigation; however, by avoiding unanticipated impacts to the habitat with the use of temporary fencing throughout the duration of construction, implementation of Measures BIO-4 and BIO-5 would minimize impacts and compensate for impacts to sensitive plant communities.

HDD and/or construction materials (e.g., stockpiled materials, construction equipment, and trash) have the potential to result in potentially significant indirect impacts to native riparian communities through disturbance of vegetation and erosion. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-6 are provided which require construction personnel to attend a worker environmental awareness program and erect temporary construction fencing at the edge of the temporary construction easement. With implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-6, potential indirect impacts to sensitive plant communities would be reduced to a less-than significant level.

Therefore, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the following mitigation measures during project construction would reduce the potential impacts to sensitive habitat to a less-than-significant level.

BIO-4 Sensitive Habitat Fencing

Prior to project mobilization where the project is adjacent to sensitive natural communities, temporary construction fencing shall be erected by the contractor at the edge of the temporary construction easement to avoid unanticipated impacts to the habitat throughout the duration of construction.

BIO-5 Sensitive Vegetation Community Compensation

Impacts to sensitive vegetation communities shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. Depending on final project design, sensitive vegetation community compensation mitigation may be required by CDFW. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to sensitive vegetation communities can be accomplished either through on-site restoration, off-site restoration, or purchase of credits through an approved Mitigation Bank or through applicant sponsored mitigation (e.g., purchase and/or dedication of land for mitigation). If required, compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to sensitive vegetation communities shall be accomplished at a minimum ratio of 1:1; however, the final ratio shall be determined and approved by CDFW prior to commencement of construction. If on- or off-site restoration would occur, a Restoration Plan shall be prepared and submitted for approval by CDFW prior to initiating impacts. At minimum, the Restoration Plan shall include the following:

- A description of the purpose and goals of the restoration
- Identification of success criteria and performance standards
- Methods of site preparation
- Irrigation plan and schedule
- BMPs
- Maintenance and monitoring program

- Adaptive management strategies
- Key stakeholders and responsible parties
- Funding
- Contingencies

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

c. Would the project 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?

Impacts to Coyote Creek are not anticipated based on the project footprint. Casitas Creek and the unnamed drainage tributary to Casitas Creek could potentially be impacted by construction of the proposed BPS-B. Therefore, potential impacts to these features would be significant without mitigation; however, implementation of Measures BIO-6 and BIO-7 would require jurisdictional waters avoidance and compensatory mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional waters, which would reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The Rincon Creek crossing would be constructed using trenchless methods (HDD). Indirect impacts from HDD and/or construction materials (e.g., stockpiled materials, construction equipment, and trash) which may be stored on site could adversely affect water quality (e.g., increased turbidity, altered pH, decreased dissolved oxygen levels, etc.) within the jurisdictional waters if runoff were to occur during storm events. Therefore, measures BIO-6 and BIO-7 shall be implemented within 100 feet of Rincon Creek, Casitas Creek, Coyote Creek, and the unnamed drainage to avoid potential indirect impacts to water quality within these jurisdictional features. With implementation of these mitigation measures (and adherence to agency permits and existing regulations), potential indirect impacts to jurisdictional features would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures

With implementation of mitigation measures (and adherence to agency permits and existing regulations), potential indirect impacts to jurisdictional features would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

BIO-6 Jurisdictional Waters Avoidance and Minimization

The following measures shall be implemented during project construction:

- Prior to project mobilization, all limits of construction work within Casitas Creek and the unnamed drainage shall be clearly delineated with orange construction fencing or similar highly visible material and maintained throughout the duration of construction.
- Areas of temporary disturbance shall be minimized to the extent practicable. Staging and laydown areas shall be limited to sites which are unvegetated and/or previously disturbed, and outside jurisdictional aquatic features.
- Materials shall be stored on impervious surfaces or plastic ground covers to prevent spills or leakage. Material storage and material/spoils from project activities shall be located and stored at least 50 feet from jurisdictional aquatic features. Construction materials and spoils shall be protected from stormwater runoff using temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, silt fences, fiber rolls, covers, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers, as appropriate.

- Prevent the discharge of silt or pollutants off the site when working adjacent to potentially jurisdictional waters. Install BMPs (i.e., silt barriers, sand bags, straw bales) as appropriate.
- Prevent the off-site tracking of loose construction and landscape materials by implementing street sweeping, vacuuming, and rumble plates, as appropriate.
- Site washout areas shall be at least 100 feet from a storm drain, open ditch, or surface water and prevent runoff flows from such activities from entering receiving water bodies.
- All vehicles and equipment shall be in good working condition and free of leaks. The contractor shall prevent oil, petroleum products, or any other pollutants from contaminating the soil or entering a watercourse (dry or otherwise). When vehicles or equipment are stationary, mats, or drip pans shall be placed below vehicles to contain fluid leaks.
- All re-fueling, cleaning, and maintenance of equipment shall occur at least 100 feet from potentially jurisdictional waters.
- Any spillage of material shall be stopped if it can be done safely. The contaminated area shall be cleaned, and any contaminated materials properly disposed. For all spills, the project foreperson or other designated liaison shall notify Casitas immediately.
- Adequate spill prevention and response equipment shall be maintained on site and readily available to implement to minimize impacts to the aquatic and marine environments.

BIO-7 Compensatory Mitigation for Jurisdictional Waters Impacts

The following measures shall be implemented to mitigate impacts to jurisdictional wetlands/waters:

- Permits for the proposed impacts to jurisdictional waters shall be obtained prior to initiating impacts. The discharge of fill into USACE jurisdictional areas will require a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a 401 Certification from the RWQCB, and any modification to a streambed, including removal of riparian vegetation, will require a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the CFGC. The project shall comply with the mitigation required in accordance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and the 401 and 404 permits.
- Impacts associated with disturbed areas within regulated waters shall be mitigated in-kind at a ratio of at least 1:1. It should be noted the final mitigation ratios required by the regulatory agencies during the permitting process may differ, but shall be confirmed prior to the initiation of applicable construction activities.
- A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) shall be prepared by a qualified biologist/restoration ecologist to restore jurisdictional waters and/or CDFW sensitive plant communities temporarily impacted by the project. The HMMP shall address the restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat. At a minimum, the HMMP shall include the following:
    - A description of the jurisdictional waters, sensitive plant communities, riparian habitat, and/or ESHA type(s) and amount(s) which will be provided by the mitigation and how the mitigation method (i.e., restoration, establishment, enhancement, and preservation) will achieve the mitigation project goals
    - A plant palette and methods of salvaging, propagating, and seeding/planting the site to be restored
    - Methods of soil preparation
    - Maintenance and monitoring necessary to confirm the restored plant communities meet the success criteria

  - Schedule for restoration activities including weed abatement, propagation and planting, soil preparation, erosion control, qualitative and quantitative monitoring, and reporting
  - Identification of measurable performance standards for each objective to evaluate the success of the compensatory mitigation
  - Identification of contingency and adaptive management measures to address unforeseen changes in site conditions or other components of the mitigation project

- Compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters can be accomplished either through purchase of credits through an approved Mitigation Bank or through applicant sponsored mitigation (e.g., purchase and/or dedication of land for mitigation). Compensatory mitigation shall be determined and approved by CDFW, USACE, and RWQCB prior to impacting state of federally regulated waters. If on-site or off-site restoration would occur, a Restoration Plan shall be prepared and submitted for approval by CDFW, USACE, and RWQCB prior to initiating impacts. At minimum, the Restoration Plan shall include the following:
  - A description of the purpose and goals of the restoration
  - Identification of success criteria and performance standards
  - Methods of site preparation
  - Irrigation plan and schedule
  - Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - Maintenance and monitoring program
  - Adaptive management strategies
  - Key stakeholders and responsible parties
  - Funding
  - Contingencies.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

d. Would the project 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?

Direct and indirect impacts to wildlife movement are not anticipated due to the type of construction, hours of operation and current human presence surrounding this project area., Construction associated with the proposed project would be temporary and no permanent fencing would be erected which would interfere with terrestrial wildlife movement, in addition, construction will be limited to daylight hours only, except for a small period of time during HDD drilling which would occur nonstop for 48 hours. The project would not substantially limit or fragment the geographic range or dispersal routes of any sensitive species. This impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Santa Barbara County Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance *Section 35-97.6* and *Section 35-97.18* supports the preservation of native plant communities and the species they support. A CDP is

required if impacts to native plant communities (i.e., California native oak woodland and individual oak trees) will occur. Within Santa Barbara County, potential direct impacts from the project within 100 feet of areas meeting the definition a native plant community are expected to be limited to the existing public right-of-way and restored to pre-existing project conditions. Therefore, direct impacts to native plant communities protected by this ordinance would be less than significant. Furthermore, implementation of BIO-1, BIO-4, BIO-5 would further minimize impacts to native plant communities through avoidance, restoration, and compensatory mitigation as applicable. With compliance with a CDP (if required) and implementation of these measures, the project would not conflict with this ordinance.

Trees meeting the Counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara tree protection standards were observed throughout the Study Area. A large portion of the proposed project alignment is located within developed public rights-of-way which are lined with protected trees (e.g., coast live oak, arroyo willow, California sycamore, southern California walnut, and elderberry). Potential impacts to protected trees may include, but are not limited to, construction equipment compacting soil around the trees, disturbance of the canopy and the root zone, and trenching in the root zone. No protected trees are proposed for removal. Mitigation measure BIO-8 would reduce potential impacts to protected trees. With the appropriate County of Ventura and County of Santa Barbara permits and with implementation of this measure, the proposed project would not conflict with the Ventura County General Plan Coastal Area Plan *4.1.5., Tree Protection*, Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance *Section 8178-7 – Tree Protection Regulations* and *Section 35-97.18 Development Standards for Native Plant Community Habitats*, Santa Barbara County Article II Coastal Zoning Ordinance *Section 35-140 Tree Removal*, and Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan: Conservation Element *Oak Tree Protection in the Inland Rural Areas of Santa Barbara County*.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

BIO-8 Arborist Study and Tree Protection Plan

An Arborist Study shall be conducted within portions of the project footprint occurring within 20 feet of the canopy drip line of protected trees. The study will plot the location of protected trees within this zone, identify each protected tree, and determine the jurisdiction of any trees to be impacted. The Arborist Report shall be prepared by a Certified Arborist in compliance with both the County of Ventura and County of Santa Barbara ordinance guidelines (including coastal zone guidelines). Specifically, the Arborist Report should include, at minimum, the following:

- An inventory of all trees containing a canopy drip line within 20 feet of the project footprint, as feasible without trespassing on private lands. Inventory data should record, at minimum: diameter at breast height (DBH), height, canopy cover information/mapping, health and vigor rating.
- Representative photographs of each regulated tree which may be encroached upon.
- Description of proposed site development activities including, but not limited to, excavation for trenching, any tree trimming for access, and construction access routes.
- A project-specific Tree Protection Plan shall be prepared which would at a minimum include site plans, protective tree fencing, the designated tree protection zone (identifying an area sufficiently large enough to protect the tree and its roots from disturbance), activities prohibited/permitted within the tree protective zone, encroachment boundaries, and potential transplanting or replacement tree plantings.

The Arborist Report shall be completed consistent with the tree ordinance guidelines of the County of Ventura and County of Santa Barbara prior to the start of any tree-disturbing construction activities.

f. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

The project does not occur within any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan areas. The proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of any such plans. Therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	■	☐	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	■	☐

Information in this section regarding cultural (i.e., archaeological and historical) resources includes data from the Cultural Resources Assessment (Appendix C) prepared by Rincon Consultants, Inc. The significance of cultural resources and impacts to those resources is determined by whether or not those resources can increase our collective knowledge of the past. The primary determining factors are site content and degree of preservation.

A "substantial adverse change" in the significance of a historical resource is defined as "physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of an historical resource would be materially impaired." State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b) states the significance of an historical resource is "materially impaired" when a project does any of the following:

- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource conveying its historical significance and justifying its inclusion in, or eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR)
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics accounting for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources or its identification in an historical resources survey, unless the public agency reviewing the effects of the project establishes by a preponderance of evidence the resource is not historically or culturally significant
- Demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource conveying its historical significance and justifying its eligibility for inclusion in the CRHR as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 also states the term "historical resources" shall include the following:

1) A resource listed in, or determined to be eligible by the State Historical Resources Commission for listing in, the CRHR (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 5024.1, Title 14, CCR, Section 4850 et. seq.).

2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates it is not historically or culturally significant.
3) Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, may be considered to be an historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record. Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be "historically significant" if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the CRHR (PRC Section 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4852) as follows:
    - Is associated with events which have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage
    - Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past
    - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values
    - Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5)

Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) are automatically listed on the CRHR, along with State Landmarks and Points of Interest. The CRHR can also include properties designated under local ordinances or identified through local historical resource surveys.

To address historical resources and archaeological resources, a cultural resources study was prepared for the project including a cultural resources records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) and pedestrian survey. The study was documented in the Cultural Resources Assessment (Appendix C), with confidential information removed and on file with Casitas.

a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Five built environment resources are located within the project site; this includes two resources identified during the field surveys, the Rincon Chlorination Station and Rincon Pump Plant, and three previously identified built environment resources, State Route 192 (P-42-003622), Abbott Ranch (P-56-152756), and the Southern California Edison (SCE) Santa Clara-Ojai-Santa Barbara 66kV Transmission Line (P-56-153060). Each built environment resource within the project site was surveyed and evaluated for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, and local significance.

None of the five built environment resources identified within the project site are eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR. Four of the built environment resources (Rincon Chlorination Station, Rincon Pump Plant, State Route 192 and the SCE Santa Clara-Ojai-Santa Barbara 66kV Transmission Line) were also found ineligible for local designation; therefore, they are not considered historic properties for the purposes of the NHPA or historical resources in accordance with CEQA. One property, the Abbott Ranch, while not eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR, is eligible for local designation as a Ventura County Site of Merit. Locally eligible properties are considered historical resources for the purposes of CEQA. The project involves the installation of underground piping through a section of Abbott Ranch which would not result in substantial adverse change to the historical resource as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15064.5. The project would not physically

demolish, destroy, relocate, or alter Abbott Ranch or its surroundings in a manner in which its significance would be materially impaired. The historical resource would continue to retain the physical characteristics which convey its historical significance and justify its inclusion in a local register of historical resources. Impacts related to historical resources would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Results of the cultural resources assessment indicate no archaeological resources are located within the project site. In addition to the negative study findings, existing disturbances from development suggests there is a low potential for encountering intact subsurface archaeological deposits within the project site. However, potential impacts to archaeological resources could occur in the unlikely event archaeological resources are unexpectedly discovered during project construction. If archaeological resources are unexpectedly discovered, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would be implemented to reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. With implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, potential impacts resulting from the unanticipated discovery of previously unknown archaeological resources would be less than significant, as all work would be temporarily halted, and the archaeological resource would be assessed and evaluated consistent with all state and local guidelines.

Mitigation Measures

CUL-1 Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

In the event archaeological resources are unexpectedly encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work within 50 feet of the find shall halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the resource. If the resource is determined by the qualified archaeologist to be prehistoric, then a Native American representative shall also be contacted to participate in the evaluation of the resource. If the qualified archaeologist and/or Native American representative determines it to be appropriate, archaeological testing for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility shall be completed. If the resource proves to be eligible for the CRHR and significant impacts to the resource cannot be avoided via project redesign, a qualified archaeologist shall prepare a data recovery plan tailored to the physical nature and characteristics of the resource, per the requirements of CCR Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C). The data recovery plan shall identify data recovery excavation methods, measurable objectives, and data thresholds to reduce any significant impacts to cultural resources related to the resource. Pursuant to the data recovery plan, the qualified archaeologist and Native American representative, as appropriate, shall recover and document the scientifically consequential information which justifies the resource's significance. Casitas shall review and approve the treatment plan and archaeological testing as appropriate, and the resulting documentation shall be submitted to the regional repository of the California Historical Resources Information System, per CCR Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C).

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

c. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No human remains are known to be present within the project site. The proposed project would primarily be constructed in existing roadways and on previously disturbed land. However, the discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which would determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours from being granted site access to make recommendations for the disposition of the remains. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the landowner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from subsequent disturbance. With adherence to existing regulations, impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	■
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	■

California is the second lowest per capita energy users in the United States due to its energy efficiency programs and mild climate (United States Energy Information Administration [U.S. EIA] 2022). California consumed 279,510 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of electricity and 12.3 billion therms of natural gas in 2020 (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2022a and 2022b). The single largest end-use sector for energy consumption in California is transportation (39.3 percent), followed by industry (23.2 percent), commercial (18.8 percent), and residential (18.7 percent) (U.S. EIA 2022).

Most of California's electricity is generated in state with approximately 30 percent imported from the United States and Canadian northwest, and United States and Mexico southwest in 2020; however, the state relies on out-of-state natural gas imports for nearly 90 percent of its supply (CEC 2022d and 2022e). In addition, approximately 33 percent of California's electricity supply in 2020 came from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, and biomass (CEC 2022d). In 2018, Senate Bill 100 accelerated the state's Renewable Portfolio Standards Program, codified in the Public Utilities Act, by requiring electricity providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy and zero-carbon resources to 33 percent of total retail sales by 2020, 60 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2045.

Petroleum fuels are primarily consumed by on-road and off-road equipment in addition to some industrial processes, with California being one of the top petroleum-producing states in the nation (CEC 2022f). Gasoline, which is used by light-duty cars, pickup trucks, and sport utility vehicles, is the most used transportation fuel in California with 12.6 billion gallons sold in 2020 (CEC 2022c). Diesel, which is used primarily by heavy duty-trucks, delivery vehicles, buses, trains, ships, boats and barges, farm equipment, and heavy-duty construction and military vehicles, is the second most used fuel in California with 1.7 billion gallons sold in 2021 (CEC 2022c).

Energy consumption is directly related to environmental quality as the consumption of nonrenewable energy resources releases criteria air pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere. The environmental impacts of air pollutant and GHG emissions associated with the project's energy consumption are discussed in detail in Section 3, *Air Quality*, and Section 8, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, respectively.

a. Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Energy use during project construction would be primarily in the form of fuel consumption to operate heavy equipment, light-duty vehicles, machinery, and generators. Temporary grid power may also be provided to construction trailers or electric construction equipment. Energy use during construction would be temporary in nature, and construction equipment used would be typical of construction projects in the region. As shown in Table 6, project construction would require approximately 5,135 gallons of gasoline and approximately 132,214 gallons of diesel fuel. These construction energy estimates are conservative because they assume the construction equipment used in each phase of construction would be operating every day of construction.

Table 6 Estimated Fuel Consumption during Construction (gallons)

Source	Gasoline	Diesel
Construction Equipment & Hauling Trips	–	132,214
Construction Worker Vehicle Trips	5,135	–
See Appendix G for energy calculation sheets		

Furthermore, in the interest of cost efficiency, construction contractors would not utilize fuel in a manner which is wasteful or unnecessary. Therefore, project construction would not result in a potential impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and no construction-related energy impact would occur.

For the purpose of this Initial Study, it is conservatively estimated operation of the proposed project would occur for approximately 680 hours per year. Under these conditions, the booster pump stations would require 662,200 kWh of electricity annually. The water treatment equipment at BPS-A would require an additional 2,200 kWh of electricity annually under the same conditions. The proposed project would facilitate the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD, thereby improving regional water supply reliability. Ventura and Santa Barbara counties are susceptible to natural disasters such as wildfires, landslides, and earthquakes. The project would allow Casitas and CVWD to transfer local potable water supplies, as necessary, and improve the resiliency of the local water distribution network. Energy consumption would not be wasteful because the project would only be operated as necessary for the transfer of local potable water supplies. Therefore, no operational energy impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

As mentioned above, SB 100 mandates 100 percent clean electricity for California by 2045. Because the proposed project would be powered by the existing electricity grid, the project would eventually be powered by renewable energy mandated by SB 100 and would not conflict with this statewide plan. Casitas MWD does not have any specific renewable energy or energy efficiency plans with which the project could comply. As discussed in Section 8, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions,* the proposed project would be consistent with policies contained in the Ventura County 2040 General Plan and Santa Barbara Energy and Climate Action Plan, such as water efficiency and maximizing the reliability of local water resource (County of Ventura 2020b; County of Santa Barbara 2015b). While

the proposed project would not specifically involve water efficiency, it would improve the reliability and resiliency of the local water supply system. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct the state plan for renewable energy, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1. 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?	☐	☐	■	☐
2. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	■	☐
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	■	☐
4. Landslides?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	■	☐
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?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	■
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	■	☐	☐

The analysis contained in this section is based in part on the *Preliminary Geotechnical and Trenchless Engineering Evaluation for Rincon Creek Undercrossing for the Santa Barbara-Ventura Tie-In Pipeline*, prepared by DCM Consulting, Inc. (DCM) in May 2019, as well as the *Preliminary (Desktop) Geotechnical Report for the Santa Barbara-Ventura Tie-In Pipeline*, prepared by Bajada Geosciences, Inc. (BGI) in March 2019. These preliminary geotechnical reports are included as Appendices D1 and D2, respectively.

Geologic Setting

The project site is situated in the foothills and Casitas Pass area of the Santa Ynez Mountains in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The project site is located in the Transverse Ranges Geomorphic Province, characterized by anomalous east-west trending mountain ranges. The province is bounded on the north by the Coastal Ranges (Sierra Madre Mountains), on the south by the Peninsular Ranges, on the east by the Mojave Desert, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

The Transverse Ranges Geomorphic Province is seismically active, bounded by three major fault zones, including the San Andreas Fault and Big Pine Fault to the north and the Malibu Coast Fault to the south. Seismic events can result in groundshaking, liquefaction, landslides, subsidence, tsunamis, and seiches. In addition to the three major faults, numerous smaller regional and local faults are located in and around the project site, including the Shepard Mesa Fault, Rincon Creek Fault, Carpinteria Fault, and Arroyo Parida Fault (Mission Ridge Fault Zone). According to the Geotechnical Report prepared for the project, the nearest fault to the project site is a mapped trace of the Rincon Creek Fault, which transects the project site along SR 192 near Rincon Creek (BGI 2019).

a.1. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving 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?

a.2. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?

The project site is located in a seismically-active area of southern California; however, the project site is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (DOC 2019; BGI 2019). As previously stated, the project site is within the vicinity of multiple regional and local faults, including the Rincon Creek Fault, which intersects the proposed pipeline alignment near Rincon Creek and to the east, near the proposed pipeline's connection to the existing Rincon Pipeline (BGI 2019). The BGI Geotechnical Report states deterministic and probabilistic rupture offsets of 20 and 12 inches, respectively, may occur across the fault due to an earthquake on the Rincon Creek Fault, based on a two percent chance of exceedance in any 50-year period. The BGI Geotechnical Report concludes such offsets could deform and damage the proposed pipeline.

Design and construction of the proposed project would conform to the current seismic design provisions of the California Building Code (CBC). The 2019 CBC incorporates the latest seismic design standards for structural loads and materials, as well as provisions from the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, to reduce losses from an earthquake and provide for the latest in earthquake safety. While the project would be susceptible to seismic activity given its location within a seismically-active area, the project would be required to minimize this risk, to the extent feasible, through incorporation of applicable CBC standards and project-specific seismic design parameters detailed in the BGI Geotechnical Report. A large seismic event, such as a fault rupture,

seismic shaking, or ground failure, could result in breakage of the proposed pipeline, damage to the pump stations, failure of joints, and/or underground leakage from the pipeline. The project proposes no habitable structures on the Rincon Creek Fault, and therefore, would not expose people to the potential risk of loss, injury, or death. In the event an earthquake and/or fault rupture compromised any project component during operation, water to the proposed infrastructure would be temporarily shut-off and emergency repairs conducted as soon as possible. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking or fault rupture. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.3. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related liquefaction?

Liquefaction is the sudden loss of soil shear strength due to a rapid increase of soil pore water pressures caused by cyclic loading from a seismic event. This means a liquefied soil which acts more like a fluid than a solid when shaken during an earthquake. Areas susceptible to liquefaction are characterized by low-density granular soils (e.g., sand, silty sand) and a high groundwater table. According to the BGI Geotechnical Report, granular soils were previously reported in the project vicinity. In addition, relatively shallow groundwater at depths up to eleven feet below ground surface were encountered in boring explorations along Rincon Creek in the project area (BGI 2019). According to the BGI Geotechnical Report, shallow groundwater is anticipated to be encountered at trench excavation depths along portions of the pipeline alignments underlain by young and intermediate alluvium and could be encountered along other portions of the proposed pipeline alignments. When combined with variable groundwater levels near Rincon Creek, granular soils could have the potential to liquefy during a seismic event. Seismically-induced liquefaction could potentially damage the proposed pipeline in the event of an earthquake, resulting in joint failure or leakage from the pipeline.

As discussed under items (a.1) and (a.2) of this section, the project would be constructed in accordance with the current seismic design provisions of the CBC and project-specific seismic design parameters contained in the BGI Geotechnical Report. The project involves construction of water infrastructure and would not involve placement of habitable structures within a liquefaction-prone area, thereby minimizing the potential to result in loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure due to liquefaction. With adherence to existing regulatory requirements and recommendations in the BGI Geotechnical Report, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.4. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related landslides?

According to the Ventura County 2040 General Plan, seismically-induced landslides are expected throughout Ventura County, particularly in areas with steep slopes, during a major earthquake (County of Ventura 2020b). The Hazards and Safety chapter of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan Background Report identifies the area in the vicinity of the project site as having high susceptibility to landslides (County of Ventura 2020a). The Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Safety Element identifies land in the vicinity of the project site as having a generally low to low-moderate landslide rating (County of Santa Barbara 2015a). The BGI Geotechnical Report notes the

head scarps[4] of landslides caused by cut-bank erosion along Rincon Creek are affecting SR 192 and could destabilize the proposed pipeline in this area; however, this area is where HDD would occur to cross Rincon Creek, which would minimize potential effects associated with potential landslides in the project area.

In the vicinity of the existing landslide area identified in the BGI Geotechnical Report, the proposed pipeline would be constructed underneath SR 192. Following construction, the project site would be restored to its existing condition or better. Therefore, the project would not exacerbate the risk of slope instability or landslide beyond current conditions due to erosion along Rincon Creek.

In the event of a major earthquake, seismically-induced landslides could damage project facilities. Should a landslide compromise any project component during operation, water would temporarily be shut-off to the affected infrastructure and emergency repairs would be conducted as soon as possible. Furthermore, the project would not include construction of any habitable structures which would directly or indirectly expose people to risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The majority of the project site has been previously disturbed. Construction activities involving soil disturbance, such as excavation, stockpiling, and grading, could result in erosion. However, soil erosion due to construction in Ventura County would be minimized via implementation of erosion-control BMPs in accordance with the *Waste Discharge Requirement for Stormwater (Wet Weather) and Non-Stormwater (Dry Weather) Discharges from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems within the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, County of Ventura and the Incorporated Cities Therein* (Order R4-2010-0108, NPDES Permit No. CAS004002; Ventura County MS4 Permit) and the *Waste Discharge Requirements and General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Groundwater from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* (Order R4-2018-0125, NPDES Permit No. CAG994004). Similarly, in Santa Barbara County, construction BMPs would be implemented in accordance with the County of Santa Barbara's Phase II MS4 permit (*Waste Discharge Requirements for Stormwater Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems*, Order 2013-0001-DWQ, WDID Number 3 42M2000047) and the *Waste Discharge Requirements NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters* (in the RWQCB Central Coast Region; Order R3-2016-0035, NPDES Permit No. CAG993002). In addition, all project components would be subject to the requirements under the Construction General Permit (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ). Compliance with the MS4 Permits requires implementation of an effective combination of erosion and sediment control BMPs, such as hydraulic mulch and hydroseeding, silt fencing and sandbag barriers, spill prevention and control, soil binders, and street sweeping, to prevent erosion and sediment loss. Furthermore, the Construction General Permit requires the development of a SWPPP to reduce erosion and topsoil loss from stormwater runoff. Compliance with the requirements set forth in these permits would require the proposed project to implement BMPs during construction and prevent substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The project-specific SWPPP would include additional erosion control BMPs, such as covering of stockpiles, use of desilting basins, limitations on work during high-wind events, and post-

[4] A "head scarp" is a steep (nearly vertical) region of exposed soil and rock at the top of a landslide.

construction revegetation and drainage requirements. With implementation of construction BMPs and SWPPP, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project 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?

As previously discussed under items (a.1) through (a.4), the project is located in a seismically-active region. The BGI Geotechnical Report concludes liquefiable soils may underlie portions of the project site. Within Ventura County, the project site is located near a mapped landslide area immediately south of SR 150, near the proposed BPS-B location. Additionally, the BGI Geotechnical Report notes the presence of a landslide area near the proposed pipeline alignment near SR 192 and Rincon Creek in Santa Barbara County. No portion of the project site is located in a documented subsidence zone, according to the Ventura County 2040 General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (2020c), or on highly-collapsible soils, according to the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Safety Element (County of Santa Barbara 2015a).

As previously discussed, the project would be constructed in accordance with requirements of the 2019 CBC and recommendations provided in design-level geotechnical analyses. The proposed pipeline would be constructed below ground level, primarily within public and private road rights-of-way and agricultural areas. Following construction, the project site would be restored to its existing condition or better. Therefore, although the project would be located in a seismically active area, the project is not anticipated to adversely affect soil stability or increase the potential for regional and local landslides, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Expansive soils expand when wet and contract when dry, potentially creating cracks in foundations and causing considerable damage to structures (County of Ventura 2013). According to the BGI Geotechnical Report, soils in the project site and vicinity have an expansion potential ranging from very low to high, with an average expansion potential of low to medium (BGI 2019). While the BGI Geotechnical Report recommends design-level geotechnical studies to evaluate the presence of highly expansive soils and provide recommendations for project design and construction if expansive soils are encountered, the report also states expansive soils are unlikely to adversely impact the proposed pipeline due to its depth below ground surface.

The project would be constructed in accordance with the requirements of the 2019 CBC and any project-specific recommendations contained in design-level geotechnical studies, such as relative compaction standards or expansion index limitations for imported backfill material. The project would not involve construction of habitable structures, which reduces potential risks to life and property in the event expansive soils are present on the project site. Given the nature of the project, existing regulatory requirements, and the generally low to medium expansion potential of soils in the vicinity of the project site, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

The proposed project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

f. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Paleontological resources, or fossils, are the evidence of once-living organisms preserved in the rock record. They include both the fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals and the traces thereof (e.g., trackways, imprints, burrows, etc.). Paleontological resources are not found in "soil" but are contained within the geologic deposits or bedrock underlying the soil layer. Typically, fossils are greater than 5,000 years old (i.e., older than middle Holocene in age) and are typically preserved in sedimentary rocks. Although rare, fossils can also be preserved in volcanic rocks and low-grade metamorphic rocks under certain conditions (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology [SVP] 2010). Fossils occur in a non-continuous and often unpredictable distribution within some sedimentary units, and the potential for fossils to occur within sedimentary units depends on several factors. It is possible to evaluate the potential for geologic units to contain scientifically important paleontological resources, and therefore, evaluate the potential for impacts to those resources and provide mitigation for paleontological resources if they are discovered during construction of a development project.

The paleontological sensitivity of the geologic units underlying the project site was evaluated using the results of the paleontological locality search and review of existing information in the scientific literature concerning known fossils within such geologic units. Fossil collections records from the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP; 2022) online database and Paleobiology Database (PBDB; 2022), which contains known fossil localities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, were examined. In addition, a list of known fossil localities in the project site and immediate vicinity (i.e., localities recorded on the United States Geologic Survey *White Ledge Peak*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle) was requested from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Following the literature review and museum records search, a paleontological sensitivity classification was assigned to the geologic units underlying the project site. The SVP (2010) developed a system for assessing paleontological sensitivity and describes sedimentary rock units as having high, low, undetermined, or no potential for containing scientifically significant nonrenewable paleontological resources, the locations of vertebrate fossils or significant invertebrate fossils discovered during previous studies.

Per mapping by Tan and Clahan (2004), the proposed intertie pipeline is underlain by six geologic units: Holocene-aged undivided alluvial deposits, Holocene-aged alluvial fan deposits, Pleistocene-aged paralic deposits, Pleistocene-aged alluvial deposits, Casitas Formation, and Sespe Formation (Figure 7 through Figure 9). Holocene-aged undivided alluvial deposits underlie the proposed pipeline in low-lying areas (such as near Rincon Creek), BPS-A, part of BPS-B, part of the construction staging areas for BPS-A and BPS-B, and the Rincon Pumping Plant (Figure 7 through Figure 9). Holocene-aged undivided alluvial deposits consist of unconsolidated, poorly sorted, sandy clay with locally abundant gravel (Tan and Clahan 2004; Tan et al. 2003). Holocene-aged undivided

alluvial deposits are generally considered too young (i.e., less than 5,000 years old) to preserve paleontological resources, and therefore, have low paleontological sensitivity.

Holocene-aged alluvial fan deposits underlie the westernmost portions of the proposed pipeline (Figure 7). Holocene-aged alluvial fan deposits consist of moderately to poorly sorted, moderately to poorly bedded, sandy clay with some silt and gravel layers (Tan and Clahan 2004). Holocene-aged alluvial fan deposits are generally considered too young (i.e., less than 5,000 years old) to preserve paleontological resources, and therefore, have low paleontological sensitivity.

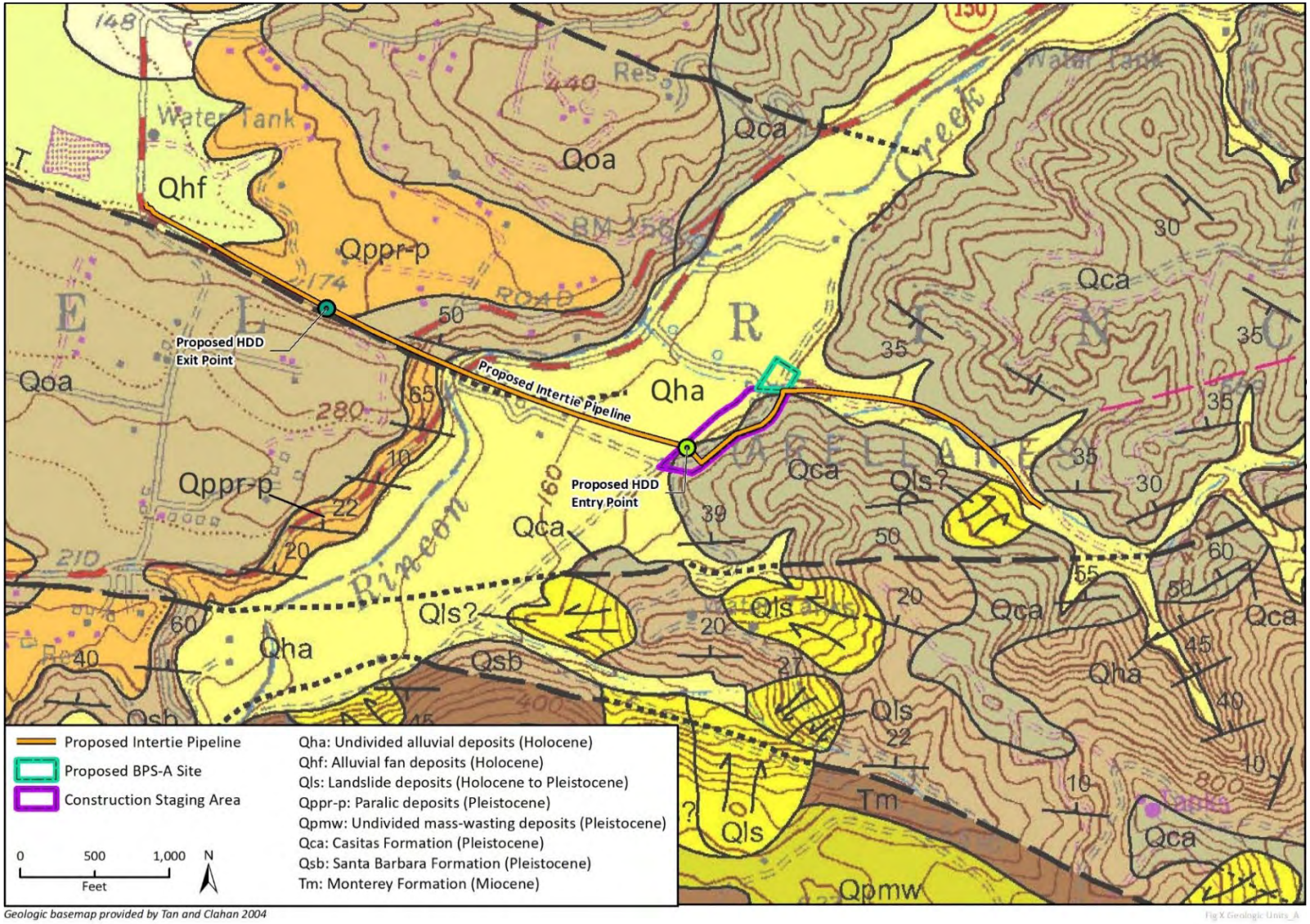
Pleistocene-aged alluvial deposits not assigned to named formations underlie part of the proposed pipeline west of Rincon Creek (Figure 7). Pleistocene-aged alluvial deposits consist of poorly sorted, poorly bedded, silt, sand, and gravel (Tan and Clahan 2004). Pleistocene-alluvial deposits, which have a well-documented record of scientifically significant fossils throughout California, including Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, yielding taxa such as of mastodon (*Mammut*), eared seal (*Arctocephalus*, *Eumetopias*), sea otter (*Enhydra*), turtles, birds, fish, and invertebrates (McLeod 2019; PBDB 2022; UCMP 2022). Therefore, Pleistocene-aged alluvial deposits have high paleontological sensitivity.

Pleistocene-aged paralic deposits underlie part of the proposed pipeline west of Rincon Creek (Figure 7). Pleistocene-aged paralic deposits represent marine terrace deposits consisting of poorly sorted sandy clay with local gravel lenses (Tan and Clahan 2004). Marine terrace deposits have produced vertebrate and invertebrate fossils throughout California, including in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties (Bradley and Addicott 1968, Jefferson 2010, Powell et al. 2004, Wright 1972). Therefore, Quaternary marine terrace deposits have high paleontological sensitivity.

The Casitas Formation underlies part of the proposed pipeline and the construction staging area for BPS-A east of Rincon Creek (Figure 7). The Casitas Formation consists of poorly consolidated sandstone and siltstone and is Pleistocene in age (Tan and Clahan 2004). No fossil localities are reported from the Casitas Formation, but in this area, the Casitas Formation is interfingered with the paleontologically sensitive Santa Barbara Formation, and therefore, may contain significant paleontological resources (McLeod 2019). The Santa Barbara Formation yields significant marine vertebrate fossils (e.g., fish) and is known to contain a diverse assemblage of marine invertebrates, including mollusks, bryozoans, and foraminifers (McLeod 2019; UCMP 2022). Therefore, the Casitas Formation has high paleontological sensitivity.

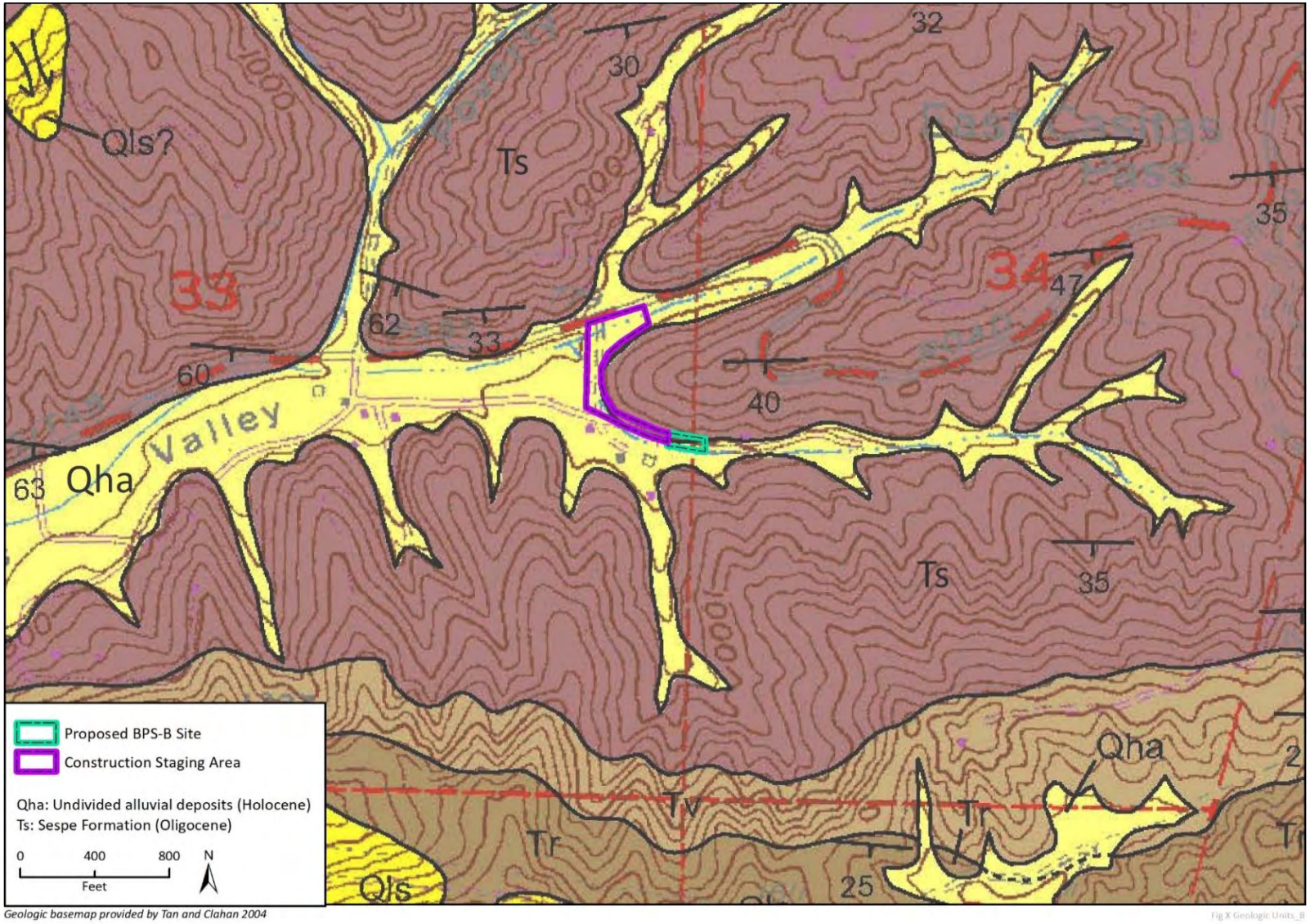
The Sespe Formation underlies part of the proposed site and construction staging area for BPS-B and the Rincon Chlorination Station (Figure 8 and Figure 9). The Sespe Formation consists of pebbly sandstone, siltstone, and claystone, which is Oligocene and Eocene in age (Tan and Clahan 2004). The Sespe Formation has produced many significant fossils in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, including mammals (Primates, Carnivorans, Artiodactyla, Perissodactyla, Rodentia), reptiles (lizards, snakes, turtles), and invertebrates (Kelly 1990, 2010; PBDB 2022; UCMP 2022). Therefore, the Sespe Formation has high paleontological sensitivity.

Figure 7 Geologic Units Underlying Pipeline Alignment and Booster Pump Station A



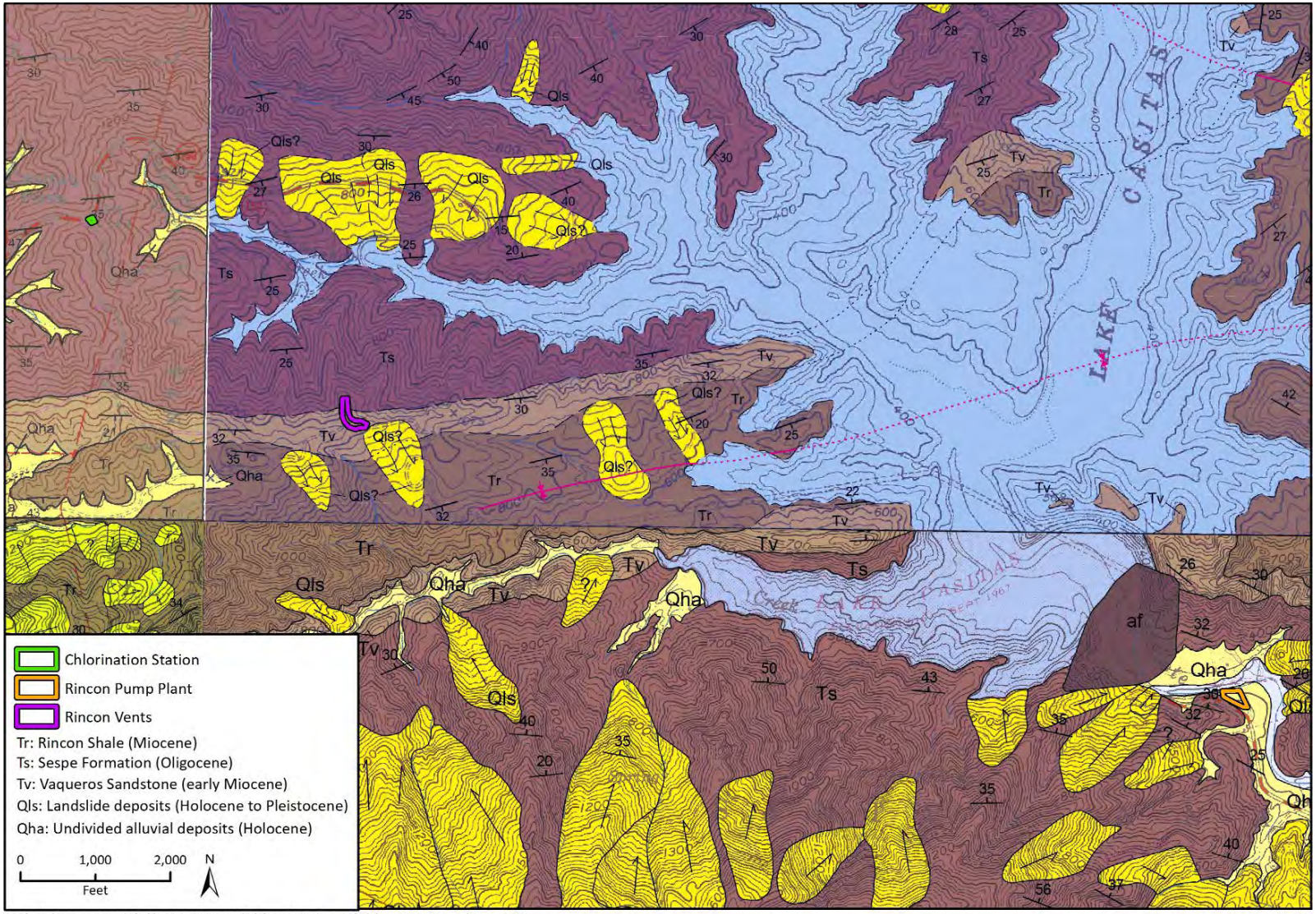
Geologic basemap provided by Tan and Clahan 2004

Figure 8 Geologic Units Underlying Booster Pump Station B



Geologic basemap provided by Tan and Clahan 2004

Figure 9 Geologic Units Underlying Infrastructure Improvement Areas



Geologic basemaps provided by Tan, Jones, and Clahan 2003; Tan and Clahan 2004; Tan and Jones 2006

The paleontological locality records show no previously recorded fossil localities in the project site; however, several vertebrate localities have been recorded near the project site (McLeod 2019). The closest vertebrate fossil locality, LACM (CIT) 139, is located west of the southernmost portion of the pipeline alignment in the shoreline cliffs of the city of Carpinteria. This locality, representing an asphalt deposit similar to the well-known La Brea Tar Pits, has yielded several fossil specimens of crow, extinct lion, skunk, weasel, fox, dire wolf, saber-toothed cat, pocket mouse, pocket gopher, and bison.

The proposed pipeline alignment is underlain by five geologic units (Figure 7), three of which, Pleistocene-aged alluvial deposits, Pleistocene-aged paralic deposits, and the Casitas Formation, have high paleontological sensitivity. Excavations for the proposed pipeline would reach up to five feet below the surface. Therefore, construction of the proposed pipeline alignment has the potential to significantly impact paleontological resources.

The proposed site of BPS-A is underlain by Holocene-aged undivided alluvial deposits (Figure 7), which have low paleontological sensitivity. Therefore, construction of BPS-A is unlikely to significantly impact paleontological resources.

The proposed site of BPS-B is underlain by two geologic units, Holocene-aged undivided alluvial deposits and the Sespe Formation (Figure 8). The Sespe Formation has high paleontological sensitivity. Ground-disturbing construction activities associated with BPS-B include site grading and excavations for underground piping. Ground disturbance in areas of the site of BPS-B mapped as the Sespe Formation could result in significant impacts to paleontological resources.

The proposed project also involves improvements to existing Casitas infrastructure. These activities include modifications to the existing Rincon Chlorination Station, Rincon Vents, and Rincon Pumping Plant facilities (Figure 9) and upgrades to the existing Rincon Main Pipeline. These construction activities would occur aboveground or only involve excavations of previously disturbed sediments since they would affect pre-existing infrastructure. Therefore, the various improvements to existing Casitas infrastructure would be unlikely to result in significant impacts to paleontological resources.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 during project construction would reduce the potential impact to paleontological resources to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure

GEO-1 Paleontological Resources Monitoring

Prior to the commencement of project construction, a Qualified Professional Paleontologist, as defined by the SVP (2010), shall be retained to conduct paleontological monitoring during ground-disturbing activities (i.e., grading, excavation, and trenching) of previously undisturbed geologic units determined to have a high paleontological sensitivity (i.e., Casitas Formation [Qca], Sespe Formation [Ts], Pleistocene-aged alluvial deposits [Qoa], and Pleistocene-aged paralic deposits [Qppr-p]).

Prior to the start of construction, the Qualified Professional Paleontologist or their designee shall conduct a paleontological WEAP training for construction personnel regarding the appearance of fossils and the procedures for notifying paleontological staff should fossils be discovered by construction staff.

Ground-disturbing activities on previously undisturbed areas within the project site shall be monitored on a full-time basis. Monitoring shall be supervised by the Qualified Professional Paleontologist and conducted by a qualified paleontological monitor, as defined by the SVP (2010).

The duration and timing of the monitoring shall be determined by the Qualified Professional Paleontologist. If the Qualified Professional Paleontologist determines full-time monitoring is no longer warranted, they may recommend reducing monitoring to periodic spot-checking or ceasing monitoring entirely. Monitoring shall be reinstated if any new ground disturbances of previously undisturbed areas are required, and reduction or suspension shall be reconsidered by the Qualified Professional Paleontologist at the time.

If a paleontological resource is discovered, the monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert construction equipment around the find until it is assessed for scientific significance and collected. Once salvaged, significant fossils shall be prepared to a curation-ready condition and curated in a scientific institution with a permanent paleontological collection. Curation fees shall be the responsibility of the project owner.

A final report shall be prepared describing the results of the paleontological monitoring efforts associated with the project. The report shall include a summary of the field and laboratory methods, an overview of the project geology and paleontology, a list of taxa recovered (if any), an analysis of fossils recovered (if any) and their scientific significance, and recommendations. The report shall be submitted to Casitas. If the monitoring efforts produced fossils, a copy of the report shall also be submitted to the designated museum repository.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	■	☐

Climate change is the observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans along with other substantial changes in climate (such as wind patterns, precipitation, and storms) over an extended period of time. Climate change is the result of numerous, cumulative sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions contributing to the "greenhouse effect," a natural occurrence which takes place in Earth's atmosphere and helps regulate the temperature of the planet. The majority of radiation from the sun hits Earth's surface and warms it. The surface, in turn, radiates heat back towards the atmosphere in the form of infrared radiation. Gases and clouds in the atmosphere trap and prevent some of this heat from escaping into space and re-radiate it in all directions.

GHG emissions occur both naturally and as a result of human activities, such as fossil fuel burning, decomposition of landfill wastes, raising livestock, deforestation, and some agricultural practices. GHGs produced by human activities include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Different types of GHGs have varying global warming potentials (GWP). The GWP of a GHG is the potential of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere over a specified timescale (generally, 100 years). Because GHGs absorb different amounts of heat, a common reference gas (CO_2) is used to relate the amount of heat absorbed to the amount of the gas emitted, referred to as "carbon dioxide equivalent" (CO_2e), which is the amount of GHG emitted multiplied by its GWP. Carbon dioxide has a 100-year GWP of one. By contrast, methane has a GWP of 30, meaning its global warming effect is 30 times greater than CO_2 on a molecule per molecule basis (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2021).[5]

The United Nations IPCC expressed the rise and continued growth of atmospheric CO_2 concentrations is unequivocally due to human activities in the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (2021). Human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land, which has led the climate to warm at an unprecedented rate in the last 2,000 years. It is estimated between the period of 1850 through 2019, a total of 2,390 gigatonnes of anthropogenic CO_2 was emitted. It is likely

[5] The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (2021) *Sixth Assessment Report* determined that methane has a GWP of 30. However, the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan published by the California Air Resources Board uses a GWP of 25 for methane, consistent with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (2007) *Fourth Assessment Report*. Therefore, this analysis utilizes a GWP of 25.

anthropogenic activities have increased the global surface temperature by approximately 1.07 degrees Celsius between the years 2010 through 2019 (IPCC 2021). Furthermore, since the late 1700s, estimated concentrations of CO_2, methane, and nitrous oxide in the atmosphere have increased by over 43 percent, 156 percent, and 17 percent, respectively, primarily due to human activity (USEPA 2021). Emissions resulting from human activities are thereby contributing to an average increase in Earth's temperature. Potential climate change impacts in California may include loss of snowpack, sea level rise, more extreme heat days per year, more high ozone days, more large forest fires, and more drought years (State of California 2018).

Regulatory Framework

In response to climate change, California implemented Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the "California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006." AB 32 required the reduction of statewide GHG emissions to 1990 emissions levels (essentially a 15 percent reduction below 2005 emission levels) by 2020 and the adoption of rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emissions reductions. On September 8, 2016, the Governor signed Senate Bill 32 into law, extending AB 32 by requiring the State to further reduce GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (the other provisions of AB 32 remain unchanged). On December 14, 2017, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the 2017 Scoping Plan, which provides a framework for achieving the 2030 target. The 2017 Scoping Plan relies on the continuation and expansion of existing policies and regulations, such as the Cap-and-Trade Program and the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and implementation of recently adopted policies and legislation, such as SB 1383 (aimed at reducing short-lived climate pollutants including methane, hydrofluorocarbon gases, and anthropogenic black carbon) and SB 100 (discussed further below). The 2017 Scoping Plan also puts an increased emphasis on innovation, adoption of existing technology, and strategic investment to support its strategies. As with the 2013 Scoping Plan Update, the 2017 Scoping Plan does not provide project-level thresholds for land use development. Instead, it recommends local governments adopt policies and locally-appropriate quantitative thresholds consistent with a statewide per capita goal of six metric tons (MT) of CO_2e by 2030 and two MT of CO_2e by 2050 (CARB 2017).

Other relevant state laws and regulations include SB 100, which was adopted on September 10, 2018. SB 100 supports the reduction of GHG emissions from the electricity sector by accelerating the state's Renewables Portfolio Standard Program. SB 100 requires electricity providers to increase procurement from eligible renewable energy resources to 33 percent of total retail sales by 2020, 60 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2045.

In 2020, the County of Ventura developed an integrated approach to addressing climate change in the 2040 General Plan by incorporating related policies and programs throughout the General Plan elements, so the General Plan will also serve as the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP). In 2015, the County of Santa Barbara published its Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP). The ECAP commits the County to reducing community-wide GHG emissions by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020 consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and the original Scoping Plan (CARB 2008). The ECAP identified 53 emission reduction measures (ERMs) which would enable the County to meet the GHG reduction target of 15 percent below baseline (2007) levels by 2020, consistent with AB 32.

Methodology

GHG emissions associated with project construction and operation were estimated using CalEEMod, version 2020.4.0, with the assumptions described under Section 3, *Air Quality*. Construction emissions occur for a limited period of a project's lifetime; as a standard practice, GHG emissions from construction are amortized over a presumed project lifetime. A project lifetime of 30 years is recommended by the Association of Environmental Professionals (2016).

Significance Thresholds

The majority of individual projects do not generate sufficient GHG emissions to influence climate change directly. Physical changes caused by a project can contribute incrementally to significant cumulative effects, even if individual changes resulting from a project are limited. The issue of climate change typically involves an analysis of whether a project's contribution towards an impact would be cumulatively considerable. "Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064[h][1]).

According to the State CEQA Guidelines, projects can tier from a qualified GHG reduction plan, which allows for project-level evaluation of GHG emissions through the comparison of the project's consistency with the GHG reduction policies included in a qualified GHG reduction plan. This approach is considered by the Association of Environmental Professionals (2016) in its white paper, *Beyond Newhall and 2020*, to be the most defensible approach presently available under CEQA to determine the significance of a project's GHG emissions. Neither Casitas nor CVWD currently have a formal CAP or GHG reduction plan.

The Santa Barbara County ECAP is not qualified to streamline development projects with a horizon year post-2020 because it does not outline a discrete pathway to achieving the 2030 GHG emission reduction target established by SB 32 or the 2045 target established by EO B-55-18.

The ECAP does not include quantitative significance thresholds for land use projects. Instead, it outlines a programmatic approach to reviewing new development. Any project-specific environmental document which relies on the ECAP for its cumulative impacts analysis must identify specific ERMs applicable to the project and demonstrate the project's incorporation of the measures. In addition, Appendix F of the ECAP includes a checklist to assist project applicants and County staff in determining whether a project considered in the County's 2020 and 2035 GHG emissions forecasts is within substantial compliance with the ECAP. The County's GHG emissions forecasts were based on growth estimates contained in the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' 2007 Regional Growth Forecast (County of Santa Barbara 2015b). The County of Ventura has developed an integrated approach to address climate change in the Ventura County 2040 General Plan, which serves as the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The 2040 General Plan is a qualified GHG emissions reduction plan which could allow for the cumulative impacts analysis of GHG emissions for future projects in the county to tier from the GHG analysis contained in the 2040 General Plan Draft EIR. However, the 2040 General Plan does not establish a quantitative significance threshold for evaluating GHG emissions in CEQA analyses. The 2040 General Plan Draft EIR includes descriptions of GHG emissions thresholds used in the region, and states the VCAPCD's preference is for GHG threshold consistency with South Coast Air Quality Management District and the SCAG Region (VCAPCD 2020). SCAQMD GHG thresholds include an industrial threshold of 10,000 MT of CO_2e (SCAQMD 2019).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4 expressly provides a "lead agency shall have discretion to determine, in the context of a particular project," whether to "[u]se a model or methodology to quantify greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project, and which model or methodology to use." As lead agency, Casitas has discretion to determine its own methodology for evaluating GHG emissions. Casitas also has discretion under the CEQA Guidelines to "[r]ely on a qualitative analysis or [quantitative] performance based standards."

Therefore, the SCAQMD's 10,000 MT of CO_2e per year threshold for industrial projects is utilized in this analysis as the applicable project-specific threshold. In addition, the proposed project is assessed for consistency with the County of Ventura 2040 General Plan, County of Santa Barbara ECAP, and 2017 Scoping Plan.

a. Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Project construction would generate GHG emissions from the operation of heavy machinery for pipeline, booster pump station, and infrastructure improvements construction, as well as equipment and materials haul truck trips and construction worker trips to and from the project site. Construction GHG emissions were estimated using CalEEMod version 2020.4.0 and a conservative, "worst-case" scenario assumption for construction activities. The construction-related GHG emissions for one year were estimated by aggregating all annual pipeline, booster pump station, and infrastructure improvements construction emissions. Table 7 shows the breakdown of annual GHG emissions anticipated to result from construction of the proposed project. The Association of Environmental Professionals recommends GHG emissions from construction be amortized over 30 years and added to operational GHG emissions to determine the overall impact of a project.

For purposes of this Initial Study, it is conservatively estimated operation of the proposed project would occur for approximately 680 hours per year. Under these conditions, the booster pump stations would require 662,200 kWh of electricity annually. The water treatment equipment at BPS-A would require an additional 2,200 kWh of electricity annually under the same conditions. Operation of the project would generate an estimated 50 maintenance vehicle trips per year, resulting in negligible annual mobile GHG emissions. ~~This analysis also accounts for annual operation of the emergency diesel generators at each booster pump station~~ Table 7 shows the breakdown of annual GHG emissions.

Table 7 Estimated Project-Specific Annual GHG Emissions

Activity	Emissions (MT CO_2e per year)
Construction Emissions	
Pipeline	470
Temporary Booster Pump Station A	1
Booster Pump Station A	359
Booster Pump Station B & Rincon Main Improvements	387
Total Construction Emissions	*1,216*
Amortized Construction Emissions (over 30 years)	**41**
Operational Emissions	
Annual Pump Station Operation	166
Annual Maintenance Vehicle Trips	0.1
Total Operational Emissions	**166**
Total Annual Emissions[1]	**207**
County of Ventura Recommended Threshold	10,000
Threshold Exceeded?	**No**

Both the proposed project's total annual construction emissions (1,216 MT CO_2e) and amortized annual construction emissions (41 MT CO_2e) fall below the VCAPCD recommended significance threshold of 10,000 MT CO_2e per year when combined with the project's annual operational emissions of 207 MT CO_2e. Therefore, impacts related to GHG emissions would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

As previously discussed, the County of Ventura 2040 General Plan serves as the County's CAP. Appendix B, Climate Change, of the 2040 General Plan identifies policies to promote water efficiency, resiliency, and conservation applicable to the proposed project, such as Policy PFS-2.3, *Energy Efficient Facility Construction, Purchases, Leases, Retrofits, and Expansions*, and Policy WR-C, *Regional Collaboration on Water Issues and Sustainability*. Of the 53 ERMs identified in the County of Santa Barbara's ECAP (2015b), three pertain to water efficiency. The ECAP sets a goal to "maximize the reliability of local water resources and supplies through water use efficiency." While the proposed project would not specifically involve water efficiency, it would improve the reliability and resiliency of the local water supply system. Therefore, the project would be consistent with the County of Ventura's 2040 General Plan and County of Santa Barbara's ECAP.

This analysis also evaluates the proposed project against the goals of the 2017 Scoping Plan (CARB 2017b). Approximately two percent of total energy usage in California is used for the conveyance, treatment, and distribution of water. One of the goals of the 2017 Scoping Plan is to "develop and support more reliable water supplies for people, agriculture, and the environment, provided by a more resilient, diversified, sustainably managed water resources system with a focus on actions that provide direct GHG reductions" (CARB 2017b).

The proposed project would facilitate the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD, thereby improving the reliability and resiliency of the local water distribution network and diversifying the local water supply portfolio. Furthermore, the ability to transfer water supplies between the agencies would facilitate access to Casitas' State Water Project (SWP) 5,000 acre-foot per year Table A allocation and Article 21 water for use or storage, as needed, which would reduce reliance on groundwater, particularly during drought periods. The SWP supplies water to 29 public water agencies across California through a network of canals, pipelines, tunnels, and reservoirs. Long-term contracts between SWP and water agencies detail agreements on the maximum amount of water a contractor may request annually, although actual water delivery may vary per year, depending on available water supply, hydrologic conditions, reservoir storage, and total amount of water requested by SWP water contractors. SWP water is used to supplement local or imported water supplies, and occasionally for agricultural purposes (California Department of Water Resources [DWR] 2019a).

When an agency has a surplus of water due to favorable weather or reduced consumption, DWR encourages and facilitates the transfer of water using SWP conveyance facilities to other agencies to help them meet water supply needs. State law requires DWR to make unused SWP water allocations available for transfers upon payment of fair compensation, provided no legal user of water will be injured; there will be no unreasonable effect on fish, wildlife, or other instream beneficial uses; and there will be no unreasonable effect on the overall economy or the environment of the county from which the water is being transferred (California Water Code Section 1810). Water transfers can involve transfers and exchanges among SWP long-term water contractors, between SWP water contractors and non-SWP entities, or between two or more non-SWP entities. Hundreds of water transfers occur annually in California, ensuring all available SWP water is consistently used (DWR 2019b).

Casitas has sold its annual allocation of SWP to the DWR's Turnback Pool from 1995 through 2018. In 2018, 2019 and 2020, Casitas did "bonafide exchanges" with San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency. The amount of water exchanged varied year to year, wherein 100 percent of Casitas' 2017 allocation was exchanged in 2018, 13 percent was exchanged in 2019, and 100 percent was exchanged in 2020. San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency serves the cities of Calimesa, Beaumont, and Banning, all located in Riverside County. Casitas retained the remainder of its 2019 allocation in San Luis Reservoir for possible delivery in a future year which occurred within the United Water Conservation District in 2021. The United Water Conservation District provides surface water capture and groundwater replenishment services to various communities in northern Ventura County. In 2021 and 2022, Casitas transferred its annual allocation to the Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA) located in Santa Barbara County. The CCWA is a public entity organized under a joint exercise of powers agreement by cities and special districts to construct, operate, and maintain local facilities in Santa Barbara County for distribution and treatment of SWP water. Transportation of SWP water to San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency, United Water Conservation District, and Central Coast Water Authority facilities necessitates usage of existing SWP facilities.

The use of SWP facilities to transfer water to the various water agencies utilizing SWP water throughout the state is currently occurring. The DWR has a Climate Action Plan, which serves as a guide to address climate change in the programs, projects, and activities over which the DWR has authority, including the SWP (DWR 2019c). As such, GHG emissions related to SWP water transfers would occur regardless of whether Casitas uses/stores its allotted 5,000 acre-feet annually or sells its allotment, and the project would not a generate a significant amount of GHG emissions.

Therefore, although the project would generate temporary construction and minimal operational emissions, the project would ultimately be consistent with the goals of CARB's 2017 Scoping Plan.

The proposed project would not be in conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Therefore, impacts related to GHG emissions would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with 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?	☐	■	☐	☐
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	■	☐	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	■
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material 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?	☐	■	☐	☐
e. For a project located in 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?	☐	☐	☐	■
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	■	☐	☐
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	■	☐

a. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

b. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase the transport and use of hazardous materials during the use of construction vehicles and equipment. Construction activities could cause an upset or accident condition. If such conditions result in a release of hazardous materials into the environment, potential impacts could occur. Limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and other similar materials, would be brought onto the project site, used, and stored during the construction period. These materials would be disposed off-site in accordance with applicable laws pertaining to the handling and disposal of hazardous waste.

The transport, use, and storage of hazardous materials during construction would be conducted in accordance with applicable federal and State laws, such as the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, California Hazardous Material Management Act, and California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Additionally, project components constructed within Ventura County would be required to comply with VCACPD Rule 62.1 (Hazardous Materials), which mandates no hazardous materials shall be discharged from any source so as to result in concentrations at or beyond the property line in excess of established federal, State, or local standards or emission limits. In the absence of specific standards for a particular hazardous material, the airborne concentrations of such materials shall not exceed those levels and time intervals established by the State Division of Industrial Safety or Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Compliance with Rule 62.1 would restrict hazardous materials emissions from the project site. Furthermore, pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-6, the construction materials would be stored on impervious surfaces or plastic ground covers at least 50 feet from potential jurisdictional aquatic features. Such storage areas would be protected from stormwater runoff using temporary perimeter sediment barriers. These measures would further reduce the potential for hazardous materials emissions to migrate from the project site. Therefore, construction activities would not pose a significant hazard to the public or to the environment either through routine use or reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions.

Once constructed, the proposed pipeline and infrastructure improvements to existing Casitas facilities would not involve routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, as these facilities would convey potable water. Proposed BPS-A would include chemical storage associated with water treatment. Specifically, BPS-A would house a 500-gallon ammonia (19 percent aqueous ammonia) storage tank and feed pump skid, an outdoor 3,500-gallon, 12.5 percent sodium hypochlorite vertical storage tank and feed pump, and a 170,000-gallon bolted steel baffled chemical contact tank. Use of such chemicals, which are typical of potable water disinfection systems, would be subject to applicable federal, State, and local laws pertaining to transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The ammonia storage tank would be housed in a dedicated ammonia room, while the sodium hypochlorite tank would be housed under a shade structure and equipped with secondary chemical containment, minimizing the potential for leaks, spills, and/or runoff to occur. Water treatment facilities, including chemical storage, are not proposed at BPS-B.

Project operation would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials. Project construction activities

would comply with all relevant regulations, including the enforcement of hazardous materials treatment, handling, notification, and transportation regulations and implementation of BMPs. Nonetheless, upset or accident conditions could result in the unanticipated spill or release of hazardous materials such as vehicle and equipment fuels, potentially introducing a hazard to the public and/or the environment, which could result in a potentially significant impact.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-6 and Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 to provide an additional level of safety, the potential impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure

HAZ-1 Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan

Before construction begins, the construction contractor shall submit to Casitas for review and approval a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan (HMMSCP), including a project-specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations. The HMMSCP shall establish policies and procedures consistent with applicable codes and regulations, including, but not limited to, the California Building and Fire Codes, as well United States Department of Labor, United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. The HMMSCP shall articulate hazardous materials handling practices to prevent the accidental spill or release of hazardous materials.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

c. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?

The nearest school to the project site is Cate School, which is located approximately 0.9-mile northwest of the project site in Carpinteria. As previously described in items (a) and (b), there is potential for an accidental spill or release of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials, such as vehicle and equipment fuels, to occur during project construction. However, the project site is not within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. Project construction would not involve substantial airborne emissions of hazardous materials, and any vehicle and equipment fuels accidentally released on the project site would be unlikely to travel over 0.9 mile over ground or via waterways to impact the Cate School. Therefore, project construction would not adversely impact schools due to the handling of hazardous materials.

In addition, as previously discussed in items (a) and (b), project operation would involve use and storage of chemicals associated with water disinfection, including ammonia and sodium hypochlorite. Such chemicals would be typical of potable water treatment facilities, stored in secondary containment systems, and not located within 0.25 mile of a school. Therefore, the project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

d. Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material 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?

Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop an updated Cortese List. The California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List. Other State and local government agencies are required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List (DTSC 2019). The analysis for this section included a review of the following resources on August 29, 2022 to provide hazardous material release information: (1) State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB 2022) GeoTracker database and (2) DTSC (2022) EnviroStor database.

Based on review of these databases, it was determined the pipeline alignment, booster pump station location sites, and infrastructure improvement sites are not included on existing lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Approximately 16 sites within 0.25 mile of the proposed pipeline alignment and pump station locations are enrolled in the SWRCB's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP; SWRCB 2019a). The ILRP regulates discharges associated with commercial agricultural operations to reduce potential impacts to waterbodies. The program covers approximately 40,000 growers and six million acres throughout California and requires monitoring and reporting of agricultural inputs, including fertilizers and pesticides (SWRCB 2019a).

The project would primarily be constructed within existing public and private road rights-of-way. However, portions of the project would be constructed on or adjacent to existing agricultural land. Given the current and/or historical agricultural use of portions of the project site, hazardous materials such as pesticides may be present in the soils underlying the project site and could be encountered during ground-disturbing construction activities. Such materials could pose a threat to construction workers, the public, or the environment if not properly managed, transported, or disposed, which could result in potentially significant impacts.

With implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-2 and HAZ-3, which require a soil assessment and a Contaminated Soil Contingency Plan for proper disposal of contaminated soils, if identified, the potential impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measures

HAZ-2 Soil Sampling and Disposal

Prior to construction, a soil assessment shall be completed under the supervision of a professional geologist or professional engineer. If soil sampling indicates the presence of any contaminant in quantities not in compliance with applicable laws, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) or DTSC shall be contacted to determine proper disposal requirements. If required based on the levels of contamination in the project site soil, proper removal and disposal of contaminated soils removed during excavation and trenching activities shall be performed.

HAZ-3 Contaminated Soil Contingency Plan

The contractor shall develop and implement a Contaminated Soil Contingency Plan to handle treatment and/or disposal of contaminated soils. If contaminated soil is encountered during project construction, work shall halt, and an assessment made to determine the extent of contamination.

Treatment and/or disposal of contaminated soils shall be conducted in accordance with the Contingency Plan.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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 closest public airport to the project is the Santa Barbara Airport, located approximately 20 miles west of the project site. Therefore, the project would not be located in an area covered by an airport land use plan and within two miles of a public or public-use airport. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

f. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Construction activities associated with the project may temporarily impede emergency response along SR 150 and/or SR 192. While full road closures are not anticipated, temporary and intermittent lane closures may be necessary during pipeline installation within roadways.

Mitigation Measure T-1 in Section 17, *Transportation*, which requires preparation and execution of a project-specific Traffic Management Plan, would identify emergency access routes and detours and describe procedures in place to provide priority access for emergency service vehicles through the construction work zone, minimizing potential interference with emergency response in the project site vicinity. Furthermore, Mitigation Measure T-2 requires the construction contractor to notify all emergency service providers serving the project site with construction contact names, locations, schedules, and traffic plans, if applicable, prior to the start of construction. With adherence to these mitigation measures, the impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

As discussed in Section 20, *Wildfire*, the project site is in a State Responsibility Area (SRA) designated as a moderate to very high fire hazard severity zone (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection [CALFIRE] 2007a, 2007b, 2008, 2010). Project construction would involve the use of heavy equipment in a vegetated hillside area, which could potentially result in sparks which could ignite surrounding vegetation. The project would be required to comply with applicable regulations relating to construction in vegetated and forested landscapes, including mandatory use of spark arrestors (PRC Section 4442), maintenance of fire suppression equipment during the highest fire danger period (PRC Section 4428), and adherence to standards for conducting construction activities on days when a burning permit is required (PRC Sections 4427 and 4431). With adherence to these regulatory requirements, construction-related wildfire risks would be less than significant.

The project involves a water pipeline, booster pump stations, and infrastructure improvements at existing Casitas facilities. None of these proposed components would pose a substantial risk of wildfire ignition once operational. Potable water pipelines would be located underground, and electrical equipment associated with booster pump stations would be contained in weatherproof structures, minimizing the potential for such equipment to ignite nearby vegetation. The project

would not include housing or other structures which could accommodate occupants, and therefore, would not house occupants which could potentially be exposed to risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. Impact would be less than significant. For additional discussion of potential impacts related to wildfires, refer to Section 20, *Wildfire.*

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	■	☐	☐
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	■	☐
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;	☐	☐	■	☐
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	■	☐
(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; or	☐	☐	■	☐
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	■	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	■	☐

a. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Excavation, grading, and construction activities associated with project construction would result in soil disturbance. Stormwater flowing through a construction site can collect sediment, debris, and chemicals, and transport them to receiving water bodies. Receiving water bodies on the project site and in the vicinity include Rincon Creek and the Pacific Ocean. As previously stated, relatively shallow groundwater may be encountered at trench excavation depths (BGI 2019).

As previously discussed in Section 7, *Geology and Soils*, project construction would comply with the requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit and the applicable General NPDES Permits for Discharges of Groundwater from Construction. The NPDES Construction General Permit requires preparation and implementation of a project-specific SWPPP, which requires operators to implement pollution prevention controls to minimize the discharge of pollutants from stormwater and spilled or leaked materials. Such controls include installation of silt fencing and sandbag barriers, covering of stockpiles, use of desilting basins, and post-construction revegetation and drainage requirements. In addition, project components in Ventura County would be required to implement an effective combination of erosion and sediment control BMPs, such as hydraulic mulch and hydroseeding, spill prevention and control, soil binders, and street sweeping, pursuant to the requirements of the County of Ventura's MS4 Permit. In addition, the General NPDES Permit for Discharges of Groundwater from Construction in coastal watersheds of Ventura County requires compliance with effluent limitations for reportable pollutants, discharge prohibitions, and a project-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program. Project components in Santa Barbara County would be subject to erosion control requirements under the County of Santa Barbara's Phase II MS4 Permit, as implemented by the County's Grading Ordinance in Chapter 14 of the County's Code of Ordinances, and the effluent limitations and a project-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program required by the RWQCB Central Coast Region's *Waste Discharge Requirements NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Highly Treated Groundwater to Surface Waters*. Compliance with applicable erosion and sediment control permitting and regulatory requirements would minimize potential surface water quality impacts associated with project construction and compliance with applicable effluent limitations for reportable pollutants, discharge prohibitions, and a project-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program for groundwater discharge would minimize potential construction groundwater quality impacts. However, there is potential for accidental leaks and spills of hazardous materials, which could result in potentially significant impacts to water quality.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, as described in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, would reduce the potential for accidental leaks and spills of hazardous materials by requiring preparation and implementation of an HMMSCP. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, project construction would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality, and the impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

During operation of the project, the pipeline, pump stations, and infrastructure improvements would convey potable water. Proposed BPS-A would include water treatment facilities to provide the required secondary disinfectant conversion from one water district's source water to the other. These facilities would include storage and use of chemicals typical of potable water treatment facilities, specifically 19 percent aqueous ammonia and 12.5 percent sodium hypochlorite. Use, transport, handling, and storage of these chemicals would occur in compliance with applicable federal, State, and local regulations. The ammonia storage tank would be housed in a dedicated ammonia room, while sodium hypochlorite would be housed under a shade structure and equipped

with secondary chemical containment, minimizing potential for leaks, spills, or runoff to occur. No water treatment facilities are proposed at BPS-B. Therefore, project operation would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality. Therefore, no operational impact would occur.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

b. Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

The project would involve construction of a pipeline, pump stations, and infrastructure improvements at existing Casitas facilities to facilitate transfer of potable water between Casitas and CVWD. The proposed pipeline alignment, BPS-A site location, and Rincon Main Pipeline Improvements site location overlie the Carpinteria Groundwater Basin (Basin 3-018). The BPS-B site location and other infrastructure improvement locations do not overlie a designated groundwater basin.

During construction of the project, shallow groundwater may be encountered at trench excavation depths along portions of the proposed pipeline alignments (BGI 2019), as discussed under item (a). The amount of groundwater encountered during construction would not be substantial and the project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge so the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.

In addition, the project would not substantially increase impervious surface cover, which could inhibit groundwater recharge, as the majority of the project would be constructed in existing public and private road rights-of-way. Moreover, the project would not increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or CVWD. As such, the project would not involve acquisition of new water supplies or additional groundwater extraction.

As discussed under item (e) below, the project would not conflict with any Groundwater Sustainability Plan as no such plan has been adopted for these basins to date. Furthermore, the ability to transfer water supplies between the agencies would facilitate access to Casitas' State Water Project (SWP) 5,000 acre-foot per year Table A allocation and Article 21 water for use or storage, as needed, which would reduce reliance on groundwater, particularly during drought periods. This impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c.(i) Would the project 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 result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

c.(ii) Would the project 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 substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

c.(iii) Would the project 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 that would 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?

Construction of the proposed pipeline would not increase the amount of impervious surfaces along the pipeline alignment because the pipeline would be underground and the ground surface would be restored to its existing condition after installation of the pipeline. The proposed pipeline alignment would involve the crossing of Rincon Creek. The creek crossing would be accomplished using trenchless HDD construction. Trenchless HDD construction would not involve substantial alteration to the creek as trenchless HDD construction would occur beneath the creek, thereby avoiding a change in existing drainage patterns of Rincon Creek. As described under item (a) of this section, the project would implement erosion-control BMPs pursuant to requirements of the NPDES Construction General Permit. In addition, the proposed pipeline would not alter the existing drainage pattern along the pipeline alignment as compared to existing conditions, and therefore would not result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation, flooding, or additional sources of polluted runoff.

Construction of the proposed pump stations would add a nominal amount of impervious surface area through the construction of weatherproof structures, approximately 420 square feet in area for each pump station. This marginal increase in impervious surface cover would not substantially alter the booster pump station sites' drainage characteristics or result in excess runoff. There are no existing streams or rivers on the site of the proposed booster pump stations, and these project components would not alter the course of a stream or river. Therefore, the proposed pump stations would not result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation, flooding, or sources of polluted runoff. Impacts related to alteration of the existing drainage pattern on the project site would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c.(iv) Would the project 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 impede or redirect flood flows?

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps, areas of the project site near Lake Jocelyn and along Rincon Creek are located in a Zone A, indicating an area subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event (FEMA 2018a, 2018b, 2010a, 2010b). These areas include the eastern portion of the proposed pipeline alignment and the western portion of the BPS-A site.

As previously discussed under items (c[i]) through (c[iii]), the pipeline would be constructed underground and generally within existing public and private road rights-of-way. The crossing of Rincon Creek would be accomplished using trenchless HDD construction. Furthermore, upon completion of pipe installation, the entrance pit and receiving pit would be backfilled and the disturbed land or habitat would be restored. As such, pipeline construction would not alter the drainage pattern of the project site and would not redirect flood flows. Proposed BPS-A would add a marginal amount of impervious surface area (approximately 420 square feet) in and/or near the flood zone due to construction of the weatherproof structure. This increase in impervious area would not substantially affect or redirect flood flows in the approximately 1,000-foot-wide

floodplain, which currently contains numerous houses, ancillary structures, trees, and roadways of similar or larger scale. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

The project site is located approximately 0.75 mile from the Pacific Ocean and is not located within a tsunami inundation zone, according to the California Department of Conservation's Tsunami Inundation Maps for the Pitas Point and White Ledge Peak Quadrangles (California Emergency Management Agency et al. 2009a, 2009b). The nearest inland surface water body to the project site is Lake Casitas, approximately 0.4 mile southwest of the Rincon Vents and approximately 0.4 mile west of the Rincon Pump Plant. While this area may be subject to inundation during a seiche event, the project components located near Lake Casitas involve improvements to existing potable water infrastructure and would not increase the risk of pollutants during such a seiche event.

As previously discussed under item (c[iv]), portions of the project site are located in a flood hazard zone (Zone A), including the proposed pipeline alignment and the BPS-A site. Pipeline segments would be located underground and convey potable water. The proposed project would be designed to meet all applicable floodproofing criteria and standards for development within flood zones. Consequently, the proposed project would be constructed to minimize the risk of inundation in flood hazard zones.

BPS-A would involve use, handling, and storage of chemicals associated with proposed water treatment facilities at the site, including a 500-gallon, 19 percent aqueous ammonia tank and 3,500-gallon, 12.5 percent sodium hypochlorite tank. These facilities would be secured in a dedicated ammonia room and a tank with secondary containment, respectively. In addition, all equipment would be elevated above the flood height. Therefore, these components would not pose a substantial risk of pollutant release during project inundation. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Project components in Ventura County would be under the jurisdiction of RWQCB Region 4 (Los Angeles Region). The RWQCB provides permits for projects potentially affecting surface waters and groundwater locally, and is responsible for preparing the Water Quality Control Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (also termed the Basin Plan). Similarly, project components in Santa Barbara County would be under the jurisdiction of RWQCB Region 3 (Central Coast), which is responsible for preparing the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Basin. The Basin Plans designate beneficial uses of water in the regions and establish narrative and numerical water quality objectives. The State has developed total maximum daily loads (also called TMDLs), which are a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can have and still meet water quality objectives established by the region. In the project area, Rincon Creek does not meet water quality objectives for its designated beneficial uses and is listed as impaired for boron, chloride, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), fecal coliform, nitrate, dissolved oxygen, sodium, and toxicity. Downstream, Rincon Beach is listed as impaired for indicator bacteria (SWRCB 2019b).

In addition, as previously discussed under item (a), construction activities would have the potential to degrade surface water quality in receiving waterbodies due to ground disturbance and mobilization of sediment and sediment-bound pollutants. Implementation of erosion and sediment control BMPs as required pursuant to the NPDES Construction General Permit and applicable MS4 Permits would reduce the potential for construction activities to exacerbate existing surface water quality impairments. Operation of a potable water pipeline and other related infrastructure improvements would not be associated with discharge of contaminants with the potential to exacerbate existing surface water quality impairments. Project operation would involve use, handling, and storage of disinfectant chemicals, including ammonia and sodium hypochlorite, at BPS-A. Such storage would occur in either a weatherproof structure or tanks equipped with secondary containment to reduce the potential for chemical spills, leaks, or runoff. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable water quality control plans, and impacts would be less than significant.

As previously discussed under item (b), the proposed pipeline alignment and BPS-A would overlie the Carpinteria Groundwater Basin (Basin 3-018). As part of its 2018 basin re-prioritization process, the DWR designated the Carpinteria Basin as high priority, and therefore, the basin is required to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (CVWD n.d.). To date, no Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been adopted for the Carpinteria Basin. The project would involve construction and operation of potable water infrastructure to facilitate the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD. During construction of the project, shallow groundwater may be encountered at trench excavation depths along portions of the proposed pipeline alignment (BGI 2019), as discussed above under item (a). Compliance with effluent limitations for reportable pollutants, discharge prohibitions, and a project-specific Monitoring and Reporting Program for groundwater discharge as required by the applicable General NPDES Permits for Discharges of Groundwater from Construction (NPDES Permit No. CAG994004 for Ventura County and NPDES Permit No. CAG993002 for Santa Barbara County) would minimize potential construction groundwater quality impacts. The project would not increase groundwater extraction or impede groundwater recharge. As previously discussed under item (b) of this section, transfers of water supply between Casitas and CVWD may result in movement of groundwater between source basins for each of these water purveyors. However, the project would not obstruct implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for any of these basins, as no such plan has been adopted to date. Furthermore, transfers between Casitas and CVWD would allow for access to and storage of Casitas' SWP allocation, reducing dependence on regional groundwater supplies during times of drought. As previously discussed, the proposed project is identified as a recommended supply portfolio option in the DRAFT CWRP. As such, this impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

11 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	■	☐	☐

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

Once constructed, project facilities would consist of approximately 7,100 LF of new underground pipeline, two new booster pump stations, and improvements to existing Casitas facilities, which would not have the potential to physically divide an established community. The project includes improvements to potable water infrastructure in a primarily rural residential and agricultural area. The presence of construction-related equipment and workers would temporarily change the existing character of the vicinity to a construction zone. Construction activities within public and private roadways would maintain local access for businesses and residences along the proposed alignment to the extent practicable throughout short-term construction of the project. Therefore, the project would not displace or divide an established community, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project 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?

One of the objectives of the project is to improve water supply reliability and resiliency by facilitating transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD. As previously stated, the proposed project would not be utilized to increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or to provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or CVMD.

The project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project. The County of Ventura's 2040 General Plan identifies goals and policies to maintain adequate water supplies and quality in the county. The proposed project would be consistent with the following goals and policies (County of Ventura 2020b):

- **Water Resources Policy 1.** To effectively manage water supply by adequately planning for the development, conservation, and protection of water resources for present and future generations.
- **Water Resources Goal 1.1: Sustainable Water Supply.** The County should encourage water suppliers, groundwater management agencies, and groundwater sustainability agencies to

inventory and monitor the quantity and quality of the county's water resources, and to identify and implement measures to ensure a sustainable water supply to serve all existing and future residents, businesses, agriculture, government, and the environment.

- **Water Resources Goal 1.3: Portfolio of Water Sources.** The County shall support the use of, conveyance of, and seek to secure water from varied sources that contribute to a diverse water supply portfolio. The water supply portfolio may include, but is not limited to, imported water, surface water, groundwater, treated brackish groundwater, desalinated seawater, recycled water, and stormwater where economically feasible and protective of the environmental and public health.
- **Water Resources Goal 1.4: State Water Sources.** The County shall continue to support the conveyance of, and seek to secure water from, state sources.
- **Water Resources Goal 1.7: Water Supply Inter-Ties.** The County shall encourage the continued cooperation among water suppliers in the county, through entities such as Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County and the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, to establish and maintain emergency inter-tie projects among water suppliers

In addition to the Ventura County 2040 General Plan, portions of the project components proposed in Ventura County are located within the County's North Coast zone, and therefore, may be subject to the County's Local Coastal Program. The Ventura County Coastal Area Plan includes the following policy for the North Coast zone (County of Ventura 2017b):

- **Public Works Policy 1.** New or expanded public works facilities (including roads, flood control measures, water and sanitation) will be designed to serve the potential population within the subarea's boundaries, and to mitigate impacts on agricultural, open space lands, or environmentally sensitive habitats.

As noted throughout this document, the project would result in no impact, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with the incorporation of mitigation measures for all issue areas evaluated, including agricultural resources, recreation, and biological resources. As such, the project would be consistent with this policy of the Ventura County Coastal Area Plan.

The Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element, Groundwater Resources Section contains the following goals and actions with which the project would be consistent (County of Santa Barbara 2009a):

- **Goal 3:** To coordinate County land use planning decisions and water resources planning and supply availability.
  - **Action 3.4.4**: Santa Barbara County shall encourage and assist local water purveyors in developing adequate water supplies (groundwater, surface water, desalination, etc.) to serve their customers and communities consistent with the applicable general plan(s).

Additionally, the Conservation Element identifies various regional water supply alternatives to be combined to meet future countywide water demand (County of Santa Barbara 2010). These sources include water imports, including State Water Project water via neighboring counties, and conjunctive use of surface and groundwater supplies. The project would be consistent with these strategies by facilitating water transfers between Casitas and CVWD, improving supply reliability and management flexibility for water service providers in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Project components proposed in Santa Barbara County would also be located in the coastal zone, and therefore, may be subject to the Santa Barbara County Coastal Land Use Plan and Local Coastal Program. Policies 3-13 and 3-14 require: minimum cut and fill operations; development be designed to fit existing topography, soils, geology, hydrology, and other existing conditions; and areas not suited for development because of known soil, geologic, flood, erosion, or other hazards to remain open space. The project would require cut and fill during open-cut trenching, trenchless HDD, grading, and other ground-disturbing activities. However, project activities would not result in an excess cut or fill beyond what would be required for the project. As discussed under Section 7, *Geology and Soils*, all project components would be required to implement BMPs to control erosion hazards. Construction of the project would occur in compliance with the CBC, which would minimize the risk of potential geologic hazards. Furthermore, construction would comply with all applicable standards of construction in flood hazard zones. Consequently, adverse effects due to any potential flooding would be minimized. As a result, the project would be consistent with Policies 3-13 and 3-14 of the Santa Barbara County Coastal Land Use Plan and Local Coastal Program.

Coastal Act Policy 30240(b) mandates development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and park and recreation areas be sited and designed to prevent polluted runoff impacts. As discussed in Section 4, *Biological Resources,* Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, and BIO-7 mandate construction personnel undergo WEAP training, implementation of BMPs to limit polluted stormwater runoff, and development of an HMMP. These mitigation measures would limit polluted runoff into environmentally sensitive habitat areas and require compensatory mitigation if impacts to environmentally sensitive habitat areas occur. Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-6, and BIO-7, the proposed project would comply with Coastal Act Policy 30240(b).

Pursuant to Section 35-146 of the Santa Barbara County Coastal Zoning Ordinance, small scale public works, utilities, and private service facilities are permitted in all zone districts, subject to approval of a Coastal Development Permit and Conditional Use Permit, as applicable. This includes distribution and collection lines for water, reclaimed water, and wastewater (County of Santa Barbara 2019b). Because potable water pipelines proposed under the project are permitted in all zones, the project would not conflict with the Santa Barbara County Coastal Zoning Ordinance.

As discussed in Section 2, *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*, public works facilities are permitted on land zoned as Coastal Agriculture (CA) pursuant to the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Division 8, Chapter 1.1). Pursuant to the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Division 8, Chapter 1), "efficient municipal services and facilities" are "promoted" on land zoned as Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and Open Space (OS). In addition, the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance allows development which would result in public health and safety improvements, including in high fire risk areas. The project would improve regional water supply reliability for areas in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties susceptible to natural disasters such as wildfire. Consequently, the project would be consistent with the provisions of Ventura County Agriculture Exclusive (AE) and Open Space (OS) zoning.

There would be no conflicts with land use plans, policies, or regulations of the County of Ventura or County of Santa Barbara. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-6 through BIO-8 would ensure the proposed project would be in compliance with Coastal Act Policy 30240(b). Therefore, the project would not 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. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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12 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	☐	☐	■

a. Would the project 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?

b. Would the project 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?

The proposed project would primarily be constructed in existing roadways and on previously disturbed land. The project site is not located in an area designated by the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan or the Ventura County General Plan as an area with the known potential for mineral resources (County of Santa Barbara 2010; County of Ventura 2020b). The project site is not currently used for mineral resource extraction, nor is it located in an area with the known potential for mineral resources. No impact to mineral resources would occur.

NO IMPACT

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13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
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?	☐	■	☐	☐
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	■	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	■

Noise Overview

The unit of measurement used to describe a noise level is the decibel (dB). However, the human ear is not equally sensitive to all frequencies within the sound spectrum. Therefore, a method called "A weighting" is used to filter noise frequencies which are not audible to the human ear. A-weighting approximates the frequency response of the average young ear when listening to most ordinary everyday sounds. When people make relative judgments of the loudness or annoyance of a sound, their judgments correlate well with the "A-weighted" levels of those sounds. Therefore, the A-weighted noise scale is used for measurements and standards involving the human perception of noise. In this analysis, all noise levels are A-weighted, and "dB(A)" is understood to identify the A-weighted decibel.

Decibels are measured on a logarithmic scale which quantifies sound intensity in a manner similar to the Richter scale used for earthquake magnitudes. A 10 dB increase represents a 10-fold increase in sound intensity, a 20 dB change is a 100-fold difference, 30 dB is a 1,000-fold increase, etc. Thus, a doubling of the energy of a noise source, such as doubling of traffic volume, would increase the noise level by 3 dB; a halving of the energy would result in a 3 dB decrease.

Human perception of noise has no simple correlation with acoustical energy. The perception of noise is not linear in terms of dB(A) or in terms of acoustical energy. Two equivalent noise sources combined do not sound twice as loud as one source. It is widely accepted the average healthy ear

can barely perceive changes of 3 dB(A), increase or decrease; a change of 5 dB(A) is readily perceptible; and an increase (decrease) of 10 dB(A) sounds twice (half) as loud (Caltrans 2013).

Descriptors

The impact of noise is not a function of loudness alone. The time of day when noise occurs and the duration of the noise are also important. In addition, most noise which lasts for more than a few seconds is variable in its intensity. Consequently, a variety of noise descriptors has been developed. The noise descriptors used for this analysis are the one-hour equivalent noise level (L_{eq}) and the community noise equivalent level (CNEL).

- The L_{eq} is the level of a steady sound, in a stated time period and at a stated location, having the same A-weighted sound energy as the time-varying sound. For example, $L_{eq(1h)}$ is the equivalent noise level over a 1-hour period and $L_{eq(8h)}$ is the equivalent noise level over an 8-hour period. $L_{eq(1h)}$ is a common metric for limiting nuisance noise whereas $L_{eq(8h)}$ is a common metric for evaluating construction noise.
- The CNEL is a 24-hour equivalent sound level. The CNEL calculation applies an additional 5 dB(A) penalty to noise occurring during evening hours, between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., and an additional 10 dB(A) penalty is added to noise occurring during the night, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. These increases for certain times are intended to account for the added sensitivity of humans to noise during the evening and night.

Propagation

Sound from a small, localized source (approximating a "point" source) radiates uniformly outward as it travels away from the source in a spherical pattern, known as geometric spreading. The sound level decreases or drops off at a rate of 6 dB(A) for each doubling of the distance. Traffic noise is not a single, stationary point source of sound. Over some time interval, the movement of vehicles makes the source of the sound appear to emanate from a line (line source) rather than a point. The drop-off rate for a line source is 3 dB(A) for each doubling of distance.

The propagation of noise is also affected by the intervening ground, known as ground absorption. A hard site (such as parking lots or smooth bodies of water) receives no additional ground attenuation and the changes in noise levels with distance (drop-off rate) are simply the geometric spreading of the source. A soft site (such as soft dirt, grass, or scattered bushes and trees) receives an additional ground attenuation value of 1.5 dB(A) per doubling of distance.

Noise levels may also be reduced by intervening structures; the amount of attenuation provided by this "shielding" depends on the size of the object and the frequencies of the noise levels. Natural terrain features such as hills and dense woods, and man-made features such as buildings and walls, can significantly alter noise levels. Generally, any large structure blocking the line of sight will provide at least a 5-dB(A) reduction in source noise levels at the receiver (Federal Highway Administration [FHWA] 2017).

Vibration Overview

Vibration levels are usually expressed as single-number measure of vibration magnitude, in terms of velocity or acceleration, which describes the severity of the vibration without the frequency variable. The peak particle velocity (ppv) is defined as the maximum instantaneous positive or negative peak of the vibration signal, usually measured in inches per second. Since it is related to the stresses experienced by buildings, ppv is often used in monitoring and controlling construction

vibration. Although ppv is appropriate for evaluating the potential of building damage, it is not suitable for evaluating human response. It takes some time for the human body to respond to vibrations. In a sense, the human body responds to an average vibration amplitude (FTA 2018). Because vibration waves are oscillatory, the net average of a vibration signal is zero. Thus, the root mean square (rms) amplitude is used to describe the "smoothed" vibration amplitude (FTA 2018). The rms of a signal is the square root of the average of the squared amplitude of the signal, usually measured in inches per second. The average is typically calculated over a one-second period. The rms amplitude is always less than the ppv and is always positive. Decibel notation is used to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration. The abbreviation VdB is used in this analysis for vibration decibels to reduce the potential for confusion with sound decibels.

Continued vibration of building components can also take the form of an audible low-frequency rumbling noise, which is referred to as groundborne noise. Groundborne noise is usually only a problem when the originating vibration spectrum is dominated by frequencies in the upper end of the range (60 to 200 Hertz), or when foundations or utilities, such as sewer and water pipes, connect the structure and the vibration source.

Project Site Setting

The project site is located in a rural residential and agricultural area spanning unincorporated Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The vicinity of the project site is characterized by agricultural or undeveloped land interspersed with single-family residences. The project area contains no divided highways but would involve work within and immediately adjacent to SR 150 and SR 192. The nearest divided highway in the vicinity of the project site is U.S. Highway 101, approximately 0.7 mile southwest of the project site.

Noise levels at the project site are typical of rural residential and agricultural areas. Primary sources of noise can be attributed to roadway traffic along SR 150, SR 192, and nearby private roadways. Traffic in these areas ranges from infrequent along private roadways to moderate frequencies along SR 150 and SR 192.

The nearest airport to the project area is Santa Barbara Airport, located approximately 20 miles to the west. Therefore, airport noise does not contribute substantially to noise levels in the project area.

Four 15-minute noise measurements were collected at points in the project area on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 and a 24-hour noise measurement was collected commencing on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 and concluding on Thursday, June 6, 2019. Noise measurements were sited to characterize ambient noise levels near project components and sensitive receivers in the project area. All noise measurement locations were selected to avoid walls or structures, which could interfere with collection of noise measurements. Table 8 shows the recorded noise measurements and shows noise measurement locations and project components.

Table 8 Noise Measurements

Measurement Number	Measurement Location	Sample Times[1]	L_{eq} (dBA)[2]	L_{min} (dBA)[3]	L_{max} (dBA)[4]	CNEL (dBA)[5]
NM1	SR 192, approximately 500 feet south of Shepard Mesa Road	9:42 a.m. – 9:57 a.m.	64.1	28.8	87.1	–
NM2	SR 150, near BPS-A	10:50 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.	70.1	42.0	84.6	–
NM3	Avocado Hill Road, near BPS-A	10:28 a.m. – 10:43 a.m.	64.5	35.4	78.7	–
NM4	SR 150, near BPS-B	10:12 a.m. – 10:27 a.m.	63.8	36.5	76.5	–
24-Hour Measurement	SR 150	11:55 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.	66.7	31.0	100.4	71.1

[1] Measurements NM1 –NM4 were collected on Wednesday, June 5, 2019. The 24-hour measurement was collected Wednesday, June 5 through Thursday, June 6, 2019.

[2] A-weighted decibel (dBA) is defined as a decibel (dB) adjusted to be consistent with human response. The equivalent noise level (L_{eq}) is defined as the single steady A-weighted level equivalent to the same amount of energy contained in the actual fluctuating levels over a period of time (essentially, the average noise level).

[3] L_{min} is the minimum sound level experienced within the recorded measurement with A-weighted frequency response.

[4] L_{max} is the maximum sound level experienced within the recorded measurement with A-weighted frequency response.

[5] CNEL is a 24-hour equivalent sound level, with an additional 5 dBA penalty to noise occurring during evening hours, between 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., and an additional 10 dBA penalty is added to noise occurring during the night, between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Source: Rincon Consultants, field visit on Wednesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 6, 2019 using ANSI Type 2 Integrating sound level meter. See Appendix E for noise monitoring data.

Sensitive Receivers

Noise exposure goals for different types of land uses reflect the varying noise sensitivities associated with those uses. The Ventura County General Plan Hazards and Safety Element identifies noise-sensitive uses as residences; schools, historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; sensitive wildlife habitats, including the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered species; hotels and other short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts and motels); places of worship; and libraries (County of Ventura 2020b). The Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan Noise Element considers noise-sensitive land uses to include residential uses (including single- and multi-family housing, mobile home parks, and dormitories), transient lodging, hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent hospitals, public or private educational facilities, libraries, churches, and places of public assembly (County of Santa Barbara 2009b). Table 9 identifies the nearest noise-sensitive receivers to each project component.

Table 9 Noise Sensitive Receivers in Project Area

Project Component	Nearest Noise-Sensitive Receiver	Distance to Project Site
Pipeline	Single-Family Residence west of Avocado Hill Road	Approximately 35 feet
Booster Pump Stations		
BPS-A	Single-Family Residence southwest of proposed site	Approximately 175 feet
BPS-B	Single-Family Residence east of proposed site	Approximately 260 feet
Mechanical and Valving Improvements		
Rincon Pump Plant	Single-Family Residence west of Red Mountain Fire Road	Approximately 470 feet
Rincon Vents	Single-Family Residences along Casitas Vista Road	Approximately 1,700 feet

Regulatory Setting

County of Ventura

VENTURA COUNTY GENERAL PLAN

The Hazards and Safety Element of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan contains the County's Noise Element (County of Ventura 2020). The Noise Element identifies primary noise sources in the county; develops noise contours for existing transportation sources; and provides strategies to reduce noise impacts in the county through the year 2040.

The Noise Element defines noise sensitive receivers by land use and time of sensitivity. According to the County's Noise Element, noise sensitive receivers include residences; schools, historic sites; cemeteries; parks, recreation, and open space areas; hospitals and care facilities; sensitive wildlife habitats, including the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered species; hotels and other short-term lodging (e.g., bed and breakfasts and motels); places of worship; and libraries.

Section 7.9 of the Hazards and Safety Element of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan contains policies related to noise exposure and emission. Specifically, Policy HAZ-9.2 states new noise generators proposed to be located near any noise sensitive use shall incorporate noise control measures so ongoing outdoor noise levels received by the noise sensitive receiver, measured at the exterior wall of the building, do not exceed any of the following standards:

1. $L_{eq(1H)}$ of 55 dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3 dB(a), whichever is greater, during any hour from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
2. $L_{eq(1H)}$ of 50 db(A) or ambient noise level plus 3 dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
3. $L_{eq(1H)}$ of 45 db(A) or ambient noise level plus 3 dB(A), whichever is greater, during any hour from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

In addition, Policy HAZ-9.2 states construction noise and vibration resulting from discretionary development shall be evaluated and, if necessary, mitigated in accordance with the Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan (County of Ventura 2010).

VENTURA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Article 11 of the Ventura County Code of Ordinances prohibits loud or raucous noise within any residential zone which is audible to the human ear during the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. at a distance of 50 feet from the property line of the noise source or 50 feet from any such noise source if the source is in a public right-of-way. While the ordinance indicates "loud or raucous noise" can include operation of riding tractors or other mechanical or electrical devices or hand tools, which could be used during construction activities, Section 6299-2(a) exempts any government entity or public utility, such as Casitas, from the provisions of the ordinance.

CONSTRUCTION NOISE THRESHOLD CRITERIA

The County of Ventura Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan establishes thresholds for temporary construction-generated noise at sensitive receivers. Construction noise thresholds are divided into daytime hours (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.), evening hours (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), and nighttime hours (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). Per the Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan, hospitals and nursing homes are sensitive receivers at all hours, single-

and multi-family residences as well as hotels/motels are sensitive receivers during evening and nighttime hours, and schools, churches and libraries are sensitive receivers during daytime and evening hours when in use (County of Ventura 2010). Construction of the proposed project would generally occur from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (i.e., during daytime hours), and no daytime sensitive receivers (i.e., hospitals, nursing homes, schools, churches, or libraries) are located in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, these criteria are not applicable to the proposed project and are not utilized in this analysis.

County of Santa Barbara

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOISE ELEMENT

The County of Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan Noise Element (2009b) includes the following guidelines related to noise:

Policy 1 In the planning of land use, a 65 dB day-night average sound level is regarded as the maximum exterior noise exposure compatible with noise-sensitive uses unless noise mitigation features are included in project designs.

Policy 2 Noise sensitive land uses should be considered to include:

- Residential, including single- and multi-family dwellings, mobile home parks, dormitories, and similar uses
- Transient lodging, including hotels, motels, and similar uses
- Hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent hospitals, and other facilities for long-term medical care
- Public or private educational facilities, libraries, churches, and places of public assembly

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Section 28-48 of the Santa Barbara County Code states any person who has received an excavation or encroachment permit for work within any right-of-way of a road owned, maintained, or controlled by the County shall avoid unnecessary inconvenience and annoyance to the general public and occupants of neighboring property. The ordinance further restricts the use of any tool, appliance or equipment producing noise of sufficient volume to disturb the sleep or repose of occupants of the neighboring property to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLDS AND GUIDELINES MANUAL

According to the Santa Barbara County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2018), “a proposed development that would generate noise levels in excess of 65 dB(A) CNEL and could affect sensitive receivers would generally be presumed to have a significant impact.” In addition, noise from grading and construction activity proposed within 1,600 feet of sensitive receivers, including residential development, could result in a potentially significant impact if noise levels exceed 65 dB(A). To mitigate this impact, the Manual recommends construction within 1,600 feet of sensitive receivers be limited to weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Manual also suggests noise attenuation barriers and muffling of grading equipment may also be required. Construction equipment generating noise levels above 95 dB(A) may require additional mitigation.

CASITAS' STANDARD CONTRACTOR SPECIFICATIONS

The following construction noise controls would be implemented for the proposed project, consistent with Casitas' Standard Contractor Specifications:

a. Maximum Noise Levels within 1,000 Feet of any Residence, Business, or Other Populated Area: Noise levels for trenchers, pavers, graders and trucks shall not exceed 90 dBA at 50 feet as measured under the noisiest operating conditions. For all other equipment, noise levels shall not exceed 85 dBA at 50 feet.

b. Equipment: Jack hammers shall be equipped with exhaust mufflers and steel muffling sleeves. Air compressors should be of a quiet type such as a "whisperized" compressor.

c. Operations: Keep noisy equipment as far as possible from noise-sensitive site boundaries. Machines should not be left idling. Use electric power in lieu of internal combustion engine power wherever possible. Maintain equipment properly to reduce noise from excessive vibration, faulty mufflers, or other sources. All engines shall have mufflers.

d. Scheduling: Schedule noisy operations so as to minimize their duration at any given location.

e. Monitoring: To determine whether the above noise limits are being met and whether noise barriers are needed, the Contractor shall use a portable sound level meter meeting the requirements of American National Standards Institute Specification S1.4 for Type 2 sound level meters. If non-complying noise levels are found, the Contractor shall be responsible for monitoring and correction of excessive noise levels. Methods to reduce noise levels may include installation of temporary sound barriers/blankets between the construction equipment and the nearest sensitive receivers. The temporary barriers/blankets would be of sufficient height to block the line of sight between the equipment and receivers and would drape on the ground or be sealed at the ground.

a. Would the project result in 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?

Construction Noise

Temporary noise levels caused by construction activity would be a function of the noise generated by construction equipment, the location and sensitivity of nearby land uses, and the timing and duration of noise-generating activities.

For construction noise assessment, construction equipment can be considered to operate in two modes: stationary and mobile. As a rule, stationary equipment operates in a single location for one or more days at a time, with either fixed-power operation (e.g., pumps, generators, and compressors) or variable-power operation (e.g., pile drivers, rock drills, and pavement breakers). Mobile equipment moves around construction sites with power applied in cyclic fashion, such as bulldozers, graders, and loaders (FTA 2018). Noise impacts from stationary equipment are assessed from the center of the equipment, while noise impacts from mobile construction equipment are assessed from the center of the equipment activity area (e.g., construction site).

Construction noise was estimated using the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM) (see Appendix E for RCNM worksheets). Typical construction projects have long-term noise averages which are lower than louder short-term noise events due to

equipment moving from one point to another on the site, work breaks, and idle time. Additionally, due to the dynamic nature of a construction site, noise levels are calculated from the center of the activity. Thus, noise generated by pump station construction is evaluated from the center of each of the construction locations. As described in the project description, pump station construction would involve the use of an excavator, grader, and crane. With these pieces of equipment operating concurrently, the hourly noise level at 50 feet from the center of pump station construction locations is calculated to be 83 dB(A) L_{eq}, with a maximum noise level of 85 dB(A) L_{max}.

The nearest noise-sensitive receiver to the proposed pump station locations is a single-family residence located west of the BPS-A site at a distance of approximately 100 feet from the edge of the site. Therefore, pump station construction activities would generate maximum hourly noise levels up to 77 dB(A) L_{eq} at this location. Table 10 summarizes pump station construction noise levels at the nearest sensitive receiver.

Table 10 Pump Station Construction Noise

Location	Hourly L_{eq} (dB(A))	L_{max} (dB(A))
Reference Distance (50 feet)	83	85
Single-Family Residence west of BPS-A (100 feet)	77	79

Source: FHWA 2006 (Appendix E)

Unlike pump station construction, which would be centered at individual locations, pipeline construction activities would be mobile and would be continuously moving along a linear alignment. Pipeline construction activities would occur approximately 35 feet from the nearest sensitive receiver (a single-family residence located west of the proposed pipeline along Avocado Hill Road). However, construction equipment used for site preparation and excavation activities would travel throughout the work areas, which would be a minimum of 200 LF by approximately 20 feet in width (considering a linear progression of 200 to 300 LF per day and a five-foot-wide trench plus construction area buffer). Therefore, mobile equipment associated with pipeline construction activities would operate at an average distance of 67 feet from the nearest sensitive receiver.[6] As stated in the project description, pipeline construction would involve the use of an excavator, loader, dump truck, and vibratory compactor. With these pieces of equipment operating concurrently, the hourly noise level at 50 feet from the pipeline construction area is calculated to be 81 dB(A) L_{eq}, with a maximum noise level of 83 dB(A) L_{max}. Therefore, at the nearest noise-sensitive receiver to the pipeline alignment, pipeline construction activities would generate maximum hourly noise levels up to 79 dB(A) L_{eq}. Table 11 summarizes pipeline construction noise levels at the nearest noise-sensitive receiver.

[6] Average distance is based on a minimum 200-foot-long work zone centered approximately 35 feet from the nearest residence. At the edges of the work zone, equipment would operate approximately 100 feet from the residence; at the center of the work zone, equipment would operate approximately 35 feet from the residence. Therefore, mobile equipment in the work zone would operate, on average, approximately 67 feet from the nearest residence.

Table 11 Pipeline Construction Noise

Location	Hourly L_{eq} (dB(A))	L_{max} (dB(A))
Reference Distance (50 feet)	81	83
Single-Family Residence west of Segment 3B along Avocado Hill Road (67 feet)	79	81

Source: FHWA 2006 (Appendix E)

Construction noise impacts at any one residence during pipeline construction would be temporary and short-term because construction would be continuously moving along the pipeline alignment at a rate of approximately 200 to 300 LF per day. Similarly, construction noise impacts at residences near pump station construction would be temporary in nature and limited to the duration of construction activities at each pump station location. Construction activities would occur closest to sensitive receivers located in Ventura County. Pursuant to Section 6299-2(a) of the County of Ventura Code of Ordinances, project construction in Ventura County is exempt from the provisions of the County's noise ordinance. In Santa Barbara County, construction of the pipeline alignment would occur further away from sensitive receivers, resulting in reduced noise impacts to such receivers. However, project construction would still occur within 1,600 feet of sensitive receivers in Santa Barbara County, which has the potential to result in significant impacts if noise levels exceed 65 dBA, according to the County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (County of Santa Barbara 2018). The Manual recommends mitigating such impacts by limiting construction within 1,600 feet of sensitive receivers to weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. As discussed in the project description, project construction would occur during Casitas' normal working hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays observed by Casitas, which would be consistent with the time restrictions included in the Manual, with the exception of a 48-hour period of continuous work to complete the HDD pull through operation. These activities would occur at a distance of 300 feet from the nearest sensitive receiver in Santa Barbara County; noise levels identified in Table 11 would attenuate to 66 dBA at this distance. HDD pull operations would comply with Casitas' Standard Contractor Specifications, which include monitoring to determine whether noise limits are being met. Methods to reduce noise levels include implementation of temporary noise barriers, which would reduce construction noise levels by at least 5 dBA and below the 65 dBA County of Santa Barbara threshold. As such, short-term construction noise impacts would be less than significant.

Operational Noise

The primary on-site noise sources would be associated with operation of the booster pump stations. The temporary booster pump station at the BPS-A site, which may be used for approximately three years before the permanent pump station is constructed, would also generate noise. Proposed pipeline segments would be located underground and would result in nominal operational noise. Booster pump stations would be covered by an awning, surrounded by fencing, and electrical equipment would be enclosed in a weatherproof structure. Noise levels from the proposed booster pump stations were modeled with SoundPLAN, version 8.1 (SoundPLAN), a three-dimensional acoustical modeling software package. Propagation of modeled stationary noise sources was based on ISO Standard 9613-2, "Attenuation of Sound during Propagation Outdoors, Part 2: General Method of Calculation." The assessment methodology assumes all receivers would be downwind of stationary sources. This is a worst-case assumption for total noise impact because, in reality, only some receivers would be located downwind at any one time. Modeling is based on data for an

unenclosed 400-HP pump with motor which would generate 84 dBA at one meter (see pump manufacturer's specifications in Appendix E). The temporary booster pump station would generate noise levels of 50 to 60 dBA and the small air compressor for the surge tank associated with the temporary station would generate up to 80 dBA; conservatively, the modeling for the permanent pump station noise of 84 dBA was used to analyze the permanent pump station. Modeling assumes a vegetated (soft) ground cover.

Operational noise associated with booster pump stations was modeled for the BPS-A and BPS-B locations, which are within approximately 175 feet and 260 feet of residences, respectively. The primary source of noise in the vicinity of the booster pump stations is roadway noise along SR 150. The results of the 24-hour noise measurement collected in the project site vicinity indicate noise levels along SR 150 at a reference distance of 20 feet range from approximately 58.7 dB(A) L_{eq} overnight to 68.7 db(A) L_{eq} during the day. Table 12 shows measured ambient noise levels along SR 150, as well as ambient noise levels at the sensitive receivers nearest the proposed pump stations based on standard mobile source noise attenuation.

Table 12 Ambient Noise Levels at Sensitive Receivers Near Proposed Pump Station Locations

Time	Noise Measurement Along SR 150	Residence Near BPS-A	Residence Near BPS-B
Ambient Noise			
6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	68.7[1]	52.7[2]	56.5
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	64.3[1]	48.3[2]	52.1[3]
10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.	58.7[1]	42.7[2]	46.5[3]
Project Noise			
Pump Station Noise Level	–	57.2	53.3
Pump Station Noise Increase over Ambient Noise Level + 3 dBA			
6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.	–	+1.5	-6.2
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.	–	+5.9	-1.8
10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.	–	+11.5	+3.8
Significant Impact?	–	**Yes**	**Yes**

[1] Based on 24-hour noise measurement collected on June 5 – June 6, 2019 at a reference distance of 20 feet from the centerline of SR 150. Refer to Table 8 for noise measurement results.

[2] Based on standard mobile source attenuation of 3 dB(A) per doubling distance, given a distance of 800 feet from the residence to centerline of SR 150.

[3] Based on standard mobile source attenuation of 3 dB(A) per doubling distance, given a distance of 330 feet from the residence to centerline of SR 150.

Based on noise contours developed using SoundPLAN, the proposed booster pump station at BPS-A would generate noise levels of approximately 57.2 dB(A) L_{eq} at the nearest residence, and the proposed booster pump station at BPS-B would generate noise levels of approximately 53.3 dB(A) L_{eq} at the nearest residence.

Both booster pump stations are in Ventura County. In accordance with Policy HAZ-9.2 of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan, the project would result in a potentially significant noise impact if the proposed booster pump stations would generate noise at the exterior wall of the nearest sensitive receivers exceeding 55 dB(A) L_{eq} during any hour from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; 50 db(A) L_{eq}

during any hour from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; 45 db(A) L_{eq} during any hour from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.; or the ambient noise level plus 3 db(A) during any of these time periods, whichever is greater.

Booster pump stations at BPS-A (permanent and temporary) would potentially exceed the ambient noise level plus 3 db(A) during evening (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.) and nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) hours. The booster pump station at BPS-B would potentially exceed the ambient noise level plus 3 db(A) during nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) hours. Therefore, noise generated by the booster pump stations would potentially exceed the standards outlined in the Ventura County 2040 General Plan, and this impact would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would reduce the potential noise impact to a less than significant level by requiring enclosures around the proposed pump stations which would reduce noise levels to not exceed 3 dBA over ambient noise levels at noise-sensitive receivers. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

~~Emergency Generators~~

~~Each pump station may be equipped with an emergency diesel generator, which would supply power to maintain pump station operations during unanticipated traditional power failures. Based on the Preliminary Design Report, emergency generators at BPS-A and BPS-B would be 4,160-volt, 3,000-kilowatt diesel generators. The generators would be located within the proposed BPS-A and BPS-B site boundaries. As stated above, all proposed booster pump station sites are in Ventura County.~~

~~Operation of the emergency diesel generators could result in temporary exceedances of the noise standards outlined in Policy HAZ-9.2 of the Ventura County 2040 General Plan. Additionally, pump station maintenance activities could require intermittent testing of the generators, which could also potentially result in a temporary exceedance of the applicable noise standards. However, operation of the emergency generators would be necessary to maintain system operations and water supply during times of traditional power failure. As such, operation would be due to extenuating circumstances and temporary in nature. Maintenance and testing of the emergency generators would be short-term in duration and limited to daytime hours, reducing potential impacts to the nearest sensitive receivers. Given the temporary nature of noise associated with the emergency generators, neither operation nor testing of the generators would result in ongoing outdoor noise levels exceeding the standards established in the Ventura County 2040 General Plan. Consequently, this impact would be less than significant.~~

Off-Site Traffic Noise

Project operation would require infrequent vehicle trips associated with meter reading, routine inspection and maintenance, periodic testing, and emergency repairs. Such activities would require approximately 20 annual trips, which would add trips to roadways in the project area, including SR 150 and SR 192. According to Caltrans 2019 Traffic Volumes, the traffic volume is approximately 3,300 average daily trips along SR 150 at the Santa Barbara-Ventura County line and 4,800 average daily trips along SR 192 at SR 150 (Caltrans 2020a). On days of project maintenance trips, project-related trips would increase average daily trips on these roads by approximately 2 one-way vehicle trips, resulting in a less than 0.1 percent increase in traffic on project area roadways. Consequently, project maintenance trips would not result in a perceptible increase in roadway noise, and this impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

NOI-1 Pump Station Noise Control

Prior to operation of the temporary and permanent booster pump stations at the BPS-A site and the permanent booster pump station at BPS-B site, the pump, motor, and any other noise-generating mechanical equipment shall be equipped with an enclosure or noise control curtain system to reduce noise levels at surrounding sensitive receivers. The enclosures shall break the line of sight between the noise generating equipment and the sensitive receivers and be constructed of fiberglass or other material capable of providing at least a 12 dB(A) noise level reduction at BPS-A and 4 dB(A) noise level reduction at BPS-B, pursuant to manufacturer's specifications or verification by qualified acoustician. During routine maintenance trips to the pump station, the enclosure shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications to provide continued noise reduction.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

b. Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Certain types of construction equipment can generate high levels of groundborne vibration. Construction of the proposed project would potentially use loaded trucks and a bulldozer during most construction phases, as well as a vibratory roller during the paving phase. Neither blasting nor pile driving would be required for construction of the proposed project. Construction vibration estimates are based on vibration levels reported by Caltrans and the FTA (Caltrans 2020b; FTA 2018).

A quantitative assessment of potential vibration impacts from construction activities, such as blasting, pile-driving, vibratory compaction, demolition, drilling, or excavation, may be conducted using the equations developed by Caltrans and the FTA (Caltrans 2020b; FTA 2018). Table 13 shows typical vibration levels for various pieces of construction equipment used in the assessment of construction vibration (FTA 2018).

Table 13 Typical Vibration Levels Measured during Construction Activities

Equipment	PPV at 25 feet (in/sec)	Approximate L_v VdB at 25 feet
Large bulldozer	0.089	87
Loaded trucks	0.076	83
Small bulldozer	0.003	58
Vibratory Roller	0.210	94
Jackhammer	0.035	79

ppv = peak particle velocity; in/sec = inches per second; VdB = vibration decibels

Source: FTA 2018

Project construction activities would occur as close as 35 feet from the nearest structure, a residence along Avocado Hill Road near the pipeline. Therefore, construction vibration impacts are assessed at a distance of 35 feet to estimate maximum vibration impacts to structures in the project area. Vibration levels at structures located at a distance of greater than 35 feet from the project site would be less than those experienced at structures located 35 feet from the project site; therefore, vibration levels were not quantified at receivers greater than 35 feet from the project site. Neither the County of Ventura nor County of Santa Barbara have established groundborne vibration

thresholds. Therefore, for the purposes of this analysis, construction vibration impacts would be considered significant if vibration levels exceed 94 VdB, the level at which transient vibration sources, such as construction equipment, is considered to be distinctly perceptible (Caltrans 2020b). As shown in Table 14, groundborne vibration from construction equipment would not exceed 94 VdB, the identified threshold, at the nearest structure. Therefore, construction vibration impacts would be less than significant.

Table 14 Vibration Levels at Sensitive Receivers during Project Construction

Equipment	Estimated VdB at Nearest Structures (Residences 35 feet)
Large Bulldozer	84
Small Bulldozer	55
Loaded Trucks	80
Vibratory Roller	91
Jackhammer	76
Threshold	**94**
Threshold Exceeded?	No

VdB = vibration decibels
See Appendix E for vibration analysis worksheets.
Source: FTA 2018

After construction, the proposed potable water pipelines, booster pump stations, and existing infrastructure improvements would not generate significant stationary sources of vibration, such as by use of heavy equipment operations. Therefore, operational vibration impacts would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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?

As discussed in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the closest public airport to the project is the Santa Barbara Airport, located approximately 20 miles west of the project site. The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport. Therefore, the project would not expose people working in the project area to excessive noise levels due to proximity to an airport. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	■
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	■

a. Would the project 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 would not be utilized to increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or to provide water to areas currently not serviced by Casitas or CVMD. The proposed project would not allow development of land which previously could not be developed due to water service constraints. No impact associated with population growth would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The proposed project would not displace people or housing. Therefore, no impact related to displacement of people or housing would occur.

NO IMPACT

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15 Public Services

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a.	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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:				
	1 Fire protection?	☐	☐	■	☐
	2 Police protection?	☐	☐	■	☐
	3 Schools?	☐	☐	☐	■
	4 Parks?	☐	☐	☐	■
	5 Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	■

a.1. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered fire protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered fire protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

The construction and operation of an underground pipeline and associated water infrastructure would generate virtually no demand for increased public services. The proposed project would not include any features or facilities requiring additional or unusual fire protection resources. During construction, fire protection may be required, but these would be short-term demands and would not require increases in the level of public service offered or affect these agencies' response times. Because of the low probability and short-term nature of potential fire protection needs during construction, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.2. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered police protection facilities, or the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

Impacts to police protection would be less than significant for reasons similar to those provided for fire protection under item (a.1).

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.3. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, or the need for new or physically altered schools, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?

As discussed in Section 14, *Population and Housing*, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. The project would not involve the construction of housing or other such facilities which may increase demand for school services. Therefore, no impact related to schools would occur.

NO IMPACT

a.4. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered parks, or the need for new or physically altered parks, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios or other performance objectives?

The proposed project would place no demand on parks for reasons similar to those provided for schools under item (a.3).

NO IMPACT

a.5. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of other new or physically altered public facilities, or the need for other new or physically altered public facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives?

The proposed project would not involve the introduction of a temporary or permanent human population into this area. Accordingly, the proposed project would not result in any long-term impacts to other public facilities.

NO IMPACT

16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	☐	☐	■

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

As discussed in Section 14, *Population and Housing,* the proposed project would not directly or indirectly support population growth. Therefore, the project would not generate any residents who would require parks or other recreational facilities. Consequently, no impact would occur to such facilities.

NO IMPACT

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 does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. As such, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	■	☐	☐
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	■
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	■
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	■	☐	☐

a. Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

The proposed project involves construction and operation of potable water infrastructure, which would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs addressing the circulation system, including public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. The proposed pipeline alignments would be placed primarily along existing public and private roadways while proposed pump stations would be constructed on agricultural or undeveloped land. Construction staging and worker parking for pipeline segments would occur primarily on disturbed sites adjacent to the proposed alignment, while staging and worker parking for pump station construction would primarily occur at the pump station sites. The proximity of staging locations to the proposed pipeline alignment and pump station sites would reduce vehicle travel between staging and work zones and minimize trips.

Pipeline construction activities would install approximately 200 to 300 LF of pipeline per day before moving to the next segment of pipeline. Full closures of public roadways during this work would not be necessary, as the trench should be on one side of the street, in the public right-of-way. Full closure of private roadways or drives may occur subject to the conditions negotiated in right-of-way and access easements. The project would implement traffic control with flag-persons as necessary to allow travel within one-lane roadway segments during pipeline construction, maintaining vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the extent practicable during construction. Furthermore, for work within Caltrans roadways, including SR 192 and SR 150, the project would comply with all requirements specified in the project's encroachment permit, including workspace and hours restrictions and traffic control requirements.

Anticipated construction-related vehicle trips include construction workers traveling to and from the project work areas, haul trucks (including for import and export of excavated materials, as needed),

and other trucks associated with equipment and material deliveries. An estimated 10 two-way worker trips per day would occur during project construction. Any potential local traffic impacts from this increase in vehicle traffic would be temporary and move with construction activities as they progress along the alignment.

Project operation would require infrequent vehicle trips associated with meter reading, routine inspection and maintenance, periodic testing, and emergency repairs. Such activities would require approximately 20 annual trips, which would not be a substantial increase in traffic on roadways in the vicinity of the project site. Project operation would not conflict with any program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system.

Because construction is a short-term activity, and impacts would move as work progresses along the pipeline corridor, construction-related traffic impacts would not be substantial. Roadways disturbed during pipeline construction would be restored to match the surrounding road type once construction is complete. Nonetheless, project construction would temporarily introduce additional worker and truck trips in the vicinity of the project site, which could potentially result in a significant impact. With implementation of Mitigation Measure T-1, the impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure

T-1 Traffic Management Plan

The contractor shall submit a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to the County of Ventura, County of Santa Barbara, and Caltrans, as necessary, for review and approval prior to construction or issuance of applicable permits. The TMP shall:

1. Identify construction-related vehicle routes, especially trucks. Truck routes shall minimize travel on roadways where truck traffic is ordinarily not permitted or weight restrictions are imposed.
2. Identify proper precautions to protect all pavements, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and drainage structures from damage associated with truck traffic on project area roadways.
3. Identify emergency access routes and detours (if any) for emergency response along roadways potentially affected by project construction. Additionally, describe procedures in place to provide priority access for emergency service vehicles through the construction work zone.
4. Describe traffic control measures to be implemented to manage traffic and reduce potential traffic impacts in accordance with the most recent version of the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Traffic control measures may include, but are not limited to, flag persons, warning signs, lights, barricades and cones to provide safe passage of vehicular (including cars and buses), bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and access by emergency responders.
5. Identify off-street or turnout parking areas in which construction workers shall park and delineate those in the contractor specifications.
6. Identify the location of any transit stops and transit and bicycle routes which may be temporarily impacted by construction activities and identify places to temporarily relocate transit stops and transit and bicycle routes, if necessary. Describe signage to be used for relocated transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities during project construction.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) identifies criteria for evaluating transportation impacts. Specifically, the guidelines state vehicle miles traveled (VMT) exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. As discussed below, the project is not expected to affect VMT in the project area.

A VMT calculation is typically conducted on a daily or annual basis, for long-range planning purposes. As previously discussed under item (a), traffic on local roadways may be temporarily increased during project construction due to the presence of construction vehicles and equipment. Increases in VMT from construction would be short-term, minimal and temporary. The proposed project would not change existing roadways or generate growth so substantial VMT growth could occur. In addition, maintenance of the proposed project would consist of infrequent, as-needed site visits for meter reading, routine maintenance and inspections, periodic testing, and emergency repairs. Such visits would require approximately 20 trips per year and would not substantially contribute to VMT near the project site. Therefore, the project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b). No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?

Project components consist of potable water infrastructure, which would have no impact on street design. The proposed project would therefore not create or substantially increase a traffic hazard due to a design feature. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

d. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Lane closures and other potential traffic impacts caused by construction activities along or in SR 150 or SR 192 would have the potential to impede emergency response to the project area, or to areas accessed via these roadways. Therefore, a potentially significant impact could occur.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure T-1 would minimize interference with emergency response times or other performance public service performance objectives by requiring preparation and execution of a TMP identifying emergency access routes and detours during construction. Additionally, Mitigation Measure T-2, described below, would require notification of emergency service providers regarding construction plans prior to commencement of construction activities. With implementation of Mitigation Measures T-1 and T-2, the impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Project operation and maintenance would not introduce new activities or substantial operational traffic with the potential to result in inadequate emergency access. Therefore, the impact related to emergency access during project operation would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

T-2 Emergency Service Providers

The contractor shall notify emergency service providers (fire and police departments serving the project site) with construction contact names, locations, schedules, and traffic plans, if applicable, prior to the start of construction.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in a Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or 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:				
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), or	☐	☐	☐	■
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.	☐	☐	☐	■

As of July 1, 2015, California Assembly Bill 52 of 2014 (AB 52) was enacted and expands CEQA by defining a new resource category, "tribal cultural resources." AB 52 states, "A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC Section 21084.2). It further states the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts altering the significant characteristics of a tribal cultural resource, when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3).

PRC Section 21074 (a)(1)(A) and (B) defines tribal cultural resources as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe" and is:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC section 5020.1(k), or
2. 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 PRC Section 5024.1. In applying these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding those resources. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified or adopted. Under AB 52, lead agencies are required to "begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project." Native American tribes to be included in the process are those having requested notice of projects proposed in the jurisdiction of the lead agency. Because the proposed project would extend into Santa Barbara county, this list was expanded to also include tribes having requested notice of projects proposed in the jurisdiction of CVWD, a responsible agency for the proposed project.

On June 22, 2019, Casitas distributed AB 52 consultation letters for the proposed project, including project information, map, and contact information to three Native American tribes. The tribal governments provided with an AB 52 consultation letter (via certified mail) include the following list of recipients:

- Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians
- San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Under AB 52, Native American tribes have 30 days to respond and request further project information and request formal consultation; however, none of the contacted tribes responded within 30 days of mailing of the letters.

Although not required, Casitas also sent AB 52 consultation letters (via certified mail) to the Native American tribes which have requested such notification from CVWD regarding CVWD projects, including:

- Chumash Council of Bakersfield
- Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
- San Luis Obispo County Chumash Council
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini – Northern Chumash Tribe

No response was received from these additional six tribes.

Since the time of initial AB 52 consultation, the project description has been revised to include a selected route for the intertie pipeline, new locations for BPS-A and BPS-B, and additional improvements at existing Casitas facilities. In response to those revisions, Casitas distributed updated AB 52 consultation letters on September 1, 2022, which included project information, map and contact information to three Native American tribes for the purposes of CEQA.

- Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians
- San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Additionally, CVWD also sent updated AB 52 consultation letters on September 8 and 9, 2022, to the Native American tribes which have requested such notification from CVWD regarding CVWD projects, including:

- Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians
- Chumash Council of Bakersfield
- Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
- Northern Chumash Tribal Council
- San Luis Obispo County Chumash Council
- Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
- yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini – Northern Chumash Tribe

The Barbareño/Ventureño Band of Mission Indians requested additional information about the proposed project. The Barbareño Band of Chumash Indians requested a copy of the Draft IS-MND be sent once finalized for public circulation. Additionally, a response from the yak tityu tityu yak tiłhini – Northern Chumash Tribe was received indicating the tribe has no comments on the project. No requests for consultation meetings were received. Accordingly, AB 52 consultation is complete for the project. No known sacred sites or tribal cultural resources have been specifically identified within the project site or vicinity.

a. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 that is 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)?*

b. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074 that is 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?*

No tribal cultural resources have been identified on or near the project site. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with 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, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	■	☐
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	☐	■	☐
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	■	☐

a. Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Water

The proposed project involves the construction of potable water pipelines and associated infrastructure to facilitate transfer of local potable water supplies between Casitas and Santa Barbara County water purveyors and bolster regional supply reliability and portfolio diversification. The environmental effects of these impacts are analyzed throughout this document. The proposed

infrastructure would not be utilized to increase the amount of water currently being supplied to existing customers or to provide water to areas currently not served by Casitas or CVMD. As concluded by this IS-MND, the water facilities included in the proposed project would not cause unmitigable significant environmental effects. Consequently, no additional impacts related to water facilities would occur.

Wastewater Treatment

The project site is located in a rural residential and agricultural portion of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and is not served by a centralized wastewater treatment system. Portions of the Casitas and CVWD service areas—which would be served by the project's infrastructure improvements—are served by the Ojai Valley Sanitary District and Carpinteria Sanitation District, respectively.

The project would not generate sanitary wastewater or otherwise contribute to an increase in wastewater treatment requirements. The project would improve water supply reliability by facilitating the transfer of local potable water supplies between Casitas and CVWD. The project would not increase water demand, nor would it extend potable water service to areas not currently served by Casitas or CVWD. As such, the amount or characteristics of wastewater treated at area septic systems or Ojai Valley Sanitary District or Carpinteria Sanitary District facilities would remain unchanged with implementation of the proposed project compared to existing conditions. Wastewater discharges from the treatment plant(s) would not change. Thus, no impact related to wastewater treatment would occur.

Stormwater Drainage

As discussed in Section 10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the project would primarily be constructed underground along public and private roadways and would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff so as to exceed the capacity of existing or planned drainage systems or provide additional sources of polluted runoff. Although construction activities would disturb paved roadways in the project area due to trenching and other pipeline installation methods, this disturbance would be temporary. After construction, the project area would be restored to its original condition and any drainage pattern would be the same as it was prior to project construction activities. Proposed pump stations would add a nominal amount of impervious surface area through the construction of weatherproof structures, approximately 420 square feet in area for each pump station. This marginal increase in impervious surface cover would not substantially alter the project site's drainage characteristics or result in excess runoff requiring the construction of new or expanded stormwater facilities. Therefore, impacts related to stormwater drainage would be less than significant.

Electric Power

As discussed in Section 6, *Energy*, for the purpose of this Initial Study, it is conservatively estimated use of the proposed project would occur for approximately 680 hours per year. Under these conditions, the booster pump stations would require 662,200 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity annually. The water treatment equipment at BPS-A would require an additional 2,200 kWh of electricity annually under the same conditions.

The pump stations would be served by existing Southern California Edison (SCE) infrastructure, including transmission lines and substations, many of which were recently improved or are currently undergoing improvements as part of the SCE Santa Barbara County Reliability Project. The project's

increase in energy demand would be supplied by the regional electricity grid which is increasingly powered by renewable energy. Given the project would be served by existing electric power infrastructure in the project vicinity, no new or relocated energy facilities would be required as a result of the proposed project. Impacts related to electric power would be less than significant.

Natural Gas

The project area is served by Southern California Gas (SoCalGas). A SoCalGas high-pressure gas line runs along the private road southeast of SR 150 leading to the proposed tie-in location. While the project's Preliminary Design Report acknowledges a concrete saddle may be placed between the proposed pipeline and the existing gas line, relocation or alterations to the existing gas line would not be necessary. The project would not involve any components requiring natural gas service and is not anticipated to involve the relocation of existing natural gas facilities. Therefore, no impact related to natural gas facilities would occur.

Telecommunications

As noted in the project description, project components would be monitored remotely via Casitas' SCADA system, which would require radio communications to operate. However, the requisite radio communication infrastructure would be constructed as part of the pump station buildings and would not involve the relocation of existing telecommunications facilities. The impacts of the SCADA system are analyzed throughout this IS-MND as part of the pump station buildings. Therefore, no further impact related to telecommunications facilities would occur.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

The project consists of the construction and operation of potable water facilities designed to improve supply reliability by facilitating the transfer of local potable water supplies. Project construction water requirements would be met via Casitas' and CVWD's existing supplies and facilities. Project operation would not increase the amount of water supplied to existing customers and would not expand service beyond areas presently served by Casitas or CVWD. Moreover, the proposed project would have a beneficial effect on potable water demands by allowing Casitas to access its existing State Water Project water allocation in times of drought via transfers with CVWD. Therefore, no impact related to sufficiency of water supplies would occur.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project 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?

As discussed in item (a), the project would not generate sanitary wastewater or otherwise contribute to an increase in wastewater treatment requirements. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

d. Would the project 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?

e. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

A number of landfills serve the project site vicinity, including the Toland Road Landfill in Santa Paula (approximately 37 miles driving distance east of the project site), Tajiguas Landfill in Santa Barbara County (approximately 41 miles driving distance west of the project site), and Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center in Simi Valley (approximately 49 miles driving distance southeast of the project site).

The Ventura Regional Sanitation District operates the Toland Road Landfill, which has a permitted capacity of 30 million cubic yards and a maximum disposal capacity of 2,864 tons per day. As of December 2018, the remaining capacity at the landfill was approximately 16.0 million cubic yards. The landfill solid waste permit lists an estimated closure date of 2033. Wastes accepted include construction and demolition materials, agricultural waste, industrial waste, sludge (biosolids), and mixed municipal waste (CalRecycle 2019a).

The Tajiguas Landfill, operated by the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department, has a permitted capacity of 23.3 million cubic yards and a maximum permitted throughput of 1,500 tons per day. As of March 2016, the remaining capacity at the landfill was approximately 4.3 million cubic yards. Tajiguas Landfill accepts a variety of waste, including agricultural, asbestos, construction/demolition, industrial, mixed municipal, sludge (biosolids), and tires (CalRecycle 2019b).

Finally, Waste Management of California operates the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, which has a permitted capacity of 119.6 million cubic yards and a maximum disposal capacity of 9,250 tons per day. As of January 2019, the remaining capacity was approximately 82.9 million cubic yards. The landfill solid waste permit lists an estimated closure date of 2063. Materials accepted include construction and demolition materials, industrial waste, sludge (biosolids), and mixed municipal waste (CalRecycle 2019c).

Construction activities may temporarily generate solid waste, which would be disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local statutes and regulations. As described above, local solid waste infrastructure has the capacity to accept solid waste generated by project construction activities. Once constructed, project operation would not generate substantial solid waste. The project would not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Potential impacts would therefore be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

20 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	■	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	■
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?	☐	☐	☐	■
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	■

a. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The project site is located in an SRA designated as moderate to very high fire hazard severity zones (CALFIRE 2007a, 2007b, 2008, 2010).

Project operation and maintenance would not introduce new activities with the potential to impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. As discussed in Section 17, *Transportation*, construction activities associated with the proposed project may require temporary road or lane closures which could impede emergency response. To minimize interference with emergency response or emergency evacuation activities during the construction period, Mitigation Measure T-1 would require preparation of a traffic management plan identifying emergency access routes and detours during construction. In addition, Mitigation Measure T-2 would require notification of emergency service providers regarding construction plans prior to commencement of construction activities. With mitigation, impacts to adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

b. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project, 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?

Heavy duty equipment used during project construction may produce sparks with the potential to ignite vegetation. However, California PRC Section 4442 mandates the use of spark arrestors, which prevent the emission of flammable debris from exhaust, on earth-moving and portable construction equipment with internal combustion engines operating on any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land. Furthermore, PRC Sections 4427 and 4431 specify standards for conducting construction activities on days when a burning permit is required, and PRC Section 4428 requires construction contractors to maintain fire suppression equipment during the highest fire danger period (April 1 to December 1) when operating on or near any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land. Therefore, with compliance with applicable PRC provisions, project construction would not exacerbate wildfire risk.

The proposed project involves water pipelines, booster pump stations, and mechanical and valving upgrades to existing infrastructure. It would not include housing or other structures which could accommodate occupants. Therefore, the project would not house occupants which could potentially be exposed to wildfire risks. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

c. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project 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 itself a water infrastructure project, the environmental impacts of which are analyzed in this IS-MND. The project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated fire protection infrastructure, as it does not involve housing or other structures which could accommodate occupants. No impact related to fire protection infrastructure would occur.

NO IMPACT

d. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

As discussed in Section 10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the proposed project would not significantly alter drainage patterns or stormwater runoff volumes or rates in the vicinity of the project site. Construction activities would be short-term. The project would not include housing or other structures which could accommodate occupants. If a wildfire were to cause runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes in the vicinity of the project site, post-fire flooding or landslides may occur. However, the project would not expose people or structures to post-fire risks and would not exacerbate such risks. No impact related to post-fire risks would occur.

NO IMPACT

21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
Does the project:				
a. 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?	☐	☐	☐	■
b. 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)?	☐	■	☐	☐
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	■	☐	☐

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?

As described in Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the project would result in temporary impacts to species habitat, primarily as a result of construction activities within and adjacent to nearby rivers and streams, including Rincon Creek. With incorporation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-8, impacts to biological resources would be reduced to a less-than-significant level. As such, the project would not 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, or substantially reduce or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. As further

discussed in Section 5, *Cultural Resources*, no archaeological resources have been identified in the project site and the project would result in a less than significant impact to nearby built-environment resources. As such, the project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. This impact would be less than significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 which, 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 previously described, several of the project effects are identified as "No Impact," including all the checklist questions under land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, recreation, tribal cultural resources. The following discussion looks only at those effects for which some level of potential impact was identified, which includes topics for which a "Less than Significant Impact" was identified, as well as those for which the threshold question assumed some level of impact (i.e., those for which consideration of a potential "significant" effect was considered, per *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15382; in this case, threshold questions which assumed impacts would be "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated").

Potential regional cumulative effects were considered for the remaining environmental topics, for which the project was found to result in less than significant impacts (without or with project mitigation):

- **Aesthetics.** The project consists predominantly of underground pipelines and infrastructure improvements, which would not result in aesthetic impacts following construction. Proposed pump stations would be housed in an approximately 420-square-foot and 10-foot-tall weatherproof structure. While the structures may be visible, it would be similar in character to sheds, garages, or other ancillary buildings associated with agricultural operations in the vicinity of the project site. Furthermore, given the posted speed limit on SR 150 in the vicinity of the proposed booster pump station locations (55 miles per hour), structures would be only briefly visible, minimizing their aesthetic impact and the potential to result in cumulative impacts along the eligible scenic highway. As such, these components of the project would be unlikely to contribute considerably to a significant cumulative aesthetic impact.
- **Agriculture and Forestry Resources.** As described in Section 2, *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*, the project site contains land designated as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Portions of the project site are zoned for agriculture. BPS-A would convert mapped Farmland to non-agricultural land; however, the amount converted, approximately 25,800 square feet would not significantly contribute to the decline of Farmland. Other project components would primarily be constructed within existing roadways or on previously disturbed, graded lots which are not currently used for agricultural production. Furthermore, the project would be consistent with applicable agricultural zoning regulations. The project would not expand water service to areas not currently served by Casitas or CVWD and, therefore, would not indirectly result in conversion of agricultural or forestry land through

urban development, growth, or expansion. For these reasons, the project would not contribute to any cumulative impacts with respect to agriculture and forestry resources would occur.

- **Air Quality.** Air pollutant and GHG emissions disperse from their original source and can affect the entire air basin (or, with global warming, potentially the entire Earth). For air quality, the baseline analysis addresses the cumulative condition—it is the contribution to the larger picture which is assessed in analyses of consistency with regional air quality strategies and pollutant dispersal. Air pollutant emissions associated with the project correlate with the traffic generated by the project, as the addition of vehicles on the roadways directly correlates to additional pollutant emissions. As discussed under Section 17, *Transportation*, the project would result in a short-term increase in traffic during project during project construction; however, project operation would require approximately 20 maintenance trips per year and, therefore, would not result in a substantial long-term increase in traffic with the potential to degrade air quality. In addition, the project would include measures to reduce construction-related and operational air pollutant and GHG emissions. Other projects in the air basin would be required to comply with federal, State, regional, and local regulations and laws put in place to reduce impacts from air pollutant and GHG emissions. Therefore, the project would not result in significant cumulative impacts associated with air quality and GHG emissions.
- **Biological Resources.** As described in Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the project could potentially result in significant impacts to California legless lizard, San Diego desert woodrat, and yellow warbler (special status species), protected nesting birds (including raptors), and sensitive natural vegetation communities (including riparian habitat and potentially jurisdictional areas). However, implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-8 would reduce impacts to biological resources to less-than-significant levels. Other projects in the region would be required to comply with federal, State, regional, and local regulations and laws put in place to minimize impacts to biological resources. Therefore, the project would not result in significant cumulative impacts to biological resources.
- **Cultural Resources.** Ground-disturbing activities during project construction could potentially result in the accidental discovery on unknown archaeological resources. However, due to the lack of known archaeological resources at the project site and/or project site vicinity, the project would not result in significant cumulative impacts to archaeological resources. In addition, the project would not result in a substantial adverse change to a built environment resource listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR. Therefore, the project would not result in significant cumulative impacts to historic resources.
- **Energy.** Refer to the discussion within the *Air Quality* bullet above.
- **Geology and Soils.** Impacts associated with geology and soils are inherently restricted to the project site and would not contribute to cumulative impacts associated with other future developments. Therefore, no contribution to cumulative impacts to geology or soils would occur.
- **GHG Emissions.** Refer to the discussion within the *Air Quality* bullet above.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials.** With regard to hazards and hazardous materials, no regional concern is identified (i.e., no significant cumulative impact). In the event the project would result in accidental discharge associated with transport, use, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous materials during construction or operation of the project, prescribed activities to be conducted in accordance with the NPDES Construction General Permit and Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 would reduce the impact associated with the discharge of contaminants to a less-than-significant level. The project would also comply with applicable federal, State, and local laws and

regulations regarding hazardous materials. Therefore, any project contribution would not be cumulatively considerable.

- **Hydrology and Water Quality.** Potential water quality impacts associated with the proposed project would generally be limited to short-term construction-related erosion/sedimentation, as the project would not result in an appreciable increase in impervious surface area or substantial alteration of drainage patterns. Implementation of construction BMPs, as part of project conformance with NPDES permit conditions, would effectively eliminate the potential for drainage- and water quality-related impacts. The project would facilitate transfer of water supplies between Casitas and CVWD, which could result in movement of groundwater between the source basins of each of these water purveyors. As discussed in Section 10, *Hydrology and Water Quality,* the project would not conflict with any Groundwater Sustainability Plan for any of these basins, as no such plan has been adopted to date. Furthermore, transfers facilitated by the project would allow for use and storage of Casitas' SWP allocation, alleviating reliance on local groundwater supplies during times of drought. Accordingly, the project's contribution to any cumulative impacts related to hydrology and water quality would not be cumulatively considerable.
- **Land Use and Planning.** The project site is within Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and the coastal zone, and each area is subject to its own plans which are adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The project would comply with all applicable regulations for the purposes of avoiding an environmental effect. Implementation of mitigation measures listed in Sections 1 through 20 would reduce environmental impacts to a less-than-significant level and further compliance with applicable regulatory standards. Therefore, the project impacts to land use and planning would not be cumulatively considerable.
- **Noise.** The project site is within a rural residential area. Noise impacts are inherently restricted to the project area and would not contribute to cumulative impacts associated with other future developments. Furthermore, given the rural residential environment of the project site and attenuation of noise, future development would not be anticipated to occur close enough to the immediate vicinity of the project to result in cumulative noise impacts. Considering noise impacts within the project area are regulated by County of Ventura County and County of Santa Barbara ordinances and General Plan policies and the project would incorporate applicable mitigation, the project would not incrementally contribute to a cumulative noise impact, significant or otherwise.
- **Public Services.** Any potential impacts to public services would be associated with temporary demand for police or fire protection services during project construction. As concluded in Section 15, *Public Services*, such impacts would be less than significant. The project would not induce population growth and thereby would not, directly or indirectly, contribute to cumulative impacts to public services.
- **Transportation.** The project would result in a temporary increase in traffic associated with project construction. However, implementation of Mitigation Measures T-1 and T-2 would reduce the impact associated with construction traffic to a less-than-significant level by requiring implementation of a Traffic Management Plan and notification of emergency service providers. Once operational, the project would require approximately 20 trips per year for routine maintenance activities. This minor increase in trips would not result in any substantial long-term transportation impacts. Given the temporary nature of construction-related traffic impacts and the fact the project would not generate a substantial amount of operational traffic, the project's contribution to any cumulative transportation impact would not be cumulatively considerable.

- **Utilities and Service Systems.** The project would not induce population growth and therefore would not, directly or indirectly, contribute to cumulative impacts to utilities and service systems.
- **Wildfire.** As described in Section 20, *Wildfire*, potential wildfire impacts associated with the project would be limited to short-term construction-related impacts to emergency response, which would be less than significant with incorporation of Mitigation Measures T-1 and T-2. The project would not result in long-term wildfire impacts, as it would involve operation of potable water infrastructure located either belowground or in enclosed structures. Given there would be no long-term operational wildfire impacts and the short-term nature of any construction-related wildfire impacts, the project's contribution to any cumulative impact would not be considerable.

For these reasons, the project would not result in a considerable impact to any cumulative effects significant or otherwise.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

In general, impacts to human beings are associated with such issues as air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, and noise impacts. As detailed under Section 3, *Air Quality*, the proposed project would not result, either directly or indirectly, in adverse hazards related to air quality. As discussed in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials,* the project would have the potential to result in significant impacts associated with hazardous materials spills or leaks during construction and disturbance of contaminated soils. Such impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 through HAZ-3. As discussed in Section 13, *Noise,* the project could potentially result in a significant impact to noise-sensitive receptors due to the operation of the booster pump stations. However, with implementation of Mitigation Measures NOI-1, the potential noise impact would be reduced to a less than significant level by requiring a noise-reducing enclosure around the pump station. Therefore, impacts to human beings would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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Federal Cross-Cutting Environmental Regulations Evaluation

The proposed project may receive funding under a state program with a federal funding component. Therefore, to assist in compliance with the federal environmental requirements for the funding program, this document includes analysis pertinent to several federal cross-cutting regulations (also referred to as federal cross-cutters or CEQA-Plus). The basic rules for complying with cross-cutting federal authorities are set-out in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund regulations at 40 CFR § 35.3145 and in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund regulations at 40 CFR § 35.3575.

This section describes the status of compliance with relevant federal laws, executive orders, and policies, and the consultation that has occurred to date or will occur in the near future. The topics are based in part on the SWRCB's State Revolving Fund Program Federal Cross-cutting Environmental Regulations Evaluation Form for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination. The State Revolving Fund Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Therefore, the SWRCB must document projects meet the federal cross-cutters requirements.

Federal Endangered Species Act

Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act requires federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to ensure their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species. Under Section 7, a project which could result in incidental take of a listed threatened or endangered species must consult with the USFWS to obtain a Biological Opinion. If the Biological Opinion finds the project could jeopardize the existence of a listed species ("jeopardy opinion"), the agency cannot authorize the project until it is modified to obtain a "nonjeopardy" opinion. For the purpose of this project, the SWRCB would act as the federal lead or responsible agency.

In June 2019, Rincon Consultants, Inc. conducted a Biological Resources Assessment, including a literature review and field reconnaissance survey to document existing site conditions and the potential presence of special-status biological resources, including plant and wildlife species, plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, and habitat for nesting birds. In September 2022, Rincon Consultants, Inc. updated the project-specific Biological Resources Assessment to include the modified project design (Appendix B). As discussed in the Biological Resources Assessment, no federally listed wildlife species have a moderate or high potential to occur within the project site. Furthermore, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6 would require measures such as construction disturbance minimization, pre-construction surveys, and biological construction monitoring, all of which would further reduce potential impacts to listed species. Thus, the project would not jeopardize listed species and the lead agency would be in compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act.

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106

The purpose of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is to protect, preserve, rehabilitate, or restore significant historical, archaeological, and cultural resources. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account effects on historic properties. Section 106 review involves a step-by-step procedure described in detail in the implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800).

In June 2019 (and updated in January 2021), Rincon Consultants prepared a Cultural Resources Assessment for the proposed project (Appendix C). The analysis includes a Section 106 evaluation for the proposed project and can be submitted as part of the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Concurrence by the SHPO would ensure compliance with the NHPA.

The cultural resources records search, Native American outreach and historic group consultation, and field surveys resulted in the documentation of two newly identified built-environment resources, the Rincon Vent Building and Rincon Pumping Plant, located within the project area. The Cultural Resources Assessment also documents three previously recorded historic period built-environment resources, SR 192 (P-42-003622), Abbott Ranch (P-56-152756), and the Santa Clara-Ojai-Santa Barbara 66kV Transmission Line (P-56-153060), whose boundaries overlap with portions of the project area. The two newly identified resources do not meet any of the criteria for listing in the NRHP. No further management of these resources is recommended. Furthermore, each of the previously recorded resources has been previously recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP. Updated historic resource evaluations conducted for the Cultural Resources Assessment identified one property, the Abbott Ranch, as eligible for local designation as a Ventura County Site of Merit. The property is not considered a historic property under Section 106 of the NHPA.

The proposed project would have no effect to historic properties under Section 106. Thus, the lead agency would be in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

Federal Clean Air Act

The 1990 Amendment to Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) Section 176 requires USEPA to promulgate rules to ensure federal actions conform to the appropriate SIP. These rules, known as the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Parts 51.850–51.860 and 93.150–93.160), require any federal agency responsible for an action in a federal nonattainment/maintenance area to demonstrate conformity to the applicable SIP, by either determining the action is exempt from the General Conformity Rule requirements or subject to a formal conformity determination. Actions would be exempt, and thus conform to the SIP, if an applicability analysis shows the total direct and indirect emissions of nonattainment/maintenance pollutants from project construction and operation activities would be less than specified emission rate thresholds, known as *de minimis* levels. If not determined exempt, an air quality conformity analysis would be required to determine conformity.

A FCAA Conformity Analysis was prepared for the proposed project in August 2019 (Appendix F). The proposed project site is located within the SCCAB, which is a federal nonattainment area for 8-hour ozone. Therefore, the General Conformity Rule is applicable to the project emissions of ozone precursors (ROG and NO_X). Table 15 lists the total annual emissions that may be generated during construction of the proposed project. Table 15 also compares the total maximum worst-case annual emissions scenario (i.e., if all three construction types were to occur within the same year) to the applicable *de minimis* emission rates for the SCCAB region.

Table 15 Proposed Project Total Annual Construction Emissions

	Estimated Annual Construction Emissions (tons/year)					
	VOC	NO_X	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	SO_2
Booster Pump Stations	<0.1	0.7	0.6	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Pipeline – Open Trench	<0.1	1.0	0.9	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Pipeline – Trenchless HDD	<0.1	0.3	0.2	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Maximum Worst-Case Scenario	**<0.1**	**2.0**	**1.7**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
De Minimis Thresholds	50	50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Threshold Exceeded?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

VOC: volatile organic compounds; NO_X: nitrogen oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; PM_{10}: particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; $PM_{2.5}$: particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SO_2: sulfur dioxide

See Appendix F for FCAA Conformity Analysis and full modeling details.

As shown above, the project's criteria air pollutant emissions would not exceed the applicable *de minimis* rates. Therefore, the general conformity requirements do not apply to the project, and a formal conformity determination is not applicable to the project. Accordingly, the lead agency would be in compliance with the FCAA.

Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act, passed by Congress in 1972 and managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, is designed to balance competing land and water issues in coastal zones. It also aims to "preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone." Within California, the Coastal Zone Management Act is administered by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission.

A portion of the pipeline and BPS-A site are located within the coastal zone in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Prior to construction, the project may require coastal development permits (CDPs) from the County of Ventura and the County of Santa Barbara. The project would be implemented consistent with applicable policies and ordinances to protect coastal biological resources, as discussed in the Biological Resources Assessment (Appendix B). Accordingly, the lead agency would be in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Farmland Protection Policy Act

The Farmland Protection Policy Act requires a federal agency to consider the effects of its actions and programs on the nation's farmlands. The Farmland Protection Policy Act is intended to minimize the impact of federal programs with respect to the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It assures, to the extent possible, federal programs are administered to be compatible with State, local, and private programs and policies to protect farmland.

As discussed in Section 2, *Agriculture and Forestry Resources*, the pipeline alignment and booster pump station locations contain lands designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance. The proposed pipeline would primarily be constructed underneath existing roadways, Caltrans rights-of-way, and previously disturbed, graded areas which are not currently in agricultural production. BPS-A would result in direct impacts to approximately 25,800 square feet of mapped Farmland. Such impacts would be minimized to the maximum extent

practicable, and the introduction of BPS-A would not preclude adjacent lands from continued agricultural production. The project would improve water reliability for Casitas customers, including agricultural producers. BPS-B would not result in the conversion of land currently used for agriculture into non-agricultural use as the BPS-B location is in previously disturbed areas not currently being used for agricultural purposes. Proposed improvements at existing Casitas infrastructure would not convert Farmland into non-agricultural use. Therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with State, local, and private programs and policies to protect farmland. The lead agency would be in compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management

Executive Order (EO) 11988 requires federal agencies to recognize the values of floodplains and to consider the public benefits from restoring and preserving floodplains.

As described in Section 10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, according to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, areas of the project site near Lake Jocelyn and along Rincon Creek are located in Zone A, indicating an area subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood event (FEMA 2018a, 2018b, 2010a, 2010b). These areas include the eastern portion of the proposed pipeline alignment and the western portion of the BPS-A site. The pipeline would be constructed underground and generally within existing public and private road rights-of-way. The crossing of Rincon Creek would be accomplished using trenchless HDD construction. As such, pipeline construction would not permanently alter the drainage pattern of the project site and would not redirect flood flows. BPS-A would add a marginal amount of impervious surface area (approximately 420 square feet) in the flood zone due to construction of the weatherproof structure. This increase in impervious area would not substantially affect or redirect flood flows in the approximately 1,000-foot-wide floodplain, which currently contains numerous houses, ancillary structures, trees, and roadways of similar or larger scale. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

As such, the lead agency would be in compliance with this EO.

Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Executive Order 13168

The MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibit the take of migratory birds (or any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird) and the take and commerce of eagles. EO 13168 (Sep 22, 2000) requires any project with federal involvement to address impacts of federal actions on migratory birds.

As described in Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the BSA contains habitat which can support protected nesting birds, including raptors protected under the MBTA. The loss of a nest due to construction activities would be a violation of the MBTA. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-3 would reduce direct and indirect impacts to migratory bird species in compliance with the MBTA. Thus, the lead agency would be in compliance with the MBTA and this EO.

Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands

Under EO 11990 (May 24, 1977), federal agencies must avoid affecting wetlands unless it is determined no practicable alternative is available.

Impacts to Coyote Creek are not anticipated based on the proposed project footprint. Casitas Creek and the unnamed drainage tributary to Casitas Creek may be impacted by construction of BPS-B.

Impacts to these features would be significant without mitigation; however, implementation of Measures BIO-6 and BIO-7 would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The Rincon Creek crossing would be constructed using trenchless methods (HDD). This portion of Rincon Creek supports California sycamore woodland.

Indirect impacts from HDD and/or construction materials (e.g., stockpiled materials, construction equipment, and trash) which may be stored on site could adversely affect water quality (e.g., increased turbidity, altered pH, decreased dissolved oxygen levels, etc.) within the jurisdictional waters if runoff were to occur during storm events. Therefore, Mitigation Measures BIO-6 and BIO-7 are required to be implemented within 100 feet of Rincon Creek, Casitas Creek, Coyote Creek, and the unnamed drainage to avoid potential indirect impacts to water quality within these jurisdictional features. With implementation of these mitigation measures (and adherence to agency permits and existing regulations), potential indirect impacts to jurisdictional features would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Thus, the lead agency would be in compliance with EO 11990.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 to preserve and protect designated rivers for their natural, cultural, and recreational value.

There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within the project area, nor would any designated rivers be adversely affected by the proposed project. As a result, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not apply to the proposed project.

Safe Drinking Water Act – Source Water Protection

Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act established the USEPA's Sole Source Aquifer Program. This program protects communities from groundwater contamination from federally-funded projects.

Within USEPA's Region 9, which includes California, there are nine sole source aquifers. None of these sole source aquifers are located within the project area. Therefore, the Sole Source Aquifer Program does not apply to the proposed project, and the lead agency would be in compliance with Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Executive Order on Trails for America in the 21st Century

The EO on Trails for America (January 18, 2001) requires federal agencies to protect, connect, promote, and assist trails of all types throughout the United States.

According to Ventura County GIS data and Santa Barbara trail maps, no trails exist in the vicinity of the project components (County of Ventura 2020b; Santa Barbara Trail Guide 2013). As a result, no adverse effects on trails would occur and the lead agency is in compliance with this EO.

Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites

Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided

that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site."

The proposed project would not be located on or impact any federal lands and therefore would not affect any Native American sacred sites under this EO.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) of 1976 as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq.), is the primary act governing federal management of fisheries in federal waters, from the 3-nautical-mile state territorial sea limit to the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. It establishes exclusive U.S. management authority over all fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone, all anadromous fish throughout their migratory range except when in a foreign nation's waters, and all fish on the continental shelf. The Act also requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on actions that could damage Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined in the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-297).

The proposed project would not be located in or impact any U.S. federal waters regulated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. EFH includes those habitats supporting the different life stages of each managed species. A single species may use many different habitats throughout its life to support breeding, spawning, nursery, feeding, and protection functions. EFH can consist of both the water column and the underlying surface (e.g., streambed) of a particular area. As described in the Biological Resources Assessment (Appendix B), no special status fish species are expected to occur in the project site. As described in Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the project is not expected to have adverse effect on resident or migratory fish, wildlife species, or fish habitat in the project site. As such, the lead agency is in compliance with this EO.

Environmental Justice

This section describes the existing socioeconomic resources in the proposed project area and the regulatory setting pertaining to environmental justice-related issues. This section also evaluates the potential for the proposed project to disproportionately affect minority or low-income groups. The USEPA defines environmental justice as: "The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or economic groups should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, State, local, and tribal programs and policies" (USEPA 2016).

The pipeline would traverse the boundary between Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and act as a two-way intertie to allow the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD, as necessary. The nearest city to the project site is Carpinteria. For the purposes of this environmental justice analysis, Carpinteria demographics are used to characterize the population in the vicinity of the project site.

Minority Population Analysis

According to USEPA guidelines, a minority population is present in a study area if the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent, or if the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis.

According to the United States Census Bureau's American Community Survey, approximately 78 percent of the population of Carpinteria identifies as white (non-minority). Consequently, the area surrounding the project components does not have a minority population exceeding 50 percent. The affected area could therefore not be identified as a minority population for the purposes of environmental justice analysis (United States Census Bureau 2022a).

Low-Income Analysis

USEPA guidelines recommend analyses of low-income communities to consider the United States Census Bureau's poverty level definitions, as well as applicable State and regional definitions of low-income and poverty communities.

DWR defines a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) as a community with a median household income (MHI) less than 80 percent of the California MHI. According to ACS data, the California statewide MHI in 2020 was $78,672 (United States Census Bureau 2022b). Therefore, a community would be considered to be a DAC if it has a MHI of less than $62,938. As provided in the ACS data, the MHI in Carpinteria was $74,868 (United States Census Bureau 2022b). Therefore, because the project area's MHI is greater than the threshold for a DAC, the project does not meet DWR's definition of low income/disadvantaged communities.

According to the United States Census poverty level definition, approximately 12.6 percent of the general population of California is considered to be in poverty (United States Census Bureau 2022b). In comparison, the percentage of persons in poverty in Carpinteria is approximately 7.6 percent (United States Census Bureau 2022b). Because the percentage of persons in poverty in Carpinteria does not exceed the percentages of persons in poverty statewide, the affected area does not meet the definition of a low-income community.

Conclusion

For the purposes of this analysis, an impact related to environmental justice would be significant if the proposed project would cause impacts to minority or low-income populations that are disproportionately high and adverse, either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively.

The project site and surrounding area does not meet state or federal thresholds for defining minority and low-income communities. The proposed project would allow the transfer of water between Casitas and CVWD. Although the construction of the pipelines has the potential for short-term effects (e.g., dust, traffic, and noise), the project would have the long-term benefit of increasing the resiliency of the local water distribution network and improving regional water supply reliability. These benefits would serve all residents in the project area regardless of race, ethnicity, or income level. Where potential impacts could occur, mitigation measures have been identified to reduce such effects to less-than-significant levels. The proposed project would therefore not result in any disproportionately high impacts on minority or low-income communities. Thus, no adverse environmental justice impacts would occur.

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Appendix A Through I

have been removed but are available by request

APPENDIX B

Mitigation, Monitoring & Reporting Program

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

This document is the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Ventura-Santa Barbara Counties Intertie (proposed project) proposed by the Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas). CEQA requires a reporting or monitoring program be adopted for the conditions of project approval which are necessary to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment (Public Resources Code 21081.6). This mitigation monitoring and reporting program is designed to ensure compliance with adopted mitigation measures during project implementation. For each mitigation measure recommended in the Final Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final IS-MND), specifications are made herein which identify the action required and the monitoring which must occur, and the agency or department responsible for oversight.

In addition to ensuring implementation of mitigation measures, the MMRP provides feedback to agency staff and decision-makers during project implementation, and identifies the need for enforcement action before irreversible environmental damage occurs.

The following table identifies each mitigation measure included in the Final IS-MND, the action required for the measure to be implemented, the time at which the monitoring is to occur, the monitoring frequency, and the agency or party responsible for ensuring the monitoring is performed. In addition, the table includes columns for compliance verification. These columns will be filled out by the monitoring agency or party and will document monitoring compliance. Where an impact was identified to be less than significant, no mitigation measures were required.

Mitigation Measure/Condition of Approval	Action Required	Monitoring Timing	Responsible Agency	Compliance Verification		
				Initial	Date	Comments
Air Quality						
AQ-1: NO_X Construction Reduction Measures						
Pursuant to Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Guidelines, when construction emissions exceed 25 pounds per day for NO_X, the following measures shall be implemented: ▪ Casitas shall ensure all on-site vehicles and equipment with 50 horsepower or more shall meet, at a minimum, United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Tier IV final engine certification requirements. If Tier IV final equipment is not available, the contractor may apply other technologies available for construction equipment which would achieve a reduction in NO_X (as well as PM) emissions comparable to Tier IV final construction equipment. Where alternatives to USEPA Tier IV are utilized, the contractor shall be required to provide evidence these alternative technologies would achieve comparable emissions reductions. Certifications or alternative reduction strategies shall be required prior to receiving a construction permit. ▪ Minimize equipment idling time. ▪ Maintain equipment engines in good condition and in proper tune as per manufacturers' specifications. ▪ Lengthen the construction period during smog season (May through October) to minimize the number of vehicles and equipment operating at the same time. ▪ Use alternatively fueled construction equipment, such as compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, or electric, if feasible.	Include NO_X reduction measures in construction contractor specifications, as applicable.	Prior to the issuance of construction bid documents (for each construction phase)	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Confirm NO_X reductions are identified on project plans.	Prior to the start of construction (for each construction phase)	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Verify compliance through field visits at the beginning of each construction phase.	At the start of each construction phase	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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Biological Resources						
BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program						
Prior to initiation of all construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training conducted by a qualified biologist and arborist to assist workers in recognizing special status biological resources which may occur in the BSA. The training shall include information about nesting birds and the special status species potentially occurring in the BSA. The specifics of this program shall include identification of special status species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of special status resources, and review of the limits of construction and measures required to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources within the work area. The arborist shall instruct the contractors on tree protection practices. This training shall include information on the location and marking of protected trees, the necessity of preventing damage, and the discussion of work practices. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. All employees shall sign a form provided by the trainer documenting they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The crew foreperson shall be responsible for ensuring crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions designed to avoid impacts to special status species. If new construction personnel are added to the project, the crew foreman shall confirm new personnel receive the WEAP training before starting work. The subsequent training of personnel can include video of the initial training and/or the use of written materials rather than in-person training by a biologist.	Retain a qualified biologist and arborist to conduct WEAP training.	Prior to initiation of all construction activities (including staging and mobilization)	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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BIO-2: Wildlife Avoidance During Construction						
The following measures shall be adhered to during project construction: ▪ Parking, driving, lay-down, stockpiling, and vehicle and equipment storage shall be limited to previously compacted and developed areas. ▪ No off-road vehicle use shall be permitted beyond the project site and designated access routes. ▪ Disturbances to adjacent native vegetation shall be minimized. ▪ The contractor shall clearly delineate the construction limits and prohibit any construction-related traffic outside those boundaries. ▪ Project-related vehicles shall observe a 10-mile-per-hour speed limit within the unpaved limits of construction. ▪ All open trenches or excavations shall be fenced and/or sloped to prevent entrapment of wildlife species. ▪ All food-related trash shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project site at the end of each day. Construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the construction area. ▪ At project completion, all project-generated debris, vehicles, building materials, and rubbish shall be removed from the project site. ▪ No construction worker pets shall be allowed on the project site. ▪ No firearms shall be allowed on the project site. ▪ If vehicle or equipment maintenance is necessary, it shall be performed in designated staging areas. ▪ If construction must occur at night (between dusk and dawn), all lighting shall be shielded and directed downward to minimize the potential for glare or spillover	Verify through periodic site visits that construction boundaries are delineated through fencing, site speed limits are clearly posted, excavations and trenches are appropriately fenced, adherence to trash disposal and refuse management measures are being practiced, BMPs for pollutant management are in place, and construction lighting is shielded. Include measures in construction contractor specifications, as applicable.	Periodically during construction activities	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Field verify removal of all debris, vehicles, building materials, and rubbish from project footprint upon project completion.	Upon completion of construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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onto adjacent properties and to reduce impacts on local wildlife. ▪ During construction, heavy equipment shall be operated in accordance with standard construction best management practices (BMPs). All equipment used on site shall be properly maintained to avoid leaks of oil, fuel, or residues. Provisions shall be in place to remediate any accidental spills immediately.						
BIO-3: Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys						
To avoid disturbance of nesting and special status birds, including raptor species, protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (CFGC), activities related to the project including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside the bird breeding season for migratory birds (January 1 through September 15), if practicable. If construction must begin during the breeding season, a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal activities. The preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted on foot within the project footprint plus a 300-foot buffer. Inaccessible areas (e.g., private lands) shall be surveyed from afar using binoculars to the extent practicable. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in southern California coastal communities. If active nests are found, an avoidance buffer (dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging,	Schedule all initial ground disturbing activities, including vegetation removal, for the time period between September 15 and January 1, if practicable.	Prior to the start of construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	If construction will begin during the breeding season, retain a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey.	No more than 3 days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal activities, as needed	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	If active nests are located, implement avoidance buffer requirements.	During construction activities, until the adults and young nesting birds are no longer reliant on the nest site	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	If active nests are located, field verify	During construction activities, periodically	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground-disturbing activities shall occur inside this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed breeding/nesting is completed and the young have fledged the nest, or the nest has failed. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.	compliance with avoidance buffers.					
	If active nests are located, retain a qualified biologist to confirm when breeding/nesting is completed and young have fledged the nest.	During construction activities and prior to the removal of avoidance buffers, as needed.	Casitas Municipal Water District			
BIO-4: Sensitive Habitat Fencing						
Prior to project mobilization where the project is adjacent to sensitive natural communities, temporary construction fencing shall be erected by the contractor at the edge of the temporary construction easement to avoid unanticipated impacts to the habitat throughout the duration of construction.	Implement sensitive habitat fencing requirements.	Prior to and during construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Verify through field visits that sensitive natural communities are fenced.	Periodically during construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			
BIO-5: Sensitive Vegetation Community Compensation						
Impacts to sensitive vegetation communities shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible. Depending on final project design, sensitive vegetation community compensation mitigation may be required by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to sensitive vegetation communities can be accomplished either through on-site restoration, off-site restoration, or purchase of credits through an approved Mitigation Bank or through applicant sponsored mitigation (e.g., purchase and/or dedication of land for mitigation). If required, compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to sensitive vegetation communities shall be accomplished at a minimum ratio of 1:1; however, the final ratio shall be determined and approved by CDFW prior to commencement of construction. If on- or off-site restoration would occur, a Restoration Plan	Review project construction plans to verify that construction and staging areas are located outside of sensitive vegetation communities as identified in project Biological Resources Report.	Prior to commencement of construction activities	Casitas Municipal Water District; CDFW (if applicable)			
	Coordinate with CDFW for compensatory mitigation, if required.	Prior to commencement of construction activities	Casitas Municipal Water District; CDFW (if applicable)			

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shall be prepared and submitted for approval by CDFW prior to initiating impacts. At minimum, the Restoration Plan shall include the following: ▪ A description of the purpose and goals of the restoration ▪ Identification of success criteria and performance standards ▪ Methods of site preparation ▪ Irrigation plan and schedule ▪ BMPs ▪ Maintenance and monitoring program ▪ Adaptive management strategies ▪ Key stakeholders and responsible parties ▪ Funding ▪ Contingencies						
BIO-6: Jurisdictional Waters Avoidance and Minimization						
The following measures shall be implemented during project construction: ▪ Prior to project mobilization, all limits of construction work within Casitas Creek and the unnamed drainage shall be clearly delineated with orange construction fencing or similar highly visible material and maintained throughout the duration of construction.	Review construction plans to verify staging areas are located in previously disturbed, unvegetated areas and construction disturbance footprint is minimized to the extent feasible.	Prior to initiation of construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			
▪ Areas of temporary disturbance shall be minimized to the extent practicable. Staging and laydown areas shall be limited to sites which are unvegetated and/or previously disturbed, and outside jurisdictional aquatic features. ▪ Materials shall be stored on impervious surfaces or plastic ground covers to prevent spills or leakage. Material storage and material/spoils from project activities shall be located and stored at least 50 feet from jurisdictional aquatic features. Construction materials and spoils shall be protected from stormwater runoff using temporary	Verify through initial site visit and periodic site visits construction limits delineated with high-visibility temporary fencing, materials are properly stored, equipment is in good	Periodically during construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, silt fences, fiber rolls, covers, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers, as appropriate. ▪ Prevent the discharge of silt or pollutants off the site when working adjacent to potentially jurisdictional waters. Install BMPs (i.e., silt barriers, sand bags, straw bales) as appropriate. ▪ Prevent the off-site tracking of loose construction and landscape materials by implementing street sweeping, vacuuming, and rumble plates, as appropriate. ▪ Site washout areas shall be at least 100 feet from a storm drain, open ditch, or surface water and prevent runoff flows from such activities from entering receiving water bodies. ▪ All vehicles and equipment shall be in good working condition and free of leaks. The contractor shall prevent oil, petroleum products, or any other pollutants from contaminating the soil or entering a watercourse (dry or otherwise). When vehicles or equipment are stationary, mats, or drip pans shall be placed below vehicles to contain fluid leaks. ▪ All re-fueling, cleaning, and maintenance of equipment shall occur at least 100 feet from potentially jurisdictional waters. ▪ Any spillage of material shall be stopped if it can be done safely. The contaminated area shall be cleaned, and any contaminated materials properly disposed. For all spills, the project foreperson or other designated liaison shall notify Casitas immediately. ▪ Adequate spill prevention and response equipment shall be maintained on site and readily available to implement to minimize impacts to the aquatic and marine environments.	working condition, and pollution prevention BMPs are implemented as specified in the mitigation measure.					

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BIO-7: Compensatory Mitigation for Jurisdictional Waters Impacts						
The following measures shall be implemented to mitigate impacts to jurisdictional wetlands/waters: ▪ Permits for the proposed impacts to jurisdictional waters shall be obtained prior to initiating impacts. The discharge of fill into United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional areas will require a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a 401 Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and any modification to a streambed, including removal of riparian vegetation, will require a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW pursuant to Section 1600 of the CFGC. The project shall comply with the mitigation required in accordance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and the 401 and 404 permits. ▪ Impacts associated with disturbed areas within regulated waters shall be mitigated in-kind at a ratio of at least 1:1. It should be noted the final mitigation ratios required by the regulatory agencies during the permitting process may differ, but shall be confirmed prior to the initiation of applicable construction activities. ▪ A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) shall be prepared by a qualified biologist/restoration ecologist to restore jurisdictional waters and/or CDFW sensitive plant communities temporarily impacted by the project. The HMMP shall address the restoration of temporarily disturbed habitat. At a minimum, the HMMP shall include the following: ▫ A description of the jurisdictional waters, sensitive plant communities, riparian habitat, and/or environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) type(s) and amount(s) which will be provided by the mitigation and how the mitigation method (i.e.,	Coordinate with USACE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW to obtain permits for impacts to jurisdictional waters, determine mitigation requirements, and implement an approved HMMP.	Coordination and permit approval to be completed prior to the initiation of construction activities affecting jurisdictional waters	Casitas Municipal Water District; USACE; RWQCB; CDFW			

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restoration, establishment, enhancement, and preservation) will achieve the mitigation project goals ▫ A plant palette and methods of salvaging, propagating, and seeding/planting the site to be restored ▫ Methods of soil preparation ▫ Maintenance and monitoring necessary to confirm the restored plant communities meet the success criteria ▫ Schedule for restoration activities including weed abatement, propagation and planting, soil preparation, erosion control, qualitative and quantitative monitoring, and reporting ▫ Identification of measurable performance standards for each objective to evaluate the success of the compensatory mitigation ▫ Identification of contingency and adaptive management measures to address unforeseen changes in site conditions or other components of the mitigation project ▪ Compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters can be accomplished either through purchase of credits through an approved Mitigation Bank or through applicant sponsored mitigation (e.g., purchase and/or dedication of land for mitigation). Compensatory mitigation shall be determined and approved by CDFW, USACE, and RWQCB prior to impacting state of federally regulated waters. If on-site or off-site restoration would occur, a Restoration Plan shall be prepared and submitted for approval by CDFW, USACE, and RWQCB prior to initiating impacts. At minimum, the Restoration Plan shall include the following: ▫ A description of the purpose and goals of the restoration ▫ Identification of success criteria and performance standards						

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▫ Methods of site preparation ▫ Irrigation plan and schedule ▫ Best Management Practices (BMPs) ▫ Maintenance and monitoring program ▫ Adaptive management strategies ▫ Key stakeholders and responsible parties ▫ Funding ▫ Contingencies.						
BIO-8: Arborist Study and Tree Protection Plan						
An Arborist Study shall be conducted within portions of the project footprint occurring within 20 feet of the canopy drip line of protected trees. The study will plot the location of protected trees within this zone, identify each protected tree, and determine the jurisdiction of any trees to be impacted. The Arborist Report shall be prepared by a Certified Arborist in compliance with both the County of Ventura and County of Santa Barbara ordinance guidelines (including coastal zone guidelines). Specifically, the Arborist Report should include, at minimum, the following: ▪ An inventory of all trees containing a canopy drip line within 20 feet of the project footprint, as feasible without trespassing on private lands. Inventory data should record, at minimum: diameter at breast height (DBH), height, canopy cover information/mapping, health and vigor rating. ▪ Representative photographs of each regulated tree which may be encroached upon. ▪ Description of proposed site development activities including, but not limited to, excavation for trenching, any tree trimming for access, and construction access routes. ▪ A project-specific Tree Protection Plan shall be prepared which would at a minimum include site plans, protective	Retain a Certified Arborist to complete an Arborist Study containing the requirements specified in the mitigation measure, including a project-specific Tree Protection Plan.	Prior to commencement of any tree-disturbing activities	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Implement the Tree Protection Plan and field verify compliance.	Prior to commencement of any tree-disturbing activities, with periodic field monitoring for compliance throughout construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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tree fencing, the designated tree protection zone (identifying an area sufficiently large enough to protect the tree and its roots from disturbance), activities prohibited/permitted within the tree protective zone, encroachment boundaries, and potential transplanting or replacement tree plantings. The Arborist Report shall be completed consistent with the tree ordinance guidelines of the County of Ventura and County of Santa Barbara prior to the start of any tree-disturbing construction activities.						
Cultural Resources						
CUL-1: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources						
In the event archaeological resources are unexpectedly encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work within 50 feet of the find shall halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the resource. If the resource is determined by the qualified archaeologist to be prehistoric, then a Native American representative shall also be contacted to participate in the evaluation of the resource. If the qualified archaeologist and/or Native American representative determines it to be appropriate, archaeological testing for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility shall be completed. If the resource proves to be eligible for the CRHR and significant impacts to the resource cannot be avoided via project redesign, a qualified archaeologist shall prepare a data recovery plan tailored to the physical nature and characteristics of the resource, per the requirements of California Code of Regulations (CCR) Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C). The data recovery plan shall identify data recovery excavation methods, measurable objectives, and	If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, halt work in the immediate area and retain a qualified archaeologist immediately to evaluate the find.	During ground-disturbing activities, as needed and if archaeological resources are identified	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	If necessary, review and approve additional work for evaluation efforts and to mitigate any impacts to eligible resources.	During ground-disturbing activities, as needed and if archaeological resources are identified	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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data thresholds to reduce any significant impacts to cultural resources related to the resource. Pursuant to the data recovery plan, the qualified archaeologist and Native American representative, as appropriate, shall recover and document the scientifically consequential information which justifies the resource's significance. Casitas shall review and approve the treatment plan and archaeological testing as appropriate, and the resulting documentation shall be submitted to the regional repository of the California Historical Resources Information System, per CCR Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C).						
Geology and Soils						
GEO-1: Paleontological Resources Monitoring						
Prior to the commencement of project construction, a Qualified Professional Paleontologist, as defined by the SVP (2010), shall be retained to conduct paleontological monitoring during ground-disturbing activities (i.e., grading, excavation, and trenching) of previously undisturbed geologic units determined to have a high paleontological sensitivity (i.e., Casitas Formation [Qca], Sespe Formation [Ts], Pleistocene-aged alluvial deposits [Qoa], and Pleistocene-aged paralic deposits [Qppr-p]). Prior to the start of construction, the Qualified Professional Paleontologist or their designee shall conduct a paleontological WEAP training for construction personnel regarding the appearance of fossils and the procedures for notifying paleontological staff should fossils be discovered by construction staff. Ground-disturbing activities on previously undisturbed areas within the project site shall be monitored on a full-time basis. Monitoring shall be supervised by the Qualified Professional	Retain a Qualified Professional Paleontologist to conduct paleontological monitoring during ground-disturbing activities of previously undisturbed geologic units determined to have high paleontological sensitivity (duration and timing to be determined by the Qualified Professional Paleontologist).	Prior to the start of construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Coordinate and verify implementation of a paleontological WEAP training	Prior to the start of construction				

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Paleontologist and conducted by a qualified paleontological monitor, as defined by the SVP (2010). The duration and timing of the monitoring shall be determined by the Qualified Professional Paleontologist. If the Qualified Professional Paleontologist determines full-time monitoring is no longer warranted, they may recommend reducing monitoring to periodic spot-checking or ceasing monitoring entirely. Monitoring shall be reinstated if any new ground disturbances of previously undisturbed areas are required, and reduction or suspension shall be reconsidered by the Qualified Professional Paleontologist at the time. If a paleontological resource is discovered, the monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert construction equipment around the find until it is assessed for scientific significance and collected. Once salvaged, significant fossils shall be prepared to a curation-ready condition and curated in a scientific institution with a permanent paleontological collection. Curation fees shall be the responsibility of the project owner. A final report shall be prepared describing the results of the paleontological monitoring efforts associated with the project. The report shall include a summary of the field and laboratory methods, an overview of the project geology and paleontology, a list of taxa recovered (if any), an analysis of fossils recovered (if any) and their scientific significance, and recommendations. The report shall be submitted to Casitas. If the monitoring efforts produced fossils, a copy of the report shall also be submitted to the designated museum repository.	In the event of a fossil discovery, cease work in the immediate vicinity of the find and direct the Qualified Professional Paleontologist to evaluate the find. If it is determined the fossil(s) is (are) scientifically significant, direct the Qualified Professional Paleontologist to complete fossil salvage, preparation, and curation.	During ground-disturbing activities, as needed and if a paleontological resource is identified				
	Review and approve final paleontological mitigation report and submit to the designated museum repository if fossils are salvaged and curated	After completion of ground-disturbing activities				

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Hazards and Hazardous Materials						
HAZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan						
Before construction begins, the construction contractor shall submit to Casitas for review and approval a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan (HMMSCP), including a project specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations. The HMMSCP shall establish policies and procedures consistent with applicable codes and regulations, including, but not limited to, the California Building and Fire Codes, as well United States Department of Labor, United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. The HMMSCP shall articulate hazardous materials handling practices to prevent the accidental spill or release of hazardous materials.	Review and approve HMMSCP	Prior to commencement of construction activities.	Casitas Municipal Water District			
HAZ-2: Soil Sampling and Disposal						
Prior to construction, a soil assessment shall be completed under the supervision of a professional geologist or professional engineer. If soil sampling indicates the presence of any contaminant in quantities not in compliance with applicable laws, the RWQCB or California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) shall be contacted to determine proper disposal requirements. If required based on the levels of contamination in the project site soil, proper removal and disposal of contaminated soils removed during excavation and trenching activities shall be performed.	Retain professional geologist or professional engineer to complete a soil assessment.	Prior to commencement of construction activities	Casitas Municipal Water District; RWQCB and/or DTSC (if applicable)			
	Review and approve soil assessment.	Prior to commencement of construction activities	Casitas Municipal Water District; RWQCB and/or DTSC (if applicable)			
	If soil sampling identifies contaminants in quantities not in compliance with applicable laws, contact the RWQCB or DTSC to	After review of soil assessment, as needed	Casitas Municipal Water District; RWQCB and/or DTSC (if applicable)			

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	determine proper disposal requirements.					
	If needed, conduct required contaminated soil removal and disposal.	After review of soil assessment, as needed	Casitas Municipal Water District; RWQCB and/or DTSC (if applicable)			
HAZ-3: Contaminated Soil Contingency Plan						
The contractor shall develop and implement a Contaminated Soil Contingency Plan to handle treatment and/or disposal of contaminated soils. If contaminated soil is encountered during project construction, work shall halt, and an assessment made to determine the extent of contamination. Treatment and/or disposal of contaminated soils shall be conducted in accordance with the Contingency Plan.	Review and approve Contaminated Soil Contingency Plan.	Prior to start of construction	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	If contaminated soil is encountered during project construction, halt work and assess extent of contamination. Treat and/or dispose of contaminated soils in accordance with the Contingency Plan.	During construction, if contaminated soil is encountered	Casitas Municipal Water District			
Noise						
NOI-1: Pump Station Noise Control						
Noise-generating equipment at the temporary and permanent booster pump stations at the BPS-A site and the permanent booster pump station at BPS-B site shall comply with the following County noise standards for ongoing outdoor noise levels received by noise sensitive receivers, measured at the exterior wall of the building: 55 dB(A) L_{eq} during any hour from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; 50 db(A) L_{eq} during any hour from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; 45 db(A) L_{eq}	Verify through project plans, specifications, and noise-generating equipment manufacturer submittals that noise will be controlled per the requirements of the mitigation measure.	Prior to the operation of booster pump stations	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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during any hour from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.; or the ambient noise level plus 3 db(A) during any of these time periods. This may be accomplished by methods including, but not limited, to: enclosing or screening the pump, motor, and other noise-generating mechanical equipment; or using equipment that would generate noise levels that would not exceed County standards. These methods would be implemented prior to operation of the pump stations, and if enclosures or screens are used, they shall break the line of sight between the noise generating equipment and the sensitive receivers. During routine maintenance trips to the pump station, the methods to reduce noise levels to within County standards shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications to provide continued noise reduction.						
Transportation and Traffic						
T-1: Traffic Management Plan						
The contractor shall submit a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to the County of Ventura, County of Santa Barbara, and Caltrans, as necessary, for review and approval prior to construction or issuance of applicable permits. The TMP shall: 1. Identify construction-related vehicle routes, especially trucks. Truck routes shall minimize travel on roadways where truck traffic is ordinarily not permitted or weight restrictions are imposed. 2. Identify proper precautions to protect all pavements, curb and gutter, sidewalks, and drainage structures from damage associated with truck traffic on project area roadways. 3. Identify emergency access routes and detours (if any) for emergency response along roadways potentially affected by project construction. Additionally, describe procedures in place to provide priority access for emergency service vehicles through the construction work zone.	Review and approve the TMP.	Prior to start of construction activities or issuance of applicable permits	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Submit TMP to applicable agencies for permit issuance, as needed.	Prior to start of construction activities, as needed	Casitas Municipal Water District			
	Field verify compliance with the TMP.	Periodically throughout construction activities	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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4. Describe traffic control measures to be implemented to manage traffic and reduce potential traffic impacts in accordance with the most recent version of the California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Traffic control measures may include, but are not limited to, flag persons, warning signs, lights, barricades and cones to provide safe passage of vehicular (including cars and buses), bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and access by emergency responders. 5. Identify off-street or turnout parking areas in which construction workers shall park and delineate those in the contractor specifications. 6. Identify the location of any transit stops and transit and bicycle routes which may be temporarily impacted by construction activities and identify places to temporarily relocate transit stops and transit and bicycle routes, if necessary. Describe signage to be used for relocated transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities during project construction.						
T-2: Emergency Service Providers						
The contractor shall notify emergency service providers (fire and police departments serving the project site) with construction contact names, locations, schedules, and traffic plans, if applicable, prior to the start of construction.	Verify information specified in the mitigation measure has been provided to emergency service providers.	Prior to commencement of construction activities	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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				Initial	Date	Comments
Construction Noise Controls						
The following noise control procedures shall be employed: a. Maximum Noise Levels within 1,000 Feet of any Residence, Business, or Other Populated Area: Noise levels for trenchers, pavers, graders and trucks shall not exceed 90 dBA at 50 feet as measured under the noisiest operating conditions. For all other equipment, noise levels shall not exceed 85 dBA at 50 feet. b. Equipment: Jack hammers shall be equipped with exhaust mufflers and steel muffling sleeves. Air compressors should be of a quiet type such as a "whisperized" compressor. c. Operations: Keep noisy equipment as far as possible from noise-sensitive site boundaries. Machines should not be left idling. Use electric power in lieu of internal combustion engine power wherever possible. Maintain equipment properly to reduce noise from excessive vibration, faulty mufflers, or other sources. All engines shall have mufflers. d. Scheduling: Schedule noisy operations so as to minimize their duration at any given location. e. Monitoring: To determine whether the above noise limits are being met and whether noise barriers are needed, the Contractor shall use a portable sound level meter meeting the requirements of American National Standards Institute Specification S1.4 for Type 2 sound level meters. If non-complying noise levels are found, the Contractor shall be responsible for monitoring and correction of excessive noise levels. Methods to reduce noise levels may include installation of temporary sound barriers/blankets between the construction equipment and the nearest sensitive receivers. The temporary barriers/blankets would be of sufficient height to block the line of sight between the equipment and receivers and would drape on the ground or be sealed at the ground.	Include noise control procedures in construction contractor specifications, as applicable.	Prior to the issuance of construction bid documents (for each construction phase)	Casitas Municipal Water District			

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Carpinteria Valley Water District

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue • Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 684-2816

STAFF REPORT

To: CVWD Board of Directors

From: Bob McDonald, General Manager

Date: August 4, 2023

Item VI.D. Consider authorizing President to execute IRWM Grant Sub Agreement with Santa Barbara County Water Agency

Background

The State of California developed an approach to water management that was based on regional collaboration in 2002 through the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Act. This approach later evolved into a program that was used to evaluate and distribute grants from the State. The Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) developed and coordinated agencies within the County to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The IRWMP Contains Projects accepted by the planning group. Through this program the District has applied for funding for various projects including El Carro Well, Central Zone Pipeline and CAPP. In 2020 a grant round under this program called, "Proposition 1 Round 2 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant" was released for application. CVWD requested to the IRWMP working group to consider funding for the CAPP in this funding round. There was only $3.5M available for all of Santa Barbara County. The CAPP was awarded $1.15M of the total available funding. Four Projects were selected including projects from COMB, Lompoc and Guadalupe.

Analysis

Because the SBCWA was the Grant applicant the funding agreement was structured to be between Department of Water and the SBCWA. In order for the obligations and funds to work as a pass-through for the County there must be sub-agreements with

each of the four agencies and SBCWA. Presented in your packet is the sub-agreement for consideration.

Recommendation

Authorize Board President to execute the Grant Sub-agreement as presented.

PROPOSITION 1
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT
SUBGRANT AGREEMENT

Between the Santa Barbara County Water Agency and Carpinteria Valley Water District

This Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management ("IRWM") Subgrant Agreement ("AGREEMENT") is made this _____ day of _____, 2023, between the Santa Barbara County Water Agency ("AGENCY") and the Carpinteria Valley Water District ("SUBGRANTEE") (collectively "PARTIES"), regarding the approved grant funded project component known as the Carpinteria Advanced Purification Project ("PROJECT COMPONENT").

RECITALS

A. AGENCY submitted a grant proposal and application to the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") for the Proposition 1 Implementation Round 2 IRWM Grant;

B. DWR has approved AGENCY'S grant application;

C. AGENCY is an eligible grant recipient, and is willing to serve as the single grantee for the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region under the Grant Agreement with DWR and to enter into Subgrant Agreements with the other public agencies for state-approved project components in the Santa Barbara County IRWM Plan and to act as the administrator of the grant, on the terms and conditions set forth herein;

D. SUBGRANTEE wishes to carry out the approved grant PROJECT COMPONENT known as the Regional Supply Pipeline Project and consents to implement PROJECT COMPONENT through this AGREEMENT with AGENCY;

E. AGENCY, as an eligible grant recipient, will enter into the Grant Agreement with DWR to implement the approved PROJECT COMPONENT and to administer the applicable grant requirements; and

F. SUBGRANTEE is willing and committed to meet all DWR requirements under the Grant Agreement for PROJECT COMPONENT, including providing matching funds or in-kind match activities, and will reimburse AGENCY for any administrative costs incurred by AGENCY or its contractors.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BY THE PARTIES THAT:

1. **Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

2. **Parties Roles.** AGENCY shall act as the grantee for the Santa Barbara County IRWM Region and enter into a Grant Agreement with DWR to implement the approved PROJECT COMPONENT and to administer the applicable grant requirements. AGENCY may contract with third parties for the administrative services called for in the Grant Agreement. SUBGRANTEE shall complete PROJECT COMPONENT in compliance with the Grant Agreement.

3. **Agency's Responsibilities.** Subject to DWR requirements and direction, and in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement, AGENCY shall:

a) Pay grant funds to SUBGRANTEE for work on PROJECT COMPONENT for activities completed in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement, upon receipt of grant funds for that work from the DWR;

b) Timely submit to DWR invoices, reports, and assurances received from SUBGRANTEE prepared to meet the accounting, reporting and other requirements in the Grant Agreement for PROJECT COMPONENT; and

c) Maintain files and accounts for PROJECT COMPONENT in accordance with the Grant Agreement and with assistance from AGENCY's consultant.

However, in acting pursuant to this AGREEMENT and the Grant Agreement:

d) AGENCY shall have no responsibility for maintenance of or insurance for PROJECT COMPONENT;

e) AGENCY is not acting as a surety. This AGREEMENT is not a performance, payment, completion or labor and materials bond. AGENCY does not guarantee or warrant that implementation of PROJECT COMPONENT will proceed, be completed, or that the grant funds for PROJECT COMPONENT will be sufficient to meet incurred expenses. AGENCY does not guarantee or warrant any studies, plans and specifications for PROJECT COMPONENT. AGENCY does not guarantee or warrant any estimated construction costs or budget set forth in either the grant application or Grant Agreement. AGENCY shall have no responsibility for any aspect of bidding and selection of consultants, contractors and subcontractors to perform any aspect of the work of PROJECT COMPONENT under this AGREEMENT. Instead, AGENCY is only acting as a conduit: 1) for transfer of grant funds to SUBGRANTEE for PROJECT COMPONENT in furtherance of the Grant Agreement, and 2) for the transmission of invoices, reports, financial information and state disclosure assurances and other information required by the Grant Agreement to be transmitted from SUBGRANTEE to AGENCY; and

f) AGENCY does not guarantee or warrant that it will pay any invoice submitted by SUBGRANTEE until funds for approved invoices have actually been transmitted by DWR to AGENCY. AGENCY assumes no liability to any entity, including but not limited to, SUBGRANTEE, and any consultants, contractors and subcontractors on PROJECT COMPONENT for any delays or reductions by DWR in approval or transmittal of grant funds to AGENCY.

4. **Subgrantee's Responsibilities.** SUBGRANTEE shall:

a) Carry out, build and/or perform PROJECT COMPONENT in accordance with all requirements for PROJECT COMPONENT as set forth in the Grant Agreement, attached hereto as Exhibit 1. All Exhibits are incorporated herein by this reference and SUBGRANTEE agrees to be bound to and comply with all of the terms, conditions, and obligations contained within the Exhibits. SUBGRANTEE shall allow AGENCY and DWR access to any work sites or other areas associated with the project for the purpose of making observations or conduction any necessary tests or studies;

b) Prepare and submit project documents in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement;

c) Fulfill all assurances, declarations, representations and commitments made by SUBGRANTEE in support of SUBGRANTEE's request for grant funds. SUBGRANTEE agrees to all requirements and limitations of the Grant Agreement for PROJECT COMPONENT;

d) Return any audit disallowance, including, but not limited to, any interest, penalties and other costs or expenses, related to PROJECT COMPONENT, as provided in the Grant Agreement to AGENCY for transmission to DWR;

e) Be solely responsible for compliance with all applicable laws, policies and regulations in carrying out this AGREEMENT and PROJECT COMPONENT, in accordance with the Grant Agreement;

f) Proceed with all reasonable diligence in: (i) the commencement and completion of PROJECT COMPONENT; (ii) submission of written reports identified in the Grant Agreement, including providing AGENCY a Project Completion Report, and Post Performance Reports annually for a total of three years after the PROJECT COMPENENT begins operation, financial information, insurance, bonds, and assurances required by the Grant Agreement for PROJECT COMPONENT; and (iii) submittal of requests for payment fully compliant with the Grant Agreement, and accompanied by written verification certified under penalty of perjury that the request for payment is truthful and accurate and the described costs have all been incurred solely for PROJECT COMPONENT; and

g) SUBGRANTEE shall include in each of its contracts for work under this Agreement a provision that requires appropriate acknowledgement of credit to the State for its support when promoting the Project or using any data and/or information developed under this Grant Agreement. Signage shall be posted in a prominent location at the Project site(s) (if applicable) or at the SUBGRANTEE's headquarters and shall include the Department of Water Resources color logo and the following disclosure statement: "Funding for this project has been provided in full or in part from the Water Quality, Supply, and

Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources."

5. **Altering the Project Component.** In the event SUBGRANTEE wishes to substantially alter the schedule, materials, methods or deliverables related to PROJECT COMPONENT, SUBGRANTEE shall immediately provide notice to AGENCY as set forth in the Grant Agreement. AGENCY shall timely forward SUBGRANTEE's request for alteration to DWR for its consideration. No alternations will be allowed unless approved by DWR and AGENCY in writing.

6. **Grant Communications**. SUBGRANTEE's questions and other communications related to the Grant Agreement or performance of work under the Grant Agreement shall be directed to AGENCY's representatives for resolution with DWR. AGENCY shall promptly relay SUBGRANTEE's questions and communications to DWR.

7. Funding and Budgets.

a) SUBGRANTEE shall pay or cause to be paid and provide all required grant matching funds or in-kind matching services for PROJECT COMPONENT, shall provide all necessary environmental review, and shall obtain all required permits for PROJECT COMPONENT.

b) AGENCY and SUBGRANTEE agree that the initial budget for PROJECT COMPONENT is:

Proposition 1	Cost Share: Non-State Fund Source	Other Cost Share	Total
$1,150,610	**$3,018,072**	**$443,610**	**$4,612,292**

This budget may be adjusted in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

c) AGENCY shall use all funds it receives for PROJECT COMPONENT from DWR under the Grant Agreement solely and exclusively for the purposes set out in this AGREEMENT for PROJECT COMPONENT; provided, however, that AGENCY shall not be responsible for any funds paid out as a result of error, fraud, forgery or misrepresentation.

d) It is agreed by the PARTIES that if any applicable federal or state budget act of the current year and/or any subsequent years does not appropriate sufficient funds for the grant, then this AGREEMENT shall be suspended until such time as funding is appropriated. This AGREEMENT shall terminate if the Grant Agreement is canceled by DWR. In this event, except for those funds already received from DWR and approved for payment for work on PROJECT COMPONENT, AGENCY shall have no liability to transmit any funds for work on PROJECT COMPONENT to SUBGRANTEE. SUBGRANTEE agrees to indemnify and defend and hold AGENCY harmless from any claims asserted against AGENCY by any person or entity in the event that the applicable federal or state budget act does not appropriate sufficient fund for PROJECT COMPONENT.

e) SUBGRANTEE agrees that any fund retention applied by DWR to satisfy the Grant Agreement may delay disbursement of the retention amount to AGENCY and therefore SUBGRANTEE.

8. **Designated Representative.** The signature of SUBGRANTEE's Project Manager, Robert McDonald, on the requests for payment to AGENCY submitted by SUBGRANTEE shall conclusively and finally establish the right of AGENCY to draw checks as

so requested, subject to AGENCY's performance of its responsibilities as the Local Project Sponsor pursuant to the Grant Agreement, and subject to the DWR's transmittal of grant monies to AGENCY for PROJECT COMPONENT and subject to SUBGRANTEE's compliance with the Grant Agreement. Changes to authorized signatures shall be accomplished by written notice from SUBGRANTEE to AGENCY pursuant to Section 19 (Notices).

9. **Indemnification.** SUBGRANTEE shall indemnify and hold and save the AGENCY, its officers, agents, and employees, free and harmless from any and all liabilities for any claims and damages (including inverse condemnation) that may arise out of PROJECT COMPONENT and this AGREEMENT, including, but not limited to any claims or damages arising from planning, design, construction, maintenance and/or operation of PROJECT COMPONENT and any breach of this AGREEMENT. SUBGRANTEE shall require its contractors or subcontractors to name the AGENCY, its officers, agents and employees as additional insureds on their liability insurance for activities undertaken pursuant to this AGREEMENT. SUBGRANTEE shall also require its contractors or subcontractors to name DWR, its officers, agents and employees as additional insureds on their liability insurance for activities undertaken pursuant to this AGREEMENT.

10. **Insurance**. AGENCY shall not be responsible for securing insurance, including, but not limited to, protection against loss or damage to PROJECT COMPONENT or any pre-purchased materials for said PROJECT COMPONENT, including, but not limited to, losses due to the following: fire, earthquake, vandalism or theft. AGENCY is not responsible or liable for any loss or damage resulting from the failure to secure insurance or from any lack of coverage. At a minimum, SUBGRANTEE shall provide all insurance coverages as required for PROJECT COMPONENT in the Grant Agreement.

SUBGRANTEE, at its sole expense, shall ensure that AGENCY, including its board, officers, consultants, employees, agents and volunteers, and that DWR, including its officers, employees, and agents, are named as additional insured, and insured in the same amount as SUBGRANTEE, on all insurance policies which SUBGRANTEE is required to obtain pursuant to the Grant Agreement. SUBGRANTEE agrees to provide AGENCY with written documentation that AGENCY and DWR have been so named as an additional insured on all insurance policies which SUBGRANTEE is required to obtain pursuant to the Grant Agreement.

11. **Assignment.** AGENCY shall not be obligated to recognize any assignment of this AGREEMENT by SUBGRANTEE to any third party, except as agreed to in writing by AGENCY and SUBGRANTEE.

12. **Severability.** Should any provision of this AGREEMENT be found invalid, such invalidity shall not, in any way, affect the remaining provisions of this AGREEMENT.

13. **Third Party Beneficiaries.** This AGREEMENT is only for the benefit of the PARTIES and not for the benefit of any third party, other than DWR and AGENCY.

14. **Independence of Contracting Parties.** Nothing in this AGREEMENT shall create any contractual relationship between any contractor, subcontractor, or consultants of SUBGRANTEE and AGENCY. SUBGRANTEE agrees to be fully responsible to AGENCY for the acts and omissions of its contractors, subcontractors, consultants and persons either directly or indirectly employed by them as it is for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by SUBGRANTEE. SUBGRANTEE's obligation to pay its contractors, subcontractors, and consultants is independent of the obligation of DWR to transmit monies to AGENCY. AGENCY has no obligation to transmit monies to any contractor, subcontractor, or consultant of SUBGRANTEE.

15. **Term.** The term of this AGREEMENT shall be the same as, and coincide with, the term of the Grant Agreement, incorporated herein by this reference.

Upon completion of construction or performance of PROJECT COMPONENT or termination of this AGREEMENT, AGENCY shall: 1) disburse to SUBGRANTEE any remaining sums of money in the account approved by DWR for payment to SUBGRANTEE, which have not already been disbursed by AGENCY to SUBGRANTEE, and 2) distribute pro rata refunds to SUBGRANTEE of unexpended administrative cost contributions.

16. **Termination.** This AGREEMENT shall terminate upon the earlier of: (i) written notice from the DWR or AGENCY and SUBGRANTEE of insufficient appropriations and cancellation of the Grant Agreement; (ii) AGENCY's disbursement of all funds for PROJECT COMPONENT pursuant to this AGREEMENT by October 31, 2026 plus 35 years; or (iii) termination of the AGREEMENT by AGENCY due to breach as set forth below.

Termination for Breach. PARTIES agree that if SUBGRANTEE abandons carrying out PROJECT COMPONENT or fails to cure any breach of this AGREEMENT within 30 days of receipt of Notice of Breach from AGENCY, then AGENCY may, in its sole discretion serve written notice to SUBGRANTEE that AGENCY intends to terminate this AGREEMENT due to SUBGRANTEE's breach in 30 days and, if the breach is not timely and reasonably cured, terminate this AGREEMENT.

17. **Record Retention.**

a) For a period of five (5) years after completion of PROJECT COMPONENT or as otherwise required by the Grant Agreement, AGENCY shall retain a copy of records of: (i) AGENCY deposits into, and disbursements from, accounts for PROJECT COMPONENT; (ii) requests for payment received from

SUBGRANTEE; and (iii) AGENCY inspection of SUBGRANTEE requests for payment on PROJECT COMPONENT. Upon prior written request from DWR or SUBGRANTEE, AGENCY shall provide DWR or SUBGRANTEE reasonable access to inspect such records on AGENCY premises during normal business hours.

b) For a period of ten (10) years after completion of PROJECT COMPONENT, SUBGRANTEE shall maintain copies of all financial records related to PROJECT COMPONENT, shall make those records available to AGENCY upon request, and shall provide reports and/or operational data upon request of AGENCY for the purpose of reporting to DWR or other data collection purposes.

18. **Authority.** Each PARTY represents and warrants that each person signing this AGREEMENT on behalf of the PARTY, has legal authority to sign this AGREEMENT and bind that PARTY.

19. **Notices.** Notice pursuant to this AGREEMENT shall be sent by United States Mail and by electronic transmission to the following representatives for the PARTIES.

SUBGRANTEE:
Carpinteria Valley Water District
1301 Santa Ynez Ave, Carpinteria, CA 93013, United States Attn: Janet Gingras
Attn: Robert McDonald
(805) 684-2816
bob@cvwd.net

AGENCY:
Santa Barbara County Water Agency
130 E Victoria St., Suite 200
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Attn: Matthew Young
(805) 568-3546
mcyoung@cosbpw.net

PARTIES may change representatives and addresses upon written notice to the other PARTIES.

20. **Law and Venue.** This AGREEMENT is entered into, and shall be construed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California. Any litigation regarding this AGREEMENT or its contents shall be filed in the County of Santa Barbara, if in state court, or in the federal district court nearest to Santa Barbara County, if in federal court.

21. **Negotiated Agreement**. This AGREEMENT has been negotiated between the PARTIES and reviewed by their respective Counsel, and shall not be construed against any Party as the drafting party.

22. **Counterparts.** This AGREEMENT will be considered binding and effective when it has been fully executed by PARTIES. This AGREEMENT may be executed in counterpart originals, with all counterparts taken as a whole constituting the complete AGREEMENT.

23. **Headings.** The headings of the sections shall be solely for convenience of reference and shall not affect the meaning, construction or effect hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, having read the foregoing and having understood and agreed to the terms of this AGREEMENT, PARTIES voluntarily affix their signatures below.

AGENCY:

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
SCOTT D. MCGOLPIN
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

By:_____

Date: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
RACHEL VANMULLEM

COUNTY COUNSEL

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
GREG MILIGAN
RISK MANAGER

By: _____
Risk Management

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
BETSY M. SCHAFFER, CPA
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

By:_____
Deputy

SUBGRANTEE:

CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT 1

GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
(DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES) AND
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
AGREEMENT NUMBER 4600014975
PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 2 INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM)
IMPLEMENTATION GRANT

Carpinteria Valley Water District

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue • Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 684-2816

To: CVWD Board of Directors
From: Bob McDonald, General Manager
Date: August 4, 2023

For Consideration: Item VI. E & F – Annexation of two parcels at 3197 Padaro Lane into CVWDs service area.

Background

Staff reviews water services records and parcel locations from time to time. During a recent review several parcels were identified to be outside the District Boundary (service area) but still receiving water service from the District. In some cases, this may be done through an exchange agreement with a neighboring agency. In the case of two parcels located at 3197 Padaro Lane, there was no agreement and appears to have happened from an oversight many years ago. Staff further investigated and determined that the parcel was, in fact, in Montecito Water District's (MWD) service area. MWD does not have infrastructure in the area to serve this parcel. After discussions with MWD, Staff determined that an annexation into CVWD of the parcel was the appropriate action to take.

Analysis

In order to annex the parcels, CVWD will need to make an application with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to consider the proposed annexation. The action will require that CVWD complete a CEQA review and make a determination which staff has completed and is the item for consideration on Item VI. E on the agenda, and initiate the annexation proceedings by resolution, which is Item VI. F on the agenda.

Recommendation

Adopt Resolution 1146 and 1147 approving CEQA exemption finding and initiating the annexation proceedings.

RESOLUTION 1146
RESOLUTION OF THE CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT THAT THE ANNEXATION OF PARCELS ALREADY SERVED BY CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT IS CATEOGRICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, the Carpinteria Valley Water District desires to annex two properties into its service area (APN PARCELS 005-390-078 & 005-390-080); and

WHEREAS, the Carpinteria Valley Water District currently serves the properties and has for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Carpinteria Valley Water District has considered the application of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), and the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.) to the approval of the Project as described in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the District Staff has identified the appropriate categorical exemptions (Class 19) that applies to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the District has determined the parcels to be annexed are currently in a land use consistent with the zoning designations; and

WHEREAS, the District has considered whether there are any known facts associated with the Project or its location that, pursuant to section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, would give rise to circumstances or considerations that disallow reliance on these categorical exemptions, and has determined that no such facts exist; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Carpinteria Valley Water District as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and correct, and Board of Directors hereby so finds.

2. The Board finds that the Project described in Exhibit A is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to the following exemptions: a) CEQA Guidelines Section 15319 (a), Annexations of Existing Facilities and Lots for Exempt Facilities. (Class 19)

3. The Board directs the District General Manager or his designees to file the required CEQA Notice of Exemption ("NOE") with the Clerk of the Board Office for Santa Barbara County and the State Clearing House.

Vote on the Resolution by roll call resulted as follows:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th Day of August 2023

APPROVED:

_____

Case Van Wingerden, President

Attest:

_____

Robert McDonald, Secretary

EXHIBIT A:

Carpinteria Valley Water District Padaro Lane Annexation

Created by CVWD Engineering

July 2023

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: ANNEXATION OF PARCELS ALREADY SERVED BY CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (APN PARCELS 005-390-078 & 005-390-080)

Project Location: Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County, California

Project Description:

The annexation of two parcels (005-390-078 & 005-390-080) into Carpinteria Valley Water District's boundary, which are currently within Montecito Water District's boundary. The parcels are presently served water by Carpinteria Valley Water District. The two parcels will be detached from Montecito Water District and annexed into Carpinteria Valley Water District to correct the boundaries of the adjacent agencies and accurately reflect the parcels that each District serves. This is a boundary adjustment only and no additional facilities or modifications to water infrastructure are required.

Name of Lead Agency: Carpinteria Valley Water District

Agency Carrying out the Project: Carpinteria Valley Water District

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☑ Categorical Exemption. State type and Section number Class 19, Section 15319
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number _____

Why Is the Project Exempt from CEQA:

The annexation is to a special district and the parcels being annexed are developed to the density allowed by the current Santa Barbara County zoning of 8-R-1, single family residential. No extension of utility services are required to serve the existing facilities (residence) as Carpinteria Valley Water District already has a water service line and water meter that provide water to both parcels.

Contact Person/info: Robert McDonald, General Manager CVWD

1301 Santa Ynez Ave

Carpinteria, CA 93013

(805) 684-2816

Signature:_____ Date:_____

Title:_____

RESOLUTION NO. 1147

RESOLUTION OF APPLICATION OF THE CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT INITIATING PROCEEDINGS FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PARCELS ALREADY SERVED BY CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT (APN PARCELS 005-390-078 & 005-390-080, hereafter the "Properties")

WHEREAS, the Carpinteria Valley Water District desires to initiate a proceeding for the adjustment of boundaries specified herein; and

WHEREAS, The Properties are currently being served by Carpinteria Valley Water District; and

WHEREAS, The Properties are currently within Montecito Water District;

WHEREAS, Carpinteria Valley Water District is the Lead agency under CEQA and has prepared a Notice of Exemption for adoption by the Board of Directors;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. This proposal is made, and it is requested that proceedings be taken, pursuant to the Cortese/Knox/Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, commencing with section 56000 of the California Government Code.

2. This proposal is an annexation of the Properties to the District.

3. A map of the affected territory is set forth in ***Exhibit A***, attached hereto and by reference incorporated herein.

4. It is desired that the proposal be subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. The proposal is subject to the terms and conditions that the annexed territory shall be liable for any existing or authorized taxes, charges, fees or assessments comparable to other properties presently within the District.

5. The reason for the proposal is to adjust boundary discrepancies between the Carpinteria Valley Water District and the Montecito Water District and align them with current services.

6. The proposal is consistent with the Sphere of Influence of the annexing District. The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) recently moved these parcels into Carpinteria Valley Water District's Sphere of Influence after LAFCO was made aware that the

Carpinteria Valley Water District has served these parcels for decades with an existing water service and meter, whereas Montecito Water District does not have water infrastructure serving the properties.

7. Consent is hereby given to the waiver of conducting authority proceedings.

Vote on the Resolution by roll call resulted as follows:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 9th Day of August, 2023

APPROVED:

_____
Case Van Wingerden, President

Attest:

_____
Robert McDonald, Secretary

Carpinteria Valley Water District

1301 Santa Ynez Avenue • Carpinteria, CA 93013
Phone (805) 684-2816

STAFF REPORT

To: CVWD Board of Directors

From: Bob McDonald, General Manager

Date: August 4, 2023

Item VI.G. Consider authorizing President to Enter into a temporary Construction Easement Agreement for the CAPP Project.

Background

The CAPP final design is underway. One of the first things on the final design schedule is to begin acquiring necessary land rights for the construction and operation for the CAPP facilities. There are several locations where Land rights will be necessary for the project. The CAPP team has begun working on acquiring the necessary land rights. Eugenia Spaces, llc is a location where a temporary construction easement is necessary to install a section of the proposed pipeline that will deliver purified water to the injection well site. The area is as depicted on the map attached to the agreemnt and will require the use of an area of parking lot while the pipeline is being installed.

Analysis

The agreement is based on an appraised value of the portion of property that will be encumbered for 90 days. The value of $11,980 in the agreement is reflective of the appraisal completed by the District. The payment of funds from the District to Eugenia Spaces llc will occur upon execution of the agreement but the land rights will persist until construction is completed.

Recommendation

Authorize Board President to execute the Temporary Construction Agreement as presented.

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AGREEMENT

Project: Carpinteria Valley Water District – Carpinteria Advanced Purification Project
APN: 003-162-011
Property Address: 1145 Eugenia Place, Carpinteria, California
Owner: Eugenia Spaces, LLC

This TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AGREEMENT (hereinafter called "Agreement"), covering the property particularly described below has been executed by and between Eugenia Spaces, LLC (hereinafter called "Grantor"), and the Carpinteria Valley Water District, hereinafter called "DISTRICT".

In consideration of which, and the other considerations hereinafter set forth, it is mutually agreed as follows:

1. The parties have herein set forth the whole of their agreement. The performance of this agreement constitutes the entire consideration for this Agreement and shall relieve the District of all further obligation or claims on this account, or on account of the location, grade or construction of the proposed improvement.

2. The District shall pay the undersigned Grantor the sum of **$11,800** as consideration for this Temporary Construction Easement. Said sum shall be paid within thirty days of the date of District acceptance and execution of this Agreement.

3. Permission is hereby granted the District or its authorized agent to enter Grantor's land and to utilize the Temporary Construction Easement area for construction access, including the right to pile earth thereon, store materials, supplies and equipment thereon, and utilize said Temporary Construction Easement for all other related activities and purposes in conjunction with the Carpinteria Valley Advanced Purification Project. The Temporary Construction Easement area is shown on attached Exhibit A and is incorporated herein.

4. It is agreed and confirmed by the parties hereto that said Temporary Construction Easement shall commence ten days after written notice of commencement of construction and shall automatically terminate upon completion of construction, or ninety (90) days after the commencement, whichever occurs first. Grantor shall have use of the temporary easement area until District takes physical possession.

5. Upon completion of construction, the District shall generally restore the Temporary Easement Area to a comparable or better condition as that which existed prior to District's project construction, as shown in the attached exhibit B, to the extent reasonably practical.

6. The undersigned Grantor(s) warrant(s) that they are the owner(s) in fee simple of the property affected by this Temporary Easement area as shown in the attached exhibit A and that they have the exclusive right to grant this Temporary Construction Easement.

7. District agrees to hold Grantor harmless from and against any injury, liability, damage or losses that may result from the exercise by the District of the rights granted under this Agreement and agrees to protect the condition of Owner's property and replace or repair

any portion of the property that is damaged by District while performing the above described work.

8. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which so executed shall irrespective of the date of its execution and delivery be deemed an original, and all such counterparts together shall constitute one and the same document.

9. In the event that the parties hereto utilize electronic or facsimile documents which include signatures, such documents shall be accepted as if they bore original signatures and shall be deemed in the same full binding effect of original signatures.

In Witness Whereof, the Parties have executed this agreement the day and year written below.

GRANTOR
Eugenia Spaces, LLC, a California limited liability company

DocuSigned by:
By:_____ Date: 4/14/2023
05522E2F5141449...
Petrus Overgaag
Managing Member

CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By: _____ _____
Date

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT AND FORM

By: _____ _____
Date

ATTEST:

By: _____

Exhibit "A"

LEGEND:
- PERMANENT EASEMENT
- TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT (TCE)
- FENCE, FUTURE
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED PIPELINE

NOTE: CVWD WATERLINE AND CSD SEWER LINE ARE NOT SHOWN

SCALE: 1"=20'

0 20 40 60

SCALE IN FEET

LINDEN AVE

APN: 003-162-011

APN: 003-162-012

12' TCE

PROPOSED PIPELINE

12 FT

EXISTING CARPINTERIA SANITARY DISTRICT EASEMENT

CONSTRUCTION R/W – CITY ENCROACHMENT PERMIT REQUIRED

CONSTRUCTION R/W – CITY ENCROACHMENT PERMIT REQUIRED

EUGENIA PL

DENSE TREES

CTV

A10

SITE PLAN

1"=20'

FILENAME: 0011517-Easements 1-20-23 08:27pm zwang | XREFS: X-CVWD-TBLK | contour_1ft | XR-Utilities-Existing | Carpinteria CAPP | Carpinteria CAPP DTM |<<--

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

0" — 1" VERIFY SCALES BAR IS ONE INCH LONG ON FULL SIZE DRAWING. IF NOT ONE INCH LONG ON THIS DRAWING, ADJUST SCALES ACCORDINGLY

WOODARD & CURRAN

REV	DATE	BY	APVD	DESCRIPTION

DESIGNED BY: J. ANKETELL
DRAWN BY: J. ANKETELL
CHECKED BY: K. ERICKSON

SUBMITTED: ENGR C____
APPROVED: PROJ ENGR C____

CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

CARPINTERIA ADVANCED PURIFICATION PROJECT, PURIFIED INJECTION WELLS ABOVE GRADE, 50% DESIGN

EUGENIA PLACE EASEMENTS

DWG NO
SHEET NO . OF .
PROJ NO 0011517.00
DATE January 2022

Last Saved By: zwang 1-20-23 08:21pm

SITE PLAN
1"=20'

FILENAME: 0011517-Easements 1-20-23 08:27pm zwang | XREFS: X-CVWD-TBLK | contour_1ft | XR-Utilities-Existing | Carpinteria CAPP | Carpinteria CAPP DTM |<<--

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

0" 1" — VERIFY SCALES — BAR IS ONE INCH LONG ON FULL SIZE DRAWING. IF NOT ONE INCH LONG ON THIS DRAWING, ADJUST SCALES ACCORDINGLY

WOODARD & CURRAN

REV	DATE	BY	APVD	DESCRIPTION

DESIGNED BY:	J. ANKETELL
DRAWN BY:	J. ANKETELL
CHECKED BY:	K. ERICKSON

SUBMITTED: _____ ENGR C____

APPROVED: _____ PROJ ENGR C____

CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

CARPINTERIA ADVANCED PURIFICATION PROJECT,
PURIFIED INJECTION WELLS ABOVE GRADE, 50% DESIGN

EUGENIA PLACE EASEMENTS

DWG NO	
SHEET NO	. OF .
PROJ NO	0011517.00
DATE	January 2022

Last Saved By: zwang 1-20-23 08:21pm

Exhibit B to Temporary Construction Easement Agreement

APN 003-162-011 / 1145 Eugenia Place, Carpinteria, California

Carpinteria Valley Water District – Carpinteria Valley Advanced Purification Project

Carpinteria Valley Water District

Memo

To: Bob McDonald, General Manager

From: Rhonda Gutierrez, Engineering Technician

cc: Brian King, District Engineer

Date: 08/02/2023

Re: 2023 CVWD WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest. Winners

The winners of the 2023 CVWD WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest are Ed and Annalisa McGee.

The McGee's have owned their home since 1995 and maintained the front lawn for over 28 years with minimal water, aeration, and examination of soil moisture to keep it healthy. Last year, a friend that is a landscape architect steered the McGees toward their vision of a landscape focused on water conservation, easy maintenance, and curb appeal. In July of 2022, they took the leap to remove the approximately 970 square foot lawn with Ed executing the design and installation of the new front yard garden landscape.

The front yard garden is flanked on one side by pittsporum nigricans. There is a non-fruit producing olive tree, dymondia, kangaroo paw, as well as a number of carex pansas and lomandras throughout the plant beds. Plenty of mulch keeps the soil moist and the plants thriving with minimal irrigation using drip irrigation. The irrigation controller remained off during the recent wet season because the mulch kept the soil moist throughout that entire time; currently Ed has manually adjusted and set the irrigation controller for 5 minutes, twice a week.

Other water conservation elements utilized by the McGees to keep their landscape irrigation to a minimum include attaching flexible downspout extensions during rain events to direct water onto the landscape instead of allowing it to flow to the street and capturing rainwater in 5-gallon buckets. A rock drainage area and cut flagstone also help keep water from flowing off the landscape area.

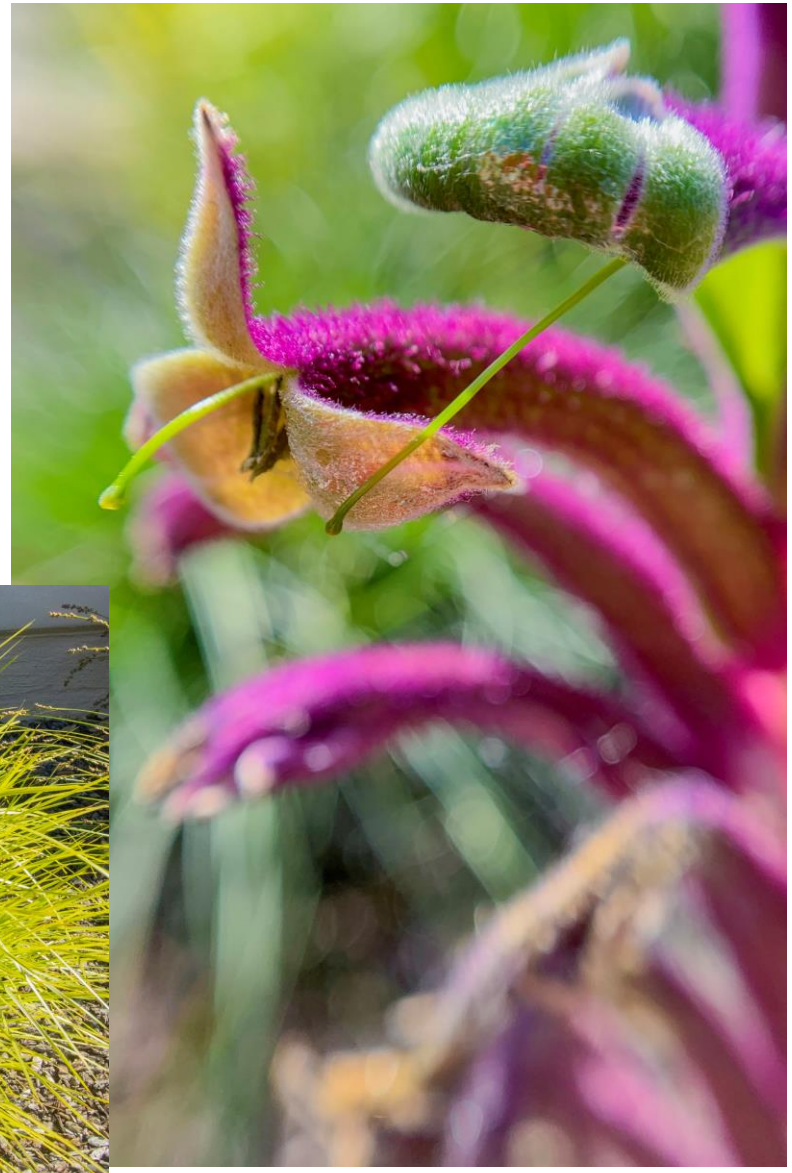
The McGees love sitting on their rockers enjoying their front yard garden as the low water use grasses and olive tree blow wispily when there is breeze.

2023 Carpinteria Valley Water District

WaterWise Garden Recognition Contest Winners – Ed and Annalisa McGee

McGee Residence Prior to Lawn Removal

McGee’s Winning WaterWise Garden



A Meeting of the

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY

will be held at 9:00 a.m., on Thursday, July 27, 2023
at 255 Industrial Way, Buellton, California 93427

Members of the public may participate by video call or telephone via
URL: https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1452566282
or by dialing (623)404-9000 and entering access Code/Meeting ID: 145 256 6282 #

Please note: public participation by video call or telephone is for convenience only and is not required by law. If technical interruptions to the video call/telephone occur, the chair has the discretion to continue the meeting and participants are invited to take advantage of the other participation options above.

Public Comment on agenda items may occur via video call or telephonically, or by submission to the Board Secretary via email at lfw@ccwa.com no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. In your email, please specify (1) the meeting date and agenda item (number and title) on which you are providing a comment and (2) that you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting. If you would like your comment read into the record during the meeting (as either general public comment or on a specific agenda item), please limit your comments to no more than 250 words.

Every effort will be made to read comments into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Please also note that if you submit a written comment and do not specify that you would like this comment read into the record during the meeting, your comment will be forwarded to Board members for their consideration.

Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Board less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available on the CCWA internet web site, accessible at https://www.ccwa.com.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Closed Session

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d) (4): 1 case

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
Government Code section 54956.9(d) (1)
Name of case: Central Coast Water Authority, et al. v. Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, et al. (Case No. 21CV02432)

III. Return to Open Session

IV. Public Comment – (Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. Individual Speakers may be limited to five minutes; all speakers to a total of fifteen minutes.)

V. Election of Officers and Committee Appointments

Staff Recommendation: Take nominations from Board.
[Motion: Elect Chairperson]
[Motion: Elect Vice Chairperson]
[Motion: Elect Treasurer]
[Motion: Elect Secretary]

VI. Consent Calendar

✷ A. Minutes of the May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting
✷ B. Bills
✷ C. Controller's Report
✷ D. Operations Report

Staff Recommendation: Approve the Consent Calendar

255 Industrial Way
Buellton, CA 93427
(805) 688-2292
Fax (805) 686-4700
www.ccwa.com

Continued

✷ Indicates attachment of document to original agenda packet.
& Additional materials related to this item may be posted prior to the meeting.

VII. Executive Director's Report

A. Water Supply Situation Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

& B. Surplus Water Transfer Program – Resolution 23-06 To Approve Surplus Water Transfer Program
Staff Recommendation: Approve Resolution 23-06.

✶ C. Ernst & Young Audit Report on the 2023 Statement of Charges
Staff Recommendation: Accept report.

D. DWR Calendar Year 2024 Statement of Charges
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

✶ E. FY 2022/23 Fourth Quarter Investment Report
Staff Recommendation: Accept report.

✶ F. 2023 Update to the Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – Resolution 23-07 Repealing Resolution No. 15-01 and Adopting the Amended Local Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21000, et seq.);
Staff Recommendation:
1. Approve Resolution No. 23-07 and
2. Determine that the Board's adoption of Resolution No. 23-07 is exempt from CEQA for the reasons set forth in the Staff Report and the Resolution.

✶ G. Approval of Contract with The Widroe Group, Inc. for CCWA Staff Recruitment Services – Anticipated Expense $51,800
Staff Recommendation: Approve retention of The Widroe Group, Inc. to provide recruitment services for the vacant CCWA Operations Manager and Safety Officer positions and authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary contracts.

H. State Water Contractors Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

✶ I. Legislative Report
Staff Recommendation: Informational item only.

VIII. Reports from Board Members for Information Only

IX. Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda

X. Date of Next Regular Meeting: September 28, 2023
Consider canceling August 24, 2023 Meeting

XI. Adjournment