Appendix A:
Initial Study, Notice of Preparation (IS/NOP), Comments on IS/NOP, Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet

A.1 - Initial Study and Notice of Preparation

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE BEAUMONT AVENUE RECHARGE FACILITY AND PIPELINE PROJECT IN THE CITY OF BEAUMONT AND THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Date: November 13, 2012

To: Office of Planning and Research, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies and Other Interested Parties

From: Jeff Davis, P.E., General Manager

Subject: Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline Project

In compliance with Section 15082(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), as the Lead Agency, has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project generally described below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approvals for the project.

The SGPWA will prepare a Project EIR in accordance with Section 15161 of the State CEQA Guidelines. This NOP provides information describing the project and the potential environmental effects to enable the Office of Planning and Research and the Responsible and Trustee agencies to make a meaningful response to the SGPWA regarding the scope and content of the environmental issues that will be evaluated in the EIR. The SGPWA is also inviting comments from the public regarding the scope and content of the environmental issues to be evaluated in the EIR.

A complete project description, location, and probable environmental effects are contained in the attached Initial Study. The Initial Study is also available for review at the following website.

http://www.sgpwa.com/reports.asp

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but ***not later than 30 days*** after receipt of this notice. Please send your response to **Jeff Davis** at the address provided below. Please provide the name of a contact person at your agency along with your response.

Project Title: Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline

Project Description: The project includes the construction and operation of a recharge facility, pipeline, and a service connection facility. The recharge facility is proposed to be located on an approximately 44-acre parcel and consists of a series of five tiered basins, separated by berms. The perimeter of the recharge facility is proposed to include raised embankments. The pipeline is proposed to extend from the recharge facility to the service connection facility. The pipeline will be 24-inches in diameter and will extend north

from the recharge facility along Beaumont Avenue for approximately 5,600 linear feet and west along Orchard Street for approximately 1,400 feet. The service connection facility is located on an approximately 3.5-acre site located south of Orchard Street and west of the Mountain View Channel. The service connection facility is proposed to divert raw, imported water from the existing 36-inch East Branch Extension/Noble Creek pipeline located at the intersection of Orchard Street and Mountain View Avenue. During the construction phase of the project, construction equipment, vehicles, and materials could be stored at up to four staging areas: the recharge facility site, within the Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street rights-of-way adjacent to the portion of the pipeline undergoing installation, the service connection site, and/or an approximately 3.4-acre triangular parcel located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel. For a full description of the proposed project, please review the Notice of Preparation at the website referenced above.

Project Applicant: San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

Date: 11-12-12 Signature: Jeffrey W Davis

Title: General Manager

Address: 1210 Beaumont Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223

Telephone: 951.845.2577

E-mail: JDavis@sgpwa.com

Reference: Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Initial Study
Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline
City of Beaumont, County of Riverside, California

Prepared for:

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223
951.845.2577

Contact: Jeff Davis, P.E.
General Manager

Prepared by:

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Contact: Michael Houlihan, AICP
Manager of Environmental Services

Michael Brandman Associates

November 13, 2012

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List of Exhibits

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

afy	acre-feet per year
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
BMP	best management practices
BPD	Beaumont Police Department
BUSD	Beaumont Unified School District
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
I	Interstate
IS	Initial Study
LOS	level of service
MCL	maximum contaminant levels
mg/l	milligrams per liter
MRO	Mineral Resource Overlay
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
NO_2	nitrous dioxide
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NO_X	nitrous oxides
OSHA	United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PM_{10}	particulate matter, including dust, 10 micrometers or less in diameter
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter, including dust, 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter
RAFSS	Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub
RCFD	Riverside County Fire Department
RCRA	Resource conservation and Recovery Act
REC	Recognized Environmental Concern
RSS	Riversidean sage scrub
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District

SGPWA	San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
SMGB	State Mining and Geology Board
SPA	Specific Plan Area
SR	State Route
SWP	State Water Project
TDS	total dissolved solids
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 - Purpose

This Initial Study (IS) was prepared for the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), and evaluates the potential environmental effects that could result from the construction and operation activities associated with the Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility (proposed project). This IS has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA [Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.]), the Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA published by the Resources Agency of the State of California (Title 14, Cal. Code Regs., 15000 et seq.), and the SGPWA Local CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of this IS is to conduct a preliminary environmental review of the proposed project to focus the scope of environmental review and to determine the environmental issues that will and will not require further evaluation in the project-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The SGPWA has primary responsibility for approval or denial of the proposed project. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 15367 of the CEQA Guidelines, the SGPWA is the lead agency in the preparation of a project-level EIR.

This IS is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 1 - Introduction.** Describes the project location and its environmental setting, as well as provides a description of the proposed project.
- **Section 2 - Environmental Checklist.** Provides an environmental checklist that identifies the level of impact associated with each environmental issue.
- **Section 3 - Discussion of Environmental Evaluation.** Provides a narrative discussion of each environmental issue contained in the environmental checklist.
- **Section 4 - References.** Provides a list of references used in the preparation of this document.
- **Section 5 - List of Preparers.** Provides a list of preparers of this Initial Study.

1.2 - History

The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA) was formed to import water from the State Water Project (SWP) into the San Gorgonio Pass area in 1961. The SGPWA's mission is to import and sell supplemental water to protect and enhance local water supplies for use by present and future water users within SGPWA's service area. This service area encompasses approximately 225 square miles and includes the Cities of Beaumont, Calimesa, Banning, as well as unincorporated areas of Riverside County, including Cherry Valley, Cabazon, Poppet Flat, and Banning Ranch.

The most heavily developed portion of the SGPWA's service area is the Beaumont Basin. This Basin is currently in an overdraft condition, which means that the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the groundwater basin. The estimated safe yield, which is the amount of groundwater that can be continuously withdrawn from the basin without adverse impact, is 6,100 acre-feet per year (afy). The current cumulative overdraft of the Beaumont Basin is over 100,000 acre feet since development of the Basin began in the 1920s.

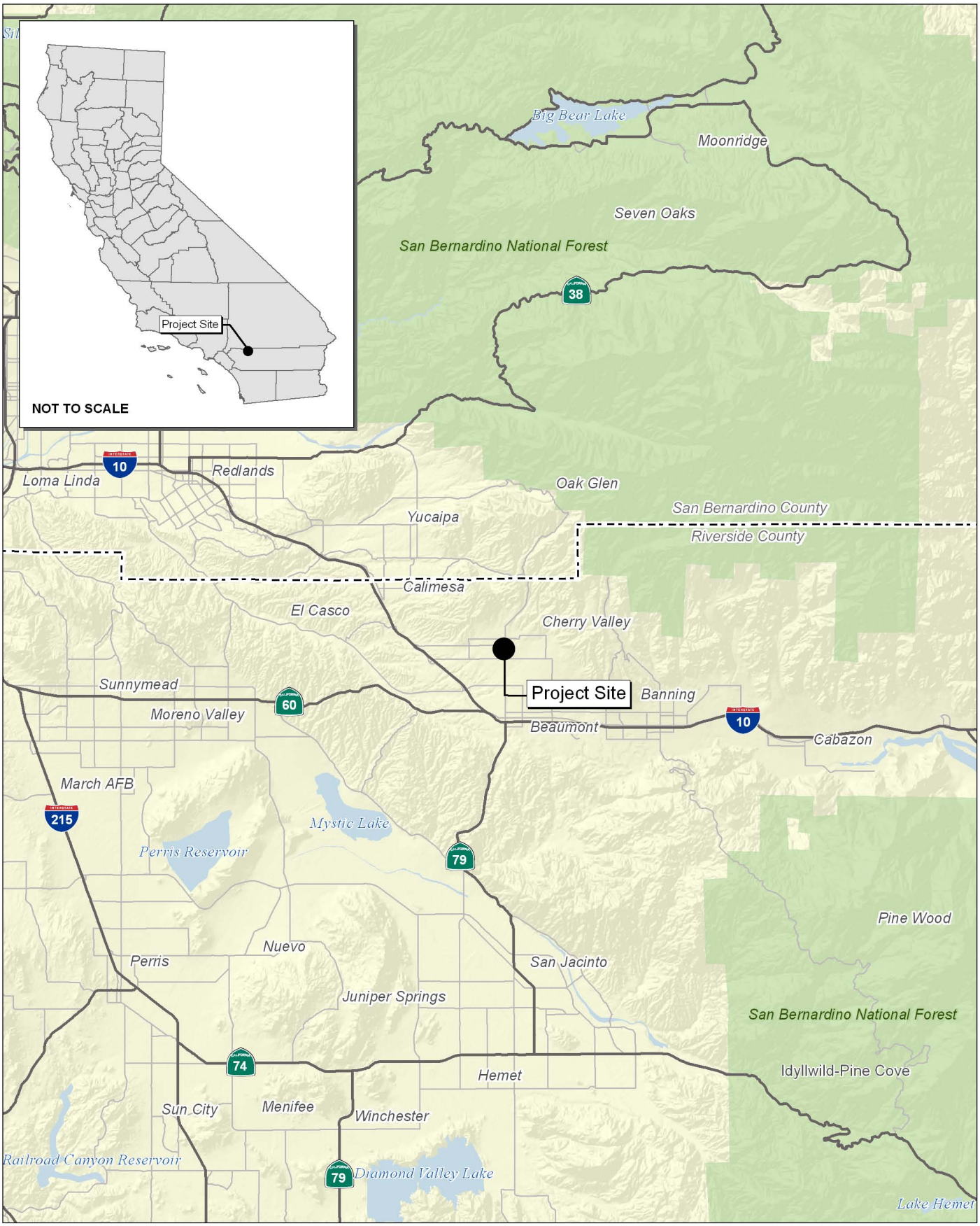
In 2003, Phase I of the East Branch Extension was completed and brings SWP water into SGPWA's service area; however, the capacity of Phase I allows approximately half of the SGPWA's allotment per year. After completion of Phase II of the East Branch Extension, the increased capacity would enable the SGPWA to obtain its full allotment of 17,300 afy of water from the SWP.

In 2008, the SGPWA conducted a number of studies that identified potential recharge sites within the Beaumont Basin. The purpose of a recharge site is to allow the SGPWA to recharge the groundwater basin with raw SWP water. Initially, SGPWA reviewed the Brookside South Recharge Project that included a recharge facility within Noble Creek. The SGPWA decided not to proceed with the Brookside South Recharge Project and is currently proposing the recharge facility southeast of Noble Creek.

1.3 - Project Location

The proposed project is located in both the City of Beaumont and an unincorporated portion of Riverside County in the Cherry Valley area (Exhibit 1). The project site encompasses a recharge basin facility at the southwest corner of Beaumont Avenue and Brookside Avenue, a pipeline that extends north from the recharge basin along Beaumont Avenue to Orchard Street and then west along Orchard Street to approximately Mountain View Channel, and a service connection facility located south of Orchard Street and immediately west and adjacent to the Mountain View Channel (Exhibit 2). Additionally, there is potential for depositing soil from excavation activities associated with the proposed project to two locations: one is an offsite triangular parcel located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel; the second is the service connection site.

The recharge basin site encompasses approximately 44 acres within the City of Beaumont and is located directly west of Beaumont Avenue, south of Brookside Avenue, east of Noble Creek, and north of the Mountain View Middle School (Exhibit 2). The recharge basin site is owned by SGPWA (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN]406-080-032) and is located at 33° 57′ 30.92" north latitude and 116° 58′ 45.42" west longitude within Section 34, Township 2 South, Range 1 West of the Beaumont U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Exhibit 3).



Source: Census 2000 Data, The CaSIL, MBA GIS 2012.

NORTH

5 2.5 0 5 Miles

Michael Brandman Associates

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Exhibit 1
Regional Location Map

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
BEAUMONT AVENUE RECHARGE FACILITY AND PIPELINE
INITIAL STUDY

Source: ESRI Aerial Imagery.

Exhibit 2
Local Vicinity Map
Aerial Base

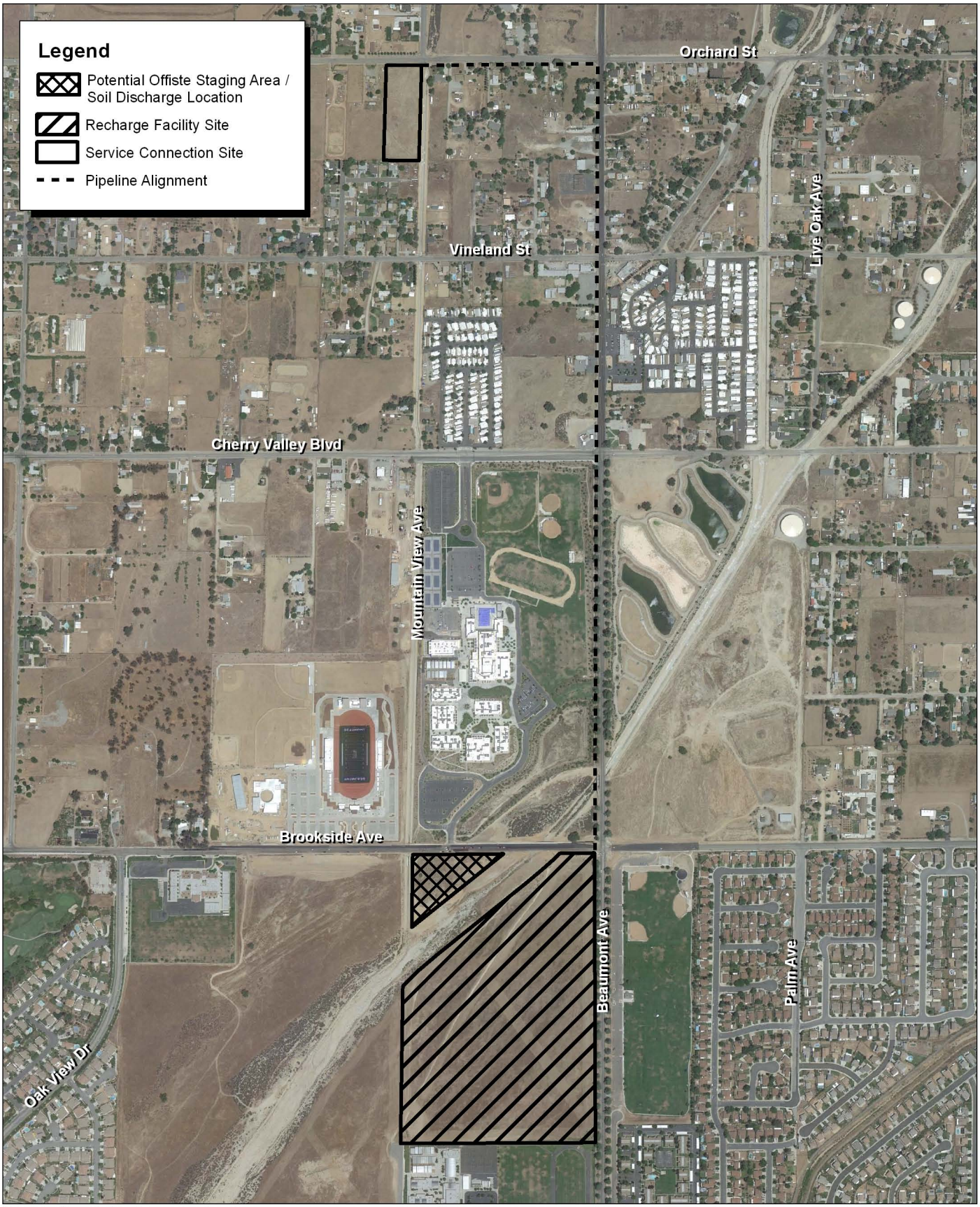
NORTH

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet

Michael Brandman Associates

31780004 • 11/2012 | 2_local_aerial.mxd

SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
BEAUMONT AVENUE RECHARGE FACILITY AND PIPELINE
INITIAL STUDY



Source: Google Earth Pro.

Michael Brandman Associates

NORTH

900 450 0 900

Feet

Exhibit 3
Project and Offsite Components

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SAN GORGONIO PASS WATER AGENCY
BEAUMONT AVENUE RECHARGE FACILITY AND PIPELINE
INITIAL STUDY

The pipeline would be installed underground within the unincorporated Cherry Valley area of Riverside County and traverse in a north/south direction along Beaumont Avenue, in an east/west direction along Orchard Street, and connecting to the service connection site. The pipeline would be located in Sections 27, 28, 34, Township 2 South, Range 1 West of the Beaumont USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Exhibit 3).

The service connection site encompasses approximately 3.5 acres within the unincorporated Cherry Valley area of Riverside County and is located south of Orchard Street and west of the Mountain View Channel (see Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 3). The service connection site is owned by SGPWA (APN 405-060-013) and is located at 33° 58′ 32.59" north latitude and 116° 58′ 53.06" west longitude within Section 28, Township 2 South, Range 1 West of the Beaumont USGS 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle (Exhibit 3). The service connection facility is planned to occur in the northeast portion of the site.

The approximately 3.4-acre offsite triangular parcel that could potentially be used for a staging area and/or for depositing soil is located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel. This offsite parcel is also owned by SGPWA (APN 404-010-012) and is located at 33°57'39.27" north latitude and 116°58'49.28" west longitude within Section 34, Township 2 South, Range 1 West of the Beaumont USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (Exhibit 3)

1.4 - Project Description

The proposed project includes the construction and operation of a recharge facility, pipeline, and a service connection facility.

The recharge facility is located on an approximately 44-acre site and is proposed to include a series of five tiered basins. The floor of the basin in the northeast portion of the facility is proposed to be approximately 40 to 45 feet higher in elevation than the floor of the basin in the southwest portion of the facility. The basins will be separated by berms. In addition, the perimeter of the recharge facility will include raised embankments so that the depth below existing ground surface can be minimized. Access roads will be located along the perimeter of the facility, as well as between each of the five basins.

The proposed pipeline will extend from the recharge facility to the service connection facility. The pipeline is proposed to be 24-inches in diameter and will extend north from the recharge facility along Beaumont Avenue for approximately 5,600 linear feet and west along Orchard Street for approximately 1,400 feet. The pipeline is planned to be located on the west side of the Beaumont Avenue centerline and the south side of the Orchard Street centerline. Pipeline construction will include trenching for the majority of the pipeline, with jacking and boring occurring at the Noble Creek crossing along Beaumont Avenue and the Mountain View Channel crossing along Orchard Street.

The service connection facility is proposed to divert raw, imported SWP water flows from the existing 36-inch East Branch Extension/Noble Creek pipeline located at the intersection of Orchard Street and Mountain View Avenue. A pipe outlet, not to exceed 24-inch diameter, will be extended from the service connection to the proposed 24-inch pipeline along Orchard Street.

Construction of the proposed facilities is anticipated to occur in 2013 and 2014. During the construction phase of the proposed project, construction equipment, vehicles, and materials could be stored at up to four staging areas: the recharge facility site, within the Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street rights-of-way adjacent to the portion of the pipeline undergoing installation, the service connection site, and/or the offsite triangular parcel located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel. Grading and excavation activities associated with the recharge facility site and service connection site would not require the export of soil. Excavation activities associated with construction of the pipeline would result in the export of soils. This export of soils is expected to be deposited at up to three locations: the recharge facility site, the service connection site, and/or the offsite triangular parcel located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel.

There will be periodic maintenance of the proposed recharge facility. The proposed recharge facility plans to operate four of the five basins at any given time so that maintenance activities could occur at the basin that is not in operation.

1.5 - Intended Uses of this Document

This IS document has been prepared to determine the appropriate scope and level of detail required in completing the environmental analysis for the proposed project. This document will also serve as a basis for soliciting comments and input from members of the public and public agencies regarding the proposed project, following the distribution of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the EIR. The NOP will be circulated for a 30-day period, during which comments regarding the issues to be addressed in the EIR are invited to be sent to:

Jeff Davis, P.E., General Manager
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223
jdavis@sgpwa.com

1.6 - Environmental Setting

The project area is generally located in an area of land use transition. The area includes current and planned residential land uses, commercial uses, schools, and roads.

The recharge site has relatively flat terrain and is currently vacant with native and non-native plant species. The site is located within the approved Noble Creek Vista Specific Plan and is designated for single-family residential use. To the south of the recharge site is Mountain View Middle School; to the east is Beaumont Sports Park; to the southeast are residential uses; to the north is Noble Creek, Brookside Avenue, and Beaumont High School; and to the east is vacant with native and non-native plant species.

The pipeline is located adjacent to residential, commercial, and school uses, as well as vacant land. Both Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street are located on relatively flat terrain. The pipeline is proposed to extend under the Mountain View Channel and Noble Creek.

The service connection site has relatively flat terrain and contains undeveloped land dominated by ruderal non-native vegetation. To the south of the site are residential uses; to the east is the Mountain View Channel, a concrete-lined channel enclosed by chain-linked fencing, as well as a residence and undeveloped land; to the north is a residence; and to the south are residential parcels. The service connection site is located adjacent to a concrete-lined section of Mountain View Channel to the east.

The thickness of the groundwater basin in the project area is estimated to be about 1,300 feet, according to USGS gravity survey data, and the current depth to water is approximately 360 feet. The nearest well, which is continually monitored, is Well 2S/1W-33LI located west of the South Noble Creek Channel approximately 0.6 mile south of Brookside Avenue. Although there are no production wells in the immediate proximity, groundwater extractions in the vicinity of the recharge site are some of the highest in the Beaumont Storage Unit, with several thousand acre-feet per year (afy) being pumped within a one-mile radius. Groundwater quality is very good, with total dissolved solids (TDS) ranging from about 250-300 milligrams per liter (mg/l) and nitrates at about 8 mg/l (as N).

SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Aesthetics *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 building within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources *In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:*				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
3. Air Quality *Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.* *Would the project:*				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☒	☐	☐	☐
4. Biological Resources *Would the project:*				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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 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?	☒	☐	☐	☐
5. Cultural Resources *Would the project:*				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☒	☐	☐	☐
6. Geology and Soils *Would the project:*				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☒	☐	☐	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☒	☐	☐	☐
iv) 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 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions *Would the project:*				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☒	☐	☐	☐
8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials *Would the project:*				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐
9. Hydrology and Water Quality *Would the project:*				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☒	☐	☐	☐
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☒	☐	☐	☐
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒
10. Land Use and Planning *Would the project:*				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities conservation plan?	☒	☐	☐	☐
11. Mineral Resources *Would the project:*				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
12. Noise *Would the project result in:*				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☒	☐	☐	☐
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☒	☐	☐	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
13. Population and Housing *Would the project:*				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
14. Public Services *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*				
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
15. Recreation				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
16. Transportation / Traffic *Would the project:*				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☒	☐	☐	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
17. Utilities and Service Systems *Would the project:*				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
18. Mandatory Findings of Significance				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☒	☐	☐	☐
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)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

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

Environmental Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

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

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

Signed Jeffrey W Davis Date 11-12-12

Jeff Davis, General Manager

SECTION 3: DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

1. Aesthetics

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less Than Significant Impact. Since the proposed project is located within the City of Beaumont and the County of Riverside, the policy documents for both agencies were reviewed.

The City of Beaumont General Plan does not identify specific scenic vistas in the project area. The General Plan Draft EIR, however, describes general areas in the City that contain aesthetic value, including ridgelines, rural and undeveloped areas, the "Badlands" area, and the deodar cedar trees (*Cedrus deodara*) that line both sides of Beaumont Avenue from Cherry Valley Boulevard south to Oak Valley Parkway. The recharge facility is proposed in an area that is increasing undergoing development and includes the Mountain View Middle School to the south, the Beaumont Sports Park and residential uses to the east, and Beaumont High School to the north. West of the recharge site is undeveloped and has been planned for residential uses. The construction of the recharge facility would include raised embankments that would be less than 8 feet higher in elevation than Beaumont Avenue. Because of limited heights of the embankments, the proposed recharge facility would not impede views of the deodar cedar trees that line Beaumont Avenue or substantially affect views of undeveloped areas.

The County of Riverside's Pass Area Plan identifies the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains as scenic resources in the project area. The nearest of these scenic resources to the project site is the San Bernardino National Forest, which is located approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the site. Based on proximity, the proposed project would not interfere with views of or from the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains.

The pipeline that extends along Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street would be located within residential and commercial areas. Since the pipeline would be located below ground surface, the pipeline would not affect scenic vistas of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains.

The service connection facility, which would be located south of Orchard Street and west of the Mountain View Channel, would include an approximately 10-foot by 12-foot structure in the northeast portion of the facility site. Based on the height and size of this improvement, visual line-of-sight from adjacent areas would not be impaired as a result of the structure. The construction of this structure and the underground pipeline to the connection facility would result in less than significant impacts to the scenic vistas of the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic building within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. The project site would not be located within the viewshed of an Officially Designated State Scenic Highway. The nearest such highway to the project site is State Route (SR) 243, from SR-74 to the City of Banning. The closest portion of this highway segment occurs approximately 5.75 miles southeast of the project site. Likewise, Interstate (I) 10 throughout the greater Beaumont area is listed as an Eligible State Scenic Highway. This highway segment is located roughly 1.5 mile southwest of the project site. Views of the project site from these portions of the SR-243 and I-10 would be interrupted by natural variation in topography and elements of the built environment, and as such, no direct visual line-of-sight would occur between either of these highway segments and the project site. Thus, based on this lack of direct visual line-of-sight, the proposed facilities occur outside of viewsheds for either of these highway segments. Therefore, no impacts associated with State Scenic Highways would occur.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Short-Term Construction Impacts

During the construction phase of the proposed project, construction equipment, vehicles, and materials could be stored at one of four staging areas: the recharge facility site, within the Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street right-of-way adjacent to the portion of the pipeline undergoing installation, the service connection site, and/or the offsite triangular parcel located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel. Although storage of this equipment, vehicles, and materials could potentially affect the viewshed of the surrounding land uses, the storage would occur temporarily and cease upon the completion of the construction phase. In addition, the surrounding project area could be characterized as an area currently undergoing steady change over the past decade, with several completed residential, commercial, institutional, and municipal projects having occurred in the project vicinity. There are additional areas within the project area that are vacant and have been planned for future development. The future conversion of these vacant lands would continue to provide views of construction equipment and activities. As such, the presence of construction equipment, vehicles, and materials is and would continue to be a relatively familiar occurrence in the project area, and thus, the presence of these elements associated with project construction activities and the use of staging areas for the project would not substantially alter the existing character or quality of the site or surrounding area. Therefore, short-term impacts associated with the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings would be less than significant.

Long-Term Project Impacts

Construction of the recharge facility would include raised embankments that would be less than 8 feet higher in elevation than Beaumont Avenue. Long-term views of the raised embankments would not substantially alter the visual character or quality of the project vicinity. The residential uses that are located along Beaumont Avenue north and south of Cougar Way have block walls ranging from four to six feet in height and have residential facades ranging 15 to 20 feet in height. Due to the presence of the existing block walls and building facades, the addition of the proposed embankments along Beaumont Avenue would contain heights that would not be visually adverse to the existing visual characteristics along Beaumont Avenue in the vicinity of the recharge basin facility site.

The pipeline along Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street would be located underground and would result in no impact to the long-term visual character or quality in the project vicinity.

The service connection facility would include a 10-foot by 12-foot structure in the northeast portion of the approximately 3.5-acre parcel. This improvement would not substantially alter the visual character or quality of the project vicinity because the proposed structure would be smaller than the existing residential structures currently located along Orchard Street. The service connection facility would not be obstrusive or be a prominent feature in the project area. Therefore, the service connection facility would result in a less than significant effect on the existing visual character and quality of the project vicinity.

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

Light

Limited nighttime lighting would be used at the recharge facility site and service connection site for safety and security purposes. Although the specific type of lighting has yet to be determined and would be included in final development drawings, lighting fixtures would use low watt light bulbs with hoods. All lighting would be directed toward the ground and would be similar to the existing exterior residential and school nighttime lighting used in the project area. Because the lighting at the proposed project would be limited and used only for safety and security purposes, less than significant light impacts in the area would occur.

Glare

The proposed project would not include any improvements with vertical reflective surfaces that could potentially create glare that would affect surrounding land uses. Although the water contained within the basins could produce glare, the water level within the basins would be lower than the proposed berms, and ground locations in the vicinity of the basin facility would not have potential to be affected by glare. Therefore, impacts associated with glare would be less than significant.

2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Would the project:

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Currently, neither the recharge facility site, pipeline alignment, service connection facility site, nor the offsite triangular parcel have farming or agricultural operations. Historically, the recharge facility site was used for cattle and sheep grazing prior to 1938, although more than 74 years have passed since grazing or any other agricultural activity have occurred on the this site. The service connection site was previously used for farming. According to the Riverside County Important Farmland 2010 Map published by the California Department of Conservation: Division of Land Resource Protection, the recharge facility site, the service connection facility site, and the offsite triangular parcel are identified as Farmland of Local Importance. However, these areas are not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland). The nearest such lands to the project facilities are a Unique Farmland parcel located south of Cherry Valley Road, west of Union Street, north of Jody Lane, and east of Hannon Road (located approximately one mile northwest of the project facilities); and a Unique Farmland property occurring south of East 12th Street, west of Pennsylvania Avenue, north of East 11th Street, and east of Michigan Avenue (located roughly 1.25 miles southeast of the project facilities). Neither of these parcels, nor any other Farmland property, would be converted to non-agricultural use upon development and operation of the proposed project.

Additionally, according to the Riverside County Important Farmland 2010 Map, 229,877 acres of Farmland of Local Importance is currently located in Riverside County. The approximately 50.9 acres of Farmland of Local Importance that constitute the recharge facility site, the service connection facility site, and the offsite triangular parcel compromise roughly 0.02 percent of the County's total Farmland of Local Importance. As such, the loss of Farmland of Local Importance as a result of the proposed project would represent a nominal amount of the total amount of Farmland of Local Importance found in the County. Therefore, impacts associated with the conversion of Farmland would be less than significant.

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

No Impact.

Zoning for Agricultural Use

According to the City of Beaumont and the County of Riverside Zoning Maps, neither the project site nor any adjacent land uses are zoned for agricultural use. According to Table 17.03-3, Permitted Land Uses for Base Zone Districts, agricultural uses are generally only permissible in Rural

Residential zones. The nearest such zone to the project site is an area located south of the I-10 freeway, approximately 2.4 miles south of the proposed recharge facility site. Based on the distance, the proposed project would not conflict with this existing zoning.

Additionally, as discussed in Impact Question 3.10.b), in accordance with Sections 53091(d) and 53091(e) of the California Government Code, the proposed recharge facility, pipeline, and service connection facility are exempt from the provisions of the City of Beaumont and County of Riverside's Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance. As such, the proposed facilities would not conflict with applicable land use or zoning of the City of Beaumont or the County of Riverside, including existing agricultural use. Therefore, no impacts associated with agricultural zoning would occur.

Williamson Act Contract

Per the Riverside County Williamson Act Lands 2007 Map published by the California Department of Conservation: Division of Land Resource Protection, the project site is not located on or adjacent to lands under Williamson Act contract. The nearest such lands are located south of Cherry Valley Boulevard, west of Nancy Avenue, north of Brookside Avenue, and east of Union Street (located approximately 0.6 mile northwest of the offsite triangular parcel). Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with these lands under Williamson Act contract and no impacts associated with Williamson Act contract would occur.

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

No Impact. According to the City of Beaumont and County of Riverside Zoning Maps, neither the sites of the project facilities nor any adjacent land uses are zoned for forestland, timberland, or timberland-zoned Timberland Production. The nearest forested lands to the project facilities are the San Bernardino National Forest, whose boundary is located approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the site. Based on the distance, the proposed project would not conflict with these forested lands. Therefore, no impacts associated with forestland, timberland, or Timberland Production zoning would occur.

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

No Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.2.c), neither the sites of the proposed facilities nor any adjacent land uses are zoned for forestland, timberland, or timberland-zoned Timberland Production. In addition, the boundary of nearest forest lands to the project facilities are approximately 2.0 miles northeast of the proposed project. Based on the distance, the proposed project would not affect forested lands in the project area. Therefore, no impacts associated with the loss or conversion of forestland would occur.

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

No Impact. As discussed in Impact Questions 3.2.a), the proposed project would result in the conversion of the 50.9 acres of Farmland of Local Importance that constitute the recharge facility site, service connection facility site, and the offsite triangular parcel. This acreage compromises a nominal percentage (approximately 0.02 percent) of the County's total Farmland of Local Importance. The sites of the proposed facilities are located within an increasingly developed area, partially surrounded by roadways, schools, and current and planned residential land uses. While Unique Farmland property is located in the general project area, no existing Farmland is located adjacent to the project site. Additionally, the proposed project would not introduce any use or activity that could be deemed incompatible with agricultural production, and as such, the project would not constitute an incompatible use or result in conversion of land use.

Moreover, as discussed in Impact Questions 3.2.c) and 3.2.d), based on the distance between the project site and the nearest forestland, implementation of the proposed project would not effect forestland or result in the conversion of such lands. Therefore, no impacts associated with conversion of existing Farmland or forestland would occur.

3. Air Quality

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

Would the project:

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

Potentially Significant Impact. According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), for a project to be consistent with the 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), that project must not result in an increase in either the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations or cause or contribute to new violations, or delay timely attainment of air quality standards or the interim emission reductions outlined in the AQMP. If a project's emissions exceed the SCAQMD regional thresholds for nitrous oxides (NO_X), volatile organic compounds (VOC), particulate matter (PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$), it follows that those emissions could cumulatively contribute to an exceedance of a pollutant for which the South Coast Air Basin is in nonattainment (ozone, NO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$).

The construction phase of the proposed project would include the operation of construction equipment and vehicles on the project site, as well as increase the quantity of construction traffic offsite, both of which could potentially produce emissions that would exceed air quality thresholds

established by SCAQMD. The exceedance of air quality thresholds would conflict with SCAQMD's AQMP. Therefore, short-term impacts associated with conflicting with the SCAQMD's 2007 AQMP would be potentially significant. As a result, an air quality assessment will be prepared to analyze emissions associated with the proposed project, and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The project site is located within the South Coast Air Basin, which is managed by SCAQMD. According to SCAQMD's 2007 AQMP, the Basin is currently designated nonattainment for ozone, NO_2, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. The construction phase of the proposed project would include the operation of construction equipment and vehicles on the project site, as well as increase the quantity of construction traffic offsite, both of which could potentially produce emissions that would exceed air quality thresholds established by SCAQMD. Therefore, short-term impacts associated with violation of air quality standards would be potentially significant.

Upon construction completion for the proposed project, the use of construction equipment and vehicles on the project site, as well as the increase of construction traffic offsite, would cease. The operational phase of the proposed project would produce nominal increases in vehicle trips, primarily associated with routine maintenance activities. These vehicle trips are not anticipated to generate a substantial quantity of emissions. However, operation of the proposed project would likely require the use of equipment that could potentially produce emissions. Therefore, long-term impacts associated with violation of air quality standards would be potentially significant as well. As such, an air quality assessment will be prepared to analyze emissions associated with the proposed project and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Potentially Significant Impact. As previously addressed, the construction phase of the proposed project would include the operation of construction equipment and vehicles on the project site, as well as increase the quantity of construction traffic offsite. These circumstances could potentially produce emissions that could result in a cumulatively considerably net increase of criteria pollutants for which the South Coast Air Basin is designated nonattainment, including ozone, NO_2, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Additionally, operation of the proposed project would likely require the use of equipment that could potentially produce emissions that could result in similar cumulatively considerable effects. Therefore, impacts associated with criteria pollutants for which the Basin is designated nonattainment could potentially be deemed cumulatively considerable. As a result, an air quality assessment will be

prepared to analyze the proposed project's cumulative contribution to a net increase of criteria pollutants in the Basin and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Potentially Significant Impact. Sensitive land use in the project area include the schools located north, south, and west of the project site, and the recreational and residential uses located east of the site. Both the construction and operation phases of the proposed project could potentially produce emissions that would expose these land uses to substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, impacts associated with exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollution concentrations would be potentially significant. As such, an air quality assessment will be prepared to analyze the effect of the proposed project's emissions on nearby sensitive receptors and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. Typically, sources of objectionable odors include agricultural operations (e.g., dairies, feedlots, etc.), landfills, wastewater treatment plants, refineries, and other types of industrial land uses. The proposed project does not include any of these uses. Any odors, including those from the operation of construction equipment and vehicles during the construction phase of the proposed project, would be controlled in accordance with SCAQMD Rule 402 (Nuisance Emissions). However, diesel exhaust and VOCs would be emitted during construction of the proposed project, and although they would rapidly disperse, these emissions could potentially be objectionable to some. Therefore, impacts associated with creation of objectionable odors would be potentially significant. As a result, an air quality assessment will be prepared to analyze objectionable odors associated with the proposed project and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

4. Biological Resources

Would the project:

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

Potentially Significant Impact. In its existing condition, the recharge facility site, service connection site, and offsite triangular parcel consist of undeveloped land that could potentially provide habitat for candidate, sensitive, or special status species. Development of the proposed project would have the potential to affect any species occurring at these sites. The pipeline is planned to be installed under the pavement portions of Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street, and under the

Mountain View Channel and Noble Creek. An assessment will be prepared to analyze the proposed project's effect on candidate, sensitive, or special status species at these two sites and potential impacts on the deodar cedar trees that line both sides of Beaumont Avenue. The resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The recharge facility site, service connection site, and offsite triangular parcel currently consist of undeveloped land that has been previously disturbed by rough grading or similar activities. The plant communities presently found at these sites primarily consists of non-native grassland, Riversidean sage scrub (RSS), Riversidean alluvial fan sage scrub (RAFSS), and unvegetated riverine wash. Riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community is not known to occur at the sites. A biological assessment will be prepared to determine the presence, or lack there of, of sensitive communities at the two sites and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Potentially Significant Impact. According to United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports hydrophytes, (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil, and (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year. The recharge facility site, pipeline, service connection site, and offsite triangular parcel are not known to include one or more of the aforementioned attributes. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to federally protected wetlands. To substantiate that the proposed recharge facility is proposed to be located outside of an area defined as wetlands, the biological assessment will address this issue, and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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 wildlife nursery sites?

Potentially Significant Impact. The recharge facility site, service connection site, and offsite triangular parcel presently consist of undeveloped open space that could potentially be used as either a wildlife corridor or nursery site. In addition, the deodar cedar trees that line Beaumont Avenue will

be reviewed to determine if these trees could be used as wildlife nursery sites. As a result, a biological assessment will be prepared to determine the project site's suitability as a wildlife corridor or nursery site and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

No Impact. Beaumont Avenue, from Cherry Valley Boulevard south to Oak Valley Parkway, is currently lined with mature street trees, consisting of deodar cedar. The portion of the deodar cedar trees located south of Brookside Avenue is within the City of Beaumont. Both Chapter 12.12 and 12.20 of the Beaumont Municipal Code contain specific provisions regarding tree preservation, maintenance, removal, and relocation. The portion of the deodar cedar trees located north of Brookside Avenue are within the County of Riverside jurisdiction. The Open Space Element of the County of Riverside General Plan includes Policy OS 9.3, which establishes the County's intention to "maintain and conserve superior examples of native trees, natural vegetation, [and] stands of established trees."

As discussed in Impact 3.10.b), in accordance with Sections 53091(d) and 53091(e) of the California Government Code, the proposed recharge facility, pipeline, and service connection facility are exempt from the provisions of the City of Beaumont and County of Riverside's Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance, including the Noble Creek Vistas Specific Plan.

The Noble Creek Vistas Specific Plan, which encompasses the recharge facility site, contains various provisions either directly or indirectly related to the protection of these deodar cedar trees, including setback and buffer requirements for areas south of Beaumont Avenue. Although SGWPA is not bound by the provisions in the Specific Plan per Sections 53091(d) and 53091(e) of the California Government Code, the following design features that are included in the Specific Plan would be incorporated as part of the proposed project.

- A 40-foot landscape buffer from the western edge of the Beaumont Avenue right-of-way into the proposed recharge facility site.
- A 25-foot permeable surface around each deodar cedar tree (except where the distance between tree and road is less than 25 feet to the street).

Although not bound to the aforementioned tree preservation provisions per Sections 53091(d) and 53091(e) of the California Government Code, the proposed project includes the placement of the pipeline towards the centerline of the Beaumont Avenue right-of-way to reduce potential effects of pipeline construction on the deodar cedar trees. The implementation of the above design features would further minimize potential impacts to the deodar cedar trees along Beaumont Avenue. Because the SGPWA is not bound by the tree preservation provisions in the City's Municipal Code and the

County's General Plan, the proposed project would result in no impacts to the City's tree preservation provisions or the County's tree preservation policy. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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?

Potentially Significant Impact. The Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The MSHCP Plan Area encompasses approximately 1.26 million acres (1,966 square miles), including the City of Beaumont. Since the proposed project could potentially impact sensitive species and/or habitat occurring on or adjacent to the sites of the proposed facilities, the project could potentially conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP. As such, a biological assessment will be prepared to determine the proposed project's consistency with the MSHCP and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

5. Cultural Resources

Would the project:

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

Potentially Significant Impact. It is currently unknown whether any historical resources occur on or adjacent to the sites of the proposed facilities. Grading, excavation, and other similar ground-disturbing activities that would occur on the sites as part of construction of the proposed project could potentially unearth and affect buried historical resources. As a result, an assessment of cultural resources will be prepared to determine the potential for buried historical resources on or adjacent to the sites and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. It is presently unknown whether any archaeological sites or resources occur on or adjacent to the sites of the proposed facilities. Grading, excavation, and other similar ground-disturbing activities that would occur on the sites as part of construction of the proposed project could potentially unearth and affect buried archaeological resources. As such, an assessment of cultural resources will be prepared to determine the potential for buried archaeological resources on or adjacent to the sites and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. It is presently unknown whether any paleontological sites or resources occur on or adjacent to the sites of the proposed facilities. Grading, excavation, and other similar ground-disturbing activities that would occur on the sites as part of construction of the proposed project could potentially unearth and affect buried paleontological resources. As a result, an assessment of cultural resources will be prepared to determine the potential for buried paleontological resources on or adjacent to the sites and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. It is presently unknown whether any burial sites, formal cemeteries, or human remains occur on or adjacent to the sites of the proposed facilities. Grading, excavation, and other similar ground-disturbing activities that would occur on the sites as part of construction of the proposed project could potentially unearth and affect buried human remains. As such, an assessment of cultural resources will be prepared to determine the potential for buried human remains on or adjacent to the sites and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

6. Geology and Soils

Would the project:

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

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

Potentially Significant Impact. According to the Riverside County Geographical Information Systems (GIS) database, fault zones are located immediately west of the recharge facility site, along Beaumont Avenue north of Vineland Street, along Orchard Street west of Beaumont Avenue, and within the northeastern portion of the service connection site. Potential earthquake fault effects will be discussed within the EIR.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Potentially Significant Impact. According to the Riverside County GIS database, fault zones are located within and in close proximity of the sites of the proposed facilities. The effects of potential strong seismic ground shaking will be discussed within the EIR.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Potentially Significant Impact. According to the Riverside County GIS database, the site has a low potential for liquefaction and is susceptible to subsidence. The low potential for liquefaction is due to low groundwater levels. However, with low groundwater levels, there is a potential for subsidence. The effects of seismic-related ground failure will be discussed in the EIR.

iv) Landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact. Construction of the recharge facility would include engineered earthen slopes; however, these slopes would be engineered to prevent instability and are not expected to result in landslides. The pipeline, service connection site, and offsite triangular parcel are relatively flat, and these project components would not alter the existing, relatively flat topography. Therefore, no landslide impacts are expected with the implementation of the proposed facilities. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. The sites of the proposed facilities would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. The recharge facility would alter the existing, relatively flat topography and create five basins that have earthen slopes between the basins, as well as around the perimeter of the entire recharge facility. The earthen slopes would be engineered to minimize the loss of soil during storm events. There may be storm events that require a portion of the basin water to be directed through use of piping to an existing storm drain so that the basins do not overflow. The existing storm drain is located immediately southwest of the proposed recharge basin. The potential amount of directed water during storm events is estimated to be less than the amount of stormwater that is currently directed to the existing storm drain during storm events.

The pipeline would be located underground and will not result in the loss of topsoil.

The service connection site is relatively flat and would include above and below ground facilities. The placement of these facilities would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

The offsite triangular parcel would be potentially used for a staging area and/or for depositing soils. Should this parcel be used for soil disposal, soils deposits would be distributed throughout the site so that existing topography would not be substantially altered. By maintaining the existing topography, drainage characteristics would remain similar to the existing conditions, and as such, substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil would not occur.

This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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?

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.6.a.iii), the sites for the proposed facilities are located in areas susceptible to subsidence. As a result, this issue will be further discussed in the EIR.

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

No Impact. At this time, it is unknown if the sites of the proposed facilities have expansive soils. Due to the nature of the proposed project (i.e., construction of a recharge facility, pipeline, and service connection facility), the presence of expansive soil would not result in substantial risks to life or property. Furthermore, as the detailed design is prepared for the proposed facilities, the soil characteristics would be taken into account. Therefore, the proposed facilities would not have a potential to create a substantial risk to life or property. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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?

No Impact. The project does not include/require any wastewater disposal system. Therefore, no impacts would occur. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The SCAQMD is currently in the process of preparing recommended significance thresholds for greenhouse gases for local lead agency consideration. Although the SCAQMD Board has not approved the thresholds as of the date of the NOP, the current draft thresholds ("SCAQMD Draft Local Agency Threshold"), which consist of a tiered approach, would be used to determine whether the proposed project would generate greenhouse gas emissions that could potentially have a substantial effect on the environment. Therefore, an evaluation of potential greenhouse gas impacts associated with the proposed facilities will be addressed in the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The use of construction equipment and vehicles on and off the project site during the construction phase of the proposed project, as well as use of equipment such as pumps during the operational phase, could potentially generate greenhouse gas emissions. The production of these emissions are unknown and could potentially conflict with the applicable greenhouse gas provisions established by the SCAQMD or any other agency with applicable plans, policies, and regulations governing greenhouse gas emissions, including provisions set forth by the California Air Resource Board (CARB) Scoping Plan. Therefore, impacts associated with applicable plans, policies, and regulations governing greenhouse gas emissions will be discussed in the EIR.

8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:

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

Less Than Significant Impact. A limited quantity of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials would be transported, used, and disposed of during both construction and operation of the proposed project.

Short-Term Construction Impacts

During the construction phase of the proposed project, hazardous or potentially hazardous materials would be routinely handled, transported, used, and disposed of during construction activities at the sites of the proposed facilities. These hazardous materials would include gasoline, diesel fuel, lubricants, and other petroleum-based products used to operate and maintain construction equipment and vehicles.

The handling, transporting, use, and disposal of hazardous materials would be a temporary activity and coincide with short-term construction activities on the sites of the proposed facilities. Any handling of hazardous materials would be limited in both quantity and concentrations. Hazardous materials associated with operation and maintenance of construction equipment and vehicles could be stored on the project site, but only the amounts needed are expected to be stored onsite; excessive amounts are not expected to be stored onsite. Removal and disposal of hazardous materials from the project site would be conducted by a permitted and licensed service provider. Any handling, transporting, use, or disposal would comply with applicable federal, State, and local agencies and regulations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (the Certified Unified Program Agency [CUPA] for

Riverside County). Therefore, impacts associated with hazardous materials during project construction would be less than significant.

Long-Term Project Impacts

During the operation phase of the proposed project, hazardous or potentially hazardous materials may be handled, transported, used, and disposed of during operation of the proposed facilities. Because of the nature of the proposed project, these materials would vary, but could generally be limited to fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and similar materials at the recharge facility site and the service connection site. These types of wastes are common and pose a low risk to people and the environment. Therefore, impacts associated with hazardous materials during project operation would be less than significant.

This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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?

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.8.a), any handling, transporting, use, or disposal activities associated with hazardous or potentially hazardous materials would comply with all applicable federal, State, and local agencies and regulations. Both short-term construction and long-term operation of the proposed project would adhere to the policies and programs set forth by agencies such as the U.S. EPA, the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health, and the City of Beaumont. Adherence with the policies and programs of these agencies would ensure that any interaction with hazardous materials would occur in the safest possible manner, reducing the opportunity for the accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment.

Any handling of hazardous materials would be limited in both quantity and concentrations. Hazardous materials could be stored onsite, with only the amounts needed stored onsite; excessive amounts would not be stored onsite. As mandated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), all hazardous materials stored on the project site would be accompanied by a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), which, in the case of accidental release, would inform onsite personnel as to the necessary remediation procedures.

However, it is currently unknown whether the alignment of the pipeline component would traverse a hazardous materials site(s) (see Impact Question 3.8.d)). Grading, excavation, and other similar construction activities associated with proposed project could potentially disturb a contaminated or otherwise hazardous materials site, potentially creating a hazard to the public and the environment. Therefore, impacts associated with the accidental release of hazardous materials would be potentially significant. As a result, a record search would be conducted to determine the presence of any

hazardous materials sites on and adjacent to the project site and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.8.b), it is currently unknown whether the alignment of the pipeline component would traverse a hazardous materials site(s). Grading, excavation, or other similar construction activities associated with the proposed project could potentially disturb a contaminated or otherwise hazardous materials site, creating a hazard to the public, the environment, and adjacent schools. Three schools are located within 0.25 mile of the project site: Mountain View Middle School, which is located directly south of the recharge facility site; Beaumont High School, which occurs just north of the recharge facility site on the northern side of Brookside Avenue; and Cherry Valley Brethren Preschool, which occurs directly adjacent to the pipeline at the southwest corner of the Beaumont Avenue-Vineland Street intersection. Therefore, impacts associated with the emitting or handling of hazardous materials within 0.25 mile of a school could be potentially significant. As such, a record search would be conducted to determine the presence of any hazardous materials sites on and adjacent to the project site and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) created the EnviroStor database to provide public access to detailed information on hazardous waste permitted facilities, corrective action facilities, and existing site cleanup information. EnviroStor allows users to search for information on investigation, cleanup, permitting, and/or corrective actions that are currently planned, presently ongoing, or have been completed under DTSC's oversight. A search of EnviroStor determined that the project site in not located on a hazardous materials site. The database search indicates that four "School Investigation" sites occur within 0.5-mile radius of the project site:

- Athletic Facilities; Beaumont Avenue at Brookside Avenue
- Noble Creek Elementary School No. 1; Brookside Avenue at Palm Avenue
- Tahiti Elementary School; Cougar Land at Mountain View Avenue
- Oak Valley Elementary School; San Timoteo Canyon Road

During these previous investigations, no potential contaminants of concern were identified as occurring on any of these sites. EnvirorStor currently lists each of the four sites as "No Action

Required." As such, none of these sites represent a recognized environmental concern (REC) to the proposed project or the surrounding public and environment.

However, a record search of all applicable regulatory databases would be necessary to determine whether the project site is located on or adjacent to a hazardous materials site. Therefore, impacts associated with hazardous materials sites are unknown and could be potentially significant. As a result, a record search would be conducted and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

No Impact. The nearest public airport to the project site is Banning Municipal Airport, which is located approximately seven miles southeast of the site in the City of Banning. According to the Compatibility Map contained in the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission's Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the project site occurs outside of any designated Compatibility Contour. The proposed project would not include any improvements that would occur at a height that could potentially interfere with air traffic patterns. The tallest improvements introduced to the project area as part of the proposed project would be the service connection facility, which would be less than 10 feet in height, and the recharge facility, which would include raised embankments that will extend approximately 8 feet high above the existing surrounding grade. Both improvements would occur at a height that would be below any flight path. Any overhead air traffic would be coincidental and would likely occur at an elevation that would not pose a safety hazard for people on or adjacent to the project site. Therefore, no impacts associated with safety hazards from public airports would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. There are no private airstrips located within a 20-mile radius of the project site. Therefore, no impacts associated with safety hazards from private airstrips would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Construction activities associated with the proposed recharge facility and the service connection facility will be located off of the public street system and would not interfere with emergency response or an emergency evacuation plan.

Construction of the pipeline will result in the temporary closure of a lane along the existing two-lane Beaumont Avenue and two-lane Orchard Street in the area of construction. The lane closure would occur as excavation, placement, and backfilling activities occur. In areas where jack and bore activities are proposed, such as at the Mountain View Channel and Noble Creek, a lane will also be closed. Since Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street have dirt shoulders, there is a possibility for emergency vehicles to pass in the area of the lane closure. The construction activities associated with the pipeline would result in less than significant impacts to emergency response or an emergency evacuation plan.

This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is located within an increasingly developed area outside of a wildland urban interface. According to Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps published by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the project site is not located within an area deemed highly susceptibility to wildland fire. Therefore, impacts associated with wildland fires would be less than significant. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

9. Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

Short-Term Construction Stormwater Quality Impacts

During the construction of the project, earthmoving activities on the project site would have the potential to contribute runoff that may contain sediment. The project could disturb more than one acre of area (i.e., at the recharge facility site) and would be required to obtain coverage under the General Construction Permit for discharges of stormwater associated with construction activity. Additionally, the project would be required to prepare and implement a SWPPP. The SWPPP would include erosion control and sediment control best management practices (BMPs), as well as other BMPs to maintain water quality during construction. These requirements would ensure that the project would not result in significant impacts to water quality or waste discharge requirements during construction. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

Long-Term Project Stormwater Quality Impacts

The proposed project would not increase the existing amount of stormwater runoff occurring on the project site. The recharge facility has been designed to retain stormwater onsite. The perimeter of the basins would consist of dirt slopes, which would reduce the amount of runoff generated from the recharge facility site. Additionally, a maintenance road that would be along the perimeter of the dirt slopes would have a slight grade that would allow any runoff to drain into the basin. Stormwater is anticipated to also flow from the top of the dirt slopes toward the property lines similar to the existing conditions. The anticipated flow is expected to be less than current conditions.

The basins would require periodic maintenance by heavy-construction equipment. To reduce the potential for construction equipment to transfer sediment from the site to local City streets, steel grate would be provided at the entrance of the basin and BMPs would be implemented in accordance with the County of Riverside/City of Beaumont waste discharge requirements for stormwater. Therefore, impacts associated with long-term stormwater quality would be less than significant. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

Long-Term Project Groundwater Quality Impacts

The recharge facility would receive water from the SWP at the service connection facility. The SWP water would be used to recharge the groundwater basin. Turbidity can impact recharge projects, since sediment loads can reduce recharge rates. However, the turbidity of the SWP water in the EBX, which is downstream of Lake Silverwood, is much less than on the SWP Aqueduct, and is not expected to cause clogging problems. In addition, recharge projects have the potential to pollute groundwater basins, if the imported water is high in TDS, nitrates, or other pollutants. However, the introduction of imported SWP water into the groundwater basin should not pose a water quality problem, as the SWP water is low in TDS and other constituents of concern. The average TDS of water measured at Devil Canyon Afterbay near San Bernardino is about 250 mg/l over a 14-year period from 1990 to 2003, ranging from about 175 to 380 mg/l. This average is lower than that of the extracted groundwater in the project vicinity. Other constituents, such as nitrates, are well within Basin Plan objectives and drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCL) standards.

Since the SWP water is higher in quality than the existing groundwater, the proposed project would not result in the long-term impact on groundwater quality. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells

would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

No Impact. The purpose of the project is to facilitate groundwater recharge. The project would have a beneficial impact on groundwater supplies; therefore, no adverse impact would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed recharge facility will alter the existing, relatively flat topography and create five basins that have earthen slopes between the basins as well as around the perimeter of the entire recharge facility. The majority of the current storm flow from the site is conveyed to the southwest. Some stormwater will flow from the northeastern portion of the site into Noble Creek. With the development of the five basins, much of the recharge facility site would contain the storm flows within the five basins. The majority of the stormwater that flows from the perimeter of the earthen slopes to the project boundary would be conveyed to an existing storm drain located southwest of the site. The amount of storm flow that would be directed to the existing storm drain would be less than under the existing conditions. The amount of stormwater anticipated to flow from the perimeter of the northernmost basin that are adjacent to Noble Creek is not expected to be greater than the amount of existing stormwater that is conveyed to Noble Creek. With a decrease in stormwater flows from the project site, there would be a decrease in potential erosion or sedimentation from the site. The proposed alteration of the existing drainage pattern would not result in substantial erosion or sedimentation, and therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

The pipeline alignment will include an underground pipeline and will not result in substantial erosion or sedimentation, and therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

The service connection site is relatively flat and will include above and below ground facilities. The placement of the proposed facilities will not result in substantial erosion or sedimentation, and therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

The offsite triangular parcel will be potentially used for a staging area and/or for depositing soils. Should this parcel be used for soil disposal, soils deposits would be distributed throughout the site so that existing topography will not be substantially altered. By maintaining the existing topography, drainage characteristics would remain similar to the existing conditions.

This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.9.c), implementation of the proposed project will not increase flows off of the project site compared to existing conditions. The purpose of the proposed recharge facility is to accept raw SWP water to recharge the groundwater basin, and therefore, there will be times that the proposed basins will be filled with the impaired water.

Flooding is the covering of land that is not normally covered with water. The aforementioned filling of the basins would not be considered flooding because, under normal circumstances, the basins would periodically be covered with water. Additionally, flooding is not anticipated to occur due to the designed ability of the recharge facility to direct water to specific basins that have capacity to receive water. As a result, the recharge facility's site design, which would alter the existing drainage pattern, will not result in flooding on or off the recharge facility site.

The pipeline alignment will include an underground pipeline and will not result in an alteration of the existing drainage pattern, and therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

The service connection site is relatively flat and will include above and below ground facilities. The placement of the proposed facilities will not result in an alteration of the existing drainage pattern, and therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

The offsite triangular parcel will be potentially used for a staging area and/or for depositing soils. Should this parcel be used for soil disposal, soils deposits would be distributed throughout the site so that existing topography will not be substantially altered. By maintaining the existing topography, drainage characteristics would remain similar to the existing conditions.

This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.9.a) and 3.9.c), stormwater from a portion of the proposed basins as well as stormwater conveyed from along the outside perimeter of the basins is anticipated to be conveyed to an existing 36-inch storm drain line located southwest of the site. During storm events, there may be times that a portion of the water in the southwesternmost basin may need to be drained so that stormwater entering the basins will not cause an overflow condition. The amount of stormwater and basin water anticipated to be conveyed to the existing storm drain line

southwest of the site will be less than the amount of stormwater that is currently conveyed from the recharge facility site to the existing storm drain line. The design capacity of this 36-inch storm drain is approximately 57.6 cubic feet per second (cfs). Generally, a pervious parcel such as the recharge facility site will yield approximately one cfs per acre for a 100-year storm event. Thus, under the worst case scenario, the 44-acre recharge facility site would currently yield a flow of roughly 44 cfs, which could be accommodated by the existing storm drain line. Since the proposed recharge facility will reduce the amount of land that could contribute runoff from the site due to the proposed basins retaining stormwater that falls on the majority of the site, Stormwater runoff from the site would less than under existing conditions. Therefore, the design of the proposed recharge facility would not result in an exceedance of the existing storm drain line. Furthermore, the proposed design would not increase the potential for additional pollutants to runoff the site.

The pipeline alignment will include an underground pipeline and will not result in an alteration of the existing drainage pattern or affect existing drainage facilities. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

The service connection site is relatively flat and will include above and below ground facilities. The placement of the proposed facilities will not result in an alteration of the existing drainage pattern or affect existing drainage facilities. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.8.a), the project would not substantially degrade water quality, and less than significant impacts would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

No Impact. Since the proposed project does not include housing, the project would result in no impacts related to the placement of proposed housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. Based on a review of the County of Riverside GIS Database, a portion of the pipeline alignment, the entirety of the offsite triangular parcel, and potentially a small area in the northwestern portion of the recharge facility site may be located within a 100-year flood hazard area. Since the pipeline will be located below ground, no long-term flood hazard impacts would occur. Depending on the specific location of the proposed recharge facility improvements and current location of the 100-year flood zone, there may be potential significant impacts. These impacts will be further discussed in the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.9.h), a small portion of the proposed recharge facility could be located within a 100-year flood hazard area and could result in potential significant impacts. These impacts will be discussed further in the EIR.

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. The location of the proposed recharge facilities is on relatively flat terrain, substantially inland from the ocean and not located in proximity of a large water body. Therefore, there would be no impact due to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. These issues will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

10. Land Use and Planning

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. Following the construction phase of the proposed project, the pipeline would be located underground and would not include any aboveground improvements that could potentially divide any surrounding established community. Additionally, the proposed recharge facility and service connection site would be constructed upon an undeveloped parcel that is not currently being used to connect an existing community. Therefore, no impacts associated with division of an established community would occur.

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

No Impact. The recharge facility site and offsite triangular parcel are located within the jurisdiction of the City of Beaumont. The recharge facility site is zoned by the City as Specific Plan Area (SPA) and falls within the boundary of the Noble Creek Vistas Specific Plan. This portion of the project site is designated by the City's General Plan Land Use Map as Single-Family Residential.

The pipeline project site occurs within the jurisdiction of the County of Riverside. The pipeline project site traverses areas zoned by the County as General Commercial (C-1/C-P), Residential Agricultural (R-A), One Family Dwellings (R-1), Multiple-Family Dwellings (R-2), General Residential (R-3), and Light Agriculture (A-1). The areas surrounding this portion of the project site is designated by the County's General Plan Land Use Map as Commercial Retail, Medium Density Residential, and Rural Community - Very Low Density Residential. The pipeline project site is also located within the County's General Plan's Pass Area Plan. In addition, the City of Beaumont has designated Beaumont Avenue south of Brookside Avenue as a divided collector. The County of Riverside has designated Beaumont Avenue south of Cherry Valley Road as a major collector and north of Cherry Valley Road as a secondary roadway. Orchard Street is also designated as a secondary roadway.

The service connection site is also located within the jurisdiction of the County of Riverside. The service connection site is zoned by the County as Residential Agriculture, One-family Dwelling (R-A-1). This site is also designated as Rural Residential on the County's General Plan Land Use Map.

Per California Government Code Section 53091(d):

> Building ordinances of a county or city shall not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency.

Additionally, California Government Code Section 53091(e) establishes that:

> Zoning ordinances of a county or city shall not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water, or for the production or generation of electrical energy, facilities that are subject to Section 12808.5 of the Public Utilities Code, or electrical substations in an electrical transmission system that receives electricity at less than 100,000 volts. Zoning ordinances of a county or city shall apply to the location or construction of facilities for the storage or transmission of electrical energy by a local agency, if the zoning ordinances make provision for those facilities.

In accordance with Sections 53091(d) and 53091(e) of the California Government Code, the proposed recharge facility, pipeline, and service connection facility, and offsite triangular parcel are exempt from the provisions of the City of Beaumont and County of Riverside's Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Although SGWPA is not bound by the provisions in the Specific Plan, the following design features that are included in the Specific Plan are proposed to be incorporated as part of the proposed project.

- A 40-foot landscape buffer from the western edge of the Beaumont Avenue right-of-way into the proposed recharge facility site.
- A 25-foot permeable surface around each deodar cedar tree (except where the distance between tree and road is less than 25 feet to the street).

The proposed facilities would not conflict with applicable land use or zoning of the City of Beaumont or the County of Riverside.

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural communities conservation plan?

Potentially Significant Impact. As described in Impact Section 3.4, Biological Resources, the Western Riverside County MSHCP is a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional HCP focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. The MSHCP Plan Area includes the City of Beaumont. Since the proposed project could potentially impact sensitive species and/or habitat occurring on or adjacent to the project site, the project could potentially conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP. As a result, a biological assessment will be prepared to determine the proposed project's consistency with the MSHCP, and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

11. Mineral Resources

Would the project:

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The project area is located within a Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 3, as designated by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB). The SMGB defines a MRZ-3 as an area where the available geologic information indicates that mineral deposits are likely to exist, although the significance of the deposit is undetermined. According to the Resource Management Element of the City of Beaumont General Plan, although there are potential aggregate resources located adjacent to the drainage areas found in the western portion of the City of Beaumont, there are

currently no significant mineral extraction operations in the City. The proposed recharge site is not located in an area of potential aggregate resources, and does not occur within the Mineral Resource Overlay (MRO) zone as identified on the City's Zoning Map. The pipeline includes a linear excavation that is located under roadways and would not impact known aggregate resources. Finally, the proposed service connection site is not located on a site known to contain significant aggregate resources. Therefore, less than significant impacts associated with the availability of a known mineral resource would occur.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.11.a), the project site is located within a MRZ-3, as designated by the SMGB, and outside of the portion of the City of Beaumont identified as potentially containing aggregate or other resources. The sites of the proposed facilities are not located in areas of known significant aggregate resources. Therefore, less than significant impacts associated with the availability of a locally-important mineral resource would occur.

12. Noise

Would the project result in:

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The use of construction equipment and vehicles on and off the project site during the construction phase of the proposed project, as well as the use of equipment such as pumps during the operational phase, could potentially expose persons to and/or generate noise levels in excess of standards. These standards are established by the Safety Element of the City of Beaumont General Plan; Chapter 9.02, Noise Control, of the City of Beaumont Municipal Code; the Noise Element of the County of Riverside General Plan; and Riverside County Ordinance No. 847, Regulating Noise in Riverside County. Therefore, impacts associated with exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards could be potentially significant. As a result, a noise assessment will be prepared to analyze noise levels associated with the proposed project, and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. During the construction phase of the proposed project, construction activities on the project site, as well as the transporting of materials and equipment along local roads via large vehicles, could potentially expose persons to and/or generate groundborne vibration and/or noise levels in excess of industry standards. Therefore, impacts associated with exposure of persons

to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration and/or noise levels could be potentially significant. As such, a noise assessment will be prepared to analyze groundborne vibration and noise levels associated with the proposed project, and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.12.a), the use of equipment such as pumps during the operational phase of the proposed project could potentially result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. Therefore, long-term impacts associated with ambient noise levels could be potentially significant. As a result, a noise assessment will be prepared to analyze ambient noise levels associated with the proposed project, and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.12.a), the use of construction equipment and vehicles on and off the project site during the construction phase of the proposed project could potentially result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. Therefore, short-term impacts associated with ambient noise levels could be potentially significant. As such, a noise assessment will be prepared to analyze ambient noise levels associated with the proposed project, and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

No Impact. The nearest public airport to the project site is Banning Municipal Airport, which is located approximately 7 miles southeast of the site in the City of Banning. According to the Noise Contours Compatibility Map contained in the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission's Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the project site occurs outside of any designated Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) Compatibility Contour. Therefore, no impacts associated with public airport noise would occur. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. There are no private airstrips located within a 20-mile radius of the project site. Therefore, no impacts associated with private airstrip noise would occur. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

13. Population and Housing

Would the project:

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project could potentially indirectly induce population growth in the SGPWA service area. As a result, this potential impact will be addressed in the Growth Inducement section of the EIR.

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

No Impact. There are currently no existing housing units located on the recharge facility site, the service connection site, or the offsite triangular parcel. Therefore, no impacts associated with the displacement of existing housing would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. As discussed in Impact Question 3.13.b), the proposed recharge site, service connection site, and offsite triangular parcel do not contain any existing residences. As such, no people are presently residing on the sites of the proposed facilities. Thus, no people would be displaced as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts associated with the displacement of people would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

14. Public Services

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to

maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

a) Fire protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Beaumont are provided by the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD).

The proposed project would not include improvements that would increase calls for service to the sites of the proposed facilities, or otherwise increase the need for increased RCFD facilities. The proposed project does not involve the development of land uses that typically increase the need for fire protection and emergency medical services, including residential, commercial, or industrial uses. No persons would be residing or employed full-time on the sites of the proposed facilities, which would reduce the chance for increase RCFD services to the sites.

Additionally, the proposed project would develop two currently undeveloped parcels, removing ruderal brush and scattered debris in the process, reducing the opportunity for wildland fire and the need for RCFD services to the sites. Therefore, impacts associated with the construction of new, or the expansion of existing, RCFD facilities would be less than significant. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

b) Police protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Police protection services in the City of Beaumont are provided by the Beaumont Police Department (BPD). According to the BPD, the City maintains a service ratio of two sworn officers per every 1,000 residents.

The proposed project would not include improvements that would increase calls for service to the project site, or otherwise increase the need for increased BPD facilities. The proposed project does not involve the development of land uses that typically increase the need for police protection service, including residential, commercial, or industrial uses. No persons would be residing or employed full-time on the sites of the proposed facilities, which would reduce the chance for increase BPD service to the sites.

Additionally, in its existing condition, the sites presently consist of undeveloped parcels that are accessible to unauthorized users. The proposed project would include construction of a fence/wall around the proposed facilities, which would limit access to the facilities while also reducing the calls for service regarding trespassing, loitering, vandalism, and similar offenses to the facilities. Therefore, impacts associated with the construction of new or the expansion of existing BPD facilities

would be less than significant. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

c) Schools?

No Impact. Elementary, Intermediate, or High School educational services in the City of Beaumont are provided by the Beaumont Unified School District (BUSD).

The proposed project does not involve the development of land uses such as residential uses that typically generate students, and thus the need for new or expanded school facilities. Therefore, no impacts associated with the construction of new or the expansion of existing BUSD facilities would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

d) Parks?

No Impact. The City of Beaumont's Community Services Department operates and maintains thirteen public parks located throughout the City. Current park facilities include various neighborhood, community, and sports parks. According to the Noble Creek Vistas Specific Plan, the City maintains a standard of 5 acres of fully improved and usable park space for every 1,000 residents.

The County of Riverside operates and maintains 35 regional parks encompassing 22,317 acres. The County's service ratio goal is 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 population.

The proposed project does not involve the development of land uses such as residential uses that typically increase park patronage, resulting in the need for new or expanded park facilities. Therefore, no impacts associated with the construction of new or the expansion of existing park facilities would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

e) Other public facilities?

No Impact. Various public facilities, including libraries, community centers, and hospitals are located throughout the project vicinity.

The proposed project does not involve the development of land uses such as residential that typically increase the usage of these and other public facilities, resulting in the need for new or expanded public facilities. Therefore, no impacts associated with the construction of new or the expansion of existing public facilities would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

15. Recreation

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

No Impact. As discussed in Impact Section 3.14, Public Services, the proposed project does not involve the development of land uses such as residential uses that typically increase patronage at park and recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts associated with the increased usage of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. The implementation of the proposed facilities would not include recreational facilities because the proposed water facilities do not create a demand for recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts associated with recreational facilities would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

16. Transportation/Traffic

Would the project:

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The Circulation Elements of the City of Beaumont and County of Riverside General Plans establishes measures of effectiveness for the performance of the City's circulation system through level of service (LOS) standards. Both the construction and operational phases of the proposed project would generate traffic that could potentially conflict the LOS standards established by the Circulation Element. Therefore, impacts associated with established measures of effectiveness for circulation system performance could be potentially significant. As a result, a traffic assessment will be prepared to analyze the traffic impacts associated with the proposed project and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. According to the Riverside County Transportation Commission's 2011 Riverside County Congestion Management Program (CMP), the nearest CMP roadway is I-10. The majority of the construction and operational activities associated with the project will result in local traffic because the grading and excavation activities associated with the proposed recharge facility is expected to be balanced, and the grading and excavation activities associated with the pipeline and service connection site are anticipated to use either a site immediately north of Noble Creek, east of Mountainview Channel, and south of Brookside Avenue or the service connection site. Although the proposed project is anticipated to result in nominal trips onto I-10, the traffic assessment will provide a discussion of the potential affect of project traffic on the I-10. A traffic assessment will be prepared to analyze the traffic impacts associated with the proposed project and the resulting analysis will be incorporated into the EIR.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No Impact. The nearest public airport to the project site is Banning Municipal Airport, which is located approximately seven miles southeast of the site in the City of Banning. Additionally, there are no private airstrips located within a 20-mile radius of the project site. According to the Compatibility Map contained in the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission's Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the project site occurs outside of any designated Compatibility Contour. The proposed project would not include any improvement that would occur at a height that could potentially interfere with air traffic patterns. Therefore, no impacts associated with air traffic patterns would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. The proposed project does not include any roadway improvements that involve sharp curves or dangerous intersections, and would not introduce incompatible uses to the project area. Therefore, no impacts would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project's short-term construction and long-term operational phases would not interfere with the area emergency access. Construction materials and

equipment associated with the recharge facility would be stored on the recharge facility site and/or the offsite triangular parcel located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel. Construction materials and equipment associated with the pipeline would be stored within the portion of the roadway right-of-way that would be closed to vehicular traffic and would include barriers to separate construction activities from traffic. The materials and equipment associated with the service connection site would be stored on the service connection site. Since all construction materials and equipment associated with the proposed project would be physically separated from vehicular access, no impacts to emergency access would occur from the temporary storage of construction materials and equipment.

As discussed in Impact Question 3.8.g), construction activities associated with the proposed recharge facility and the service connection facility will be located off of the public street system and would not interfere with emergency access.

Construction of the pipeline will result in the temporary closure of the southbound lane along the existing two-lane Beaumont Avenue and potentially the eastbound lane along the two-lane Orchard Street in the area of construction. These lane closures would occur as excavation, placement, and backfilling activities occur. In areas where jack and bore activities are proposed such as at the Mountain View Channel and Noble Creek, a lane will also be closed. Since Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street have dirt shoulders, there is a possibility for emergency vehicles to pass in the area of the lane closure. The construction activities associated with the pipeline would result in less than significant impacts to emergency access.

This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The City of Beaumont Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan, the City's Master Trails and Wildlife Corridor Plan, the Circulation Element of the County of Riverside General Plan, and the County's Pass Area Plan establish the location of existing and planned pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and multipurpose trails throughout the project area. An existing multipurpose trail is located along the western edge of Beaumont Avenue south of Cherry Valley Boulevard. Additionally, both the Bike and Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan and the Noble Creek Vistas Specific Plan outline existing and proposed Class I and II bikeways located along Beaumont Avenue, Cougar Way, and both sides of Noble Creek, as well as a proposed multipurpose trail located between the proposed recharge facility site and the southern edge of Noble Creek. Moreover, the County's General Plan and Pass Area Plan identify a regional trail that follows the alignment of Noble Creek.

Additionally, the City of Beaumont Transit System, along with the City of Banning Transit, operates the Pass Transit System, which provides service throughout the project area. The City of Beaumont Transit system operates eight fixed routes and one commuter link to the City of Calimesa and the San Bernardino Metrolink station, as well as Dial-A-Ride and curb-to-curb services for the disabled and seniors.

Short-Term Construction Impacts

Construction of the pipeline would require temporary southbound lane closures of individual segments (e.g. Brookside Avenue to Cherry Valley Boulevard, Cheery Valley Boulevard to Vineland Street) of Beaumont Avenue for approximately one to two weeks at a time. Closure of these segments would affect the existing Class II bike lane located along the southbound lane of Beaumont Avenue and the existing multipurpose trail located along the western edge of Beaumont Avenue. During these closures, signage would be used to inform bicyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians of the closure and of alternative routes. For example, users needing to traverse Beaumont Avenue could be directed to Noble Street as an alternative route. As the nearest north/south trending roadway to Beaumont Avenue, Noble Street would provide users a continuous connection between Brookside Avenue and Orchard Street, while not adding substantial commute time.

Additionally, construction of the pipeline would occur during the summer months when Beaumont High School, Mountain View Middle School, and other nearby schools are closed for summer recess, which would reduce the number of bicyclists and pedestrians using the bike lane and multipurpose trail. Therefore, short-term construction impacts associated with bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be less than significant.

Moreover, while Pass Transit bus service along Beaumont Avenue could be affected by the temporary lane closures, bus service could still use Beaumont Avenue as a bus route. The specific locations of certain Pass Transit bus stops are located along Cherry Valley Boulevard and Cougar Way in the immediate vicinity of Beaumont Avenue. These bus stops would not be directly affected by the proposed construction. Therefore, short-term construction impacts associated with public transit facilities would be less than significant.

Long-Term Project Impacts

Operation of the proposed project would not affect the existing portions of the aforementioned pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and multipurpose facilities because the recharge facility and service connection facility are proposed on lands that are not designated with transit, bicycle, or pedestrian uses. The pipeline would be located below ground surface, and therefore, the project would not affect transit. Impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts associated with pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian, and multipurpose trails. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

17. Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

No Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board. The operation of the proposed project would not create a need for additional levels of wastewater service. Therefore, the proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. The implementation of the proposed project includes water facilities. The implementation of the proposed water facilities would not result in the need for the construction of additional water facilities or any wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore the proposed project would result in no impact. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The proposed project includes the installation of storm drain facilities at the recharge facility site. The storm drain facilities will be connected to the existing underground storm drain located southwest of the recharge site. Flows from the proposed recharge facility are expected to be less than or equal to the amount of existing storm flow to the existing storm drain. During storm events, there may be times that a portion of the water in the southwesternmost basin may need to be drained so that stormwater entering the basins will not cause an overflow condition. The amount of stormwater and basin water anticipated to be conveyed to the existing storm drain line southwest of the site will be less than the amount of stormwater that is currently conveyed from the recharge facility site to the existing storm drain line. The design capacity of this 36-inch storm drain is approximately 57.6 cubic feet per second (cfs). Generally, a pervious parcel such as the recharge facility site will yield approximately one cfs per acre for a 100-year storm event. Thus, under the worst case scenario, the 44-acre recharge facility site could yield a flow of roughly 44 cfs, which could be accommodated by the existing storm drain line. Since the proposed recharge facility will reduce the amount of land that could contribute runoff from the site due to the proposed basins

retaining stormwater that falls on the majority of the site, Stormwater runoff from the site would less than under existing conditions. Therefore, the design of the proposed recharge facility would not result in an exceedance of the existing storm drain line and an expansion of this existing drainage facility would not be required. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. In part, the proposed project would convey raw, imported water from the East Branch of the SWP to the SGPWA service area to facilitate groundwater recharge of the presently overdrawn groundwater table. This groundwater would be available to regional water purveyors with the rights to withdraw water from the local groundwater supply. In and of itself, however, the proposed project would not introduce new uses or activities that would create a demand for increased water supplies. Therefore, no impacts would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

No Impact. The proposed project would not include any improvements that generate wastewater or subsequently require wastewater treatment such as restroom or kitchen facilities. None of the improvements constructed as part of the proposed project would require connection with the municipal sewer system. Therefore, no impacts would occur. This issue will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The solid waste collection in the project area is currently served by permitted landfills in the project region, including the Lambs Canyon Sanitary Landfill, which is located just outside of the City of Beaumont along SR-79. The 353-acre Lambs Canyon Sanitary Landfill has a permitted disposal area of 144 acres, a permitted capacity of 3,000 tons per day, and a remaining permitted capacity of 18,955,000 cubic yards.

Construction activities associated with the proposed facilities may generate solid waste that could be required to be deposited at a landfill. However, the majority of the excavated soil associated with the project will either be deposited on the recharge facility site, the site located north of Noble Creek, east of the Mountain View Channel, and south of Brookside Avenue, or at the service connection site.

Operations of the proposed facilities are anticipated to create nominal amount of solid waste during maintenance of the facilities.

Therefore, the implementation of the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on existing landfill capacities. This impact will not be analyzed in the EIR unless new information identifying it as a potentially significant impact is presented during the scoping process.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. All collection, transportation, and disposal of any solid waste generated by the proposed project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Prior to entering into a landfill facility, solid waste collection service providers would be required to comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact of statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

18. Mandatory Findings of Significance

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project could potentially have significant impacts on the environment, biological resources, and/or cultural resources. As a result, the proposed project's affect on the environment, biological resources, and cultural resources will be analyzed in the EIR.

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)?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project could potentially have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. As such, potentially cumulative impacts will be addressed in the EIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project could potentially have significant impacts on the environment that would substantial directly and/or indirectly adversely affect human beings. As a result, the proposed project's affect on the environment will be analyzed in the EIR.

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A.2 - Comments on IS/NOP

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

Notice of Preparation

November 13, 2012

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline
SCH# 2012111033

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Jeff Davis
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2012111033
Project Title Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline
Lead Agency San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency

Type NOP Notice of Preparation

Description The project includes the construction and operation of a recharge facility, pipeline, and a service connection facility. The recharge facility is proposed to be located on an ~44 acre parcel and consists of a series of five tiered basins, separated by berms. The perimeter of the recharge facility is proposed to include raised embankments. The pipeline is proposed to extend from the recharge facility to the service connection facility. The pipeline will be 24-inches in diameter and will extend north from the recharge facility along Beaumont Avenue for ~5,600 linear feet and west along Orchard Street for ~1,400 feet. The service connection facility is located on an ~3.5 acre site located south of Orchard Street and west of the Mountain View Channel. The service connection facility is proposed to divert raw, imported water from the existing 36-inch East Branch Extension/Noble Creek pipeline located at the intersection of Orchard Street and Mountain View Avenue. During the construction phase of the project, construction equipment, vehicles, and materials could be stored at up to four staging areas: the recharge facility site, within the Beaumont Avenue and Orchard Street rights-of-way adjacent to the portion of the pipeline undergoing installation, the service connection site, and/or an ~3.4 acre triangular parcel located south of Brookside Avenue, north of Noble Creek, and east of the Mountain View Channel.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Jeff Davis
Agency San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Phone 951 845-2577 **Fax**
email
Address 1210 Beaumont Avenue
City Beaumont **State** CA **Zip** 92223

Project Location

County Riverside
City Beaumont
Region
Cross Streets Generally Beaumont Avenue and Brookside Avenue
Lat / Long 33° 57' 30.9" N / 116° 58' 45.4" W
Parcel No. 406-080-032
Township 2S **Range** 1W **Section** 34 **Base** SBB&M

Proximity to:

Highways SR 60, SR 79, I-10
Airports
Railways Union Pacific
Waterways Noble Creek, Little San Gorgonio Creek
Schools BUSD, K-12
Land Use City of Beaumont:
Recharge Facility Site - Specific Plan Area (Zoning), Single Family Residential (GP)

County of Riverside:
Pipeline - Streets
Service Connection Site - Residential Agricultural (Zoning), Rural Community - Very Low Density Residential (General Plan)

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

Project Issues	Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Sewer Capacity; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Landuse; Cumulative Effects
Reviewing Agencies	Resources Agency; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Game, Region 6; CA Department of Public Health; Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 8; State Water Resources Control Board, Divison of Financial Assistance; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 8

Date Received 11/13/2012 ***Start of Review*** 11/13/2012 ***End of Review*** 12/12/2012

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 653-6251
Fax (916) 657-5390
Web Site www.nahc.ca.gov
ds_nahc@pacbell.net

November 16, 2012

Mr. Jeff Davis, P.E., General Manager
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

Re: SCH#2012111033; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the **"BEAUMONT AVENUE RECHARGE FACILITY AND PIPELINE PROJECT;"** located in the City of Beaumont; Riverside County, California

Dear Mr. Davis:

The NAHC is the State of California 'Trustee Agency' for the protection and preservation of Native American cultural resources pursuant to California Public Resources Code §21070 and affirmed by the Third Appellate Court in the case of EPIC v. Johnson (1985: 170 Cal App. 3rd 604).

This letter includes state and federal statutes relating to Native American historic properties or resources of religious and cultural significance to American Indian tribes and interested Native American individuals as 'consulting parties' under both state and federal law. State law also addresses the freedom of Native American Religious Expression in Public Resources Code §5097.9.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA – CA Public Resources Code 21000-21177, amendment s effective 3/18/2010) requires that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, that includes archaeological resources, is a 'significant effect' requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines defines a significant impact on the environment as 'a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of physical conditions within an area affected by the proposed project, including ...objects of historic or aesthetic significance." In order to comply with this provision, the lead agency is required to assess whether the project will have an adverse impact on these resources within the 'area of potential effect (APE), and if so, to mitigate that effect. The NAHC advises the Lead Agency to request a Sacred Lands File search of the NAHC if one has not been done for the 'area of potential effect' or APE previously.

The NAHC "Sacred Sites,' as defined by the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Legislature in California Public Resources Code §§5097.94(a) and 5097.96. Items in the NAHC Sacred Lands Inventory are confidential and exempt from the Public Records Act pursuant to California Government Code §6254 (r).

Early consultation with Native American tribes in your area is the best way to avoid unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources or burial sites once a project is underway. Culturally affiliated tribes and individuals may have knowledge of the religious and cultural

significance of the historic properties in the project area (e.g. APE). We strongly urge that you make contact with the list of Native American Contacts on the attached list of Native American contacts, to see if your proposed project might impact Native American cultural resources and to obtain their recommendations concerning the proposed project. Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code § 5097.95, the NAHC requests cooperation from other public agencies in order that the Native American consulting parties be provided pertinent project information. Consultation with Native American communities is also a matter of environmental justice as defined by California Government Code §65040.12(e). Pursuant to CA Public Resources Code §5097.95, the NAHC requests that pertinent project information be provided consulting tribal parties, including archaeological studies. The NAHC recommends *avoidance* as defined by CEQA Guidelines §15370(a) to pursuing a project that would damage or destroy Native American cultural resources and California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 (Archaeological Resources) that requires documentation, data recovery of cultural resources, construction to avoid sites and the possible use of covenant easements to protect sites.

Furthermore, the NAHC if the proposed project is under the jurisdiction of the statutes and regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (e.g. NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321-43351). Consultation with tribes and interested Native American consulting parties, on the NAHC list, should be conducted in compliance with the requirements of federal NEPA and Section 106 and 4(f) of federal NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq*), 36 CFR Part 800.3 (f) (2) & .5, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CSQ, 42 U.S.C 4371 *et seq.* and NAGPRA (25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) as appropriate. The 1992 *Secretary of the Interiors Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* were revised so that they could be applied to all historic resource types included in the National Register of Historic Places and including cultural landscapes. Also, federal Executive Orders Nos. 11593 (preservation of cultural environment), 13175 (coordination & consultation) and 13007 (Sacred Sites) are helpful, supportive guides for Section 106 consultation. The aforementioned Secretary of the Interior's *Standards* include recommendations for all 'lead agencies' to consider the historic context of proposed projects and to "research" the cultural landscape that might include the 'area of potential effect.'

Confidentiality of "historic properties of religious and cultural significance" should also be considered as protected by California Government Code §6254(r) and may also be protected under Section 304 of he NHPA or at the Secretary of the Interior discretion if not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Secretary may also be advised by the federal Indian Religious Freedom Act (cf. 42 U.S.C., 1996) in issuing a decision on whether or not to disclose items of religious and/or cultural significance identified in or near the APEs and possibility threatened by proposed project activity.

Furthermore, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, California Government Code §27491 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 provide for provisions for inadvertent discovery of human remains mandate the processes to be followed in the event of a discovery of human remains in a project location other than a 'dedicated cemetery'.

To be effective, consultation on specific projects must be the result of an ongoing relationship between Native American tribes and lead agencies, project proponents and their contractors, in the opinion of the NAHC. Regarding tribal consultation, a relationship built around regular meetings and informal involvement with local tribes will lead to more qualitative consultation tribal input on specific projects.

Finally, when Native American cultural sites and/or Native American burial sites are prevalent within the project site, the NAHC recommends 'avoidance' of the site as referenced by CEQA Guidelines Section 15370(a).

If you have any questions about this response to your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 653-6251.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton
Program Analyst

Cc: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contact List

Native American Contacts
Riverside County
November 16, 2012

Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians
Shane Chapparosa, Chairman
P.O. Box 189 Cahuilla
Warner , CA 92086
(760) 782-0711
(760) 782-2701 - FAX

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Ann Brierty, Policy/Cultural Resources Departmen
26569 Community Center. Drive Serrano
Highland , CA 92346
(909) 864-8933, Ext 3250
abrierty@sanmanuel-nsn.gov
(909) 862-5152 Fax

Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians
Joseph Hamilton, Chairman
P.O. Box 391670 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
admin@ramonatribe.com
(951) 763-4105
(951) 763-4325 Fax

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Robert Martin, Chairperson
12700 Pumarra Rroad Cahuilla
Banning , CA 92220 Serrano
(951) 849-8807
(951) 755-5200
(951) 922-8146 Fax

Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians
John Marcus, Chairman
P.O. Box 391820 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
(951) 659-2700
(951) 659-2228 Fax

Serrano Nation of Mission Indians
Goldie Walker, Chairwoman
P.O. Box 343 Serrano
Patton , CA 92369

(909) 528-9027 or
(909) 528-9032

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Michael Contreras, Cultural Heritage Prog.
12700 Pumarra Road Cahuilla
Banning , CA 92220 Serrano
(951) 201-1866 - cell
mcontreras@morongo-nsn.gov
(951) 922-0105 Fax

Cahuilla Band of Indians
Uther Salgado, Chairperson
PO Box 391760 Cahuilla
Anza , CA 92539
tribalcouncil@cahuilla.net
915-763-5549

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2012111033; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline Project; located in the City of Beaumont; Riverside County, California.

Native American Contacts
Riverside County
November 16, 2012

Ernest H. Siva
Morongo Band of Mission Indians Tribal Elder
9570 Mias Canyon Road Serrano
Banning , CA 92220 Cahuilla
siva@dishmail.net
(951) 849-4676

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2012111033; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline Project; located in the City of Beaumont; Riverside County, California.

State of California -The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
(909) 484-0459
www.dfg.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

December 11, 2012

Mr. Jeffrey Davis
General Manager
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

Re: Notice of Preparation for the Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline Project
City of Beaumont, County of Riverside
State Clearinghouse No. 2012111033

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline Project (Project) [State Clearinghouse No. 2012111033], City of Beaumont, County of Riverside,. The Department is responding to the NOP as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (Fish and Game Code Sections 711.7 and 1802 and the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines Section 15386), and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15381), such as the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600 *et seq.*) and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for Incidental Take of Endangered, Threatened, and/or Candidate species (California Fish and Game Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1).

The project is located in the City of Beaumont and in an unincorporated area of Riverside County. It is bordered on the west by Beaumont Avenue, on the east by Noble Creek, on the south by the Mountain View Middle School, and on the north by Brookside Avenue. The triangular portion of the project directly below Brookside Avenue is separated from the southern part of the project by Noble Creek and may be used as a staging area and deposition site for sediment excavated to create the basins.

The 44-acre Project site includes five tiered recharge basins, berms separating the basins, and a 24-inch in diameter pipeline (5,600 linear feet) to connect the basins with a service connection site (3.5 acres) at Orchard Street and Mountain View Avenue. Crossing of Noble Creek will be accomplished by jacking and boring. The pipeline will bring imported state water to the basins. The basins are proposed to be maintained.

Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

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

The proposed Project occurs within the MSHCP and is subject to the provisions and policies of the MSHCP. The Project is located in the Pass Area Plan of the MSHCP, but does not contain any Criteria Cells. Proposed Constrained Linkage 23 is farther north of the site and trends west to east. Noble Creek trends north to south and has value as a wildlife corridor. The San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency is the lead agency but is not signatory to the MSHCP, therefore in order to participate in the MSHCP they would need to act as a Participating Special Entity (PSE). Compliance with approved habitat plans, such as the MSHCP, is discussed in CEQA. Specifically, Section 15125(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that the CEQA document discuss any inconsistencies between a proposed Project and applicable general plans and regional plans, including habitat conservation plans and natural community conservation plans. An assessment of the impacts to the MSHCP as a result of this Project is necessary to address CEQA requirements.

Any surveys should be conducted prior to submittal of the DEIR and the results included in the DEIR, along with any biological studies and a jurisdictional delineation. The DEIR should include an analysis of the potential and direct effects of the Project on fish and wildlife resources, as well as potential and indirect effects of the Project on fish and wildlife resources.

Should the applicant choose not to process the Project through the MSHCP for covered species, then the Project is subject to the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and/or the California Endangered Species Act for rare, candidate, threatened and endangered species. A CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) must be obtained if the Project has the potential to result in "take" of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the Project. The Department's CESA ITPs state that a project must fully minimize and mitigate impacts to State-listed resources.

The CEQA document should specify whether the Project will obtain take through the MSHCP as a PSE or will need to obtain take through a FESA or CESA ITP in the event Endangered, Threatened, Candidate or Rare species are found on the site.

Department Concerns

1. Include in the DEIR document any Habitat Assessments, MSHCP Consistency Determinations, general biological reports, focused biological surveys, Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) and Jurisdictional Delineations of waters;
2. Conduct surveys for burrowing owl as per the MSHCP guidelines;

3. Conduct plant surveys following the Department's November 2009 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities;
4. Provide mitigation for the loss of sensitive habitat communities (riparian, Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, and Riversidean Sage Scrub);
5. Provide a plan for future maintenance activities, a revegetation plan, and a monitoring plan for restored or revegetated areas;
6. Provide minimization and avoidance measures for impacts to Noble Creek; ,
7. Provide mitigation for direct and indirect impacts to Noble Creek, including a frac-out plan for the jack and bore portion of the project;
8. State whether the recharge basins will involve the diversion of surface waters of the State; and,
9. Review the biological reports and incorporate biological information from two nearby Projects: SCH# 2001021058 and SCH# 2011031063.

Potential Biological Impacts

This particular Project has the potential to have significant environmental impacts on sensitive flora and fauna resources, including raptors, western spadefoot toad, riparian vegetation, Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub and Riversidean Sage Scrub. Therefore, the CEQA document should include an alternatives analysis which focuses on environmental resources and ways to avoid or minimize impacts to those resources.

The Department is concerned about the continuing loss of jurisdictional waters of the State and the encroachment of development into areas with native habitat values. The CEQA document should contain sufficient, specific, and current biological information on the existing habitat and species at the Project site; measures to minimize and avoid sensitive biological resources; and mitigation measures to offset the loss of native flora and fauna and State waters. If the Project site contains Federally- or State-listed species, the CEQA document should include measures to avoid and minimize impacts to these species as well as mitigation measures to compensate for the loss of biological resources. The CEQA document should not defer impact analysis and mitigation measures to future regulatory discretionary actions, such as a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement.

To enable Department staff to adequately review and comment on the proposed Project, we suggest that updated biological studies be conducted prior to any environmental or discretionary approvals. The following information should be included in any focused biological report or supplemental environmental report:

1. Please provide a complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the Project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats.

    a. Provide a thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities, following the Department's November 2009 Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities. The guidance document can be found at the following link: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/Protocols_for_Surveying_and_Evaluating_Impacts.pdf

b. Provide a thorough assessment of sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the Project area should also be considered. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

c. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at (916) 327-5960 to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the California Fish and Game Code.

2. Provide a thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts.

a. CEQA Guidelines, 15125(a), direct that knowledge of the regional setting is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts and that special emphasis should be placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region.

b. Project impacts should be analyzed relative to their affects on off-site Habitats, including: adjacent public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, and riparian ecosystems. In addition, impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitat in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated and provided.

c. The zoning of areas for development projects or other uses that are nearby or adjacent to natural areas may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the environmental document.

d. A cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines, 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats.

e. The document should include an analysis of the effect that the Project may have on the MSHCP or on other regional and/or subregional conservation programs in San Diego or Orange Counties. Under Sections 2800-2835 of the California Fish and Game Code, the Department, through the NCCP is coordinating with local jurisdictions, landowners, and the Federal Government to preserve local and regional biological diversity.

3. A range of alternatives should be analyzed to ensure that alternatives to the proposed Project are fully considered and evaluated (CEQA Guidelines 15126.6). A range of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources should be included. Specific alternative locations should also be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate.

a. Mitigation measures for Project impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats should emphasize evaluation and selection of alternatives which avoid and/or otherwise minimize Project impacts. Off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of high-quality habitat should be addressed.

b. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats having both local and regional significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from Project-related impacts.

c. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Department studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.

4. A CESA Incidental Take Permit (ITP) must be obtained if there are impacts to State listed species and the applicant chooses not to process the Project through the Resource Conservation Agency of the MSHCP.

a. If the Project has the potential to result in "take" of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the Project. CESA ITPs are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to the proposed Project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA ITP. Revisions to the California Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a CESA ITP unless the Project CEQA document addresses all Project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a CESA ITP. For these reasons, the following information is requested:

b. Biological mitigation, monitoring, and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA ITP.

c. A Department-approved Mitigation Agreement and Mitigation Plan are required for plants listed as rare under the Native Plant Protection Act.

5. Although the proposed Project is within the MSHCP and could be subject to Section 6.1.2, Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification is still required by the Department should the site contain jurisdictional waters. The Department's criteria for determining the presence of jurisdictional waters are generally more comprehensive than the MSHCP criteria in Section 6.1.2. The CEQA document should include a jurisdictional delineation if there are impacts to riparian vegetation or State waters.

The Department opposes the elimination of watercourses and/or their channelization or conversion to subsurface drains. All wetlands and watercourses, whether intermittent or perennial, must be retained or mitigated for and provided with

substantial setbacks which preserve the riparian and aquatic values and maintain their value to on-site and off-site wildlife populations.

a. Under Section 1600 *et seq.* of the California Fish and Game Code, the Department requires the Project applicant to notify the Department of any activity that will divert, obstruct or change the natural flow or the bed, channel or bank (which includes associated riparian resources) of a river, stream or lake, or use material from a streambed prior to the applicant's commencement of the activity. Streams include, but are not limited to, intermittent and ephemeral streams, rivers, creeks, dry washes, sloughs, blue-line streams, and watercourses with subsurface flow.

The Department's issuance of a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a responsible agency. The Department, as a responsible agency under CEQA, may consider the local jurisdiction's (lead agency) Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report for the Project. However, if the CEQA document does not fully identify potential impacts to lakes, streams, and associated resources (including, but not limited to riparian and alluvial fan sage scrub habitat) and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and reporting commitments, additional CEQA documentation will be required prior to execution (signing) of the Streambed Alteration Agreement.

In order to avoid delays or repetition of the CEQA process, potential impacts to a lake or stream, as well as avoidance and mitigation measures need to be discussed within this CEQA document. The Department recommends the following measures to avoid subsequent CEQA documentation and project delays:

(i) Incorporate all information regarding impacts to lakes, streams and associated habitat within the DEIR. Information that should be included within this document includes: (a) a delineation of lakes, streams, and associated habitat that will be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed Project; (b) details on the biological resources (flora and fauna) associated with the lakes and/or streams; (c) identification of the presence or absence of sensitive plants, animals, or natural communities; (d) a discussion of environmental alternatives; (e) a discussion of avoidance measures to reduce Project impacts, (f) a discussion of potential mitigation measures required to reduce the Project impacts to a level of insignificance; and (g) an analysis of impacts to habitat caused by a change in the flow of water across the site. The applicant and lead agency should keep in mind that the State also has a policy of no net loss of wetlands.

(ii) The Department recommends that the Project applicant and/or lead agency consult with the Department to discuss potential Project impacts and avoidance and mitigation measures. Early consultation with the Department is recommended since modification of the proposed Project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

To obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification package, please visit our website at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/1600.html.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact Robin Maloney-Rames at (909) 980-3818, if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Jeff Brandt
Senior Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse, Sacramento

Riverside County Transportation Commission

4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor • Riverside, CA
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 12008 • Riverside, CA 92502-2208
(951) 787-7141 • Fax (951) 787-7920 • www.rctc.org

November 21, 2012

To: Jeffery W. Davis
General Manager
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

Subject: Initial Study/Notice of Preparation – Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline

SCH No. Not Indicated

The Riverside County Transportation Commission has reviewed the above-referenced document and has no comments. The Commission will review the Environmental Impact Report when it becomes available.

Please contact Steven Keel at (951) 787-7961 or skeel@bec-riv.org if there are any questions.

ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

January 10, 2013

Mr. Jeff Davis
San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

RE: NOP Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline (SCH# 2012111033)

Dear Mr. Davis:

Please add the Orange County Water District to the distribution list to receive all CEQA documents related to the above referenced project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marsha Westropp

Marsha Westropp
Senior Watershed Planner
mwestropp@ocwd.com

City of Calimesa

908 Park Avenue • Calimesa, California 92320
Phone (909) 795-9801 • Fax (909) 795-6187
http://www.cityofcalimesa.net

November 29, 2012

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Jeffrey Davis, P.E., General Manager
1210 Beaumont Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
BEAUMONT AVENUE RECHARGE FACILITY AND PIPELINE PROJECT

Dear Mr. Davis,

The City of Calimesa is in receipt of your Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the subject project. Staff has no comment on this project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (909) 795-9801, ext. 229, or by email at jguarracino@cityofcalimesa.net. Thank you.

Sincerely,

for Jerry Guarracino

Jerry Guarracino
Community Development Director

MORONGO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

A SOVEREIGN NATION

Morongo Water Department

MEMO

TO: Morongo Planning Dept.
FROM: John Covington, Water Department Manager
Cc: Mark St. Angelo/ NOP File
DATE: December 6, 2012
Re: SGPWA/NOP (Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline Project)

Purpose:

The purpose of this memo is to respond to the NOP dated November 13, 2012 from the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency which was prepared by Michael Brandman Associates.

Discussion:

The Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) is the current owner of the Tukwet Canyon Golf Course (former East Valley Golf Club) located in Beaumont, Ca approximately 1.5 miles west for the proposed project site and encompasses 435 acres. The Tribe currently owns and operates a State of California Public Water System (PWS) # 3303071 for domestic use. There is currently 4 water wells located within the boundaries of the property, 3 of which are located within the Beaumont Management Zone and more specifically within the Adjudicated portion of the basin. The Adjudication (Riverside Superior Court case # RIC389197) defines certain water rights which are entitled to the owner of the Tukwet Canyon Golf Course in an amount of 2200 acre feet per year. The two active wells are Well "A" (State well # 025/01W-31G// LONG: 117.02964949900// LAT: 33.95107061830) and Well "D" (State well # 02S/01W-32M// LONG: 117.01401993000// LAT: 33.95260157650).

Comments: Section 1

- 1.2: *SGPWA fails to include the Morongo Tribal lands and the 3 acres located in San Bernardino County within its service area as fully described in this section.*
- 1.4: *This section should include discussion on material removal (on -going as part of maintenance), levee breach, local flooding, vector control, localize saturation, and the implementation of a SWPP plan during construction.*

Section 3

- *9(A): Long Term Project Groundwater Quality Impacts: This section defines the proposed water source and ESTIMATED water quality data which is approximately 30 miles west of the proposed project. More specific water quality data should be considered as part of the final EIR, including local groundwater quality impacts.*

A.3 - Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheet

San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline

Date: December 3, 2012, 6:00 pm **Event:** Scoping Meeting for Environmental Impact Report

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Name	Street Address	City	Zip
Duane Burk	@ 99 EAST RAMSEY	BANNING	92220
ERIC FRASER	560 MAGNOLIA	BEAUMONT	92223
[illegible] Reedy	C V		
Barbara Voigt			
Blair BALL	39885 Vineland PL CV	CV	92223

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Beaumont Avenue Recharge Facility and Pipeline

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Name	Street Address	City	Zip
Bill Dickson	SGPWA		
MaryAnn Melleby	SGPWA		
Rosa Duran	SGPWA		