



WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
855 W. BASE LINE ROAD, RIALTO, CA 92376
PH: (909) 875-1804 FAX: (909) 875-1849

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024
6:00 P.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gregory Young, President
Daniel Jenkins, Vice President
Angela Garcia, Director
Kelvin Moore, Director
Estevan Bennett, Director

"In order to comply with legal requirements for posting of agendas, only those items filed with the Board Secretary's office by noon, on Wednesday a week prior to the following Thursday meeting, not requiring departmental investigation, will be considered by the Board of Directors."

Members of the public may attend the meeting in person at 855 W. Base Line Road, Rialto, CA 92376, or you may join the meeting using Zoom by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8402937790>. Public comment may be submitted via Zoom, by telephone by calling the following number and access code: Dial: (888) 475-4499, Access Code: 840-293-7790, or via email to administration@wvwd.org.

If you require additional assistance, please contact administration@wvwd.org.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Call to Order
Roll Call of Board Members
Approval of Any Board Member Requests for Remote Participation
Pledge of Allegiance
Opening Prayer

CLOSED SESSION

Public Participation on closed session matters
CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6
Agency designated representatives: John Thiel, General Manager, Haydee Sainz, Human Resources Manager, Oliver Yee, Special Counsel
Employee Groups: International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 12

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION
Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9
Name of case: Naseem Farooqi v. West Valley Water District et al.
Report out of Closed Session

ADOPT AGENDA

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Any person wishing to speak to the Board of Directors on matters listed or not listed on the agenda, within its jurisdiction, is asked to complete a Speaker Card and submit it to the Board Secretary, if you are attending in person. For anyone joining on Zoom, please wait for the Board President's instruction to indicate that you would like to speak. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes. Under the State of California Brown Act, the Board of Directors is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item not listed on the posted agenda. Comments related to noticed Public Hearing(s) and Business Matters will be heard during the occurrence of the item.

Public communication is the time for anyone to address the Board on any agenda item or anything under the jurisdiction of the District. Also, please remember that no disruptions from the crowd will be tolerated. If someone disrupts the meeting, they will be removed.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Roemer Update
2. Cancer Awareness Proclamation

CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Board of Directors, Staff Member, or any member of the public request a specific item(s) be removed for separate action.

Consideration of:

1. September 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes.

BUSINESS MATTERS

Consideration of:

2. Adopt Resolution Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Well No. 57 Project.
3. Nitrates Study.

REPORTS - LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES MAXIMUM (Presentations or handouts must be provided to Board Members in advance of the Board Meeting).

1. **Board Committee Reports**
2. **Board Members**
3. **General Manager**
4. **Legal Counsel**
 - Updates on current legal topics/best practice
5. **Board Secretary**

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- October 23, 2024 - Finance Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- October 28, 2024 - External Affairs Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- October 29, 2024 - Executive Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- November 4, 2024 - Safety and Technology Committee Meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- November 12, 2024 - External Affairs Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- November 13, 2024 - Human Resources Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- November 14, 2024 - Adjourned Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- October 26 - WVWD - Succulent Workshop
- October 26 - Western Days at Kessler Park
- October 26 - Trunk or Treat - Bloomington

UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- December 3 - 5 - ACWA Fall Conference and Expo

ADJOURN

Please Note:

Material related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the District's office located at 855 W. Baseline, Rialto, during normal business hours. Also, such documents are available on the District's website at www.wvwd.org subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a), any request for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to attend or participate in the above-agendized public meeting should be directed to the Board Secretary, Elvia Dominguez, at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to ensure availability of the requested service or accommodation. Ms. Dominguez may be contacted by telephone at (909) 875-1804 ext. 703, or in writing at the West Valley Water District, P.O. Box 920, Rialto, CA 92377-0920.

DECLARATION OF POSTING:

I declare under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the West Valley Water District and posted the foregoing Agenda at the District Offices on October 10, 2024.

Elvia Dominguez

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
of the
WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
September 19, 2024

OPENING CEREMONIES

Call to Order - President Young called the Regular Board Meeting of the West Valley Water District to order at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call of Board Members

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Arrived
Directors			
Angela Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Kelvin Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Daniel Jenkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Gregory Young	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
General Counsel			
Jeff Ferre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Staff			
John Thiel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Linda Jadeski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
William Fox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Haydee Sainz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Joanne Chan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Elvia Dominguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Socorro Pantaleon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rocky Welborn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Albert Clinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Robert Ramirez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Approval of Any Board Member Requests for Remote Participation - None.
Pledge of Allegiance - The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Moore.
Opening Prayer - The Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Daniel Vasquez.

CLOSED SESSION

Public Participation on closed session matters.

WVWD

Minutes: 9/19/24

President Young inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received to speak via email or in-person, or on Zoom, therefore President Young closed the public comment period.

The Board entered into closed session at 6:03 p.m.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency designated representatives: John Thiel, General Manager, Haydee Sainz, Human Resources Manager, Oliver Yee, Special Counsel

Employee Groups: International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 12

CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957

Public Employee Performance Evaluation - General Manager.

CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS

Government Code 54957.6

Agency designated representative: President Greg Young

Unrepresented employee: General Manager

Report out of Closed Session

The Board adjourned the closed session at 6:29 p.m. to conduct the business portion of the meeting which commenced at 6:31p.m. with all Board members present.

General Counsel Ferre reported that the Board discussed the closed session items and there was no reportable action taken.

ADOPT AGENDA

Motion to adopt the agenda.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Daniel Jenkins, Vice President
SECONDER:	Angela Garcia, Director
AYES:	Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Young inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received to speak via email or in-person, or on Zoom, therefore President Young closed the public comment period.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Strategic Plan - Work Plans.

WVWD

Minutes: 9/19/24

General Manager Thiel presented a PowerPoint on the Strategic Plan and Work Plans developed by staff. Vice President Jenkins thanked General Manager Thiel and staff for developing the Work Plans. Director Garcia inquired if there were additional details on how the work plans would be achieved. General Manager Thiel stated not at this time, however, at the time updates are brought back to the Board, he will include details of how the work plans were achieved.

Board Secretary Dominguez indicated that the new agenda management system being implemented will allow the Board to see what items support the strategic plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve Consent Calendar item #1

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Daniel Jenkins, Vice President
SECONDER:	Kelvin Moore, Director
AYES:	Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

1. Update to Records Retention Schedule

BUSINESS MATTERS

2. Adopt Resolution Adopting Updated Capacity Charges and Service Installation Charges and Adopt Ordinance Updating Water Service Rules and Regulations

President Young opened the public hearing.

General Manager Thiel introduced the item and Director of Engineering Welborn presented the report.

President Young inquired if anyone from the public would like to speak. No requests were received to speak via email or in-person, or on Zoom, therefore President Young closed the public hearing.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2024-07 adopting the District’s Updated Capacity Charges and Service Installation Charges.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Daniel Jenkins, Vice President
SECONDER:	Angela Garcia, Director
AYES:	Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 89 updating Article 20, Schedule of Charges, of the Water Service Regulations.

WVWD

Minutes: 9/19/24

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Angela Garcia, Director
SECONDER: Kelvin Moore, Director
AYES: Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

Motion to authorize the General Manager to execute all necessary documents related to implementing the recommendations of the study.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Daniel Jenkins, Vice President
SECONDER: Kelvin Moore, Director
AYES: Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

3. Interview and Appointment to Fill Division 4 Board Vacancy

Board Secretary Dominguez presented the staff report.

The Board of Directors interviewed Estevan Bennett for the appointment to fill the Division 4 Vacancy.

Motion to appoint Estevan Bennett to fill the Division 4 Board Vacancy, to serve the remainder of the term that expires December 2024.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Angela Garcia, Director
SECONDER: Kelvin Moore, Director
AYES: Angela Garcia, Kelvin Moore, Daniel Jenkins, Gregory Young

Board Secretary Dominguez provided the Oath of Office to Director Bennett.

Director Bennett took his seat at the dais.

REPORTS - LIMITED TO 5 MINUTES MAXIMUM (Presentations or handouts must be provided to Board Members in advance of the Board Meeting).

1. Board Committee Reports

President Young reported on the Human Resources Committee meeting and Policy Review and Oversight Committee meeting.

2. Board Members

Director Garcia reported on her attendance at the CSDA Annual Conference.

Director Bennett thanked the Board of Directors and stated he looks forward to serving on the Board.

WVWD

Minutes: 9/19/24

President Young welcomed Director Bennett to the Board and indicated the Board will be discussing Committee assignments at the next Board meeting.

3. General Manager

General Manager Thiel provided an update on recruitments; his attendance at the CSDA Annual Conference in which the District received a Safety Award; a training held for staff on how to manage difficult conversations; his attendance at San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's meeting to accept a \$96,000 check for the Demand Water Management Incentive; his attendance at San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's Regional General Managers meeting; an employee picnic scheduled for this Saturday; and an upcoming meeting with Supervisor Joe Baca Jr.

4. Legal Counsel

None.

5. Board Secretary

Board Secretary Dominguez provided an overview of upcoming meetings and events.

ADJOURN

President Young adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

Elvia Dominguez, Board Secretary



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: October 17, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Rocky Welborn, Director of Engineering
SUBJECT: ADOPT RESOLUTION ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE
 DECLARATION FOR THE WELL NO. 57 PROJECT

MEETING HISTORY:

09/26/24 Engineering, Operations and Planning Committee REFERRED TO BOARD

BACKGROUND:

The California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) is a California statute that requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

The West Valley Water District (“District”) proposes to construct a new Well No. 57 Project (“Project”). New development places additional demands upon existing facilities and often requires the construction of new or expanded facilities to maintain service standards. To ensure that the District has sufficient supplies to meet those growing demands, the District intends to drill a new groundwater production well to supplement the District’s water supplies.

As required by CEQA, an Initial Study (“IS”) was prepared for the Project to determine if it may result in a significant effect on the environment. This IS provides the preliminary environmental review of the proposed project, as required pursuant to the provisions of the CEQA, Public Resources Code 21000, et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines. The IS also serves to identify whether the proposed projects will result in significant environmental effects that would require preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

DISCUSSION:

The Project is the construction of a new groundwater production well for a new well site at a parcel northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Ave. in the City of Fontana, California. Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, the District is the CEQA Lead Agency and is charged with determining whether or not to approve the proposed project and adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (“MND”).

An IS was distributed for public review from July 30, 2024, to August 29, 2024 (State Clearinghouse No. 2024071103). No agencies or members of the public submitted comment letters addressing the project or IS. Attached as **Exhibit A** is a copy of the IS without the appendices. Mitigation measures outlined in the IS would mitigate the effects of any environmental impacts the project may have a level of insignificance. This item requires a public hearing in order to allow for public input on the proposed CEQA determination. A public notice of intent to adopt the MND as outlined in the District's CEQA procedures and guidelines will be prepared. Attached as **Exhibit B** is a copy of the Notice of Determination and MND. Attached as **Exhibit C** is a copy of the Resolution adopting the MND on District Project known as the new Well No. 57 Project.

This project is consistent with the Districts Strategic Plan goal of managing and delivering a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply, by the strategies of increasing system capacity for anticipated growth, and fortifying a resilient water supply.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No fiscal impact at this time

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors:

1. Conduct a public hearing;
2. Approve the Initial Study, Notice of Determination, and Mitigated Negative Declaration;
3. Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the West Valley Water District adopting a MND for the new Well No. 57 Project; and
4. Authorize the General Manager to execute all necessary documents.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. Exhibit A - Initial Study for Well No. 57 Project no Appendices
2. Exhibit B - Notice of Determination and Mitigated Negative Declaration
3. Exhibit C - Resolution Adopting MND

EXHIBIT A

INITIAL STUDY

FOR THE

WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

WELL NO. 57 PROJECT

Prepared for:

West Valley Water District
855 W. Baseline Road
Rialto, California 92376

Prepared by:

Tom Dodson & Associates
2150 N. Arrowhead Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92405
(909) 882-3612

July 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Environmental Factors Potentially Affected	6
Determination	7
Evaluation of Environmental Impacts	8
I. Aesthetics	10
II. Agricultural and Forestry Resources	13
III. Air Quality	15
IV. Biological Resources	26
V. Cultural Resources	35
VI. Energy	38
VII. Geology and Soils	40
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	44
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	48
X. Hydrology and Water Quality	53
XI. Land Use and Planning	58
XII. Mineral Resources	59
XIII. Noise	60
XIV. Population and Housing	67
XV. Public Services	68
XVI. Recreation	70
XVII. Transportation	71
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources	74
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems	80
XX. Wildfire	83
XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance	86
Summary of Mitigation Measures	88
References	97

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 – Air Quality / GHG
- Appendix 2 – Biology
- Appendix 3 – Cultural
- Appendix 4 – Soils Maps
- Appendix 5 – Phase I Environmental Site Assessment
- Appendix 6 – Noise

FIGURES

Figure 1	WVWD Service Area
Figure 2	Regional Location Map
Figure 3	Site Location Map
Figure 4	Site Plan
Figure I-1	Scenic Routes and Highways
Figure II-1	Agricultural Resources
Figure VII-1	Earthquake Fault Zones
Figure VII-2	Liquefaction & Landslides
Figure IX-1	GeoTracker 1
Figure IX-2	GeoTracker 2
Figure IX-3	GeoTracker 3
Figure IX-4	GeoTracker 4
Figure IX-5	GeoTracker 5
Figure IX-6	Airport Safety & Planning Areas Map
Figure IX-7	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
Figure IX-8	Fire Responsibility Areas
Figure X-1	Flood Hazards
Figure X-2	FEMA Flood Hazards
Figure X-3	Dam Basin Hazards
Figure XII-1	Mineral Resource Zones
Figure XIII-1	Construction Noise Source Receiver Locations
Figure XIII-2	Existing Noise Contour
Figure XIII-3	Future Noise Contour
Figure XIII-4	Drill Rig Noise Abatement
Figure XV-1	Sheriff Operations
Figure XVII-1	Evacuation Routes

TABLES

Table 1	Existing Land Use and Land Use Zoning Districts.....	4
Table III-1	Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	16
Table III-2	Health Effects of Major Criteria Pollutants.....	18
Table III-3	Project Area Air Quality Monitoring Summary (2019-2022).....	19
Table III-4	Daily Emissions Thresholds.....	21
Table III-5	Construction Activity Equipment Fleet.....	22
Table III-6	Construction Activity Emissions Maximum Daily Emissions.....	23
Table III-7	LST and Project Emissions.....	23
Table VIII-1	GHG Emissions.....	40
Table XIII-1	Operational Noise Standards.....	62
Table XIII-2	Construction Reference Noise Levels.....	62
Table XIII-3	Unabated Drilling Equipment Noise Level Summary.....	63

Table XIII-4	Abated Drilling Equipment Noise Level Summary	63
Table XIII-5	Vibration Levels Measured During Construction Activities	65
Table XIII-6	Vibration Level Contours During Construction Activities	65

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACROYNMS

AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
AF	acre feet
AFY	acre feet per year
amsl	above mean sea level
AMTP	Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan
APE	Area of Potential Effect
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
ARB	Air Resources Board
BACMs	Best Available Control Measures
bgs	below ground surface
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BRA	Biological Resources Assessment
BUOW	Burrowing Owl
C&D	construction and demolition
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendment
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CALGreen	California Green Building Standards Code
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CCAR	California Climate Action Registry
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
COA	Conditions of Approval
COCs	constituents of concern
CRECs	Controlled Recognized Environmental Condition
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CRMP	Cultural Resource Management Plan
CWA	Clean Water Act
CY	cubic yard

dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
DOI	Department of Interior
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substance Control
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EO	Executive Orders
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FGC	Fish & Game Code
FTA	Federal Transit Association
GCC	Global Climate Change
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
gpm	gallons per minute
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plans
hP	horse power
in/sec	inches per second
kWh	kilowatt hour
Leq	equivalent continuous sound level
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LSA	Lake or Streambed Alteration
LST	Localized Significance Thresholds
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MBMI	Morongo Band of Mission Indians
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCL	maximum contamination level
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
MM	Mitigation Measure
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MT	Metric Ton
MWD	Metropolitan Water District
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NBP	Nesting Bird Plan
No.	Number
NO2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	National Resource Conservation Service
O3	Ozone
Pb	Lead
PCE	Primary Constituent Elements
PM 10	Fine Particulate Matter
PM 2.5	Fine Particulate Matter

ppm	parts per million
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resource Code
R-3	Multiple Family
R-M	Medium Density Residential
RAFSS	Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub
RECs	Recognized Environmental Condition
Rialto Basin GC	Rialto Basin Groundwater Council
RMS	root mean square
RMU	Regional Mixed Use
ROW	Rights-of-Way
RTP/SCS	Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SBCFD	San Bernardino County Fire Department
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCCIC	South Central Coastal Information Center
SCE	Southern California Edison
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SGMP	Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SOI	Secretary of Interior
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SSC	Species of Special Concern
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resources
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VdB	vibration-velocity decibel
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WOTUS	Waters of the United States
WQMP	Water Quality Management Plan
WVWD	West Valley Water District
YSMN	Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**INTRODUCTION**

1. Project Title: West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Project
2. Lead Agency Name: West Valley Water District
Address: 855 W. Baseline Road, Rialto, CA 92376
3. Contact Person: Rosa M. Gutierrez, Senior Engineer
Phone Number: (909) 875-1322
4. Project Location: The West Valley Water District (WVWD or District) service area is located in southern California within southwestern San Bernardino County with a small part in northern Riverside County. The District's service area is shown on **Figure 1**. The project will occur within the northern portion of the District. The potential well site is at a site northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Ave, just northeast of the intersection of Knox Avenue and Walsh Lane in the City of Fontana (refer to the regional and site aerial maps provided as **Figures 2 and 3**). The project is located within the USGS Topo 7.5-minute map for Devore, CA, and is located in Section 24, Township 1 North and Range 6 West, San Bernardino Meridian. The approximate GPS coordinates of the project site are 34.158017°, -117.458400°.
5. Project Sponsor Name: West Valley Water District
Address: 855 W. Baseline Road, Rialto, CA 92376
6. General Plan Designation: Medium Density Residential (R-M)
7. Zoning: Multiple Family (R-3)
8. Project Description:

Project Description***Introduction***

WVWD serves potable water to customers in the Cities of Rialto, Fontana, Colton, Jurupa Valley ("Riverside County") and unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County, serving over 80,000 residents within these jurisdictions. The District obtains water from both local and imported sources to serve its customers, including about 68% from Groundwater, 18% from surface water diversions from Lytle Creek, and 14% from the State Water Project. The service area consists of eight (8) pressure zones: Zone 2, 3, 3A, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, and is divided into Northern and Southern systems by the central portion of the City of Rialto.

New development places additional demands upon existing facilities and often requires the construction of new or expanded facilities to maintain service standards. To ensure that the District has sufficient supplies to meet those growing demands, the District intends to drill a new groundwater production well, Well No. 57, to supplement the District's water supplies.

Project Description

The District seeks to install a new well, which would aid the District in meeting current and future demand, and provide backup for an existing well in the District's water supply. Well No. 57 is proposed to be located on an approximately 1.6-acre portion of three parcels within the City of Fontana (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs] 110-752-174, 110-752-176, and 110-752-171) a site northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Ave, just northeast of the intersection of Knox Avenue and Walsh Lane in the City of Fontana (refer to the site plan provided as **Figure 4**). The District owns APNs 110-752-174 and 110-752-176, and are requesting access from the City of Fontana for APN 110-752-171. Additionally, as shown on **Figure 4**, the District is requesting an easement from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) for access to the site, for power to the site, to enable flush to waste drainage pipeline installation, and discharge to the existing catch basin, and a well pipeline connection to the existing 24" waterline.

The site would include the following features: a 12" in diameter pipeline connecting to the District's distribution system in Knox Avenue; a 6" drain line the purpose for which is to connect to a pump for waste; a 6' x 9' chlorination building adjacent to the proposed well for sodium hypochlorite 12.5% storage; and, a 5" conduit, switch gear, and transformer to connect to the existing powerline pole.

The District anticipated that the well will be drilled utilizing reverse rotary well drilling method to about 1,000 feet below ground surface (bgs), based on the depth of the District's nearby well. The objective for the well is to generate a minimum 1,000 gpm. The District anticipates that the water quality of the water extracted by the new Well No. 57 would be similar to Well No. 54, which only experiences issues with entrained air and sand (which may be location related). If sand is an issue at the new well, a small sand separator and deaeration tank may be required. The well will require installation of a submersible pump, and no booster pump will be necessary, as existing District booster pumps are sufficient to carry water from the proposed new well to customers.

Access to the proposed project site is provided from Knox Avenue and a paved fire access road. Stormwater is removed from the project site by infiltration into and sheet flow across the unpaved surfaces towards stormwater drains located on the adjacent public right-of-way.

Environmental Setting

The proposed project is located at the foothills of the eastern San Gabriel Mountains, within San Bernardino County. The proposed project site is located about 1 mile south of the San Gabriel Mountains in the Rialto-Colton Subbasin of the Upper Santa Ana Valley. The project site is currently vacant, is covered entirely by weeds and vegetation. The ground surface of the proposed project site is approximately 1,703 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The site slopes gently toward the south-southwest.

The project area lies in the geographically based ecological classification known as the Inland Valleys – Level IV ecoregion, of the Southern California/Northern Baja Coast – Level III ecoregion. The goal of regional ecological classifications is to reduce variability based on spatial covariance in climate, geology, topography, climax vegetation, hydrology, and soils. The Inland Valleys ecoregion is a heavily urbanized ecoregion that historically consisted of the alluvial fans and basin floors immediately south of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino Mountains.

The project area is within a hot-summer Mediterranean climate (Csa), characterized by both seasonal and annual variations in temperature and precipitation. Average annual maximum temperatures peak at 96.2 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) in July and August and drop to an average annual minimum temperature of 38.5° F in January. Average annual precipitation is greatest from

November through April and reaches a peak in February (3.25 inches). Precipitation is lowest in the month of July (0.04 inches). Annual total precipitation averages 16.12 inches.

Construction Scenario

Below outlines a more detailed sequence of events that will be implemented in support of the development of the proposed well.

- The bucket auger drill rig will come onsite and drill and install conductor casing and cement sanitary seal.
- The reverse rotary drill rig will mobilize to the site and set up, including sound walls.
- Drill the pilot borehole and collect associated data, such as lithology, geophysical logs, and isolated aquifer zone testing.
- Deliver the well construction materials.
- Borehole to target depth.
- Construct the well.
- Conduct initial well development by airlift, swab, and pump.
- Demobilize the drill rig and mobilize the test pump.
- Conduct final development by pumping to waste.
- Conduct pumping tests, sampling.
- Temporarily cap the well and demobilize remaining equipment.
- Return the site to original condition.
- Connect well to the District's potable Distribution System.
- Construct well discharge appurtenances: electric, etc.

It is anticipated that about five persons will be at the Well No. 57 site at any one time to support drilling the well: three drillers, the hydrologist inspector, and a foreman. Daily trips to complete the well will average about 15 roundtrips per day, which on a given day may include: two roundtrips for drill rigs; between 6 and 12 roundtrips for cement trucks; a few trips to deliver pipe; and about 10-15 trips per day for employees. It is estimated that it will require about 6-10 weeks to drill the well, with 24-hour drilling activities for 7 days a week (surrounding housing to be notified in advance). The objective for the well is to generate a minimum 1,000 gpm. Assuming the groundwater quality is potable (see the discussion under Hydrology and Water Quality), the new well will be connected to the District's distribution system.

At the Well No. 57 location, the new well would connect to the District's distribution system via a connection within the adjacent paved utility easement at the southern boundary of the site maintained by MWD. The new well will be outfitted with a vertical turbine pump.

Ground disturbance emissions assume roughly 0.2 acre of land would be actively excavated on a given day. It is anticipated that installation of connecting pipeline will require the use of a backhoe, crane, compactor, roller/vibrator, pavement cutter, grinder, haul truck and two dump trucks operating 6 hours per day; a water truck and excavator operating 4 hours per day and a paving machine and compactor operating 2 hours per day. Installation of pipeline in undeveloped locations would require the same equipment as developed area without the paving equipment (cutter, grinder, paving machine). The contractor may occasionally use a portable generator and welder for equipment repairs or incidental uses.

Operational Scenario

Operation of the new well would not require any shifts or employees as each well will be monitored and controlled remotely. The new production well would require up to 1.5 million KWH to operate per year (if full time). It is not anticipated that back-up generators will be installed, though the District currently utilizes portable back-up generators when needed to ensure that each well has

continuous electricity. Chemicals used in the water production process will be chlorine (sodium hypochlorite 12.5%) for disinfection.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)

The triangular parcel within which the project is proposed, as stated above under "Environmental Setting," is located in the City of Fontana adjacent to a utility corridor. The site is presently vacant containing a mixture of mowed weeds and other vegetation.

Table 1
EXISTING LAND USE AND LAND USE ZONING DISTRICTS

Location	Existing Land Use	Land Use Zoning District
Project Site	Vacant	Medium Density Residential (R-M)
North	Utility Corridor	Public Facility
South	Residential development	Medium Density Residential (R-M)
East	Residential Development	Medium Density Residential (R-M)
West	Utility Corridor	Public Facility

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

There are several other agencies with possible jurisdiction/responsibility over the proposed project.

- First among these is the California State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (State Board). The State Board ultimately approves connection of new well to the District's water distribution system after determining that the water quality is acceptable to supply potable water to District's customers. The existing District water supply permit will be modified to include the new well.
- Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for a NPDES general construction stormwater discharge permit. This permit is granted by submittal of an NOI to the SWRCB, but is enforced through a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that identifies construction best management practices (BMPs) for the site. In the project area, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board enforces the BMP requirements described in the NPDES permit by ensuring construction activities adequately implement a SWPPP. Implementation of the SWPPP is carried out by the construction contractor, with the Regional Board and County providing enforcement oversight.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or CDFW may need to be consulted regarding threatened and endangered species documented to occur within the project area. Where such species are discovered in the Biological Resources Analysis, the appropriate consultation efforts will be required.
- The City of Fontana must grant WVWD an easement to facilitate site access.
- MWD must grant WVWD an easement to facilitate site access and connection to existing utility systems adjacent to the project site.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and cultural affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

Yes, AB 52 Letters were mailed to the following California Native American tribes on November 2, 2023: Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation; Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians; and, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation. Consultation by all three tribes was requested, and mitigation measures reflecting the input of each tribe has been incorporated into this Initial Study to minimize impacts to tribal cultural resources as part of project implementation.

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED


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

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

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following finding is made:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

Tom Dodson & Associates
Prepared by _____

Lead Agency (signature) _____

July 19, 2024
Date _____
7.23.24
Date _____

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
I. AESTHETICS: Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The project would aid the District in meeting current and future potable water demand, and provide backup for an existing well in the District’s water supply within the City of Fontana within WVWD’s existing service area. The well would be installed within a vacant site currently consisting of weeds and vegetation. As a result of the state of the existing site, the site does not contain features that would be considered scenic vistas.

A scenic vista impact can also occur when a scenic vista can be viewed from the project area or immediate vicinity and a proposed development may interfere with the view to a scenic vista. The dominant landscape within the project area is the recently constructed residences to the east, west, and south, with a utility easement forming the diagonal northwestern site boundary. The project footprint is located about one mile south/southeast of the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, which add to the background viewsheds. The Fontana General Plan EIR identified the San Gabriel Mountains as the city’s most prominent visual feature, rising dramatically above the community with scenic views toward the mountains. Panoramic views also exist from the base of the mountains toward Fontana. However, pristine views of the San Gabriel Mountains in the vicinity of and internal to the project site do not exist as a result of existing development.

The presence of construction equipment and related construction materials would be visible from public vantage points, such as open space areas, sidewalks, and streets, but it would not adversely affect any scenic views or vistas. Construction of the proposed well would not permanently affect views or scenic vistas due to the small size and low profile. Thus, impacts would be less than significant. Once constructed, the proposed well would occupy a footprint anticipated to be less than 20 feet by 20 feet. As such, it is anticipated that the well would have a small footprint, and would be low profile. Given that the project would not degrade views to nearby scenic vistas as a result of the fact that the well would be low profile with a small footprint, the project would not substantially alter the views in the project footprint in the long-term. Thus, implementation of the proposed Well No. 57 Project is not expected to cause any substantial adverse effects on any important scenic vistas. No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

- b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana within a vacant site currently consisting of weeds and vegetation. The proposed project is located along Knox Avenue. According to the Scenic Routes & Highways Map provided as **Figure I-1**, the proposed project is not located adjacent to a scenic highway. Thus, the proposed well installation would not impact a scenic highway because none are located in close proximity to the proposed project. No historic buildings are located within the project site would be disturbed as part of the proposed project, as the proposed project site is vacant containing no existing structures. No rock outcroppings exist within the vacant project site, and therefore none would be impacted by the proposed project. As stated under issue I(a), above, the proposed project consists of weeds and vegetation, with no trees on site that would fall under the City of Fontana tree ordinance. No other scenic resources have been identified on the site. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant potential to substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
- c. *No Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana within a vacant site currently consisting of weeds and vegetation, that is located in an urbanized area. Construction activities would require the use of construction equipment and storage of materials at the project site. Excavated areas, stockpiled soils and other materials generated during construction would present negative visual elements to the existing landscape. However, these effects would be nominal because the well would be installed in a developed area with sufficient vacant area to temporarily store construction equipment and materials, and the effects would be temporary for only the nominal duration of construction, and therefore not substantially affect the existing visual character of the surrounding area. Furthermore, there are no regulations governing scenic quality within the City of Fontana Zoning Code that would apply to the development of the proposed well, particularly in light of California Government Code Section 53091, which renders infrastructure projects such as that which is proposed under the Program land use and zoning independent. Impacts would be less than significant.

Once constructed, the proposed well would occupy a footprint anticipated to be less than 20 feet by 20 feet within the project site; therefore, it is anticipated that the proposed well would have a small footprint and be low profile. As stated above, there are no regulations governing scenic quality within the City of Fontana Zoning Code that would apply to the development of the proposed ancillary facilities, particularly in light of California Government Code Section 53091. As compliance with the zoning is not required for water facilities such as the proposed well, no conflict with the sections of the zoning code governing scenic quality would exist. Thus, no impacts under this issue are anticipated from either construction or operation of the proposed well.

- d. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. Lighting at the well site will be installed as needed for safety. Thus, the proposed project has a potential to create a new source of substantial lighting or glare during construction that could adversely affect nighttime views at the adjacent residences, and residences can be considered a light sensitive land use. There will be a new permanent light source to support operations of the well for security purposes. Lighting will also be required during the 24-hour drilling phase of the well construction. This poses a potential to result in a substantial change to the area surrounding the project site. To protect nearby residences from direct light and glare from new lighting, the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

AES-1 *A facilities lighting plan shall be prepared and shall demonstrate that glare from construction operations and safety night lights that may create light and glare affecting adjacent occupied property are sufficiently shielded to prevent light and glare from spilling into occupied structures. This plan shall*

specifically verify that the lighting doesn't exceed 1.0 lumen at the nearest residence to any lighting site within the project footprint. This plan shall be implemented by the District to minimize light or glare intrusion onto adjacent properties.

With implementation of the above measure potential light and glare can be controlled to a less than significant impact level

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
<p>II. 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:</p>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *No Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The Well No. 57 Project is located in an area that does not support agricultural uses. Neither the project site nor the adjacent and surrounding properties are designated for agricultural use; no agricultural activities exist in the project area; and there is no potential for impact to any agricultural uses or values as a result of project implementation. According to the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Agricultural Resources Map (**Figure II-1**), the proposed project has not been designated for agricultural use; no prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance exists within the vicinity of the proposed project. No adverse impact to any agricultural resources would occur from implementing the proposed project. No mitigation is required.

- b. *No Impact* – There are no agricultural uses currently within the project footprint or on adjacent properties. The proposed well is located within the following land use designation: Medium Density Residential (R-M). The proposed well is located within the Multiple Family (R-3) zoning classification within the City of Fontana. No potential exists for a conflict between the proposed project and agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts within the project area. No mitigation is required.
- c. *No Impact* – Please refer to issues II(a) and II(b) above. The project site is in an urbanized area surrounded by residential housing. The proposed well is located within the following land use designation: Medium Density Residential (R-M). The proposed well is located within the Multiple Family (R-3) zoning classification within the City of Fontana. Neither the land use designation nor zoning classification supports forest land or timberland uses or designations. No potential exists for a conflict between the proposed project and forest/timberland zoning. No mitigation is required.
- d. *No Impact* – There are no forest lands within the project area, which is because the project area is urbanized and removed from nearby mountains, where much of the County's forestland is located. No potential for loss of forest land would occur if the project is implemented. No mitigation is required.
- e. *No Impact* – Because the project footprint and surrounding area do not support either agricultural or forestry uses and, furthermore, because the project footprint and environs are not designated for such uses, implementation of the proposed project would not cause or result in the conversion of farmland or forest land to alternative use. No adverse impact would occur. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
III. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section of the Initial Study was obtained from the following technical study: *Air Quality and GHG Impact Analyses, West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Project, San Bernardino, California* prepared by Gerrick Environmental dated January 16, 2024. This technical study is provided as Appendix 1 to this document.

Background

Climate

The climate of the western San Bernardino Valley, as with all of Southern California, is governed largely by the strength and location of the semi-permanent high-pressure center over the Pacific Ocean and the moderating effects of the nearby vast oceanic heat reservoir. Local climatic conditions are characterized by very warm summers, mild winters, infrequent rainfall, moderate daytime on-shore breezes, and comfortable humidity levels. Unfortunately, the same climatic conditions that create such a desirable living climate combine to severely restrict the ability of the local atmosphere to disperse the large volumes of air pollution generated by the population and industry attracted in part by the climate.

The project will be situated in an area where the pollutants generated in coastal portions of the Los Angeles basin undergo photochemical reactions and then move inland across the project site during the daily sea breeze cycle. The resulting smog at times gives San Bernardino County some of the worst air quality in all of California. Fortunately, significant air quality improvement in the last decade suggests that healthful air quality may someday be attained despite the limited regional meteorological dispersion potential.

Air Quality Standards

Existing air quality is measured at established South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) air quality monitoring stations. Monitored air quality is evaluated in the context of ambient air quality standards. These standards are the levels of air quality that are considered safe, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect the public health and welfare. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) currently in effect are shown in Table III-1. Because the State of California had established Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) several years before the federal action and because of unique air quality problems introduced by the restrictive dispersion meteorology, there is considerable difference between state and national clean air standards. Those standards currently in effect in California are shown in Table III-1. Sources and health effects of various pollutants are shown in Table III-2.

**Table III-1
AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

Pollutant	Average Time	California Standards ¹		National Standards ²		
		Concentration ³	Method ⁴	Primary ^{3,5}	Secondary ^{3,6}	Method ⁷
Ozone (O ₃) ⁸	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Photometry	–	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet Photometry
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)		0.070 ppm (137 µg/m ³)		
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀) ⁹	24 Hour	50 µg/m ³	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m ³		–		
Fine Particulate Matter (PM _{2.5}) ⁹	24 Hour	–	–	35 µg/m ³	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m ³	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	12.0 µg/m ³	15.0 µg/m ³	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m ³)	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	35 ppm (40 mg/m ³)	–	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)
	8 Hour	9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)		9 ppm (10 mg/m ³)	–	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m ³)		–	–	
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂) ¹⁰	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m ³)	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	100 ppb (188 µg/m ³)	–	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m ³)		0.053 ppm (100 µg/m ³)	Same as Primary Standard	
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂) ¹¹	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	75 ppb (196 µg/m ³)	–	Ultraviolet Flourescence; Spectrophotometry (Paraosaniline Method)
	3 Hour	–		–	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m ³)	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m ³)		0.14 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	–	
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	–		0.030 ppm (for certain areas) ¹¹	–	
Lead ^{8,12,13}	30-Day Average	1.5 µg/m ³	Atomic Absorption	–	–	–
	Calendar Quarter	–		1.5 µg/m ³ (for certain areas) ¹²	Same as Primary Standard	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Rolling 3-Month Avg	–		0.15 µg/m ³		
Visibility Reducing Particles ¹⁴	8 Hour	See footnote 14	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape	No Federal Standards		
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m ³	Ion Chromatography			
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m ³)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence			
Vinyl Chloride ¹²	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m ³)	Gas Chromatography			

Footnotes

- 1 California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, suspended particulate matter – PM10, PM2.5, and visibility reducing particles, are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
- 2 National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual averages or annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest eight hour concentration in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM10, the 24-hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year, with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, is equal to or less than one. For PM2.5, the 24-hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over 3 years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact U.S. EPA for further clarification and current federal policies.
- 3 Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.
- 4 Any equivalent procedure which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.
- 5 National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.
- 6 National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.
- 7 Reference method as described by the EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the EPA.
- 8 On October 1, 2015, the national 8-hour ozone primary and secondary standards were lowered from 0.075 to 0.070 ppm.
- 9 On December 14, 2012, the national PM2.5 primary standard was lowered from 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 12.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The existing national 24-hour PM2.5 standards (primary and secondary) were retained at 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, as was the annual secondary standard of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. The existing 24-hour PM10 standards (primary and secondary) of 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ also were retained. The form of the annual primary and secondary standards is the annual mean, averaged over 3 years.
- 10 To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national 1-hour standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national 1-hour standard to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 100 ppb is identical to 0.100 ppm.
- 11 On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO2 standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO2 national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved.

Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.
- 12 The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.
- 13 The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.
- 14 In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

**Table III-2
HEALTH EFFECTS OF MAJOR CRITERIA POLLUTANTS**

Pollutants	Sources	Primary Effects
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomplete combustion of fuels and other carbon-containing substances, such as motor exhaust. • Natural events, such as decomposition of organic matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced tolerance for exercise. • Impairment of mental function. • Impairment of fetal development. • Death at high levels of exposure. • Aggravation of some heart diseases (angina).
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO ₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motor vehicle exhaust. • High temperature stationary combustion. • Atmospheric reactions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravation of respiratory illness. • Reduced visibility. • Reduced plant growth. • Formation of acid rain.
Ozone (O ₃)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atmospheric reaction of organic gases with nitrogen oxides in sunlight. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravation of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. • Irritation of eyes. • Impairment of cardiopulmonary function. • Plant leaf injury.
Lead (Pb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contaminated soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impairment of blood function and nerve construction. • Behavioral and hearing problems in children.
Fine Particulate Matter (PM-10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stationary combustion of solid fuels. • Construction activities. • Industrial processes. • Atmospheric chemical reactions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced lung function. • Aggravation of the effects of gaseous pollutants. • Aggravation of respiratory and cardio respiratory diseases. • Increased cough and chest discomfort. • Soiling. • Reduced visibility.
Fine Particulate Matter (PM-2.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel combustion in motor vehicles, equipment, and industrial sources. • Residential and agricultural burning. • Industrial processes. • Also, formed from photochemical reactions of other pollutants, including NO_x, sulfur oxides, and organics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases respiratory disease. • Lung damage. • Cancer and premature death. • Reduces visibility and results in surface soiling.
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combustion of sulfur-containing fossil fuels. • Smelting of sulfur-bearing metal ores. • Industrial processes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggravation of respiratory diseases (asthma, emphysema). • Reduced lung function. • Irritation of eyes. • Reduced visibility. • Plant injury. • Deterioration of metals, textiles, leather, finishes, coatings, etc.

Source: California Air Resources Board, 2002.

Baseline Air Quality

Existing and probable future levels of air quality in the project area can be best inferred from ambient air quality measurements conducted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) at its Fontana monitoring station. This station measures both regional pollution levels such as dust (particulates) and smog, as well as levels of primary vehicular pollutants such as carbon monoxide. Table 3 summarizes the last four years of the published data from this monitoring station.

Ozone and particulates are seen to be the two most significant air quality concerns. Ozone is the primary ingredient in photochemical smog. Slightly more than 12 percent of all days exceed the California one-hour standard. The 8-hour state ozone standard has been exceeded an average of 21 percent of all days in the past four years. The federal 8-hour standard was exceeded 15 percent of all days for the same time

period. For the last four years, ozone levels have neither improved nor gotten noticeably worse. While ozone levels are still high, they are much lower than 10 to 20 years ago. Attainment of all clean air standards in the project vicinity is not likely to occur soon, but the severity and frequency of violations is expected to continue to slowly decline during the current decade.

In addition to gaseous air pollution concerns, San Bernardino experiences frequent violations of standards for 10-micron diameter respirable particulate matter (PM-10). High dust levels occur during Santa Ana wind conditions, as well as from the trapped accumulation of soot, roadway dust and byproducts of atmospheric chemical reactions during warm season days with poor visibility. Table III-3 shows that almost 14 percent of all days in the last four years experienced a violation of the State PM-10 standard. However, the three-times less stringent federal standard has not been exceeded in the same time period.

A substantial fraction of PM-10 is comprised of ultra-small diameter particulates capable of being inhaled into deep lung tissue (PM-2.5). Peak annual PM-2.5 levels are sometimes almost as high as PM-10, which includes PM-2.5 as a sub-set. However, only slightly more than one percent of monitored days experienced a violation of the 24-hour standard of 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

While many of the major ozone precursor emissions (automobiles, solvents, paints, etc.) have been substantially reduced, most major PM-10 sources (construction dust, vehicular turbulence along roadway shoulders, truck exhaust, etc.) have not been as effectively reduced. Prospects of ultimate attainment of ozone standards are better than for particulate matter.

More localized pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, etc. are very low near the project site because background levels, never approach allowable levels. There is substantial excess dispersive capacity to accommodate localized vehicular air pollutants such as NO_x or CO without any threat of violating applicable AAQS.

Table III-3
AIR QUALITY MONITORING SUMMARY
(Days Standards were Exceeded and Maximum Observed Concentrations 2019-2022)

Pollutant/Standard	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ozone				
1-Hour > 0.09 ppm (S)	41	56	44	44
8-Hour > 0.07 ppm (S)	67	89	83	70
8- Hour > 0.075 ppm (F)	46	65	56	49
Max. 1-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.124	0.151	0.125	0.144
Max. 8-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.109	0.111	0.103	0.107
Carbon Monoxide				
8- Hour > 9. ppm (S,F)	0	0	0	0
Max 8-hour Conc. (ppm)	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.0
Nitrogen Dioxide				
1-Hour > 0.18 ppm (S)	0	0	0	0
Max. 1-Hour Conc. (ppm)	0.076	0.066	0.067	0.069
Respirable Particulates (PM-10)				
24-Hour > 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (S)	12/61	6/40	4/53	8/60
24-Hour > 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (F)	0/61	0/40	0/53	0/60
Max. 24-Hr. Conc. ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	88.	61.	73.	62.
Fine Particulates (PM-2.5)				
24-Hour > 35 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (F)	2/114	1/117	2/120	1/120
Max. 24-Hr. Conc. ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	46.5	46.1	55.1	38.1

(S) = state standard, (F) = federal standard

Source: Fontana SCAQMD Air Monitoring Summary (5197) data: www.arb.ca.gov/adam/

Air Quality Planning

The United State Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is responsible for setting and enforcing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for O₃, CO, NO_x, SO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, and lead. The U.S. EPA has jurisdiction over emissions sources that are under the authority of the federal government including aircraft, locomotives, and emissions sources outside state waters (Outer Continental Shelf). The U.S. EPA also establishes emission standards for vehicles sold in states other than California. Automobiles sold in California must meet the stricter emission requirements of the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The Air Quality Management District (AQMD) adopted an updated clean air “blueprint” in August 2003. The 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) was approved by the EPA in 2004. The AQMP outlined the air pollution measures needed to meet federal health-based standards for ozone by 2010 and for particulates (PM-10) by 2006. The 2003 AQMP was based upon the federal one-hour ozone standard which was revoked late in 2005 and replaced by an 8-hour federal standard. Because of the revocation of the hourly standard, a new air quality planning cycle was initiated.

With re-designation of the air basin as non-attainment for the 8-hour ozone standard, a new attainment plan was developed. This plan shifted most of the one-hour ozone standard attainment strategies to the 8-hour standard. As previously noted, the attainment date was to “slip” from 2010 to 2021. The updated attainment plan also includes strategies for ultimately meeting the federal PM-2.5 standard.

Because Projected attainment by 2021 required control technologies that did not exist yet, the SCAQMD requested a voluntary “bump-up” from a “severe non-attainment” area to an “extreme non-attainment” designation for ozone. The extreme designation was to allow a longer time period for these technologies to develop. If attainment cannot be demonstrated within the specified deadline without relying on “black-box” measures, EPA would have been required to impose sanctions on the region had the bump-up request not been approved. In April 2010, the EPA approved the change in the non-attainment designation from “severe-17” to “extreme.” This reclassification set a later attainment deadline (2024), but also required the air basin to adopt even more stringent emissions controls.

In other air quality attainment plan reviews, EPA had disapproved part of the SCAB PM-2.5 attainment plan included in the AQMP. EPA stated that the current attainment plan relied on PM-2.5 control regulations that had not yet been approved or implemented. It was expected that several rules that were pending approval would remove the identified deficiencies. If these issues were not resolved within the next several years, federal funding sanctions for transportation Projects could result. The 2012 AQMP included in the current California State Implementation Plan (SIP) was expected to remedy identified PM-2.5 planning deficiencies.

The federal Clean Air Act requires that non-attainment air basins have EPA approved attainment plans in place. This requirement includes the federal one-hour ozone standard even though that standard was revoked almost ten years ago. There was no approved attainment plan for the one-hour federal standard at the time of revocation. Through a legal quirk, the SCAQMD is now required to develop an AQMP for the long since revoked one-hour federal ozone standard. Because the current SIP for the basin contains a number of control measures for the 8-hour ozone standard that are equally effective for one-hour levels, the 2012 AQMP was believed to satisfy hourly attainment planning requirements.

AQMPs are required to be updated at regular intervals. The 2012 AQMP was adopted in early 2013. An updated 2016 AQMP was adopted by the SCAQMD Board in March 2017. The 2016 AQMD demonstrated the emissions reductions compared to the 2012 AQMP.

SCAQMD has initiated the development of the 2022 AQMP to address the attainment of the 2015 8-hour ozone standard (70 ppb) for South Coast Air Basin and Coachella Valley which will focus on attaining the 70 ppb 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) by 2037. On-road vehicles and off-road mobile sources represent the largest categories of NO_x emissions. Accomplishment of attainment goals requires an approximate 70% reduction in NO_x emissions. Large scale transition to zero emission technologies is a key strategy. To this end, Governor Executive Order N-79-20 requires 100 percent EV

sales by 2035 for automobiles and short haul drayage trucks. A full transition to EV buses and heavy-duty long-haul trucks is required by 2045.

The proposed project does not directly relate to the AQMP in that there are no specific air quality programs or regulations governing water supply projects. Conformity with adopted plans, forecasts and programs relative to population, housing, employment and land use is the primary yardstick by which impact significance of planned growth is determined. The SCAQMD, however, while acknowledging that the AQMP is a growth-accommodating document, does not favor designating regional impacts as less-than-significant just because the proposed development is consistent with regional growth projections. Air quality impact significance for the project has therefore been analyzed on a project-specific basis.

CEQA Standards of Significance

Primary Pollutants

Air quality impacts generally occur on two scales of motion. Near an individual source of emissions or a collection of sources such as a crowded intersection or parking lot, levels of those pollutants that are emitted in their already unhealthful form will be highest. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an example of such a pollutant. Primary pollutant impacts can generally be evaluated directly in comparison to appropriate clean air standards. Violations of these standards where they are currently met, or a measurable worsening of an existing or future violation, would be considered a significant impact. Many particulates, especially fugitive dust emissions, are also primary pollutants. Because of the non-attainment status of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) for PM-10, an aggressive dust control program is required to control fugitive dust during Project construction.

Secondary Pollutants

Many pollutants, however, require time to transform from a more benign form to a more unhealthful contaminant. Their impact occurs regionally far from the source. Their incremental regional impact is minute on an individual basis and cannot be quantified except through complex photochemical computer models. Analysis of significance of such emissions is based upon a specified number of emissions (pounds, tons, etc.) even though there is no way to translate those emissions directly into a corresponding ambient air quality impact.

Because of the chemical complexity of primary versus secondary pollutants, the SCAQMD has designated significant emissions levels as surrogates for evaluating regional air quality impact significance independent of chemical transformation processes. Projects with daily emissions that exceed any of the following emission thresholds are recommended by the SCAQMD to be considered significant under CEQA guidelines.

**Table III-4
DAILY EMISSIONS THRESHOLDS**

Pollutant	Construction	Operations
ROG	75	55
NOx	100	55
CO	550	550
PM-10	150	150
PM-2.5	55	55
SOx	150	150
Lead	3	3

Source: SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook, November, 1993 Rev.

Impact Analysis

- a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Projects such as the proposed installation of a new production well do not directly relate to the AQMP in that there are no specific air quality programs or regulations governing general infrastructure development. Conformity with adopted plans, forecasts and programs relative to population, housing, employment and land use are the primary yardsticks by which impact significance of planned growth is determined. Based on the analysis of the City's General Plan Land Use sections, the proposed project is consistent with the infrastructure needs identified in adopted General Plan. Thus, the proposed project is consistent with regional planning forecasts maintained by the SCAG regional plans. The SCAQMD, however, while acknowledging that the AQMP is a growth-accommodating document, does not favor designating regional impacts as less than significant only because of consistency with regional growth projections. Air quality impact significance for the proposed project has therefore been analyzed on a project-specific basis. As the analysis of project-related emissions provided below indicates, the proposed project will not cause or be exposed to significant air pollution, and is, therefore, consistent with the applicable air quality plan.
- b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Air pollution emissions associated with the proposed project would occur over both a short and long-term time period. Short-term emissions include fugitive dust from construction activities (i.e., site prep, demolition, grading) and exhaust emissions at the project site. Long-term emissions generated by future operation of the proposed well would be through a demand for energy to operate.

Construction Emissions

In May 2023 the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) in conjunction with other California air districts, including SCAQMD, released the latest version of CalEEMod2022.1. CalEEMod provides a model by which to calculate both construction emissions and operational emissions from a variety of land use projects. It calculates both the daily maximum and annual average emissions for criteria pollutants as well as total or annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

The project proposes drilling a new well to a depth of approximately 1,000 feet below ground surface and is expected to take 6-10 weeks with 24-hour drilling. In addition, there will be approximately 2 weeks of piping to connect the well water to the District's distribution system via a connection within the adjacent paved utility easement at the southern boundary of the site along Knox Avenue and a small section of drain line.

**Table III-5
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT FLEET (650 LF TRANSMISSION MAIN)**

Phase Name and Duration	Equipment
Well Drilling 4 weeks	1 Drill Rig
	1 Loader/Backhoe
	1 Pump
Well Equipping 6 weeks	1 Crane
	1 Welder
	1 Loader/Backhoe
	1 Generator Set
Install Pipeline 2 weeks	1 Forklift
	1 Loader/Backhoe
	1 Crane
	1 Excavator
	1 Water Truck

Phase Name and Duration	Equipment
Backfill and Compact 2 weeks	1 Pavement Saw
	1 Paver
	1 Loader/Backhoe
	1 Roller
	1 Compactor
	1 Cement Mixer

Utilizing this indicated equipment fleet and durations shown in Table III-5 the following worst-case daily construction emissions are calculated by CalEEMod as provided in Table III-6:

Table III-6
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY EMISSIONS MAXIMUM DAILY EMISSIONS (POUNDS/DAY)
2024 MAXIMAL DAILY EMISSIONS

Maximal Construction Emissions	ROG	NOx	CO	SO ₂	PM-10	PM-2.5
Drill Well	0.7	7.5	12.1	0.0	0.3	0.3
Equip Well	0.7	6.9	8.6	0.0	0.6	0.2
Install Piping	0.8	5.7	8.8	0.0	3.6	0.6
Backfill and Pave	0.5	3.0	6.1	0.0	3.5	0.5
SCAQMD Thresholds	75	100	550	150	150	55

Peak daily construction activity emissions are estimated to be below SCAQMD CEQA thresholds without the need for added mitigation. Though construction activities are not anticipated to cause dust emissions to exceed SCAQMD CEQA thresholds, emissions minimization through enhanced dust control measures is recommended for use because of the non-attainment status of the air basin. As such, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented:

AQ-1 *Fugitive Dust Control.* The following measures shall be incorporated into project plans and specifications for implementation during construction:

- ***Apply soil stabilizers to inactive areas.***
- ***Prepare a high wind dust control plan and implement plan elements and terminate soil disturbance when winds exceed 25 mph.***
- ***Stabilize previously disturbed areas if subsequent construction is delayed.***
- ***Apply water to disturbed surfaces 3 times/day.***
- ***Replace ground cover in disturbed areas quickly.***
- ***Reduce speeds on unpaved roads to less than 15 mph.***
- ***Trenches shall be left exposed for as short a time as possible.***
- ***Identify proper compaction for backfilled soils in construction specifications.***

This measure shall be implemented during construction, and shall be included in the construction contract as a contract specification.

Similarly, ozone precursor emissions (ROG and NOx) are calculated to be below SCAQMD CEQA thresholds. However, because of the regional non-attainment for photochemical smog, the use of reasonably available control measures for diesel exhaust is recommended. Combustion emissions control options include:

AQ-2 Exhaust Emissions Control. The following measures shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications for implementation:

- **Utilize off-road construction equipment that has met or exceeded the maker's recommendations for vehicle/equipment maintenance schedule.**
- **Contactors shall utilize Tier 4 or better heavy equipment.**
- **Enforce 5-minute idling limits for both on-road trucks and off-road equipment.**

With the above mitigation measures, any impacts related to construction emissions are considered less than significant. No further mitigation is required.

Operational Impacts

Operational air pollution emissions will be minimal. Electrical generation of power will be used for pumping. Electrical consumption has no single uniquely related air pollution emissions source because power is supplied to and drawn from a regional grid. Electrical power is generated regionally by a combination of non-combustion (nuclear, hydroelectric, solar, wind, geothermal, etc.) and fossil fuel combustion sources. There is no direct nexus between consumption and the type of power source or the air basin where the source is located. Operational air pollution emissions from electrical generation are therefore not attributable on a project-specific basis.

Conclusion

With the incorporation of mitigation measures (MMs) **AQ-1** and **AQ-2**, the development of the Well No. 57 Project would have a less than significant potential to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.

- c. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The SCAQMD has developed analysis parameters to evaluate ambient air quality on a local level in addition to the more regional emissions-based thresholds of significance. These analysis elements are called Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs). LSTs were developed in response to Governing Board's Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative 1-4 and the LST methodology was provisionally adopted in October 2003 and formally approved by SCAQMD's Mobile Source Committee in February 2005.

Use of an LST analysis for a project is optional. For the proposed project, the primary source of possible LST impact would be during construction. LSTs are applicable for a sensitive receptor where it is possible that an individual could remain for 24 hours such as a residence, hospital or convalescent facility.

LSTs are only applicable to the following criteria pollutants: oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), and particulate matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5). LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that are not expected to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard, and are developed based on the ambient concentrations of that pollutant for each source receptor area and distance to the nearest sensitive receptor.

LST screening tables are available for 25, 50, 100, 200 and 500 meter source-receptor distances. For this project, the most stringent standards for a 1-acre site were used.

The SCAQMD has issued guidance on applying CalEEMod to LSTs. LST pollutant screening level concentration data is currently published for 1, 2 and 5 acre sites. For this project, the most stringent standards for a 1-acre disturbance area were used.

The following thresholds and emissions are therefore determined (pounds per day):

**Table III-7
LST AND PROJECT EMISSIONS (pounds/day)**

LST 1.0 acres/25 meters Central San Bernardino Valley	CO	NOx	PM-10	PM-2.5
LST Significance Threshold	667	118	4	3
Drill Well	12	8	<1	<1
Equip Well	9	7	<1	<1
Install Piping	9	6	4	<1
Backfill and Pave	6	3	4	<1

LSTs were compared to the maximum daily construction activities. As seen in Table III-7, LST impacts are less than significant.

Construction equipment exhaust contains carcinogenic compounds within the diesel exhaust particulates. The toxicity of diesel exhaust is evaluated relative to a 24-hour per day, 365 days per year, 70-year lifetime exposure. The SCAQMD does not generally require the analysis of construction-related diesel emissions relative to health risk due to the short period for which the majority of diesel exhaust would occur. Health risk analyses are typically assessed over a 9-, 30-, or 70-year timeframe and not over a relatively brief construction period due to the lack of health risk associated with such a brief exposure. With the incorporation of **MMs AQ-1** and **AQ-2**, the development of the Well No. 57 Project would have a less than significant potential the proposed project would have a less than significant potential to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

- d. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Substantial odor-generating sources include land uses such as agricultural activities, feedlots, wastewater treatment facilities, landfills or various heavy industrial uses. The project does not propose any such uses or activities that would result in potentially significant operational source odor impacts. New water wells are generally not associated with odor impacts such as those often found in wastewater treatment. There are few biological organisms in the water supply and any such sources of odor are further removed in the pre-treatment process. The District would use chemicals in the water production process, specifically chlorine to disinfect the water extracted from the proposed well. Some treatment chemicals have strong pungent odors. However, they are injected into the water stream and have no airborne pathways; furthermore, sensitive receptors are not located within 100 feet of any location in which chemicals are used. Thus, odor impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
IV. 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on a study titled *“Biological Resources Assessment for West Valley Water District’s Proposed Well Number 57 Project Located in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California”* (BRA) prepared by ELMT Consulting dated March 18, 2024 and provided as Appendix 2.

General Site Conditions

The proposed project site is located in an area that historically supported agricultural land uses and rural communities and has undergone significant urbanization in recent decades. At present, the site is bounded to the northwest by an electrical easement largely supporting undeveloped land with residential tract developments beyond; to the south by Knox Avenue with residential tract developments beyond; and to the east by residential tract developments. The site itself supports developed land and undeveloped, vacant land that has been impacted by historic agricultural uses and several decades of vehicle access and weed abatement regimes, and, more recently, adjacent and on-site development.

On-site elevation ranges from approximately 1,686 to 1,703 feet above mean sea level and slopes marginally from northeast to southwest. On-site topography is generally flat with no areas of significant topographic relief. Based on the NRCS USDA Web Soil Survey, the project site is historically underlain by Tujunga gravelly loamy sand (0 to 9 percent slopes). Soils on-site are generally very rocky and have been mechanically disturbed and compacted from grading activities, historic and ongoing land uses, and on-site and surrounding development.

The project site supports one (1) plant community: non-native grassland. In addition, the site supports two (2) land cover types that would be classified as disturbed and developed. The majority of the project site supports non-native grassland that occurs in varying densities throughout the site, except on the paved and dirt roads that intersect the site. This plant community is dominated by non-native grasses such as common Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*) and oats (*Avena* spp.) and supports primarily weedy/early successional species.

Common plant species observed in the non-native grassland plant community include doveweed (*Croton setiger*), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), and common non-native species observed include wild oat (*Avena* sp.), longbeak stork's bill (*Erodium botrys*), redstem stork's bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), spotted spurge (*Euphorbia maculata*), shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), Mediterranean grass (*Schismus barbatus*), common sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*), and puncture vine (*Tribulus terrestris*).

Disturbed land occurs throughout the site in the form of an unpaved access road which runs along the western boundary, and areas along the eastern and southern boundary which have been subjected to disturbances such as illegal dumping and off-road vehicular use. Vegetative cover in these areas range from barren to sparse. Representative plant species in disturbed areas onsite include those present within the non-native grassland community.

Developed areas onsite occur along the southern boundary in association with the paved city sidewalks and flood control infrastructure. These areas are generally void of vegetation or contain verges which have been vegetated with installed ornamental species.

Special-Status Plants

According to the CNDDDB and CNPS, twenty (20) special-status plant species have been recorded in the Devore quadrangle (refer to Attachment D of the BRA). No special-status plant species were observed onsite during the field investigation. The project site has been subject to anthropogenic disturbances from weed-abatement and adjacent and surrounding development; the latter of which has removed on-site habitats from historic hydrological regimes that once shaped the vegetative structure of plant communities in the area. These disturbances have reduced, if not eliminated, the suitability of the habitat to support special-status plant species known to occur in the general vicinity of the project site.

Based on habitat requirements for specific special-status plant species, the availability and quality of habitats needed by each species, and known distributions, it was determined that the project site does not have potential to support any of the special-status plant species known to occur in the vicinity and all are presumed to be absent. No further surveys are recommended.

Special-Status Wildlife

According to the CNDDDB, forty-five (45) special-status wildlife species have been reported in the Devore quadrangle (refer to Attachment D of the BRA). No special-status wildlife species were observed during the field investigation. Based on habitat requirements for specific species and the availability and quality of on-site habitats, Cooper's hawk is not expected to nest on-site due to the lack of suitable nesting opportunities and California horned lark is not expected to nest on-site do to routine weed abatement and disturbance from access road use.

Based on regional significance, the potential occurrence of burrowing owl, San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and California gnatcatcher within the project site are described in further detail below:

Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl is currently listed as a California Species of Special Concern. It is a grassland specialist distributed throughout western North America where it occupies open areas with short vegetation and bare ground within shrub, desert, and grassland environments. Burrowing owls use a wide variety of arid and semi-arid environments with well-drained, level to gently-sloping areas characterized by sparse vegetation and bare ground. Burrowing owls are dependent upon the presence of burrowing mammals (such as ground squirrels) whose burrows are used for roosting and nesting. The presence or absence of colonial mammal

burrows is often a major factor that limits the presence or absence of burrowing owls. Where mammal burrows are scarce, burrowing owls have been found occupying man-made cavities, such as buried and non-functioning drain pipes, stand-pipes, and dry culverts. Burrowing mammals may burrow beneath rocks and debris or large, heavy objects such as abandoned cars, concrete blocks, or concrete pads. They also require open vegetation allowing line-of-sight observation of the surrounding habitat to forage as well as watch for predators.

No burrowing owls or recent sign (i.e., pellets, feathers, castings, or whitewash) were observed during the field investigation. Portions of the project site are unvegetated and/or vegetated with low-growing plant species that allow for line-of-sight observation favored by burrowing owls. However, the project site lacks suitable burrows (>4 inches in diameter) capable of providing nesting opportunities. In addition, the site is surrounded by electrical and light poles which provide perching opportunities for larger raptor species (i.e., red-tailed hawk [*Buteo jamaicensis*]) that prey on burrowing owls. Burrowing owl is further precluded from establishing on-site due to the presence of free-roaming domestic cats.

Based on the results of the field investigation, it was determined that the project site does not have potential to support burrowing owl and focused surveys are not recommended. However, out of an abundance of caution, a preconstruction burrowing owl clearance survey shall be conducted prior to development to ensure burrowing owl remain absent from the project site.

San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat

The San Bernardino kangaroo rat, federally listed as endangered, is one of several kangaroo rat species in its range. The Dulzura, the Pacific kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys agilis*) and the Stephens kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*) occur in areas occupied by the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, but these other species have a wider habitat range. The habitat of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat is described as being confined to pioneer and intermediate Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub (RAFSS) habitats, with sandy soils deposited by fluvial (water) rather than Aeolian (wind) processes. Burrows are dug in loose soil, usually near or beneath shrubs.

The San Bernardino kangaroo rat is one of three subspecies of the Merriam's kangaroo rat. The Merriam's kangaroo rat is a widespread species that can be found from the inland valleys to the deserts. The subspecies known as the San Bernardino kangaroo, however, is confined to inland valley scrub communities, and more particularly, to scrub communities occurring along rivers, streams and drainages. Most of the drainages have been historically altered as a result of flood control efforts and the resulting increased use of river resources, including mining, off-road vehicle use and road and housing development. This increased use of river resources has resulted in a reduction in both the amount and quality of habitat available for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat. The past habitat losses and potential future losses prompted the emergency listing of the San Bernardino kangaroo rat as an endangered species. Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs) are physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a species for which its designated critical habitat is based on. Examples of PCE's include food, water, space for individual and population growth, cover or shelter, etc. The PCEs essential to support the biological needs of foraging, reproducing, rearing of young, intra-specific communication, dispersal, genetic exchange, or sheltering for San Bernardino kangaroo rat are:

1. River, creek, stream, and wash channels; alluvial fans, flood plains, flood benches and terraces; and historic braided channels that are subject to dynamic geomorphological and hydrological processes;
2. Alluvial sage scrub and associated vegetation such as coastal sage scrub and chamise chaparral with a moderately open canopy;
3. Soil series consisting of sand, sandy loam, or loam within its geographical range; and
4. Upland areas proximal to flood plains containing suitable habitat (land adjacent to alluvial fan that provides refugia).

San Bernardino kangaroo rat is known to occur within Lytle Creek floodplain. The project site has been generally removed from the hydrological influences of Lytle Creek since the installation of Interstate 15 and associated flood control infrastructure since the mid-1900's, resulting in the on-site RAFSS plant community no longer exhibiting the dynamic vegetative succession and diversity typical of this plant community. In

addition, the development of extensive residential neighborhood tracts in the mid-1990's thoroughly isolated the project site from suitable habitats within downstream portions of Lytle Creek.

The project site supports disturbed and developed land. Undeveloped portions of the project site are underlain with rocky soils that have been heavily disturbed and compacted following decades of anthropogenic disturbance. Field sign for kangaroo rat, including San Bernardino kangaroo rat, is distinctive and readily noted in the field. No sign (e.g., San Bernardino kangaroo rat characteristic burrows, dusting baths, and/or tail drags) was observed during the field investigation. Additionally, the project site no longer is subject to the hydrologic influence of Lytle Creek due to the channelization of Lytle Creek for flood control purposes.

Based on these conditions, it was determined that the project site does not provide the requisite habitat elements needed by San Bernardino kangaroo rat to be present. Therefore, it was determined that San Bernardino kangaroo rat is presumed absent from the project site. No focused surveys are recommended.

California Gnatcatcher

California gnatcatcher is a federally threatened species with restricted habitat requirements, being an obligate resident of sage scrub habitats that are dominated by California sagebrush. This species generally occurs below 750 feet elevation in coastal regions and below 1,500 feet inland. According to J. Atwood and J. Bolsinger, 99% of all California gnatcatcher observations are in areas with elevations below 950 feet. There are reported occurrences of California gnatcatcher at 1,600 feet elevation (500 meters).

California gnatcatcher ranges from Ventura County south to San Diego County and northern Baja California and is less common in sage scrub with a high percentage of tall shrubs. It prefers habitat with more low-growing vegetation. California gnatcatchers breed between mid-February and the end of August, with peak activity from mid-March to mid-May. Population estimates indicate that there are approximately 1,600 to 2,290 pairs of coastal California gnatcatcher remaining. Declines are attributed to loss of sage scrub habitat due to development, as well as cowbird nest parasitism.

California gnatcatcher are ground and shrub-foraging insectivores, feeding on small insects and other arthropods. A California gnatcatcher's territory is highly variable in size and seems to be correlated with distance from the coast, ranging from less than 1 ha to over 9 ha. In a 1998 study, biologist Patrick Mock concluded that California gnatcatcher in the inland region require a larger territory than those on the coast in order to meet the nutritional requirements needed for survival and breeding.

The Primary Constituent Elements (PCEs)¹ essential to support the biological needs of foraging, reproducing, rearing of young, intra-specific communication, dispersal, genetic exchange, or sheltering for California gnatcatcher that were surveyed for include:

1. Dynamic and Successional sage scrub Habitats and Associated Vegetation (Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, Coastal Sage-Chaparral Scrub, etc.) that provide space for individual and population growth, normal behavior, breeding, reproduction, nesting, dispersal and foraging; and
2. Non-sage scrub habitats such as chaparral, grassland, and riparian areas, in proximity to sage scrub habitats have the potential to provide linkages to help with dispersal, foraging and nesting.

The project site ranges in approximate elevation from 1,560 to 1,585 feet above mean sea level, which is just below the known elevational range of California gnatcatcher. Ninety-nine percent of all California gnatcatcher observations occur below 950 feet above msl. California gnatcatcher's preferred habitat is coastal sage scrub dominated by California sage brush. The project site does not support coastal sage scrub habitat. In addition, the site is isolated from California gnatcatcher occupied coastal sage scrub habitats and linkage areas in the region by surrounding development. Given the degraded condition of the site, plus the lack of any observation of California gnatcatcher in north Fontana and isolation of the site due to the recent development of surrounding properties, it is highly unlikely that the site might support this

¹ Specific elements of physical and biological features that provide for a species' life-history process and are essential to the conservation of the species.

species. Therefore, California gnatcatcher is presumed to be absent from the project site. No further surveys are recommended.

Special-Status Plant Communities

According to the CNDDDB, three (3) special-status plant communities have been reported in the Devore USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle: RAFSS, Southern Riparian Forest, and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland (refer to Attachment D). No special-status plant communities were observed onsite at the time of the investigation.

Due to recent and historic disturbances associated with surrounding construction, weed-abatement activities, and on-site and surrounding development, the vegetation supported by the project site does not support characteristics for special-status plant communities to reside.

Critical Habitats

Under the federal Endangered Species Act, "Critical Habitat" is designated at the time of listing of a species or within one year of listing. Critical Habitat refers to specific areas within the geographical range of a species at the time it is listed that include the physical or biological features that are essential to the survival and eventual recovery of that species. Maintenance of these physical and biological features requires special management considerations or protection, regardless of whether individuals or the species are present or not. All federal agencies are required to consult with the USFWS regarding activities they authorize, fund, or permit which may affect a federally listed species or its designated Critical Habitat. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure that projects will not jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species or adversely modify or destroy its designated Critical Habitat. The designation of Critical Habitat does not affect private landowners, unless a project they are proposing is on federal lands, uses federal funds, or requires federal authorization or permits (e.g., funding from the Federal Highways Administration or a Clean Water Act Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers). If there is a federal nexus, then the federal agency that is responsible for providing the funding or permit would consult with the USFWS.

In 2002 the USFWS designated Critical Habitat for San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and the project site was included within the designated area. Subsequently, in 2008 the USFWS reduced the boundaries of their previously designated Critical Habitat which removed the project site from designation. The lack of the needed habitat features within the project site, as well as in north Fontana, prompted USFWS to remove the Critical Habitat designation in this area. Finally, at the beginning of 2011 the original (2002) designated Critical Habitat was reinstated by a federal district court ruling which overturned the reduced (2008) designated Critical Habitat. Currently the project site is located within designated Critical Habitat Unit 2, Lytle Creek/Cajon Wash. Refer to Exhibit 5, *Critical Habitat* in Attachment A of the BRA. However, since the project does not have a federal nexus, a Section 7 consultation with the USFWS would not be required for loss or adverse modification of Critical Habitat. If a federal nexus does occur, a Section 7 Consultation will have to be initiated with USFWS.

Jurisdictional Waters

There are three key agencies that regulate activities within inland streams, wetlands, and riparian areas in California. The Corps Regulatory Branch regulates discharge of dredge or fill materials into "waters of the United States" pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Of the State agencies, the CDFW regulates alterations to streambed and bank under Fish and Wildlife Code Sections 1600 et seq., and the Regional Board regulates discharges into surface waters pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.

No jurisdictional drainage and/or wetland features were observed on the project site during the field investigation. Further no blue-line streams have been recorded on the project site. Therefore, development of the project will not result in impacts to Corps, Regional Board, or CDFW jurisdiction and regulatory approvals will not be required.

Conclusion

Based literature review and field survey, and existing site conditions discussed in this report, implementation of the project is not expected to have significant impacts on federally or State listed species known to occur in the general vicinity of the project site. Additionally, the project will have no effect on designated Critical Habitat, since there is no federal nexus, or regional wildlife corridors/linkages because none exist within the area. No jurisdictional drainage and/or wetland features were observed on the project site during the field investigation. No further surveys are recommended beyond the preconstruction survey for burrowing owl. With completion of the recommendations provided below, no impacts to year-round, seasonal, or special-status avian residents or special-status species will occur from implementation of the proposed project.

Impact Analysis

- a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the project has minimal potential for a significant adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. The project site is vacant and no longer supports any native habitat, but there is some non-native grassland within and adjacent the proposed impact area. The BRA provided as Appendix 2 to this Initial Study determined that the project site does not contain suitable habitat for the following species with a potential to occur in the project area:
- San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*)
 - Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)
 - Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)
 - Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

No State- and/or federally listed threatened or endangered species, or other sensitive species were observed on site during the field survey. However, although no BUOW were observed during the survey of the site, habitat for this species exists within the project site. As such, although the project is not likely to adversely affect this species, there is still a potential for the project area to become occupied by BUOW between the time the survey was conducted and the commencement of project-related construction activities. Therefore, the following precautionary avoidance measures are recommended to ensure the project does not result in any impacts to BUOW:

BIO-1 *Preconstruction presence/absence surveys for burrowing owl shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to any onsite ground disturbing activity by a qualified biologist, including prior to each phase of new ground disturbance. The burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted pursuant to the recommendations and guidelines established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the "California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation." In the event this species is not identified within the project limits, no further mitigation is required, and a letter shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the survey. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW prior to commencement of project activities. If during the preconstruction survey, the burrowing owl is found to occupy the site, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 shall be required.*

BIO-2 *If burrowing owls are identified during the survey period, the District shall take the following actions to offset impacts prior to ground disturbance:*

The District shall notify CDFW within three business days of determining that a burrowing owl is occupying the site to discuss the observed location, activities and behavior of the burrowing owl(s) and appropriate avoidance and minimization measures.

Active nests within the areas scheduled for disturbance or degradation shall be avoided until fledging has occurred, as confirmed by a qualified biologist. Following fledging, owls may be passively relocated by a qualified biologist, as described below.

If impacts on occupied burrows are unavoidable, onsite passive relocation techniques may be used if approved by the CDFW to encourage owls to move to alternative burrows provided by the District outside of the impact area.

If relocation of the owls is approved for the site by CDFW, CDFW shall require the District to hire a qualified biologist to prepare a plan for relocating the owls to a suitable site and conduct an impact assessment. A qualified biologist shall prepare and submit a passive relocation program in accordance with Appendix E (i.e., Example Components for Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow and Exclusion Plans) of the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012) to the CDFW for review/approval prior to the commencement of disturbance activities onsite.

The relocation plan must include all of the following and as indicated in Appendix E:

- ***The location of the nest and owls proposed for relocation.***
- ***The location of the proposed relocation site.***
- ***The number of owls involved and the time of year when the relocation is proposed to take place.***
- ***The name and credentials of the biologist who will be retained to supervise the relocation.***
- ***The proposed method of capture and transport for the owls to the new site.***
- ***A description of site preparation at the relocation site (e.g., enhancement of existing burrows, creation of artificial burrows, one-time or long-term vegetation control).***

The District shall conduct an impact assessment, in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation prior to commencing project activities to determine appropriate mitigation, including the acquisition and conservation of occupied replacement habitat at no less than a 2:1 ratio.

Prior to passive relocation, suitable replacement burrows site(s) shall be provided at a ratio of 2:1 and permanent conservation and management of burrowing owl habitat such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows and burrowing owl impacts are replaced consistent with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation including its Appendix A within designated adjacent conserved lands identified through coordination with CDFW and the District. A qualified biologist shall confirm the natural or artificial burrows on the conservation lands are suitable for use by the owls. Monitoring and management of the replacement burrow site(s) shall be conducted and a reporting plan shall be prepared. The objective shall be to manage the replacement burrow sites for the benefit of burrowing owls (e.g., minimizing weed cover), with the specific goal of maintaining the functionality of the burrows for a minimum of 2 years.

A final letter report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the passive relocation. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW.

This is a contingency mitigation measure since the site does not contain any evidence of burrowing owls at present. This measure will ensure that any burrowing owl that may come to inhabit the site

between the date of the BRA survey and the start of construction will be protected. Given that no other State- and/or federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or other sensitive species are anticipated to occur within the project site based on the results of the BRA, the proposed project would have a less than significant potential to have a substantial adverse effect on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS with implementation of **MMs BIO-1** and **BIO-2**.

- b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the proposed project has a potential to have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS. The project footprint does not contain suitable habitat for any of the sensitive species with a potential to occur in the project APE, and it does not contain any known riparian habitat or any other sensitive natural community identified by any agency. In 2002 the USFWS designated Critical Habitat for San Bernardino kangaroo rat, and the project site was included within the designated area. Subsequently, in 2008 the USFWS reduced the boundaries of their previously designated Critical Habitat which removed the project site from designation. The lack of the needed habitat features within the project site, as well as in north Fontana, prompted USFWS to remove the Critical Habitat designation in this area. Finally, at the beginning of 2011 the original (2002) designated Critical Habitat was reinstated by a federal district court ruling which overturned the reduced (2008) designated Critical Habitat. Currently the project site is located within designated Critical Habitat Unit 2, Lytle Creek/Cajon Wash. Refer to Exhibit 5, Critical Habitat in Attachment A. However, since the project does not have a federal nexus, a Section 7 consultation with the USFWS would not be required for loss or adverse modification of Critical Habitat. If a federal nexus does occur, a Section 7 Consultation will have to be initiated with USFWS. Therefore, there is a less than significant potential for implementation of this project to have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW or USFWS.
- c. *No Impact* – According to the data gathered by ELMT in the BRA, no federally protected wetlands occur within the project footprint. ELMT assessed the project APE for the presence of any state and/or federal jurisdictional waters. The result of the jurisdictional waters assessment is that there are no wetland or non-wetland WOTUS or waters of the State potentially subject to regulation by the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA, the RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA and/or Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act, or the CDFW under Section 1602 of the FGC, respectively. Therefore, the project will not impact and jurisdictional waters and no state or federal jurisdictional waters permitting will be required. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project will have no potential to impact any federally protected wetlands through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. No mitigation is required.
- d. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Based on the field survey of the project site, the project will not substantially interfere with or impede the use of native nursery sites. Habitat linkages provide connections between larger habitat areas that are separated by development. Wildlife corridors are similar to linkages but provide specific opportunities for animals to disperse or migrate between areas. A corridor can be defined as a linear landscape feature of sufficient width to allow animal movement between two comparatively undisturbed habitat fragments. Adequate cover is essential for a corridor to function as a wildlife movement area. It is possible for a habitat corridor to be adequate for one species yet still inadequate for others. Wildlife corridors are features that allow for the dispersal, seasonal migration, breeding, and foraging of a variety of wildlife species. Additionally, open space can provide a buffer against both human disturbance and natural fluctuations in resources.

According to the San Bernardino County General Plan, the project site is not mapped as occurring within or adjacent to any Major Open Space Areas. The nearest Major Open Space Area to the project site is Cajon Pass; in proximity to the site, the Cajon Pass is composed of the Lytle Creek and Cajon Creek washes. However, in the years since the Major Open Space Areas were mapped, the southwest portion of the Cajon Pass has been largely developed and presently supports mostly residential tract neighborhoods. At present, remaining open space in proximity to the project site

occurs approximately 0.64 miles to the northeast beyond existing development. Additionally, there are no riparian corridors, creeks, or useful patches of steppingstone habitat (natural areas) within or connecting the project site to these, or any other, identified wildlife corridors or linkages. As a result, implementation of the proposed project will not disrupt or have any adverse effects on any migratory corridors or linkages in the surrounding area.

The State protects all migratory and nesting native birds. Several bird species were identified as potentially occurring in the project area, and the proposed project site contains suitable habitat for nesting birds within the site. To avoid impacting nesting birds as required by the MBTA and California FGC, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented:

BIO-3 *Nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified avian biologist no more than three (3) days prior to vegetation clearing or ground disturbance activities. Preconstruction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified avian biologist will make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If active nests are found during the preconstruction nesting bird surveys, a Nesting Bird Plan (NBP) shall be prepared and implemented by the qualified avian biologist. At a minimum, the NBP shall include guidelines for addressing active nests, establishing buffers, ongoing monitoring, establishment of avoidance and minimization measures, and reporting. The size and location of all buffer zones, if required, shall be based on the nesting species, individual/pair's behavior, nesting stage, nest location, its sensitivity to disturbance, and intensity and duration of the disturbance activity. To avoid impacts to nesting birds, any grubbing or vegetation removal should occur outside peak breeding season (typically February 1 through September 1).*

Thus, with implementation of the above measure, any effects on wildlife movement or the use of wildlife nursery sites can be reduced to a less than significant impact.

- e. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on the field survey, there are no species that are specifically protected by a local policy or ordinance specific to the proposed project site. As no biological resources located within the project footprint are protected under local policies or ordinances, impacts under this issue are considered less than significant.
- f. *No Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under response IV(a) above. The Biological Resources Assessment provided as Appendix 2 concluded that the project, is not located in an area within a Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan, and implementation of the project will therefore not result in a significant impact to any such plans. No further mitigation is necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information is provided based on the “*Cultural Resources Assessment for the West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Project*” that was prepared by Michelle Hart of Mojave Archaeological Consulting. The report is dated January 2024 and is provided as Appendix 3 to this Initial Study. The following information is abstracted from this report. It provides an overview and findings regarding the cultural resources found within the project area.

Background

At the request of Tom Dodson & Associates, Mojave Archaeological Consulting, LLC, conducted a cultural resources investigation for the West Valley Water District’s proposed Well No. 57 project, in the City of Fontana, San Bernardino County, California. The report was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as part of the initial study for the project. Pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and state and local CEQA guidelines, the West Valley Water District (District) is the Lead Agency for the proposed project.

The District proposes to install Well No. 57 on an approximately 1.6-acre portion of three parcels (Assessor’s Parcel Numbers [APNs] 110-752-174, 110-752-176, and 110-752-171). The project will include the installation of the well, a vertical turbine pump, shade structure, and other potential components including a sand separator, deaeration tank, and pipeline and utility connections. The project area is located northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Avenue, just northeast of the intersection of Knox Avenue and Walsh Lane in northern Fontana on the USGS 7.5-minute maps for Devore, CA, within Section 24, Township 1 North, and Range 6 West.

The report describes the methods and results of the cultural resources investigation of the project area, which included a records search and literature review, a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and an intensive pedestrian survey. The purpose of the investigation was to provide the West Valley Water District with the information and analysis necessary to determine the potential for the proposed project to impact “historical resources” and “archaeological resources” under CEQA.

The records search performed by the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS), included a 0.5-mile-wide buffer (study area), and indicated twenty previous cultural resource investigations and four cultural resources are documented within the 0.5-mile study area. Of the previous investigations, three covered the project area. No cultural resources have been previously documented within the 1.6-acre project area. The SLF search with the NAHC was completed with positive results and a recommendation to contact the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. An outreach letter and invitation to participate in the field survey was sent to the Kizh Nation on 15 December and a follow up inquiry and request for information was sent 03 January 2024. To date, a response has not been received but it is expected that the Kizh Nation and other Native American tribes with potential associations to the project area will seek consultation with the West Valley

Water District under Assembly Bill (AB) 52. In fact, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation did request consultation during the AB 52 consultation process.

Due to the age of the previous cultural resource investigations, Mojave Archaeological Consulting conducted new intensive pedestrian survey of the entire 1.6-acre project area on the 22nd of December 2023. The only cultural remains identified within the project area were historic concrete and masonry rubble that is not considered eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). No other cultural materials, either prehistoric or historic, were identified within the project area. The paucity of cultural materials identified during the survey and the project area's previously disturbed context indicate that intact and significant buried archaeological deposits are unlikely.

Considering these findings, Mojave Archaeological Consulting recommends to the West Valley Water District that the proposed project will have no impact on historical or archaeological resources. No further cultural resources work is recommended necessary for the proposed project activities. However, in the event that potentially significant archaeological materials are encountered during construction, all work must be halted in the vicinity of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance and integrity of the find. If intact and significant archaeological remains are encountered, the impacts of the project should be mitigated appropriately. Any such discoveries, and subsequent evaluation and treatment, should be documented in a cultural resources report, which would be submitted to the SCCIC for archival purposes. Additionally, Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, CEQA Statute & Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), and PRC Section 5097.98 mandate the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of human remains. Finally, if the project area is expanded to include areas not covered by the survey or other recent cultural resource assessments in the study area, additional cultural resource investigations may be required.

Impact Analysis

a&b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – CEQA establishes that "a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (PRC §21084.1). "Substantial adverse change," according to PRC §5020.1(q), "means demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of a historical resource would be impaired."

Per the above discussion and definition, no archaeological sites or isolates were recorded within the project boundaries. Thus, no archaeological or historical isolates requires further consideration during this study. In light of this information and pursuant to PRC §21084.1, the following conclusions have been reached for the project:

- No historical resources within or adjacent to the project area have any potential to be disturbed as they are not within the proposed area in which the facilities will be constructed and developed, and thus, the project as it is currently proposed will not cause a substantial adverse change to any known historical resources.
- No further cultural resources investigation is necessary for the proposed project unless construction plans undergo such changes as to include areas not covered by this study.

However, if buried cultural materials are discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented:

CUL-1 Should any cultural resources be encountered during construction of these facilities, ground disturbing activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. Responsibility for making this determination shall be with the District. The archaeological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN) have requested the following cultural mitigation measures to be implemented as follows:

CUL-2 *In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.*

CUL-3 *If significant pre-contact cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to YSMN for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.*

With the above mitigation measures, the potential for impacts to cultural resources will be reduced to a less than significant level. No additional mitigation is required.

- c. *Less Than Significant Impact* – As noted in the discussion above, no available information suggests that human remains may occur within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and the potential for such an occurrence is considered very low. Human remains discovered during the project will need to be treated in accordance with the provisions of HSC §7050.5 and PRC §5097.98, which is mandatory. State law (Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code) as well as local laws requires that the Police Department, County Sheriff and Coroner's Office receive notification if human remains are encountered. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN) have requested the following mitigation measure to that would minimize potential impacts related to human remains and funerary objects as follows:

CUL-4 *If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.*

As such, the potential for discovery and treatment of human remains will be reduced to a less than significant level through compliance with existing laws and through the implementation of mitigation.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VI. ENERGY: Would the project:				
a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

a&b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Energy consumption encompasses many different activities. For example, construction can include the following activities: delivery of equipment and material to a site from some location (note it also requires energy to manufacture the equipment and material, such as harvesting, cutting and delivering wood from its source); employee trips to work, possibly offsite for lunch (or a visit by a catering truck), travel home, and occasionally leaving a site for an appointment or checking another job; use of equipment onsite (electric or fuel); and sometimes demolition and disposal of construction waste. For the proposed project the number of construction workers will be limited to about 5 persons at a given time during construction with no new employees anticipated to be required once construction has concluded. The project would require ground disturbance in paved and undeveloped areas in places where trenching is required to install piping. To minimize energy costs of construction debris management, laws are in place that require diversion of all material subject to recycling. During construction, the proposed project will utilize construction equipment that is CARB approved, minimizing emissions generated and electricity required to the extent feasible (through **MM AQ-2** provided under Section III, Air Quality, above). As stated in Section III, Air Quality, the construction of the proposed Well No. 57 Project would require mitigation to minimize emissions impacts from construction equipment use. This mitigation measure also applies to energy resources as they require equipment not in use for 5 minutes to be turned off, and for electrical construction equipment to be used where available. This measure would prevent a significant impact during construction due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and would also conform to the CARB regulations regarding energy efficiency.

The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana that will pump water continuously to contribute to the District's existing potable water distribution. No new employees are anticipated to be required in support of the project once the well is in operation. The project will be supplied power from Southern California Edison (SCE). Additionally, a backup generator will be installed at the site that will be utilized in the event of a power failure, and as such is not anticipated to be an inefficient or wasteful energy utilizing source. As such, the project is not anticipated to require a significant amount of electricity in the context of existing available power sources. The well and supporting infrastructure must be constructed in conformance with a variety of existing energy efficiency regulatory requirements or guidelines including, but not limited to the following:

- Compliance California Green Building Standards Code, AKA the CALGreen Code (Title 24, Part 11), which became effective on January 1, 2017. The purpose of the CALGreen Code is to improve public health, safety, and general welfare by enhancing the design and construction of building through the use of building concepts encouraging sustainable construction practices.
- Compliance with the Building Energy Efficiency Standards would ensure that the building energy use associated with the proposed project would not be wasteful or unnecessary.
- Compliance with diversion of construction and demolition materials from landfills.
- Compliance with AQMD Mandatory use of low-pollutant emitting finish materials.
- Compliance with AQMD Rules 431.1 and 431.2 to reduce the release of undesirable emissions.

- Compliance with diesel exhaust emissions from diesel vehicles and off-road diesel vehicle/equipment operations.

Compliance with these regulatory requirements for operational energy use and construction energy use would not be wasteful or unnecessary use of energy. Further, SCE is presently in compliance with State renewable energy supply requirements and SCE will supply electricity to the project. The proposed project does not include any substantive new stationary or mobile sources of emissions, and therefore, by its very nature, will not generate substantial amounts of energy demand from project operations. The project does not propose a trip-generating land use or facilities that would generate any substantive amount of on-going energy demands. While it is anticipated that the project would require intermittent maintenance, such maintenance would be minimal requiring a negligible amount of traffic trips on an annual basis. As such, under the operational scenario for the proposed project, the proposed project will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption that could result in a significant adverse impact to energy issues based on compliance with the referenced laws, regulations and guidelines. No mitigation is required.

- b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Based on the analysis in the preceding discussion, the proposed project will not conflict with current State energy efficiency or electricity supply requirements or any local plans or programs for renewable energy or energy efficiency requirements. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
(i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

a. i. Ground Rupture

Less Than Significant Impact – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The project footprint is located in the City of Fontana. The nearest Alquist-Priolo fault zones are the San Andreas Fault and the Cucamonga Fault to the north; these fault zones are depicted on **Figure VII-1**, the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Earthquake Fault Zones Map. These fault zones are greater than one mile north/northwest of the project site. Therefore, the proposed well would not be installed in an area encompassed by an active fault zone. Based on this information, the risk for ground rupture at the project location is low; furthermore, the project will not include any human occupancy structures, but will install a new well to connect to the District's potable water distribution system. The design and construction of well is controlled by both state and local design

construction standards. Compliance with these standards and requirements of the City is mandatory and considered adequate mitigation for potential impacts associated with this project. Therefore, the potential for this project to expose people or property to the hazard of earthquake fault rupture is considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

ii. Strong Seismic Ground Shaking

Less Than Significant Impact – As stated in the discussion above, several faults run through the County, and as with much of southern California, the proposed well will be subject to strong seismic ground shaking impacts should any major earthquakes occur in the future, particularly due to the site's location near two fault zones, as shown in **Figure VII-1**. As a result, and like all other development projects in the City and throughout the southern California region, the proposed project will be required to comply with all applicable seismic design standards contained in the 2022 California Building Code (CBC). Compliance with the CBC and the use of best management design practices will enable maximum structural integrity of the well to be maintained in the event of an earthquake. Many such facilities exist and function within areas susceptible to strong ground shaking effects. Therefore, given that the proposed project consists of a well that will be constructed in compliance with the CBC, there is a less than significant potential for people or structures to be exposed to strong seismic ground shaking.

iii. Seismic-Related Ground Failure Including Liquefaction

Less Than Significant Impact – The three factors determining whether a site is likely to be subject to liquefaction include seismic shaking, type and consistency of earth materials, and groundwater level. Liquefaction of saturated cohesionless soils can be caused by strong ground motion resulting from earthquakes. Soil liquefaction is a phenomenon in which saturated, cohesionless soils lose their strength due to the build-up of excess pore water pressure during cyclic loading such as that induced by earthquakes. According to the map prepared for the County of San Bernardino Countywide Plan Liquefaction & Landslides Map (**Figure VII-2**), the project site is not located in an area known to be susceptible to liquefaction. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the proposed project would be susceptible to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

iv. Landslide

Less Than Significant Impact – Landslides in the project area are generally known to occur around the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The proposed project footprint is located in the valley region of San Bernardino County, and generally is not located in an area that would be susceptible to landslide. According to the map prepared for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan Liquefaction & Landslides Map (**Figure VII-2**), the project site is not located in an area that is considered susceptible to landslides. No potential events can be identified that would result in adverse effects from landslides or that would cause landslides that could expose people or structures to such an event as a result of project implementation. No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

- b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. The project may result in exposing some soil to erosion during site development activities before the well is drilled and completed. Due to the disturbed nature of the existing sites and the flat topography, it is concluded that the potential for this project to cause substantial soil erosion is low. Implementation of BMPs through the mitigation measures provided below, in conjunction with **MM HYD-3** in the Hydrology and Water Quality section to control erosion is considered adequate to mitigate potential impacts associated with the water-related erosion of soil. Please refer to the detailed discussion and mitigation measures addressing wind-related soils erosion (fugitive dust) in the Air Quality section.

- GEO-1** *Excavated areas shall be backfilled and compacted such that erosion does not occur. Paved areas disturbed by this project shall be repaved in such a manner that roadways and other disturbed areas are returned to the pre-project conditions or better.*
- GEO-2** *All exposed, disturbed soil (trenches, stored backfill, etc.) will be sprayed with water or soil binders twice a day or more frequently if fugitive dust is observed migrating from the site.*
- GEO-3** *The District shall identify any additional BMPs to ensure that the discharge of surface water does not cause erosion downstream of the discharge point. This shall be accomplished by reducing the energy of any site discharge through an artificial energy dissipater or equivalent device. If any substantial erosion or sedimentation occurs, any erosion or sedimentation damage shall be restored to pre-discharge conditions.*

With implementation of the above mitigation measures, any impacts are considered less than significant. No further mitigation is necessary.

- c. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The coarse alluvial soils located at the project sites exhibit stability. Based on a review of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey of the project footprint, the soil underlying the project site are Tujunga gravelly loam sand² (Appendix 4). The Tujunga series is excessively well drained, and is in a negligible to low runoff class. As stated under issues VII(a)[iii] and VII(a)[iv] above, the project footprint is not located in an area that is susceptible to landslides and liquefaction. This indicates that the project footprint and general area are unlikely to be underlain by unstable soils, or be affected by subsidence, lateral spreading, or collapse. Furthermore, damage to wells and associated piping can occur, but can be repaired and placed back into operation with no loss of human life. Therefore, due to the nature of the proposed project, and the type of soil unit underlying the project site, the proposed project has a less than significant potential to 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 onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. No mitigation is required.
- d. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The project site is generally flat. The proposed project would develop a well within the City of Fontana in support of the District's service area. As stated above, the USDA Web Soil Survey indicates that the majority of the project area of potential effect (APE) is underlain by Tujunga gravelly loam sand. This soil type is not classified as being expansive under Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), particularly as expansive soils are typically in the clay soil family. This class of soil is well drained and are not considered expansive. Expansive soils are typically in the clay soil family, which are not present within the project footprint; furthermore, while damage to wells and associated piping can occur, the damage can be repaired and placed back into operation with no loss of human life. Given the above, the proposed project would have a less than significant potential to 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. *No Impact* – The proposed project proponent is WVWD, and the overall purpose of the proposed project is to expand WVWD's water system to accommodate future demand by development in the project area. No septic systems or alternative wastewater disposal systems are proposed as part of the project. Thus, no impacts related to the use of septic tanks or alternative water disposal systems will occur.

² USDA, 2017. Tujunga Series. https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/T/TUJUNGA.html (accessed 01/04/24)

- f. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The potential for discovering paleontological resources during development of the project is considered unlikely based on the fact that the project area is underlain by granite bedrock and the alluvial soils/sediment is relatively young. No unique geologic features are known or suspected to occur on or beneath the project footprint. However, because the project has not been surveyed at depth in recent history, and the fact that these resources are located beneath the surface and can only be discovered as a result of ground disturbance activities, the following measure shall be implemented:

GEO-4 Should any paleontological resources be encountered during construction of these facilities, earthmoving or grading activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection should be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. Responsibility for making this determination shall be with the District's onsite inspector. The paleontological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and determine appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act that shall be implemented to minimize any impacts to a paleontological resource.

With incorporation of this contingency mitigation, the potential for impact to paleontological resources will be reduced to a less than significant level. No additional mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section of the Initial Study was obtained from the following technical study: *Air Quality and GHG Impact Analyses, West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Project, San Bernardino, California* prepared by Giroux & Associates dated January 16, 2024. This technical study is provided as Appendix 1 to this document.

GHG Background

California has passed several bills and the Governor has signed at least three executive orders regarding greenhouse gases. GHG statues and executive orders (EO) include AB 32, SB 1368, EO S-03-05, EO S-20-06 and EO S-01-07. AB 32 is one of the most significant pieces of environmental legislation that California has adopted. Among other things, it is designed to maintain California's reputation as a "national and international leader on energy conservation and environmental stewardship." A unique aspect of AB 32, beyond its broad and wide-ranging mandatory provisions and dramatic GHG reductions, are the short time frames within which it must be implemented. Major components of the AB 32 include:

- Require the monitoring and reporting of GHG emissions beginning with sources or categories of sources that contribute the most to statewide emissions.
- Requires immediate "early action" control programs on the most readily controlled GHG sources.
- Mandates that by 2020, California's GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels.
- Forces an overall reduction of GHG gases in California by 25-40%, from business as usual, to be achieved by 2020.
- Must complement efforts to achieve and maintain federal and state ambient air quality standards and to reduce toxic air contaminants.

Statewide, the framework for developing the implementing regulations for AB 32 is under way. Maximum GHG reductions are expected to derive from increased vehicle fuel efficiency, from greater use of renewable energy and from increased structural energy efficiency. Additionally, through the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR now called the Climate Action Reserve), general and industry-specific protocols for assessing and reporting GHG emissions have been developed. GHG sources are categorized into direct sources (i.e. company owned) and indirect sources (i.e. not company owned). Direct sources include combustion emissions from on-and off-road mobile sources, and fugitive emissions. Indirect sources include off-site electricity generation and non-company owned mobile sources.

Thresholds of Significance

In response to the requirements of SB 97, the State Resources Agency developed guidelines for the treatment of GHG emissions under CEQA. These new guidelines became state laws as part of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations in March 2010. The CEQA Appendix G guidelines were modified to include GHG as a required analysis element. A project would have a potentially significant impact if it:

- Generates GHG emissions, directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, or,
- Conflicts with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted to reduce GHG emissions.

Section 15064.4 of the Code specifies how significance of GHG emissions is to be evaluated. The process is broken down into quantification of Project-related GHG emissions, making a determination of significance, and specification of any appropriate mitigation if impacts are found to be potentially significant. At each of these steps, the new GHG guidelines afford the lead agency with substantial flexibility.

Emissions identification may be quantitative, qualitative or based on performance standards. CEQA guidelines allow the lead agency to “select the model or methodology it considers most appropriate.” The most common practice for transportation/combustion GHG emissions quantification is to use a computer model such as CalEEMod, as was used in the ensuing analysis.

The significance of those emissions then must be evaluated; the selection of a threshold of significance must take into consideration what level of GHG emissions would be cumulatively considerable. The guidelines are clear that they do not support a zero net emissions threshold. If the lead agency does not have sufficient expertise in evaluating GHG impacts, it may rely on thresholds adopted by an agency with greater expertise.

On December 5, 2008, the SCAQMD Governing Board adopted an Interim quantitative GHG Significance Threshold for industrial projects where the SCAQMD is the lead agency (e.g., stationary source permit Projects, rules, plans, etc.) of 10,000 Metric Tons (MT) CO₂ equivalent/year. However, the more conservative 3,000 MT CO₂ equivalent per year (CO₂e/year) SCAQMD recommended threshold has been used as a guideline for this analysis.

Impact Analysis

- a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – On December 5, 2008, the SCAQMD Governing Board adopted an Interim quantitative GHG Significance Threshold for industrial projects where the SCAQMD is the lead agency (e.g., stationary source permit Projects, rules, plans, etc.) of 10,000 Metric Tons (MT) CO₂ equivalent/year. However, the more conservative 3,000 MT CO₂ equivalent per year (CO₂e/year) SCAQMD recommended threshold has been used as a guideline for this analysis. As such, should the project emit over 3,000 MT CO₂e/year, it would result in a significant impact under this issue.

The project is assumed to require less than one year for construction. During project construction, the CalEEMod2022.1 computer model predicts that the construction activities will generate the annual CO₂ emissions identified in Table VIII-1.

**Table VIII-1
GHG EMISSIONS (MT CO₂e)**

Year 2024	MT CO ₂ (e)
Construction	57.9
30 Year Annual Amortized Rate	1.9
Operations	280
Total Amortized Construction + Operations	281.9

SCAQMD GHG emissions policy from construction activities is to amortize emissions over a 30-year lifetime. Except for minor system maintenance, the only operational source of GHG emissions would be associated with pumping operations. Electricity is generated from a variety of resources at various locations in the western United States. In “A Comparisons of California Utilities 2016 Power Sources and Emissions Analysis” it was calculated that there is a range for California emissions of 0.43-0.57 lbs. CO₂(e) per kWh for all utility companies. For SCE specifically, the rate was 0.55 CO₂ per kWh .

Information was provided by SCE for a neighboring well for both 2017 and 2021 and this data was used as a prototype for this project. The estimated amount of energy for the neighboring well used as a baseline for Well 57 is 255/256 kWh at peak demand. This would equate to a pump size of approximately 733 hP. Electricity use will result in GHG emissions from the fossil fueled fraction of Southern California's electrical resource calculated as follows, if the pumps would run continuously at a 50% load factor:

$$365 \text{ days/year} \times 24 \text{ hrs/day} \times 256 \text{ kW} \times 0.5 = 1,121 \text{ MW/year.}$$

$$1,121 \text{ MW/year} \times 550 \text{ lbs CO}_2/\text{MWh} \times 2,204 \text{ lbs per MT} = 280 \text{ MT/year}$$

The new pumping operations for the well are anticipated to produce 280 MT CO₂e per year when operating 24-hours per day at a 50% power load.

Adding the amortized construction GHG emissions of 1.9 MT/year to the operational emissions of 280 MT CO₂(e)/year yields a yearly total of about 282 MT CO₂(e)/year.

The screening threshold of 3,000 MT CO₂e/year GHG emissions will not be exceeded. Both the construction and operations GHG emissions are far below the 3,000 MT CO₂e/year advisory threshold for impact significance.

The amortized level is also provided and given that the proposed project would not generate GHG emissions in excess of 3,000 MT CO₂e/year, GHG impacts from construction are considered individually less than significant. Hence, neither project operation nor construction would not result in generation of a significant level of greenhouse gases. As such, the proposed project would have a less than significant potential to generate GHG emissions, directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment.

- b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Pursuant to 15604.4 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, a lead agency may rely on qualitative analysis or performance-based standards to determine the significance of impacts from GHG emissions.

Construction

40% below 1990 levels by 2030

By using newer and electrified construction equipment as it is phased in pursuant to requirements under AB 197 and similar laws, policies and programs, the project will be aligned with applicable plans and policies and would, therefore, not otherwise conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

This is consistent with SB 32's goal of reducing statewide emissions of greenhouse gases by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

85% below 1990 levels by 2045 / 2050

While construction activities associated with the implementation of the project would result in emissions of CO₂ and CH₄ (see previous section regarding threshold 1), most of the emissions will come from the burning of fossil fuel in construction equipment. These emissions from construction equipment will decrease even more as emissions technology improves in the next 20 years. Additionally, it is likely that diesel equipment will be cleaner and more efficient, powered by renewable diesel, and/or phased out due to local Climate Action Plans and state requirements (such by AB 197) by 2045. Newer electrified construction equipment will also become more broadly available, further decreasing construction emissions.

This is consistent with AB 1279's goal of reducing emissions to 85% below 1990 levels and carbon neutrality by 2045 and, by extension, Executive Order S-03-05's goal of reducing emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Operations

40% below 1990 levels by 2030

Operational emissions are powered primarily by electricity, so the project's GHG emissions will decline as renewable and carbon neutral energy sources make up a larger and larger percentage of power on the grid in compliance with state's plans, policies, and regulations.

This is consistent with SB 32's goal of reducing statewide emissions of greenhouse gases by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.

85% below 1990 levels by 2045 / 2050

Operational emissions are powered primarily by electricity, so the project's GHG emissions will decline as renewable and carbon neutral energy sources make up a larger and larger percentage of power on the grid in compliance with state's plans, policies, and regulations.

Finally, the implementation of the project will increase local water supplies, thereby avoiding the need to import water from remote sources. By reducing the demand for importing water, which is energy intensive and generates GHG emissions, the project will offset GHG emissions that would otherwise have occurred absent implementation of the project.

This is consistent with AB 1279's goal of reducing emissions to 85% below 1990 levels and carbon neutrality by 2045 and, by extension, Executive Order S-03-05's goal of reducing emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. This is also consistent with CARB's 2022 Scoping Plan goals and objectives, which are based on compliance with AB 1279.

Conclusion

Results of the assessment indicate that the project is not anticipated to result in a significant impact during construction or operational activities associated with air quality and GHG.

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

SUBSTANTIATION: A Phase I Environmental Assessment Report (ESA) was prepared by Geo Forward, and is dated July 25, 2023, for the project site. The Phase I ESA is provided as Appendix 5 to this Initial Study.

Phase I ESA Findings

1. No identified Recognized Environmental Condition (RECs) were found during the course of the Phase I ESA.
 2. No identified Controlled Recognized Environmental Condition (CRECs) were found during the course of the Phase I ESA.
 3. The following environmental issues were identified:
 - a. Because of the historical agricultural use of the site, some agricultural pollutants may exist within the subsurface of the onsite soils, including nitrate and organochlorine pesticides.
 - b. The Rialto-Colton subbasin groundwater has known perchlorate contamination that could be an issue for the groundwater extracted by the well.
- a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. However,

operation of the proposed well is anticipated to require treatment prior to connecting to the District's existing distribution system. It is anticipated that the well would store chemicals required for the treating of water extracted from the well. It is unknown at this time what treatment will be required for the well to meet the standards of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW). However, the proposed project is anticipated to install a container to store the sodium hypochlorite required to chlorinate the water extracted at the well, and this substance is considered a potentially hazardous substance. Additionally, if sand is an issue at the new well, a small sand separator and deaeration tank may be required. The District will comply with state and standards for handling this material. If any other constituents of concern (COCs) are found in the groundwater extracted by the proposed well, the District will implement the appropriate treatment method. If water quality is degraded it must be blended to a level below Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) or any specific pollutant exceeding MCLs must be treated and brought into compliance with General Permit discharge requirements prior to discharge to meet the MCL requirements for that pollutant. Furthermore, the District has developed safety standards and operational procedures for safe transport and use of its operational and maintenance materials that are potentially hazardous. These procedures will comply with all federal, state and local regulations will ensure that the project operates in a manner that poses no substantial hazards to the public or the environment. No additional mitigation is necessary to ensure the impact of managing these chemicals result in a less than significant impact on the environment. Therefore, potential impacts to the public or the environment through accidental release due to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would be less than significant. The District has standard operational procedures for safe transport and use of its operational and maintenance materials. No additional measures are necessary to ensure the impact of managing this chemical result in a less than significant impact on the environment.

- b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. During construction or maintenance activities in support of the proposed project, fuels, oils, solvents, and other petroleum materials classified as "hazardous" will be used to support these operations. Mitigation designed to reduce, control or remediate potential accidental releases must be implemented to prevent the creation of new contaminated areas that may require remediation in the future and to minimize exposure of humans to public health risks from accidental releases. The following mitigation measure reduce such accidental spill hazards to a less than significant level:

HAZ-1 *All spills or leakage of petroleum products during construction activities will be remediated in compliance with applicable state and local regulations regarding cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. The contaminated waste will be collected and disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal or treatment facility.*

By implementing this measure, potentially substantial adverse environmental impacts from accidental releases associated with installation of the proposed well can be reduced to a less than significant level. Additionally, roadways adjacent to and within the project footprint are public roads that can be used by any common carrier to or from the local area. For such transporters, the existing regulatory mandates ensure that the hazardous materials and any hazardous wastes transported to and from the project site will be properly managed. These regulations are codified in Titles 8, 22, and 26 of the California Code of Regulations. For example, maintenance trucks for construction equipment must transport their hazardous materials in appropriate containers, such as tanks or other storage devices. In addition, the haulers must comply with all existing applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations regarding transport, use, disposal, handling and storage of hazardous wastes and material, including storage, collection and disposal. Compliance with these laws and regulations related to transportation will minimize potential exposure of humans or the environment to significant hazards from transport of such materials and wastes. Therefore, through the implementation of mitigation, potentially substantial adverse environmental impacts from accidental releases associated with installation of the proposed well can be reduced to a less than significant level.

- c. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The project site is not located within one quarter mile of a school; the nearest school is Sierra Lakes Elementary School, located a little over a half mile southeast of the project site at 5740 Avenal Place, Fontana, CA 92336. There is a proposed Middle School that has not yet been developed within one quarter mile of the project site to the east, located at the northeast corner of Citrus Avenue and Casa Grande Avenue. Additionally, there is a proposed Elementary school that has not yet been developed within one quarter mile of the project site to the west, located at the Lytle Creek Road and Three Mile Road (which is a continuation of Knox Avenue). The proposed project is not anticipated to emit hazardous emissions or handle large quantities of hazardous materials or substances that would cause a significant impact to a local school. Furthermore, the District will develop further safety standards and operational procedures and continue to enforce existing safety standards and operational procedures for safe transport and use of its operational and maintenance materials that are potentially hazardous. As such, the proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste during construction or operation in a quantity that would pose any danger to people adjacent to, or in the general vicinity of, the project site. Therefore, the impacts of the proposed project to this issue area would be considered less than significant.
- d. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project would not be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. None of the proposed actions related to the development of the proposed well would be near to or impact a site known to have hazardous materials or a site under remediation for hazardous materials or associated issues. A review of the California State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database indicates that no open hazardous materials cleanup sites are located within a 2,500-foot radius of the proposed well development site (**Figure IX-1**). However, as shown on **Figures IX-2 through IX-5**, the proposed elementary school and middle schools referenced under issue IX(c), above, are listed as Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) site cleanup program sites. DTSC investigations are required at locations where schools are proposed. In the case of the middle school, no contaminants were found. In the case of the elementary school, the preliminary environmental assessment revealed soil contamination of organic pesticides and metals, but not at a level of concern requiring further action. These contaminants are not expected to be encountered at the project site.

A Phase I Environmental Assessment Report (ESA) was prepared by Geo Forward, and is dated July 25, 2023, for the project site. The Phase I ESA is provided as Appendix 5 to this Initial Study. Based on the Phase I ESA, any subsurface excavation or exploration may encounter pesticide contamination from the historic agricultural use of the site. Once encountered there are existing protocols to address such contamination in the regulations, however implementation of **MM HAZ-2**, which would identify recommendations and cleanup measures to reduce risk to the public and the environment from development on hazardous materials sites.

HAZ-2 *Should any contamination be encountered during construction of the project, all work in the immediate area shall cease; the type of contamination and its extent shall be determined; and the local Certified Unified Program Agency or other regulatory agencies (such as the DTSC or Regional Board) shall be notified. Based on investigations of the contamination, the site may be closed and avoided or the contaminant(s) shall be remediated to a threshold acceptable to the Certified Unified Program Agency or other regulatory agency threshold and any contaminated soil or other material shall be delivered to an authorized treatment or disposal site.*

Therefore, through the implementation of **MM HAZ-2**, the proposed project is not forecast to result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment associated with this issue area.

- e. *No Impact* – The project site is located at a great distance from any nearby airport. As shown on the Airport Safety & Planning Areas map prepared for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan (**Figure IX-6**), the proposed project is not located within an Airport Safety Review Area for the Ontario International Airport. Therefore, there is no potential safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area as a result of proximity to a public airport or private airstrip. No mitigation is required.
- f. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed well would be confined to the project site, with only minor encroachment onto the adjacent sidewalk to connect to existing District water distribution pipelines as shown on **Figure 4**, including the required easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. At no time during the installation of the well will adjacent roadways be closed. The project may require one lane to be closed for a short duration of construction, but as the District's connection is located within the sidewalk adjacent to the roadway, this may not be necessary. Regardless, if encroachment onto the adjacent roadway is necessary, only one lane would be impacted, which would allow for through-traffic so long as a traffic management plan is developed and implemented. As such, please refer to the Transportation/Traffic Section of this document, Section XVII. **MMs TRAN-1** and **TRAN-2** would be implemented to address any potential traffic disruption and emergency access issues on area roadways. Furthermore, nearly the entire project would occur within the boundaries of the project site with the only potential for construction within the roadways occurring as a result of installation of the connecting pipeline. With implementation of these measures requiring construction traffic control and that roadways are returned to their original or better condition; impacts are reduced to a less than significant. No additional mitigation is required.
- g. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project would not 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. The proposed project area is located at a distance from the San Gabriel Mountains, but the project is still located within a high fire hazard severity zone (**Figure IX-7**). The proposed project footprint is located within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA)(**Figure IX-8**). However, the project will not construct any habitable structures. The proposed well would function to pump and distribute water throughout the WVWD service area, and would not be constructed of flammable materials or involve any spark-producing activities, or human occupancy. Operational impacts of the proposed well would be less than significant with no mitigation. The use of spark-producing construction machinery within a fire risk area could create hazardous fire conditions and expose people or structures to wildfire risks. Based on past experience with wildfires in the area, the Valley Region does not experience the same level of wildfire hazards as do the mountain areas where fuel loads are greater, and as such, this part of the project area can be successfully evacuated and life preserved, even if property is damaged. The implementation of **MM HAZ-3** would require the preparation of a fire management plan/fuel modification plan for the proposed well, and it would identify comprehensive strategies to reduce fire potential during construction and over long-term operation. Therefore, potential significant impacts due to installation of proposed well infrastructure would be reduced to less than significant level with implementation of **MM HAZ-3**.

HAZ-3 *Prior to construction, fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into a fire management/fuel modification plan for the proposed facility, and shall be implemented during construction and over the long-term for protection of the site. These measures shall address all staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development that are planned to use spark-producing equipment. These areas shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other material that could ignite. Any construction equipment that includes a spark arrestor shall be equipped with a spark arrestor in good working order. During the construction of the project, all vehicles and crews working at the project site shall have access to functional fire extinguishers and related fire prevention equipment (such as emergency sand bags, etc.) at all times. In addition, construction crews shall have a spotter during welding activities to*

look out for potentially dangerous situations, including accidental sparks. This plan shall be reviewed by the District and CAL FIRE for review and comment, where appropriate, and approved prior to construction and implemented once approved. The fire management plan shall also include sufficient defensible space or other measures at a facility site located in a high or very high FHSZ to minimize fire damage to a level acceptable to the District over the long term.

Therefore, though the proposed project is located within an area considered susceptible to wildfire hazards, with the implementation of **MM HAZ-3**, the proposed project would have a less than significant expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?; or,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Installation of the proposed well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and obtainment of the required easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana includes activities that have a potential to violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements due to direct discharge of water brought to the surface during well testing. Prior to pumping large quantities of water from the proposed municipal-supply water well, WVWD will need to test the quality of the water to verify that it does not contain contaminants that would exceed the standard water quality objectives for this portion of the Santa Ana River Watershed. The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) would have jurisdiction over the groundwater quality and surface water discharges for the new well. A General Permit within the Regional Board's jurisdiction covers the discharge of groundwater generated from well drilling and development activities. This General Permit establishes specific performance requirements for discharges from well activities and the proposed project must comply with these requirements. Before discharge from the well test program can proceed, sampling must be completed to ensure that maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of all pollutants are not exceeded in the groundwater brought to the surface and discharged. According to the Phase I ESA provided as Appendix 5, the Rialto-

Colton subbasin groundwater has known perchlorate contamination that could be an issue for the groundwater extracted by the well. If water quality is degraded it must be blended to a level below MCLs or any specific pollutant exceeding MCLs must be treated and brought into compliance with General Permit discharge requirements prior to discharge to meet the MCL requirements for that pollutant. The following mitigation measure ensures that no significantly degraded groundwater (above MCLs) will be discharged during well testing:

HYD-1 *The District shall test the groundwater produced from the well prior to discharge. Prior to or during discharge any contaminants shall be blended below the pertinent MCL or treated prior to discharge, including sediment or other material.*

The proposed project may result in some soil erosion during drilling and construction activities. Due to the disturbed nature of the project site, and the flat topography of each site, it is concluded that the potential for this project to cause substantial soil erosion, and subsequent water quality impacts, is low. Due to the small size of the proposed project (less than one acre), a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is not required. However, the District shall implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction, which will be enforced by the following mitigation measure:

HYD-2 *The District shall require that the construction contractor to implement specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will prevent all construction pollutants from contacting stormwater and with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving offsite into receiving waters. These practices shall include a Plan that identifies the methods of containing, cleanup, transport and proper disposal of hazardous chemicals or materials released during construction activities that are compatible with applicable laws and regulations. BMPs to be implemented by the District include the following:*

- *The use of silt fences or coir rolls;*
- *The use of temporary stormwater desilting or retention basins;*
- *The use of water bars to reduce the velocity of stormwater runoff;*
- *The use of wheel washers on construction equipment leaving the site;*
- *The washing of silt from public roads at the access point to the site to prevent the tracking of silt and other pollutants from the site onto public roads;*
- *The storage of excavated material shall be kept to the minimum necessary to efficiently perform the construction activities required. Excavated or stockpiled material shall not be stored in water courses or other areas subject to the flow of surface water; and*
- *Where feasible, stockpiled material shall be covered with waterproof material during rain events to control erosion of soil from the stockpiles.*

Implementation of the above mitigation measures, as well as **MMs HAZ-1**, and **HYD-3** below, is considered adequate to reduce potential impacts to stormwater runoff to a less than significant level. The project would have a less than significant impact under this issue. No further mitigation is required.

- b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would not deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a substantial 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). The proposed well would extract water from the Rialto Colton Subbasin. The Rialto Colton Subbasin was adjudicated under the 1961 Decree No. 81,264 of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, and is managed by the Rialto Basin Management Association (stipulated parties of the judgment). WVWD participates in the Rialto Basin Groundwater Council (Rialto Basin GC), which was formed in 2021. WVWD has a right to 6,104

acre feet (AF) of water from the Rialto Colton Subbasin, of which 5,596 AF are adjustable, and 510 AF are fixed. The estimated safe yield of the Rialto Colton Basin is 13,623 AF. The proposed new well is forecast to increase groundwater extraction by an estimated 1,600 AFY. This is anticipated to fall within WVWD's water rights, and WVWD must comply with the 1961 Decree in operating the proposed well. The proposed depth of water production from these well is anticipated to be approximately 100 feet below the ground surface (bgs), or as directed by the hydrogeologist. The well is not designed to interfere with any private wells located within the same aquifer. However, since pumping tests will not be conducted until the proposed well is completed, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented by the District to ensure that other wells within this local aquifer do not incur a significant adverse impact from pumping the proposed well.

HYD-3 *The District shall conduct a pump test of the new well and determine whether any other wells are located within the cone of depression once the well reaches equilibrium. If any private wells are adversely impacted by future groundwater extractions from the proposed well, the District shall offset this impact through provision of water service; or adjusting the flow rates or hours of operation to mitigate adverse impacts.*

Ultimately, through compliance with the 1961 Decree in increasing its water supply, and through implementation of the above mitigation measure, the potential to substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin would be reduced to less than significant. No additional mitigation is required.

c.

(i-iii) *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite, or create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

The proposed project will be implemented within a site containing compacted dirt, and, once the proposed well is installed, the drainage pattern of the area of disturbance would not change substantially. It is not anticipated that substantial erosion or siltation would occur on site, given that the drainage will be managed as it is at present with discharge to the existing catch basin. The well site will require minimal grading and site clearing in the small areas in which the well will be installed, and as such would have a less than significant potential to interfere with the discharge of stormwater over the long-term as the site will remain essentially the same, with only the small area that will be temporarily or permanently disturbed as a result of the well development and associated piping installation. Furthermore, because the development of the well would alter the site only minimally, the project would not substantially increase the amount of surface runoff, such that flooding on- or off-site would occur.

The District will implement of a set of BMPs to control discharges that surface runoff with pollutants could cause that may cause a significant adverse impact to surface water quality. Storm water pollution prevention BMPs will be incorporated to control potential pollution from construction activities in the vicinity of the selected project site. These measures, such as silt fencing, detention basins, etc., are mandatory, as are the measures for ongoing non-point source pollution controls implemented by the local jurisdictions once the project is completed. The mandatory BMPs applied in conjunction with **MMs HAZ-1 and HYD-2**, in conjunction with **MM HYD-4** below, are deemed sufficient to reduce potential surface water quality impacts to a less than significant level. This is because the stormwater discharge will be treated to the point that the discharge will meet requirements for stormwater runoff from construction sites.

HYD-4 *The District and construction contractor shall select best management practices applicable to the project site and activities on the site to achieve a reduction in pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, both during and following development of the proposed municipal-supply water well and associated pipeline, and to control urban runoff after the Project is constructed and the well (if approved for operation post well testing) is in operation.*

Adequate drainage facilities exist or will be developed by this proposed project to accommodate future drainage flows, and will therefore result in a less than significant impact. Based on the data outlined above, this project will not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area; result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite; substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding onsite or offsite; or, 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. Therefore, with the mitigation measure identified above, impacts under these issues are considered less than significant. No further mitigation is required.

- c.
- (iv). *No Impact* – According to the County of San Bernardino General Plan 100-Year Floodplain Map (**Figure X-1**), the proposed project is not located in a 100-year or 500-year flood hazard area. Furthermore, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the project is located within Zone X and is therefore not delineated as being within a FEMA or Department of Water Resources (DWR) flood plain. Development of the well at this site, which, as previously stated would only require minimal ground disturbance, and therefore would not impede or redirect flows. The location is outside of roadways, and drainage will be managed within the site. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the sites or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would impede or redirect flows. No impacts are anticipated under this issue. No mitigation is required.
- d. *Less Than Significant Impact* – As stated above under issue X(c[iv]), the proposed project is located within Zone X and is therefore not delineated as being within a FEMA or Department of Water Resources (DWR) flood plain (**Figure X-2**). The project site is not located near any large bodies of water, so impacts associated with seiche or tsunami cannot occur. Mudflow typically occurs on hillsides and the proposed project is not located on a hillside or in an area exposed to significant mudflow. The project is not located within a flood hazard zone, and based on the BMPs required to ensure that any hazardous materials are handled according to State and District standards, it is not anticipated that a release of pollutants would occur at the project site. As previously stated, BMPs in place would ensure that the minimal potential for pollutants that may occur on site would not be released in the event of project inundation. Therefore, impacts under this issue are considered less than significant.
- e. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The project site is located in the Upper Santa Ana Valley Basin, Rialto Colton Subbasin (shown on **Figure X-3**, the Countywide Plan Groundwater Basins Map), which has been designated very low priority by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The project is located in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed. The SGMA empowers local agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to manage basins and requires GSAs to adopt Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for crucial groundwater basins in California. The SGMA “requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Under SGMA, these basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their sustainability plans. For critically over-drafted basins, that will be 2040. For the remaining high and medium priority basins, 2042 is the deadline.”³ The Rialto Colton Subbasin was adjudicated under the 1961 Decree No. 81,264 of the

³ California Department of Water Resources (DWR), 2024. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management> (accessed 02/12/24)

Superior Court of San Bernardino County, and is managed by the Rialto Basin Management Association (stipulated parties of the judgment). When the Subbasin's three index wells (WVWD Well No. 11, and 16, and Rialto's Well 4) average mean groundwater level elevations are above 1002.3 amsl when measured during March, April, or May, the stipulated parties have no restrictions on yearly extractions. When the average standing water levels in the three index wells (Duncan Well, Willow Street Well, and Boyd Well) falls below 1002.3 feet msl and is above 969.7 feet msl, the Rialto Basin Decree stipulated parties are restricted to total extraction rights of 15,290 AFY distributed amongst the parties. When the average of the three index wells drops below 969.7 feet msl, groundwater extractions are reduced for all parties stipulated in the decree by 1 percent per foot below the 969.7-foot level, but not to exceed 50-percent reduction. WVWD participates in the Rialto Basin Groundwater Council (Rialto Basin GC), which was formed in 2021. The Rialto Basin GC will develop, adopt and implement a sustainable groundwater management plan, which will include implementing groundwater recharge projects to restore groundwater levels. As WVWD must comply with the Rialto Basin Decree, the expansion of water extraction in the Rialto Colton Subbasin would not result in a conflict with the SGMA. Furthermore, WVWD is participating in drafting and implementing a sustainable groundwater management plan (SGMP), which will ensure that WVWD's operations would be in compliance with the SGMA and Rialto Basin Decree. Thus, it is not anticipated that the proposed well development project would have a significant potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Furthermore, by controlling water quality during construction and operations through implementation of both short- and long-term best management practices at the site, no potential for conflict or obstruction of the Regional Board's water quality control plan has been identified. Impacts are less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *No Impact* – The Well No. 57 Project footprint is located within the City of Fontana. The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. There are no features of the well or project as a whole that would create a barrier or physically divide an established community, particularly given that well would be integrated into the landscape unobtrusively. Thus, the project does not involve construction of new structures that would cause any physical division of communities. Since the proposed project occurs within and supports existing land use designations, no potential exists for the proposed project to physically divide an existing community. No impact will result and no mitigation is required.

- b. *No Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under issue XI(a) above. The well would be located on a vacant parcel. In general, water production facilities are zone independent because they are needed to support all types of land uses. Per Government Code Section 53091, building ordinances of local cities or counties do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the projection, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water or wastewater. Therefore, any project facilities that could potentially conflict with local General Plan land use designations would not be subject to a conditional use permit or general plan amendment. The City of Fontana supports the provision of adequate infrastructure; therefore, the project would not conflict with the goals and policies of the applicable General Plans. Thus, implementation will not 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 or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No impacts are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XII. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

a&b. *No Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The Well No. 57 Project footprint is located within the City of Fontana and will occur within a vacant site. The project is located in a residential area of newer development located to the east of the I-15 Freeway, and much of the land adjacent to the footprint has been recently developed. The San Bernardino Countywide Plan Mineral Resource Zones map indicates that the proposed project is located within the MRZ-3 zone—a moderate potential or possible location for mineral resources to occur—for aggregate resources (**Figure XII-1**). Additionally, the proposed project is not within an area designated by the State Mining and Geology Board in 1987 or 2013 as a Regional Significant Construction Aggregate Resource Areas in the San Bernardino Production-Consumption Region. Given that the proposed project is not located on a delineated state or regionally significant site, and that no mineral extraction currently occurs or is known to have ever occurred on the property, it is anticipated that the development of the site would not 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 or a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. No impacts are anticipated under this issue and no mitigation is required

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIII. NOISE: Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of a project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION: The following information utilized in this section was obtained from the technical study "West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Noise Assessment" (NA) prepared by Urban Crossroads dated March 29, 2024, and provided as Appendix 6 to this document.

Background

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound. The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana, and would be installed within the City of Fontana. The proposed project is located within a site nearby the I-15 freeway and within the existing 65 Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) rating scale (a 24-hour integrated noise measurement scale) noise contour as a result of the proximity thereof (refer to **Figure XIII-1**). Therefore, the project is located in a reactively high background noise level environment. For this project, the nearest sensitive use is a residential use is more than 700-feet to the northeast of the project site. Traffic along Lytle Creek Road and Citrus Avenue is minimal to moderate in the vicinity of the project site; however, the background noise is dominated by the I-15 freeway located between these two roadways.

The unit of sound pressure ratio to the faintest sound detectable to a person with normal hearing is called a decibel (dB). Sound or noise can vary in intensity by over one million times within the range of human hearing. A logarithmic loudness scale, similar to the Richter scale for earthquake magnitude, is therefore used to keep sound intensity numbers at a convenient and manageable level. The human ear is not equally sensitive to all sound frequencies within the entire spectrum. Noise levels at maximum human sensitivity from around 500 to 2,000 cycles per second are factored more heavily into sound descriptions in a process called "A-weighting," written as "dBA."

Leq is a time-averaged sound level; a single-number value that expresses the time-varying sound level for the specified period as though it were a constant sound level with the same total sound energy as the time-varying level. Its unit of measure is the decibel (dB). The most common averaging period for Leq is hourly.

Because community receptors are more sensitive to unwanted noise intrusion during more sensitive evening and nighttime hours, state law requires that an artificial dBA (A-weighted decibel) increment be added to quiet time noise levels. The State of California has established guidelines for acceptable community noise levels that are based on the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) rating scale (a 24-hour integrated noise measurement scale). The guidelines rank noise land use compatibility in terms of "normally acceptable," "conditionally acceptable," and "clearly unacceptable" noise levels for various land use types. The State Guidelines, Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure, single-family homes are "normally acceptable" in exterior noise environments up to 60 dB CNEL and "conditionally

acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL based on this scale. Multiple family residential uses are "normally acceptable" up to 65 dB CNEL and "conditionally acceptable" up to 70 CNEL. Schools, libraries and churches are "normally acceptable" up to 70 dB CNEL, as are office buildings and business, commercial and professional uses with some structural noise attenuation.

Introduction to Vibration

Per the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual, vibration is the periodic oscillation of a medium or object. The rumbling sound caused by the vibration of room surfaces is called structure-borne noise. Sources of ground-borne vibrations include natural phenomena (e.g., earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sea waves, landslides) or human-made causes (e.g., explosions, machinery, traffic, trains, construction equipment). Vibration sources may be continuous, such as factory machinery, or transient, such as explosions. As is the case with airborne sound, ground-borne vibrations may be described by amplitude and frequency.

Additionally, in contrast to airborne noise, ground-borne vibration outdoors is not a common environmental problem and annoyance from ground-borne vibration is almost exclusively an indoor phenomenon. Therefore, the effects of vibrations should only be evaluated at a structure and the effects of the building structure on the vibration should be considered. Wood-frame buildings, such as typical residential structures, are more easily excited by ground vibration than heavier buildings. In contrast, large masonry buildings with spread footings have a low response to ground vibration. In general, the heavier a building is, the lower the response will be to the incident vibration energy. However, all structures reduce vibration levels due to the coupling of the building to the soil.

There are several different methods that are used to quantify vibration. The peak particle velocity (PPV) is defined as the maximum instantaneous peak of the vibration signal. The PPV is most frequently used to describe vibration impacts to buildings but is not always suitable for evaluating human response (annoyance) because it takes some time for the human body to respond to vibration signals. Instead, the human body responds to average vibration amplitude often described as the root mean square (RMS). The RMS amplitude is defined as the average of the squared amplitude of the signal and is most frequently used to describe the effect of vibration on the human body. However, the RMS amplitude and PPV are related mathematically, and the RMS amplitude of equipment is typically calculated from the PPV reference level. The RMS amplitude is approximately 70% of the PPV. Thus, either can be used on the description of vibration impacts.

While not universally accepted, vibration decibel notation (VdB) is another vibration notation developed and used by the FTA in their guidance manual to describe vibration levels and provide a background of common vibration levels and set vibration limits. Decibel notation (VdB) serves to reduce the range of numbers used to describe vibration levels and is used in this report to describe vibration levels.

As stated in the FTA guidance manual, the background vibration-velocity level in residential areas is generally 50 VdB. Ground-borne vibration is normally perceptible to humans at approximately 65 VdB. For most people, a vibration-velocity level of 75 VdB is the approximate dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible levels. Typical outdoor sources of perceptible ground-borne vibration are construction equipment, steel-wheeled trains, and traffic on rough roads. If a roadway is smooth, the ground-borne vibration is rarely perceptible. The range of interest is from approximately 50 VdB, which is the typical background vibration-velocity level, to 100 VdB, which is the general threshold where minor damage can occur in fragile buildings.

City of Fontana Property Line Noise Standards

To analyze noise impacts originating from a designated fixed location or private property, stationary- source (operational) noise such as the expected drill rig, mud pumps, compressors, and generators are typically evaluated against standards established under a jurisdiction's Municipal Code. The City of Fontana noise control guidelines for determining and mitigating non-transportation or stationary noise source impacts from operations in neighboring residential areas are found in the Zoning and Development Code (Section 30-649), provided in Appendix 1. For residential zoning districts, Section 30-649 indicates that no person shall create or cause to be created any sound which exceeds the noise levels in this section as measured at the

property line of any residentially zoned property. The performance standards found in Section 30-649 limit the exterior noise level to 65 dBA Leq during the daytime and nighttime hours at sensitive receiver locations as shown on Table XIII-1.

**Table XIII-1
OPERATIONAL NOISE STANDARDS**

Jurisdiction	Land Use	Noise Level Standards (dBA Leq) ¹	
		Daytime	Nighttime
City of Fontana ¹	Residential	65	65

¹ Source: Section 30-469 of the City of Fontana Development Code (Appendix 3.1).

² Leq represents a steady state sound level containing the same total energy as a time varying signal over a given sample period. "Daytime" = 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; "Nighttime" = 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Construction Noise Sources

Using reference construction equipment noise levels level measurements and the CadnaA noise prediction model, calculations of the Project construction noise level impacts at the nearest sensitive receiver locations were completed. To assess the worst-case construction noise levels, the Project construction noise analysis relies on the equipment with the highest reference noise level operating continuously over a 24-hour period.

Drill rigs have several substantial noise sources, each with their own characteristics. The main sources of noise are the generator sets; the compressors; the mud pumps; and the top drive. Pumps/compressors and generator noise sources were placed five feet above ground level and the drill rig top drive was placed fifteen feet above ground level. Drill rig and associated equipment noise levels were developed from a noise survey conducted by Behrens and Associates, Inc. of three different drill rig systems in 2006. Each of the drill rigs were rated at 1,000 horsepower and were capable of drilling depths ranging from 12,000 to 15,000 feet. The surveyed drill rigs are similar in capability to the drill rig proposed for the Project. Based on peak noise levels provided by the survey, reference noise levels with a uniform distance of 50 feet were calculated and are provided in Table XIII-2.

**Table XIII-2
CONSTRUCTION REFERENCE NOISE LEVELS**

Construction Stage	Reference Construction Activity ¹	Reference Noise Level @ 50 Feet (dBA Leq)	Highest Reference Noise Level (dBA Leq)
Borehole Drilling	Drill Rig Top Drive	82	87.6
	Compressors/Pumps	80	
	Generators	85	

Impact Analysis

- a. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The Well No. 57 Project footprint is located within the City of Fontana and will occur within a vacant site set in a residential area. However, once installed, the well would be designed to pump noise, and would generate only minimal operational noise. Furthermore, all associated pipelines would be located underground. The background noise in the vicinity of the project is relatively low, as the project is in a residential area, with some vacant land in the vicinity. As shown on the San Bernardino County General Plan Existing and Future Noise Contour Map showing Existing Noise Contours in the vicinity of the project (**Figures XIII-1 and XIII-2**), nearly the entire project footprint is located outside of any identified noise contour.

Short Term Construction Noise

Using the reference construction equipment noise levels and the CadnaA noise prediction model, calculations of the project construction noise levels with all equipment operating simultaneously were

completed. As shown in Table XIII-3, the unabated construction noise levels for activities at Location 1 are expected to range from 59.6 to 77.0 dBA Leq at the nearest residential uses.

**Table XIII-3
UNABATED DRILLING EQUIPMENT NOISE LEVEL SUMMARY**

Receiver Location ¹	Project Construction Noise Levels (dBA Leq) ²		Noise Level Standards (dBA Leq) ³		Threshold Exceeded?	
	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime		
R1	77	77	65	65	Yes	Yes
R2	75.7	75.7	65	65	Yes	Yes
R3	59.6	59.6	65	65	No	No
R4	66.5	66.5	65	65	Yes	Yes

¹ Noise receiver locations are shown on Figure XIII-1.

² Highest construction noise level operating at the Project site boundary to nearby receiver locations. ³ City of Fontana Municipal Code, Section 30-469.

As shown on Table XIII-3, the unabated construction noise levels for activities at Location 2 are expected at Construction Noise Level Compliance Location 1.

To demonstrate compliance with local noise regulations, the project-only construction noise levels are evaluated against exterior noise level thresholds established by Section 30-649 City of Fontana. As shown on Table XIII-4, the estimated construction noise levels at R3 will satisfy the 65 dBA Leq. However, the construction noise levels at R1, R2, and R4 will exceed the City of Fontana construction noise level standard of 65 dBA Leq. Therefore, additional modeling was completed for various barrier heights surrounding the Project site. Based on the modeling, the minimum barrier height that would allow the project to comply with the City of Fontana daytime and nighttime noise level standards would be a 20-foot-high barrier along the eastern property line and a 16-foot barrier along the southern property line, as shown in Figure XIII-4. As shown on Table XIII-4, the mitigated construction noise levels are expected to range from 59.6 to 64.0 dBA Leq at the nearest residential land uses.

**Table XIII-4
ABATED DRILLING EQUIPMENT NOISE LEVEL SUMMARY**

Receiver Location ¹	Project Construction Noise Levels (dBA Leq) ²		Noise Level Standards (dBA Leq) ³		Threshold Exceeded?	
	Daytime	Nighttime	Daytime	Nighttime		
R1	64	64	65	65	No	No
R2	63	63	65	65	No	No
R3	59.6	59.6	65	65	No	No
R4	63.6	63.6	65	65	No	No

¹ Noise receiver locations are shown on Figure XIII-1.

² Highest construction noise level operating at the Project site boundary to nearby receiver locations. ³ City of Fontana Municipal Code, Section 30-469.

To comply with the City of Fontana the City of Fontana Municipal Code Section 30-469 during daytime and nighttime hours, the following mitigation measure is required:

NOI-1 *The Project shall erect noise barriers with a minimum height of 20 feet should be erected along the eastern Project site boundary and a minimum height of 16 feet should be erected along the southern Project site boundary such that the drill rig, mud pumps, compressors, and generators are completely shielded from nearby residential areas. An effective barrier requires a weight of at least 2 pounds per square foot of face area with no decorative cutouts, perforations, or*

line-of-sight openings between shielded areas and the source. Examples of temporary barrier material includes 5/8-inch plywood, 5/8-inch oriented-strand board, or sound blankets capable of providing a minimum sound transmission loss (STC) of 27 or a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of 0.85.

This Noise Assessment demonstrates that the drill rig noise levels associated with West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Project can satisfy the City of Fontana exterior noise level standards at all nearby receiver locations with the use of barriers shielding the receivers to the east and south of the project site. Unabated noise levels at R3 would not exceed the City of Fontana noise level standards and would not require a barrier along the northwest side of the project site. Therefore, with implementation of the identified noise abatement measure (MM NOI-1) shown on **Figure XIII-4**, the construction noise levels would comply with the City of Fontana noise level limits during daytime and nighttime hours and impacts would be less than significant.

Long-Term Operational Noise

Well pump noise can be mitigated, as outlined in the mitigation measure below by constructing a wooden or concrete housing unit to reduce operational noise levels to a less than significant impact, should the noise levels from the well pump exceed County of San Bernardino standards. The connecting pipelines will not generate any noise once constructed. Additionally, to reduce potential long-term noise effects from the well pump to the greatest extent feasible, the mitigation measure presented below will be implemented.

NOI-2 Well pump noise levels to be limited to 50 dB(A) or below at the exterior of the nearest sensitive noise receptor. A manner in which this may be accomplished is by installing surface well housing, housed in concrete block structure that attenuates noise to meet this performance standard. Another manner in which this may be accomplished is through installing the pump belowground. The aforementioned or other noise reducing measures shall be implemented should the District be unable to demonstrate that noise levels are limited to 50 dBA at the nearest sensitive receptor.

Conclusion

Therefore, through the implementation of the mitigation measures identified above, neither operation or construction of the proposed project would violate City of Fontana noise standards outlined in the City's Development Code. Impacts under this issue are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

- b. ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*** – Vibration is the periodic oscillation of a medium or object. The rumbling sound caused by vibration of room surfaces is called structure borne noises. Sources of groundborne vibrations include natural phenomena (e.g. earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, sea waves, landslides) or human-made causes (e.g. explosions, machinery, traffic, trains, construction equipment). Vibration sources may be continuous or transient. Vibration is often described in units of velocity (inches per second), and discussed in decibel (VdB) units in order to compress the range of numbers required to describe vibration. Vibration impacts related to human development are generally associated with activities such as train operations, construction, and heavy truck movements.

The background vibration-velocity level in residential areas is generally 50 VdB; levels would generally be considered even less in rural areas such as the area surrounding the project footprint. Groundborne vibration is normally perceptible to humans at approximately 65 VdB, while 75 VdB is the approximate dividing line between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible. Construction activity can result in varying degrees of groundborne vibration, but is generally associated with pile driving and rock blasting. Other construction equipment, such as air compressors, light trucks, hydraulic loaders, etc. generates little or no ground vibration. While no enforceable regulations for vibration exist within the City, the Federal Transit Association (FTA) guidelines identify a level of 80 VdB for sensitive land uses. This threshold provides a basis for determining the relative significance

of potential project related vibration impacts. As shown in Table XIII-5, the use of vibration-generating construction equipment would generate vibration levels ranging from 0.003 to 0.089 in/sec PPV, or 58 to 94 VdB, at a distance of 25 feet. Table XIII-6 summarizes the minimum distances at which vibration generated by construction equipment would attenuate to less than significant levels at various receivers. Construction activities utilizing equipment at the minimum distances shown in Table XIII-6 would have a less than significant construction vibration impact.

**Table XIII-5
VIBRATION LEVELS MEASURED DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Equipment	PPV at 25 feet (in/sec)	VdB at 25 feet
Drill Rig ¹	0.089	87
Loaded Truck	0.076	83

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

¹ Vibration levels from caisson drilling were used as a proxy for drill rigs.

Source: FTA. 2018. *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*.

https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/118131/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-fta-report-no-0123_0.pdf (accessed 04/03/24).

**Table XIII-6
VIBRATION LEVEL CONTOURS DURING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Equipment	Minimum Distance to Receiving Land Use for a Less Than Significant Impact (feet)			
	Historic Sites ¹	All Other Structures ²	Daytime Vibration-Sensitive Land Uses ³	Nighttime Vibration-Sensitive Land Uses ⁴
Loaded Truck	20	10	10	35
Drill Rig ⁵	20	15	15	55

PPV = peak particle velocity in inches per second; VdB = vibration decibels

Note: Distances are rounded to the nearest 5 feet.

¹ Distance to the 0.12 in/sec PPV contour (FTA construction vibration damage criteria for buildings extremely susceptible to vibration damage, as shown in Table XIII-1).

² Distance to the 0.2 in/sec PPV contour (FTA construction vibration damage criteria for non-engineered timber and masonry buildings, as shown in Table XIII-1).

³ Distance to the 0.24 in/sec PPV contour (the level at which vibration associated with transient vibration sources is distinctly perceptible, as shown in Table XIII-1).

⁴ Distance to 80 VdB contour (the recommended threshold to evaluate human annoyance impacts at residences and buildings where people normally sleep).

⁵ Caisson drilling was used as a proxy for drill rigs.

For well drilling activities, the proposed project would be installed outside of the minimum distances from historic and other structures, daytime vibration-sensitive land use, and nighttime vibration-sensitive land use because the well will not be installed along the property line, it will be installed at a greater distance from the residences than shown on **Figure XIII-1** (the drill will be greater than 55 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor, and loaded trucks will operate 35 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor, per **MM NOI-3**, below). As such, though well drilling activities generate relatively substantial vibration, given the distance between where the ground disturbance activities will be located, and the distance to the nearest sensitive receptor, it is not anticipated that vibration from either construction or operation activities would reach any nearby residences.

NOI-3 *The well shall be drilled at a distance of 55' or greater from the nearest sensitive receptor, shown on Figure XIII-1. Loaded trucks delivering materials to the site and hauling materials away shall be operated at a distance at or greater than 35' or greater from the nearest sensitive receptor, shown on Figure XIII-1, for the duration of construction.*

The project does not include any facilities that would result in substantial operational vibration, such as heavy truck deliveries, or use of equipment that generates substantial vibration, and therefore no operational vibration impacts are anticipated to occur that would be perceptible at the nearest sensitive receptor. Thus, through the implementation of **MM NOI-3**, above, vibration impacts associated with the project would be less than significant with mitigation.

- c. *No Impact* – The project site is located at a great distance from any nearby airport. As shown on the Airport Safety & Planning Areas map prepared for the San Bernardino Countywide Plan (**Figure IX-6**), the proposed project is not located within an Airport Safety Review Area at any of the nearest airport shown on the Map (Ontario International Airport), and therefore is not located within the noise contours for the Airport. Therefore, there is no potential for the project to expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels as a result of proximity to a public airport or private airstrip. No mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIV. 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Implementation of the project will not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure). The project is considered a vital infrastructure project because it would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana, and would be installed within the City of Fontana. The proposed project will require a temporary work force; however, this is short-term and with a maximum of about 5 employees will not induce substantial population growth. Furthermore, according to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the total population of City of Fontana was 211,519 persons.⁴ The SCAG Connect SoCal Demographics and Growth Forecast⁵ notes that the City of Fontana is anticipated to grow to 286,700 residents by 2045. This indicates that the City has room for population growth in the future. As such, given that no additional employees will be required once the well is in operation, the proposed project would have a less than significant potential to induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly or indirectly. No mitigation is required.
- b. *No Impact* – The proposed Well No. 57 Project will occur within a vacant site with no housing or persons located therein. No housing is proposed as part of the project and no housing exists and no persons reside within the project footprint. Therefore, implementation of the project as a whole will not displace any existing housing or displace a substantial number of people that would necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts will occur as a result of project implementation. No mitigation is required.

⁴ SCAG, 2021. Local Profiles Spreadsheet. https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/2021_local_profiles_dataset.xlsx?1661892901 (accessed 02/13/24)

⁵ SCAG, 2020. Demographics and Growth Forecast. https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/0903fconnectsocial_demographics-and-growth-forecast.pdf?1606001579 (accessed 02/13/24)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XV. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The City of Fontana is currently served by the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD). The nearest SBCFD stations nearest to the project site are Fire Station 79, located at 5075 Coyote Canyon Road, Fontana, CA 92336. Medic Engine 79 and Brush Engine 79 provide paramedic and fire services to northern Fontana residents and business owners. The station also responds to the urban / wildland interface of the Front Country, including Lytle Creek and the I-15 corridor. The proposed project may require the use of chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite at the well site. Proper storage and handling are required to prevent any potential fire hazards; however, compliance with Federal, State, and local standards pertaining to hazardous materials would prevent a significant impact from occurring. The sodium hypochlorite container and well itself at the well site—would not present a substantial fire hazard because the materials used to construct the enclosure are considered fire-resistant. Thus, with compliance to Federal, State, and local standards, no new or altered fire protection facilities will be required to serve this project. Any impact to the existing fire protection system is considered random and less than significant. No mitigation is required.
- b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project receives police services through the Fontana Police Department. The Department enforces local, state, and federal laws within the project area; performs investigations and makes arrests; administer emergency medical treatment; and responds to emergencies. The project site is served by the Sheriff Service Agency – Fontana and by the Fontana Police Department as shown on **Figure XV-1**, which depicts the service area of Sheriff Operations and Police Department Operations delineated by the San Bernardino Countywide Plan. The Sheriff's Station is located at 17780 Arrow Blvd, Fontana, CA 92335, which is approximately 10 miles to the south of the project site, the Police Department is located at 17005 Upland Ave, Fontana, CA 92335, which is about 10 miles to the south of the project site, just west of the Sheriff Department, and the project is located within existing patrol routes. The project is not anticipated to generate growth within the project area that would create a new demand for police protection because no additional employees will be required once the well is installed and is in operation. The construction of the well will require only a temporary work force. The proposed project will not include the kind of use that would likely attract criminal activity, except for random trespass and theft; however, construction equipment will be stored in such a manner that public will not have access to it, and once in operation,

the project will be fenced. Thus, due to the type of project proposed, no new or expanded police or sheriff facilities would need to be constructed as a result of the project. Therefore, impacts to police protection resources from implementation of the proposed project are considered less than significant; no mitigation measures are required.

- c. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project is located within the Fontana Unified School District, which consists of 45 schools. The nearest school is Sierra Lakes Elementary School, located a little over a half mile southeast of the project site at 5740 Avenal Place, Fontana, CA 92336. As discussed under Chapter XIV, Population and Housing, above, the project would not induce population growth within the City or County, as it will neither construct housing, nor result in a growth in employment opportunities within the area. Because the project would install new infrastructure through the development of a new well, and would not develop any facilities that are commercial, residential, or industrial in nature, the proposed project is not required to pay any fees to offset impacts to school facilities. Thus, the proposed project will not generate an increase in elementary, middle, or high school population. Therefore, any impacts under this issue are considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.
- d. *No Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. Because the project would develop infrastructure through the installation of a new well and would not develop any facilities that are commercial, residential, or industrial in nature, the proposed project is not required to pay any fees to offset impacts to park facilities. As stated in the preceding sections, the proposed project is not anticipated to create a substantial increase in population because it does require additional WVWD staff to operate this new well. Implementation of the proposed project will not impact any current or planned park use, as it will be constructed within a vacant site that has not been designated for nor developed as a park use. Thus, implementation of the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse physical impact to any parks within the City. No impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation is required.
- e. *No Impact* – Other public facilities include library and general municipal services. The library system in the County of San Bernardino is operated by the San Bernardino County Library System. Since the project will not directly induce substantial population growth, it is not forecast that the use of such facilities will increase as a result of the proposed project. As a result, the implementation of the project will not 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 public services to include other public facilities. Thus, no impacts are anticipated under this issue and no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVI. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *No Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. As previously discussed in Section XIV, Population and Housing and Section XV, Public Services, this project will not contribute to an increase in the population beyond that already allowed or planned for by local and regional planning documents. Therefore, this project will not result in an increase in the demand for parks and other recreational facilities and implementation of the proposed project would not increase the use of any parks within the area, nor would it result in the physical deterioration of other surrounding facilities. No impacts are anticipated. No mitigation is required.
- b. *No Impact* – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana, and would be installed within the City of Fontana. The well will be installed and operated by the District. The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. As previously stated, the proposed project will occur within a vacant site, which is not designated for recreational use and does not contain recreational uses at present. Furthermore, the proposed project is not forecast to induce substantial population growth as the well will operate without daily in-person supervision; visits will occur by District employees on an as needed or scheduled maintenance basis. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur under this issue, and no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVII. TRANSPORTATION: Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana, and would be installed within the City of Fontana. The proposed well would be confined to the project site, with only minor encroachment onto the adjacent sidewalk to connect to existing District water distribution pipelines as shown on **Figure 4**, including the required easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. At no time during the installation of the well will adjacent roadway be closed. The project may require one lane to be closed for a short duration of construction, but as the District's connection is located within the sidewalk adjacent to the roadway, this may not be necessary. Regardless, if encroachment onto the adjacent roadway is necessary, only one lane would be impacted, which would allow for through-traffic so long as a traffic management plan is developed and implemented. The installation of the proposed Well No. 57 Project may temporarily reduce the capacity of the adjacent roadway along Knox Avenue due to possibility of open-trenching within existing roadway rights-of-way (ROWS) to connect the pipeline to the District's existing distribution system, and the resulting temporary lane closures on the affected roadways. The impact of the temporary lane closure would likely require active traffic control (flaggers) to allow alternate one-way traffic flow on the available road width or allow traffic control to minimize lane width to ensure two-way traffic can resume for the short (less than one week) duration of construction that may occur within the adjacent roadway. **MM TRAN-1**—addressed below—would be required to reduce potential impacts to traffic and transportation conditions. Implementation of this measure, in conjunction with the temporary character of the construction impacts, is considered sufficient to ensure adequate flow of traffic in a safe manner for the connecting pipeline installation.

TRAN-1 *For any encroachment along adjacent roadways, WVWD shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:*

- *Develop circulation and detour plans, if necessary, to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.*
- *To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.*
- *Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.*

- ***For roadways requiring lane closures that would result in a single open lane, maintain alternate one-way traffic flow and utilize flagger-controls.***
- ***Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.***

During construction, an estimated 10-15 roundtrips from construction workers per day will occur to install the proposed new well. An average of 15 roundtrips per day would occur to support construction efforts (i.e., delivery or removal of construction materials). Once constructed, no traffic would be generated by this project other than visits to the well by WVWD personnel to inspect and maintain facilities where necessary, resulting in minimal vehicle miles traveled once the well is in operation. Implementation of the project has the potential to conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. However, with implementation of the above mitigation measure requiring a construction traffic management plan, and the following **MM TRAN-2** requiring disturbances within public roadways to be returned to their original or better condition, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact pertaining to the circulation system, particularly given that impacts to transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities will be temporary, and will not permanently disrupt circulation thereof.

TRAN-2 ***WVWD shall require that all disturbances to public roadways be repaired in a manner that complies with the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (green book) or other applicable County of San Bernardino or City of Fontana standard design requirements.***

- b. ***Less Than Significant Impact*** – The project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana, in WVWD's service area. The proposed project will require minimal vehicle miles traveled to accomplish once constructed. In the short term, construction of the proposed facilities will result in the generation of an average of about 15 roundtrips per day on the adjacent roadways by construction personnel and trucks removing any excavated materials on site. The vehicle miles traveled in these instances would likely average less than 80 miles round trip. The number of temporary truck trips will be minimized by using 15 cubic yard material haulers instead of smaller 10 cubic yard trucks to haul material onto and off of the site. Additionally, the same trucks that haul material onto the site would also carry material off of the site. As such, VMT standards, which are intended to monitor and address long-term transportation impacts resulting from future development, do not apply to temporary impacts associated with construction activities. Therefore, no construction impact associated with VMT per CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 would occur.

Once constructed, no daily traffic would be generated by this project other than visits to the well by WVWD personnel to inspect and maintain facilities when necessary, resulting in minimal vehicle miles traveled once the well is in operation. The Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (2018) states, "Projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than-significant VMT impact." Scheduled maintenance visits would also occur in the future with one trip per maintenance event, with occasional trips also occurring when unforeseen circumstances arise that would require maintenance or repair of certain facilities. As such, the proposed project would generate less than 110 trips per day, which is below the recommended screening threshold. As such, development of the Well No. 57 Project is not anticipated to result in a significant impact related to vehicle miles travelled, and thus would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Impacts under this issue are considered less than significant.

- c. ***Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*** – The proposed project would not substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses. The construction of the well would occur at a vacant site within the District's service area. With the exception of the aforementioned trip

generation during the construction phase and the installation of the connection pipeline from the well to the District's distribution system, the proposed project will not alter any adjacent roadways. The construction within the adjacent roadway will be limited to approximately one week or less. The adjacent roadway, Knox Avenue, is not a heavily traveled roadway, as it is a local roadway. The project may require one lane to be closed for a short duration of construction, but as the District's connection is located within the sidewalk adjacent to the roadway, this may not be necessary. Regardless, if encroachment onto the adjacent roadway is necessary, only one lane would be impacted, which would allow for through-traffic so long as a traffic management plan is developed and implemented. As stated under issue XVII(a) above, with the implementation of **MMs TRAN-1 and TRAN-2** above, which require implementation of a construction traffic management plan where encroachment into adjacent roadways is necessary, any potential increase in hazards due to design features or incompatible use will be considered less than significant in the short term. In the long term, no impacts to any roadway hazards or incompatible uses in existing roadways are anticipated because once the pipeline is installed, the roadway will be returned to its original condition. Thus, any potential increase in hazards due to design features or incompatible use will be considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

- d. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Please refer to the discussions under issue XVII(a) and XVII(c) above. The project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana, and would be installed within the City of Fontana. The project may require one lane to be closed for a short duration of construction, but as the District's connection is located within the sidewalk adjacent to the roadway, this may not be necessary. Regardless, if encroachment onto the adjacent roadway is necessary, only one lane would be impacted, which would allow for through-traffic so long as a traffic management plan is developed and implemented. The majority of the project will occur outside of the roadway, but connections to Knox Avenue may be required. This roadway is local/modestly traveled, and any lane closure required to install the proposed connecting pipeline would not impact major routes of circulation within the area. Primary roadways within the project footprint that would be used during an emergency or evacuation order would be Knox Avenue and Walsh Lane. There are no emergency access roadways located within the project footprint (refer to **Figure XVII-1**). Adequate emergency access will be provided along the adjacent roadway throughout construction. Though the possible closure of up to one lane will impact traffic, the implementation of **MMs TRAN-1 and TRAN-2** will ensure that impacts are reduced to a level of less than significant. No additional mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project cause a substantial change in the significance of tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to the California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

A Tribal Resource is defined in the Public Resources Code section 21074 and includes the following:

- Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe that are either of the following: included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1;
- A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 5024.1 for the purpose of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resources to a California American tribe;
- A cultural landscape that meets the criteria of subdivision (a) is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape;
- A historical resource described in Section 21084.1, a unique archaeological resource as defined in subdivision (g) of Section 21083.2, or a “non-unique archaeological resource” as defined in subdivision (h) of Section 21083.2 may also be a tribal resource if it conforms with the criteria of subdivision (a).

a&b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The District has been contacted by four California tribes: Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. Three tribes responded to the District’s AB 52 consultation notification: the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation (YSMN), Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. YSMN responded with a request for the Project Plans and the Cultural Report. The Project Plans were sent to the tribe on November 17, 2023, while the Cultural Report was sent on February 14, 2024.

The representative from the YSMN provided mitigation that the Tribe would like to see incorporated in the environmental documentation to protect potential tribal cultural resources. As such, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented to protect such resources:

- TCR-1** *The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Management Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed in CUL-2, of any pre-contact cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a Cultural Resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with YSMN, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents YSMN for the remainder of the project on an alternating basis in coordination with the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and Morongo Band of Mission Indians, should YSMN elect to place a monitor on-site.*
- TCR-2** *Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the Lead Agency for dissemination to YSMN. The Lead Agency shall, in good faith, consult with YSMN throughout the life of the project.*

YSMN also requested that **MMs CUL-2, CUL-3, and CUL-4** provided in Subsection V, Cultural Resources be implemented to protect cultural and tribal cultural resources.

Additionally, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) has also requested consultation under AB 52 in an email dated January 18, 2024. The District conducted a second meeting the MBMI in order to discuss the approach for tribal monitoring and mitigation for the project. The resulting meeting lead to an agreement between MBMI and the District to enable alternating schedules for tribal monitoring to ensure that each tribe has equal time monitoring the project construction. MBMI requested the implementation of the following mitigation measures:

- TCR-3** *The District shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Services Agreement with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) for the project. A Tribal Monitor shall be on-site during all ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), whether from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, or from the YSMN in the event that the YSMN elects to monitor ground disturbing activities. While monitoring ground disturbing activities, MBMI's Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbing activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources.*
- TCR-4** *Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post replacement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), and prior to the issuance of grading permits, a Qualified Archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards (SOI). The Archaeologist shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities to identify any known or suspected archaeological and/or cultural resources. The Archaeologist will conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training, in conjunction with the Tribe[s] Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and/or designated Tribal Representative. The*

training session will focus on the archaeological and tribal cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities as well as the procedures to be followed in such an event.

- TCR-5** *Prior to any ground-disturbing activities the project Archaeologist shall develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and/or Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (AMTP) to address the details, timing, and responsibilities of all archaeological and cultural resource activities that occur on the project site. This Plan shall be written in consultation with the consulting Tribe[s] and shall include the following: approved Mitigation Measures (MM)/Conditions of Approval (COA), contact information for all pertinent parties, parties' responsibilities, procedures for each MM or COA, and an overview of the project schedule.*
- TCR-6** *The Qualified archeologist and Consulting Tribe[s] representative shall attend the pre-grade meeting with the grading contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan.*
- TCR-7** *During all ground-disturbing activities the Qualified Archaeologist shall be on site full time, and the Tribal Monitor shall be on-site part-time, in a manner that would accommodate roughly equal tribal monitoring time for MBMI and the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation tribal monitors, and YSMN in the event that the YSMN elects to monitor ground disturbing activities . The frequency of inspections shall depend on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and any discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources as defined in California Public Resources Code Section 21074. Archaeological and Tribal Monitoring will be discontinued when the depth of grading and the soil conditions no longer retain the potential to contain cultural deposits. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal Monitor, shall be responsible for determining the duration and frequency of monitoring.*
- TCR-8** *In the event that previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert and/or temporarily halt ground-disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow for the evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. Isolates and clearly non- significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and collected so the monitored grading can proceed.*

If a potentially significant cultural resource(s) is discovered, work shall stop within a 60-foot perimeter of the discovery and an Environmentally Sensitive Area physical demarcation/barrier constructed. All work shall be diverted away from the vicinity of the find, so that the find can be evaluated by the Qualified Archaeologist and Tribal Monitor[s]. The Archaeologist shall notify the Lead Agency and consulting Tribe[s] of said discovery. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Lead Agency, the consulting Tribe[s], and the Tribal Monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resource. A recommendation for the treatment and disposition of the Tribal Cultural Resource shall be made by the Qualified Archaeologist in consultation with the Tribe[s] and the Tribal Monitor[s] and be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Below are the possible treatments and dispositions of significant cultural resources in order of CEQA preference:

- A. Full avoidance.*
- B. If avoidance is not feasible, Preservation in place.*

- C. If Preservation in place is not feasible, all items shall be reburied in an area away from any future impacts and reside in a permanent conservation easement or Deed Restriction.**
- D. If all other options are proven to be infeasible, data recovery through excavation and then curation in a Curation Facility that meets the Federal Curation Standards (CFR 79.1).**

TCR-9 The Morongo Band of Mission Indians requests the following specific conditions to be imposed in order to protect Native American human remains and/or cremations. No photographs are to be taken except by the coroner, with written approval by the consulting Tribe[s].

- A. Should human remains and/or cremations be encountered on the surface or during any and all ground-disturbing activities (i.e., clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all water supply, electrical, and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall immediately stop within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The area shall be protected; project personnel/observers will be restricted. The County Coroner is to be contacted within 24 hours of discovery. The County Coroner has 48 hours to make his/her determination pursuant to State and Safety Code §7050.5 and Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98.**
- B. In the event that the human remains and/or cremations are identified as Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5.**
- C. The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to inspect the site of discovery and make his/her recommendation for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to PRC §5097.98**
- D. If the Morongo Band of Mission Indians has been named the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the Tribe may wish to rebury the human remains and/or cremation and sacred items in their place of discovery with no further disturbance where they will reside in perpetuity. The place(s) of reburial will not be disclosed by any party and is exempt from the California Public Records Act (California Government Code § 6254[r]). Reburial location of human remains and/or cremations will be determined by the Tribe's Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the landowner, and the lead agency.**

TCR-10 FINAL REPORT: The final report[s] created as a part of the project (AMTP, isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be submitted to the Lead Agency and Consulting Tribe[s] for review and comment. After approval of all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the Eastern Information Center, and the Consulting Tribe[s].

Additionally, the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation has also requested consultation under AB 52 in an email dated November 9, 2023. The Kizh Nation requested a consultation meeting with the District and its environmental consultant, which occurred on February 6, 2024. The Kizh Nation has indicated that it is the ancestral tribe of the project area, and as such, requested that a tribal representative be present in monitoring activities throughout all of the project's ground-disturbing activities. The Kizh Nation provided the District with maps and materials reflecting the ancestral areas that are applicable to the Gabrielino people as well as the Cahuilla people. These materials do indicate that the project area falls within the ancestral territory of the Gabrielino people (i.e. the Kizh Nation), but do not provide indication of overlap between the two territories. Furthermore,

the MBMI Reservation was created by Presidential Executive Order by President Ulysses S. Grant. Eventually, members of several Indian groups and clans were mandated to live on the reservation located in the traditional Cahuilla territory. The Serrano people from the north migrated and joined the Cahuilla people who already resided on the lands that make up the Reservation. Hence, the MBMI came to include members from the Cupeno, Luisena, Chemeuevi, Gabileno, Paiute and Kumeyaay tribes.⁶ Thus, the District has determined that it is appropriate to incorporate the requests from not only MBMI for tribal monitoring, but also to include YSMN's requests to be included in tribal monitoring in the event the tribal cultural resources are found, all in order to ensure the tribal cultural resources are protected as part of implementation of the proposed project. It should be noted that the YSMN also indicates that its territory overlaps with the project area in materials provided on its website,⁷ thereby indicating that the YSMN, MBMI and Kizh Nation have ties to the area within which the project is proposed. The District, with the agreement of the Kizh Nation, has proposed the following mitigation measures to ensure that the Kizh Nation can participate in the monitoring efforts for the project on a full-time basis, which would ensure that representatives from the three tribes would be present in the event of discovery of any tribal cultural resources, and would further ensure protection of such resources in accordance with the procedures of the MLD. This would minimize impacts to tribal cultural resources.

TCR-11 Retain a Native American Monitor Prior to Commencement of Ground-Disturbing Activities

- A. ***The District shall retain a Native American Monitor from or approved by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. The monitor shall be retained prior to the commencement of any “ground-disturbing activity” for the subject project at all project locations (i.e., both on-site and any off-site locations that are included in the project description/definition and/or required in connection with the project, such as public improvement work). “Ground- disturbing activity” shall include, but is not limited to, demolition, pavement removal, potholing, auguring, grubbing, tree removal, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching.***
- B. ***A copy of the executed monitoring agreement shall be submitted to the District prior to the earlier of the commencement of any ground-disturbing activity, or the issuance of any permit necessary to commence a ground-disturbing activity.***
- C. ***The monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground- disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe. Monitor logs will identify and describe any discovered TCRs, including but not limited to, Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, places of significance, etc., (collectively, tribal cultural resources, or “TCR”), as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitor logs will be provided to the project applicant/lead agency upon written request to the Tribe.***
- D. ***On-site tribal monitoring shall conclude upon the latter of the following (1) written confirmation to the Kizh from a designated point of contact for the project applicant/lead agency that all ground-disturbing activities and phases that may involve ground-disturbing activities on the project site or in connection with the project are complete; or (2) a determination and written notification by the Kizh to the District that no future, planned construction activity and/or development/construction phase at the project site possesses the potential to impact Kizh TCRs.***

⁶ MBMI, 2024. Historical Overview. <https://morongonation.org/about-us/#Historical-Overview> (accessed 05/09/24)

⁷ YSMN, 2024. History. <https://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov/culture/history> (accessed 05/09/24)

TCR-12 Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resource Objects (Non-Funerary/Non-Ceremonial)

- A. Upon discovery of any TCRs, all construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease (i.e., not less than the surrounding 50 feet) and shall not resume until the discovered TCR has been fully assessed by the Kizh monitor and/or Kizh archaeologist. The Kizh will recover and retain all discovered TCRs in the form and/or manner the Tribe deems appropriate, in the Tribe's sole discretion, and for any purpose the Tribe deems appropriate, including for educational, cultural and/or historic purposes.**

TCR-13 Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains and Associated Funerary or Ceremonial Objects

- A. Native American human remains are defined in PRC 5097.98 (d)(1) as an inhumation or cremation, and in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness. Funerary objects, called associated grave goods in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, are also to be treated according to this statute.**
- B. If Native American human remains and/or grave goods are discovered or recognized on the project site, then Public Resource Code 5097.9 as well as Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 shall be followed.**
- C. Human remains and grave/burial goods shall be treated alike per California Public Resources Code section 5097.98(d)(1) and (2).**
- D. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred manner of treatment for discovered human remains and/or burial goods.**
- E. Any discovery of human remains/burial goods shall be kept confidential to prevent further disturbance.**

Ultimately, based on the implementation of **MMs CUL-1 through CUL-4**, and **MMs TCR-1 through TCR-13**, impacts to tribal cultural resources would be minimized to a level of less than significant. **MM CUL-1** will ensure proper handling of buried cultural materials should any be discovered during any earth-moving operations associated with the project. Furthermore, implementation of **MMs CUL-1 through CUL-4**, and **MMs TCR-1 through TCR-13** above, which would ensure that YSMN and the Kizh Nation are able to protect any inadvertently discovered tribal cultural resources within the project footprint. Thus, the project has a less than significant potential to cause a substantial change in the significance of tribal cultural resources, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to the California Native American tribe and that is either **a)** Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or **b)** A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

a. Water

Less Than Significant Impact – The proposed project is a well development project within the WVWD service area. As discussed in the preceding sections, the development of the proposed well would not have a significant impact on the environment. As discussed under Hydrology and Water Quality issue X(b), the proposed well will extract groundwater from the Rialto Colton Subbasin. The amount of water the District plans to extract from the Basin is minimal compared to the overall amount of water extracted the Rialto Colton Subbasin. The proposed new well is forecast to increase groundwater extraction by an estimated 1,600 AFY. This is anticipated to fall within WVWD's water rights, and WVWD must comply with the 1961 Decree in operating the proposed well. As such, though the project would install a well that will connect to District's existing service area should they be viable, the project would not result in a significant impact. Therefore, impacts under this issue are considered less than significant.

Wastewater

No Impact – The proposed project would install a well and connecting pipelines to connect to the District's existing potable water distribution system. The well development is not anticipated to require expansion or development of new wastewater treatment facilities. This project would not require connection to wastewater treatment collection services once in operation. As such, this project is not anticipated to require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects. No impacts under this issue are anticipated.

Stormwater

Less Than Significant Impact – The proposed project will manage stormwater at the well site. The proposed project site is vacant, containing an access road that has been paved, and compacted dirt containing non-native vegetation, as such, once the well is installed, the drainage pattern of the area of disturbance would not change substantially. The well site would require minimal grading and site clearing in the small areas in which the well will be installed, and as such would have a less than significant potential to interfere with the discharge of stormwater over the long-term as the site will remain essentially the same, with only the small area that will be disturbed as a result of the well development. Adequate drainage facilities exist or will be developed by this project to accommodate future onsite drainage flows. The well will occupy a minimal portion of the site, and as such, the project is not anticipated to result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded stormwater drainage facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects. Impacts under this issue are considered less than significant.

Electric Power

Less Than Significant Impact – The proposed project would install a new well, associated appurtenances, and connecting piping, and would require easements from both MWD and the City of Fontana. The new well and connection pipelines will require electricity to operate the well pump. The project area is served by Southern California Edison (SCE), and is not anticipated to require extension of electricity in order to operate as the site is currently connected to the electrical system with available supply of electricity at the site. The project will install internal electricity. Given that the project will not require additional construction or relocation of electrical power facilities, and that the project is not anticipated to result in a significant impact under any issue, the proposed project would have no potential to require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded electric power facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects. No impacts are anticipated under this issue.

Natural Gas

No Impact – Development of the new well would not demand natural gas. Therefore, the project would not result in a significant environmental effect related to the relocation or construction of new or expanded natural gas facilities. No impacts are anticipated.

Telecommunications

No Impact – Development of the new well would not require installation of wireless internet service or phone service. Therefore, the project would not result in a significant environmental effect related to the relocation or construction of new or expanded telecommunication facilities. No impacts are anticipated.

- b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Please refer to issue X(b), Hydrology and Water Quality, above. The proposed project will develop a well to supply water to the District's service area. The proposed well would extract water from the Rialto Colton Subbasin. The Rialto Colton Subbasin was adjudicated under the 1961 Decree No. 81,264 of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, and is managed by the Rialto Basin Management Association (stipulated parties of the judgment). WVWD participates in the Rialto Basin Groundwater Council (Rialto Basin GC), which was formed in 2021. WVWD has a right to 6,104 AF of water from the Rialto Colton Subbasin, of which 5,596 AF are adjustable, and 510 AF are fixed. The estimated safe yield of the Rialto Colton Subbasin is 13,623 AF. The proposed new well is forecast to increase groundwater extraction by an estimated 1,600 AFY. This is anticipated to fall within WVWD's water rights, and WVWD must comply with the 1961 Decree in operating the proposed well. Based on this information, it is anticipated that there will be available water supply within the Rialto Colton Subbasin to support the District's new well pumping operations. Therefore, the proposed project is anticipated to have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years. Impacts under this issue are less than significant. No mitigation is required.

- c. *No Impact* – Please refer to the discussion under XIX(a) above. The well operation will not require installation of restroom facilities; construction will require portable toilets that will be handled by the provider of such facilities. As such, given that the well operation will not require any new connection to wastewater treatment services, it is not anticipated that the project would 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 impacts under this issue are anticipated.
- d&e. *Less Than Significant Impact* – Other than a small amount of construction wastes (concrete, wood, etc.) and a small amount of waste associated with operating the proposed well, the project will not generate a substantial amount of solid wastes and will not adversely affect the existing solid waste disposal system. Any construction and demolition (C&D) waste will be recycled to the maximum extent feasible and any residual materials will be delivered to one of several C&D disposal sites in the area surrounding the project site. Many of these C&D materials can be reused or recycled, thus prolonging our supply of natural resources and potentially saving money in the process.

In accordance with CALGreen Code 5.408.4, 100 percent of trees, stumps, rocks and associated vegetation and soils resulting primarily from land clearing must be reused or recycled. As this is a mandatory requirement, no mitigation is required to ensure compliance by WVWD for this project.

Because of increased construction recycling efforts resulting from CalGreen and other regulations, opportunities for construction recycling are becoming easier to find, such as one in Fontana that accepts a wide range of construction and demolition debris materials: Asphalt, Concrete, Brick, Concrete with Rebar, Mixed Loads, Rock, Roof Tile, Cardboard, Wood, Metals, Dirt, and Appliances. There are additional facilities that accept C&D materials located in the surrounding areas⁸ including facilities in Mira Loma and Rialto.

The facilities that accept C&D materials, combined with the landfills in the surrounding area, have adequate capacity to serve the proposed project. Solid waste will be disposed of in accordance with existing regulations at an existing licensed landfill. The project will not conflict with any state, federal, or local regulations regarding solid waste.

The San Bernardino Countywide Plan identifies landfills that serve the planning area. The San Timoteo Sanitary Landfill and Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill serve the project area. The San Timoteo Sanitary Landfill has a maximum permitted daily capacity of 2,000 tons per day, with a permitted capacity of 20,400,000 cubic yards (CY), with 11,402,000 CY of capacity remaining. The Mid-Valley Sanitary Landfill has a maximum permitted daily capacity of 7,500 tons per day, with a permitted capacity of 101,300,000 CY, with 67,520,000 CY of capacity remaining. The County anticipates an increase in solid waste generation of 5,979,355 pounds per day at Build-Out of the Countywide Plan.

The above landfills permit thousands of tons of waste per day, which is beyond what the expected amount of waste would be generated by the proposed well during construction. Furthermore, the proposed project is not anticipated to generate municipal waste. As such, the proposed project would comply with all federal, State, and local statutes related to solid waste disposal.

Any hazardous materials collected within the project footprint during either construction or operation of the project will be transported and disposed of by a permitted and licensed hazardous materials service provider. Therefore, the project is expected to comply with all regulations related to solid waste under federal, state, and local statutes. The project is expected to comply with all regulations related to solid waste under federal, state, and local statutes and be served by a landfill(s) with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs. No mitigation is necessary.

⁸ San Bernardino County, 2021. The County of San Bernardino County Construction & Demolition Waste Recycling Guide. <https://www.sbcounty.gov/uploads/DPW/docs/RecyclingGuide-2021.pdf> (accessed 02/15/24)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XX. WILDFIRE: If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

- a. *Less Than Significant with Implementation of Mitigation* – The proposed project area is an area susceptible to wildland fires, and is located within an area delineated as a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) shown on **Figures IX-7 and IX-8**. As stated under Section XVII, Transportation under issue (d), the proposed project is not located along this emergency route, nor would implementation of the project impede emergency response from accessing the site or surrounding area. As stated under issue XVIII(c), the proposed project would install a well that would occur within a vacant site. Construction activities could also temporarily block access to some roadways that are currently used by emergency response vehicles or in emergency evacuations. **MM TRAN-1** would require implementation of transportation control measures and coordination with emergency response providers to minimize impacts to emergency access in the project construction area due to possible lane closure during project construction. Therefore, implementation of **MM TRAN-1** would reduce construction impacts related to fire protection and emergency response service response times to a less than significant level. Additionally, during construction, because the well would be installed in a location designated within a high FHSZ, construction may exacerbate fire risk temporarily as a result of accidental sparks generated by spark-producing equipment, which could result in a potentially significant impact on fire protection and emergency response. As such, the **MM HAZ-2** is required, which would minimize fire risk during activities that would utilize spark-producing equipment by requiring spark arrestors for construction equipment that could create a spark, and requiring construction crews and vehicles to have access to functional fire extinguishers and fire prevention equipment at all times during construction. Implementation of **MM HAZ-2** is required to ensure that construction of the proposed facilities would not significantly impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Thus, well construction activities would have a less than significant potential to impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan with the implementation of mitigation.

Operation and maintenance of the proposed well would be anticipated to be provided by the District personnel. It is unknown at this time what treatment will be required for the well to meet the standards of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Division of Drinking Water (DDW). However, the proposed project is anticipated to install a container for storage of sodium hypochlorite required

to chlorinate the water extracted at the well, and this substance is considered a potentially hazardous substance. Additionally, if sand is an issue at the new well, a small sand separator and deaeration tank may be required. The District will comply with state and standards for handling this material. Furthermore, the District has developed safety standards and operational procedures for safe transport and use of its operational and maintenance materials that are potentially hazardous. These procedures will comply with all federal, state and local regulations will ensure that the project operates in a manner that poses no substantial hazards to the public or the environment. As a result, operation of the proposed well would have a less than significant potential to impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan with the implementation of mitigation.

- b. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project is located within a vacant site well site is at a site northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Ave; it is located in a flat area. The proposed project does not propose any human occupancy structures or other structures that will place people on the project site for long periods of time or pose a significant threat to people or property from wildfire risk. The site is located in an area containing only scattered vegetation, with the majority of the area cleared of vegetation. This would not present substantial fire risk due to the low profile of the vegetation. Because the proposed project is a water infrastructure project, as it would develop a well, and because the provision of water supply is considered a benefit to the prevention of the spreading of wildfire in high risk areas, it is not anticipated that development at this site would expose occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire. Therefore, given that the proposed project does not contain any human occupancy structures, it is not anticipated that the project would exacerbate fire risks thereby exposing project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or uncontrolled spread of wildfire. Impacts under this issue are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.
- c. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The project will install a new well and associated infrastructure within a vacant site. The site contains minimal vegetation where it occurs on the project site, which could exacerbate fire risk during construction at this site located within a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone in a State Responsibility Area (SRA). The proposed project does not include any new uses, such as power lines, that would have a potential to result in random fire risk under accidental circumstances (such as a downed wire, etc.). However, during construction, because the proposed project is located within a High Hazard Severity Zone in an SRA, construction may exacerbate fire risk temporarily. As such, the proposed project requires the following mitigation measure, which would minimize fire risk during activities that would utilize electric equipment by requiring construction crews to carry fire prevention equipment during activities involving electrical equipment.

WF-1 *During site clearing within the project site when any electrical construction equipment is in use, the construction crew shall have fire prevention equipment (such as fire extinguishers, emergency sand bags, etc.) to put out any accidental fires that could result from the use of construction/maintenance equipment.*

The proposed project would not result in any ongoing impacts to the environment that would exacerbate fire risk as the proposed project would not be manned, and would increase water supply availability. Therefore, with the implementation of **MM WF-1** above, the project would not have a significant potential to exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Impacts under this issue are considered less than significant.

- d. *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project is located within a site that is flat. The discussion under Section VII, Geology and Soils, concluded that the project would not have a significant potential to experience landslides or slope instability, particularly given that this project area has not been delineated as containing potential for landslides or slope instability by the San Bernardino Countywide Plan. The proposed project is located in an area that has not been historically subject to flooding. Furthermore, the project does not propose any habitable structures and thus the exposure of persons to such an event is minimal. As stated under the Hydrology Subchapter, flood risks at the project site are minimal, and therefore downslope flooding is not anticipated to occur as a result of post-fire slope

instability or drainage changes. As such, the development of the Well No. 57 Project at this site is anticipated to have a less than significant potential to expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact or Does Not Apply
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUBSTANTIATION

The analysis in this Initial Study and the findings reached indicate that the proposed project can be implemented without causing any new project specific or cumulatively considerable unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts. Mitigation is required to control potential environmental impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant impact level. The following findings are based on the detailed analysis of the Initial Study of all environmental topics and the implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the previous text and summarized in this section.

- a. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The project has no potential to cause a significant impact any biological or cultural resources. The project has been identified as having no potential to degrade the quality of the natural environment, substantially reduce habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The project requires mitigation to prevent significant impacts from occurring as a result of implementation of the project, including mitigation to protect burrowing owl and nesting birds. Based on the historic disturbance of the site, and its current disturbed condition, the potential for impacting cultural resources is low. Based on the past disturbance of the project footprint, it has been determined that no cultural resources of importance are anticipated to occur within the project area of potential effects (APE), so it is not anticipated that any resources could be affected by the project because no cultural resources exist. However, because it is not known what could be unearthed upon any excavation activities, contingency mitigation measures are provided to ensure that, in the unlikely event that any resources are found, they are protected from any potential significant adverse impacts. Please see biological and cultural sections of this Initial Study.
- b. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Based on the analysis in this Initial Study, the proposed Well No. 57 Project has the potential to cause impacts that are individually or cumulatively considerable. While there may be cumulatively significant impacts under various issues discussed in this Initial Study as a result of cumulative projects, the proposed project's contribution to such impacts would not be cumulatively considerable. Furthermore, the provision of additional water

infrastructure, such as the proposed well, is generally viewed as a benefit to the community. The issues of Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level and ensure that cumulative effects are not cumulatively considerable. All other environmental issues were found to have no significant impacts without implementation of mitigation. The potential cumulative environmental effects of implementing the proposed project have been determined to be less than considerable and thus, less than significant impacts.

- c. *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – The project will achieve long-term community goals by providing additional water supply, which would serve existing, planned, and future uses within WVWD's service area. The short-term impacts associated with the project, which are mainly construction-related impacts, are less than significant with mitigation, and the proposed project is compatible with long-term environmental protection. The issues of Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, and Wildfire require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce human impacts to a less than significant level. All other environmental issues were found to have no significant impacts on humans without implementation of mitigation. The potential for direct human effects from implementing the proposed project have been determined to be less than significant.

Conclusion

This document evaluated all CEQA issues contained in the Initial Study Checklist form. The evaluation determined that either no impact or less than significant impacts would be associated with the issues of Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities and Service Systems. The issues of Air Quality, Biology, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire require the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. The required mitigation has been proposed in this Initial Study to reduce impacts for these issues to a less than significant impact and will be implemented by the District.

Based on the findings in this Initial Study, West Valley Water District (WVWD or District) proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Project. A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) will be issued for this project by the District. The Initial Study and NOI will be circulated for 30 days of public comment because this project does involve state agencies as either a responsible or trustee agency. At the end of the 30-day review period, a final MND package will be prepared and it will be reviewed and considered by the District. WVWD will hold a future hearing for project adoption at their offices, the date for which has not yet been schedule. If you or your agency comments on the MND/NOI for this project, you will be notified about the meeting date in accordance with the requirements in Section 21092.5 of CEQA (statute).

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino*, (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 296; *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors*, (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

Revised 2019

Authority: Public Resources Code sections 21083 and 21083.09

Reference: Public Resources Code sections 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3/ 21084.2 and 21084.3

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES**Aesthetics**

- AES-1 A facilities lighting plan shall be prepared and shall demonstrate that glare from construction operations and safety night lights that may create light and glare affecting adjacent occupied property are sufficiently shielded to prevent light and glare from spilling into occupied structures. This plan shall specifically verify that the lighting doesn't exceed 1.0 lumen at the nearest residence to any lighting site within the project footprint. This plan shall be implemented by the District to minimize light or glare intrusion onto adjacent properties.

Air Quality

- AQ-1 Fugitive Dust Control. The following measures shall be incorporated into project plans and specifications for implementation during construction:
- Apply soil stabilizers to inactive areas.
 - Prepare a high wind dust control plan and implement plan elements and terminate soil disturbance when winds exceed 25 mph.
 - Stabilize previously disturbed areas if subsequent construction is delayed.
 - Apply water to disturbed surfaces 3 times/day.
 - Replace ground cover in disturbed areas quickly.
 - Reduce speeds on unpaved roads to less than 15 mph.
 - Trenches shall be left exposed for as short a time as possible.
 - Identify proper compaction for backfilled soils in construction specifications.

This measure shall be implemented during construction, and shall be included in the construction contract as a contract specification.

- AQ-2 Exhaust Emissions Control. The following measures shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications for implementation:
- Utilize off-road construction equipment that has met or exceeded the maker's recommendations for vehicle/equipment maintenance schedule.
 - Contactors shall utilize Tier 4 or better heavy equipment.
 - Enforce 5-minute idling limits for both on-road trucks and off-road equipment.

Biological Resources

- BIO-1 Preconstruction presence/absence surveys for burrowing owl shall be conducted no more than 3 days prior to any onsite ground disturbing activity by a qualified biologist, including prior to each phase of new ground disturbance. The burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted pursuant to the recommendations and guidelines established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the "California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation." In the event this species is not identified within the project limits, no further mitigation is required, and a letter shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the survey. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW prior to commencement of project activities. If during the preconstruction survey, the burrowing owl is found to occupy the site, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 shall be required.
- BIO-2 If burrowing owls are identified during the survey period, the District shall take the following actions to offset impacts prior to ground disturbance:
- The District shall notify CDFW within three business days of determining that a burrowing owl is occupying the site to discuss the observed location, activities and behavior of the burrowing owl(s) and appropriate avoidance and minimization measures.

Active nests within the areas scheduled for disturbance or degradation shall be avoided until fledging has occurred, as confirmed by a qualified biologist. Following fledging, owls may be passively relocated by a qualified biologist, as described below.

If impacts on occupied burrows are unavoidable, onsite passive relocation techniques may be used if approved by the CDFW to encourage owls to move to alternative burrows provided by the District outside of the impact area.

If relocation of the owls is approved for the site by CDFW, CDFW shall require the District to hire a qualified biologist to prepare a plan for relocating the owls to a suitable site and conduct an impact assessment. A qualified biologist shall prepare and submit a passive relocation program in accordance with Appendix E (i.e., Example Components for Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow and Exclusion Plans) of the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012) to the CDFW for review/approval prior to the commencement of disturbance activities onsite.

The relocation plan must include all of the following and as indicated in Appendix E:

- The location of the nest and owls proposed for relocation.
- The location of the proposed relocation site.
- The number of owls involved and the time of year when the relocation is proposed to take place.
- The name and credentials of the biologist who will be retained to supervise the relocation.
- The proposed method of capture and transport for the owls to the new site.
- A description of site preparation at the relocation site (e.g., enhancement of existing burrows, creation of artificial burrows, one-time or long-term vegetation control).

The District shall conduct an impact assessment, in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation prior to commencing project activities to determine appropriate mitigation, including the acquisition and conservation of occupied replacement habitat at no less than a 2:1 ratio.

Prior to passive relocation, suitable replacement burrows site(s) shall be provided at a ratio of 2:1 and permanent conservation and management of burrowing owl habitat such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows and burrowing owl impacts are replaced consistent with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation including its Appendix A within designated adjacent conserved lands identified through coordination with CDFW and the District. A qualified biologist shall confirm the natural or artificial burrows on the conservation lands are suitable for use by the owls. Monitoring and management of the replacement burrow site(s) shall be conducted and a reporting plan shall be prepared. The objective shall be to manage the replacement burrow sites for the benefit of burrowing owls (e.g., minimizing weed cover), with the specific goal of maintaining the functionality of the burrows for a minimum of 2 years.

A final letter report shall be prepared by the qualified biologist documenting the results of the passive relocation. The letter shall be submitted to CDFW.

- BIO-3 Nesting bird surveys shall be conducted by a qualified avian biologist no more than three (3) days prior to vegetation clearing or ground disturbance activities. Preconstruction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified avian biologist will make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If active nests are found during the preconstruction nesting bird surveys, a Nesting Bird Plan (NBP) shall be prepared and implemented by the qualified avian biologist. At a minimum, the NBP shall include guidelines for addressing active nests, establishing buffers, ongoing monitoring, establishment of avoidance and minimization measures, and reporting. The size and location of all buffer zones, if required, shall be based on the nesting species, individual/pair's behavior, nesting stage, nest location, its sensitivity to disturbance, and intensity and duration of the disturbance activity. To avoid impacts to nesting birds, any grubbing

or vegetation removal should occur outside peak breeding season (typically February 1 through September 1).

Cultural Resources

- CUL-1 Should any cultural resources be encountered during construction of these facilities, earthmoving or grading activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection shall be performed immediately by a qualified archaeologist. Responsibility for making this determination shall be with the District. The archaeological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and make recommendations for appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act.
- CUL-2 In the event that cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall be hired to assess the find. Work on the other portions of the project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period. Additionally, the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed within TCR-1, regarding any pre-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes his/her initial assessment of the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.
- CUL-3 If significant pre-contact cultural resources, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), are discovered and avoidance cannot be ensured, the archaeologist shall develop a Monitoring and Treatment Plan, the drafts of which shall be provided to YSMN for review and comment, as detailed within TCR-1. The archaeologist shall monitor the remainder of the project and implement the Plan accordingly.
- CUL-4 If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code enforced for the duration of the project.

Geology and Soils

- GEO-1 Excavated areas shall be backfilled and compacted such that erosion does not occur. Paved areas disturbed by this project shall be repaved in such a manner that roadways and other disturbed areas are returned to the pre-project conditions or better.
- GEO-2 All exposed, disturbed soil (trenches, stored backfill, etc.) will be sprayed with water or soil binders twice a day or more frequently if fugitive dust is observed migrating from the site.
- GEO-3 The District shall identify any additional BMPs to ensure that the discharge of surface water does not cause erosion downstream of the discharge point. This shall be accomplished by reducing the energy of any site discharge through an artificial energy dissipater or equivalent device. If any substantial erosion or sedimentation occurs, any erosion or sedimentation damage shall be restored to pre-discharge conditions.
- GEO-4 Should any paleontological resources be encountered during construction of these facilities, earthmoving or grading activities in the immediate area of the finds shall be halted and an onsite inspection should be performed immediately by a qualified paleontologist. Responsibility for making this determination shall be with the District's onsite inspector. The paleontological professional shall assess the find, determine its significance, and determine appropriate mitigation measures within the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act that shall be implemented to minimize any impacts to a paleontological resource.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

- HAZ-1 All spills or leakage of petroleum products during construction activities will be remediated in compliance with applicable state and local regulations regarding cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. The contaminated waste will be collected and disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal or treatment facility.
- HAZ-2 Should any contamination be encountered during construction of the project, all work in the immediate area shall cease; the type of contamination and its extent shall be determined; and the local Certified Unified Program Agency or other regulatory agencies (such as the DTSC or Regional Board) shall be notified. Based on investigations of the contamination, the site may be closed and avoided or the contaminant(s) shall be remediated to a threshold acceptable to the Certified Unified Program Agency or other regulatory agency threshold and any contaminated soil or other material shall be delivered to an authorized treatment or disposal site.
- HAZ-3 Prior to construction, fire hazard reduction measures shall be incorporated into a fire management/fuel modification plan for the proposed facility, and shall be implemented during construction and over the long-term for protection of the site. These measures shall address all staging areas, welding areas, or areas slated for development that are planned to use spark-producing equipment. These areas shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other material that could ignite. Any construction equipment that includes a spark arrestor shall be equipped with a spark arrestor in good working order. During the construction of the project, all vehicles and crews working at the project site shall have access to functional fire extinguishers and related fire prevention equipment (such as emergency sand bags, etc.) at all times. In addition, construction crews shall have a spotter during welding activities to look out for potentially dangerous situations, including accidental sparks. This plan shall be reviewed by the District and CAL FIRE for review and comment, where appropriate, and approved prior to construction and implemented once approved. The fire management plan shall also include sufficient defensible space or other measures at a facility site located in a high or very high FHSZ to minimize fire damage to a level acceptable to the District over the long term.

Hydrology and Water Quality

- HYD-1 The District shall test the groundwater produced from the well prior to discharge. Prior to or during discharge any contaminants shall be blended below the pertinent MCL or treated prior to discharge, including sediment or other material.
- HYD-2 The District shall require that the construction contractor to implement specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will prevent all construction pollutants from contacting stormwater and with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving offsite into receiving waters. These practices shall include a Plan that identifies the methods of containing, cleanup, transport and proper disposal of hazardous chemicals or materials released during construction activities that are compatible with applicable laws and regulations. BMPs to be implemented by the District include the following:
- The use of silt fences or coir rolls;
 - The use of temporary stormwater desilting or retention basins;
 - The use of water bars to reduce the velocity of stormwater runoff;
 - The use of wheel washers on construction equipment leaving the site;
 - The washing of silt from public roads at the access point to the site to prevent the tracking of silt and other pollutants from the site onto public roads;
 - The storage of excavated material shall be kept to the minimum necessary to efficiently perform the construction activities required. Excavated or stockpiled material shall not be stored in water courses or other areas subject to the flow of surface water; and
 - Where feasible, stockpiled material shall be covered with waterproof material during rain events to control erosion of soil from the stockpiles.

- HYD-3 The District shall conduct a pump test of the new well and determine whether any other wells are located within the cone of depression once the well reaches equilibrium. If any private wells are adversely impacted by future groundwater extractions from the proposed well, the District shall offset this impact through provision of water service; or adjusting the flow rates or hours of operation to mitigate adverse impacts.
- HYD-4 The District and construction contractor shall select best management practices applicable to the project site and activities on the site to achieve a reduction in pollutants to the maximum extent practicable, both during and following development of the proposed municipal-supply water well and associated pipeline, and to control urban runoff after the Project is constructed and the well (if approved for operation post well testing) is in operation.

Noise

- NOI-1 The Project shall erect noise barriers with a minimum height of 20 feet should be erected along the eastern Project site boundary and a minimum height of 16 feet should be erected along the southern Project site boundary such that the drill rig, mud pumps, compressors, and generators are completely shielded from nearby residential areas. An effective barrier requires a weight of at least 2 pounds per square foot of face area with no decorative cutouts, perforations, or line-of-sight openings between shielded areas and the source. Examples of temporary barrier material includes 5/8-inch plywood, 5/8-inch oriented-strand board, or sound blankets capable of providing a minimum sound transmission loss (STC) of 27 or a Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of 0.85.
- NOI-2 Well pump noise levels to be limited to 50 dB(A) or below at the exterior of the nearest sensitive noise receptor. A manner in which this may be accomplished is by installing surface well housing, housed in concrete block structure that attenuates noise to meet this performance standard. Another manner in which this may be accomplished is through installing the pump belowground. The aforementioned or other noise reducing measures shall be implemented should the District be unable to demonstrate that noise levels are limited to 50 dBA at the nearest sensitive receptor.
- NOI-3 The well shall be drilled at a distance of 55' or greater from the nearest sensitive receptor, shown on **Figure XIII-1**. Loaded trucks delivering materials to the site and hauling materials away shall be operated at a distance at or greater than 35' or greater from the nearest sensitive receptor, shown on **Figure XIII-1**, for the duration of construction.

Transportation

- TRAN-1 For any encroachment along adjacent roadways, WVWD shall require that contractors prepare a construction traffic control plan. Elements of the plan shall include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:
- Develop circulation and detour plans, if necessary, to minimize impacts to local street circulation. Use haul routes minimizing truck traffic on local roadways to the extent possible.
 - To the extent feasible, and as needed to avoid adverse impacts on traffic flow, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.
 - Install traffic control devices as specified in Caltrans' Manual of Traffic Controls for Construction and Maintenance Work Zones where needed to maintain safe driving conditions. Use flaggers and/or signage to safely direct traffic through construction work zones.
 - For roadways requiring lane closures that would result in a single open lane, maintain alternate one-way traffic flow and utilize flagger-controls.
 - Coordinate with facility owners or administrators of sensitive land uses such as police and fire stations, hospitals, and schools. Provide advance notification to the facility owner or operator of the timing, location, and duration of construction activities.

TRAN-2 WVWD shall require that all disturbances to public roadways be repaired in a manner that complies with the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction (green book) or other applicable County of San Bernardino or City of Fontana standard design requirements.

Tribal Cultural Resources

TCR-1 The Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation Cultural Resources Management Department (YSMN) shall be contacted, as detailed in CUL-2, of any pre-contact cultural resources discovered during project implementation, and be provided information regarding the nature of the find, so as to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment. Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), a Cultural Resources Monitoring and Treatment Plan shall be created by the archaeologist, in coordination with YSMN, and all subsequent finds shall be subject to this Plan. This Plan shall allow for a monitor to be present that represents YSMN for the remainder of the project on an alternating basis in coordination with the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and Morongo Band of Mission Indians, should YSMN elect to place a monitor on-site.

TCR-2 Any and all archaeological/cultural documents created as a part of the project (isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be supplied to the Lead Agency for dissemination to YSMN. The Lead Agency shall, in good faith, consult with YSMN throughout the life of the project.

TCR-3 The District shall enter into a Tribal Monitoring Services Agreement with the Morongo Band of Mission Indians (MBMI) for the project. A Tribal Monitor shall be on-site during all ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), whether from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, or from the YSMN in the event that the YSMN elects to monitor ground disturbing activities. While monitoring ground disturbing activities, MBMI's Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert, redirect, or halt the ground-disturbing activities to allow identification, evaluation, and potential recovery of cultural resources.

TCR-4 Prior to any ground-disturbing activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post replacement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all utility and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), and prior to the issuance of grading permits, a Qualified Archaeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Standards (SOI). The Archaeologist shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities to identify any known or suspected archaeological and/or cultural resources. The Archaeologist will conduct a Cultural Resource Sensitivity Training, in conjunction with the Tribe[s] Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), and/or designated Tribal Representative. The training session will focus on the archaeological and tribal cultural resources that may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities as well as the procedures to be followed in such an event.

TCR-5 Prior to any ground-disturbing activities the project Archaeologist shall develop a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) and/or Archaeological Monitoring and Treatment Plan (AMTP) to address the details, timing, and responsibilities of all archaeological and cultural resource activities that occur on the project site. This Plan shall be written in consultation with the consulting Tribe[s] and shall include the following: approved Mitigation Measures (MM)/Conditions of Approval (COA), contact information for all pertinent parties, parties' responsibilities, procedures for each MM or COA, and an overview of the project schedule.

TCR-6 The Qualified archeologist and Consulting Tribe[s] representative shall attend the pre-grade meeting with the grading contractors to explain and coordinate the requirements of the monitoring plan.

- TCR-7 During all ground-disturbing activities the Qualified Archaeologist shall be on site full time, and the Tribal Monitor shall be on-site part-time, in a manner that would accommodate roughly equal tribal monitoring time for MBMI and the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation tribal monitors, and YSMN in the event that the YSMN elects to monitor ground disturbing activities . The frequency of inspections shall depend on the rate of excavation, the materials excavated, and any discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources as defined in California Public Resources Code Section 21074. Archaeological and Tribal Monitoring will be discontinued when the depth of grading and the soil conditions no longer retain the potential to contain cultural deposits. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Tribal Monitor, shall be responsible for determining the duration and frequency of monitoring.
- TCR-8 In the event that previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, the Qualified Archaeologist and the Tribal Monitor shall have the authority to temporarily divert and/or temporarily halt ground-disturbance operations in the area of discovery to allow for the evaluation of potentially significant cultural resources. Isolates and clearly non- significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and collected so the monitored grading can proceed.
- If a potentially significant cultural resource(s) is discovered, work shall stop within a 60-foot perimeter of the discovery and an Environmentally Sensitive Area physical demarcation/barrier constructed. All work shall be diverted away from the vicinity of the find, so that the find can be evaluated by the Qualified Archaeologist and Tribal Monitor[s]. The Archaeologist shall notify the Lead Agency and consulting Tribe[s] of said discovery. The Qualified Archaeologist, in consultation with the Lead Agency, the consulting Tribe[s], and the Tribal Monitor, shall determine the significance of the discovered resource. A recommendation for the treatment and disposition of the Tribal Cultural Resource shall be made by the Qualified Archaeologist in consultation with the Tribe[s] and the Tribal Monitor[s] and be submitted to the Lead Agency for review and approval. Below are the possible treatments and dispositions of significant cultural resources in order of CEQA preference:
- A. Full avoidance.
 - B. If avoidance is not feasible, Preservation in place.
 - C. If Preservation in place is not feasible, all items shall be reburied in an area away from any future impacts and reside in a permanent conservation easement or Deed Restriction.
 - D. If all other options are proven to be infeasible, data recovery through excavation and then curation in a Curation Facility that meets the Federal Curation Standards (CFR 79.1).
- TCR-9 The Morongo Band of Mission Indians requests the following specific conditions to be imposed in order to protect Native American human remains and/or cremations. No photographs are to be taken except by the coroner, with written approval by the consulting Tribe[s].
- A. Should human remains and/or cremations be encountered on the surface or during any and all ground-disturbing activities (i.e., clearing, grubbing, tree and bush removal, grading, trenching, fence post placement and removal, construction excavation, excavation for all water supply, electrical, and irrigation lines, and landscaping phases of any kind), work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall immediately stop within a 100-foot perimeter of the discovery. The area shall be protected; project personnel/observers will be restricted. The County Coroner is to be contacted within 24 hours of discovery. The County Coroner has 48 hours to make his/her determination pursuant to State and Safety Code §7050.5. and Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98.
 - B. In the event that the human remains and/or cremations are identified as Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of determination pursuant to subdivision (c) of HSC §7050.5.
 - C. The Native American Heritage Commission shall immediately notify the person or persons it believes to be the Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours, upon being granted access to the Project site, to inspect the site of discovery and make his/her recommendation for final treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the remains and all associated grave goods pursuant to PRC §5097.98

- D. If the Morongo Band of Mission Indians has been named the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the Tribe may wish to rebury the human remains and/or cremation and sacred items in their place of discovery with no further disturbance where they will reside in perpetuity. The place(s) of reburial will not be disclosed by any party and is exempt from the California Public Records Act (California Government Code § 6254[r]). Reburial location of human remains and/or cremations will be determined by the Tribe's Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the landowner, and the lead agency.
- TCR-10 FINAL REPORT: The final report[s] created as a part of the project (AMTP, isolate records, site records, survey reports, testing reports, etc.) shall be submitted to the Lead Agency and Consulting Tribe[s] for review and comment. After approval of all parties, the final reports are to be submitted to the Eastern Information Center, and the Consulting Tribe[s].
- TCR-11 Retain a Native American Monitor Prior to Commencement of Ground-Disturbing Activities
- E. The District shall retain a Native American Monitor from or approved by the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation. The monitor shall be retained prior to the commencement of any “ground-disturbing activity” for the subject project at all project locations (i.e., both on-site and any off-site locations that are included in the project description/definition and/or required in connection with the project, such as public improvement work). “Ground-disturbing activity” shall include, but is not limited to, demolition, pavement removal, potholing, auguring, grubbing, tree removal, boring, grading, excavation, drilling, and trenching.
- F. A copy of the executed monitoring agreement shall be submitted to the District prior to the earlier of the commencement of any ground-disturbing activity, or the issuance of any permit necessary to commence a ground-disturbing activity.
- G. The monitor will complete daily monitoring logs that will provide descriptions of the relevant ground-disturbing activities, the type of construction activities performed, locations of ground-disturbing activities, soil types, cultural-related materials, and any other facts, conditions, materials, or discoveries of significance to the Tribe. Monitor logs will identify and describe any discovered TCRs, including but not limited to, Native American cultural and historical artifacts, remains, places of significance, etc., (collectively, tribal cultural resources, or “TCR”), as well as any discovered Native American (ancestral) human remains and burial goods. Copies of monitor logs will be provided to the project applicant/lead agency upon written request to the Tribe.
- H. On-site tribal monitoring shall conclude upon the latter of the following (1) written confirmation to the Kizh from a designated point of contact for the project applicant/lead agency that all ground-disturbing activities and phases that may involve ground-disturbing activities on the project site or in connection with the project are complete; or (2) a determination and written notification by the Kizh to the District that no future, planned construction activity and/or development/construction phase at the project site possesses the potential to impact Kizh TCRs.
- TCR-12 Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resource Objects (Non-Funerary/Non-Ceremonial)
- B. Upon discovery of any TCRs, all construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease (i.e., not less than the surrounding 50 feet) and shall not resume until the discovered TCR has been fully assessed by the Kizh monitor and/or Kizh archaeologist. The Kizh will recover and retain all discovered TCRs in the form and/or manner the Tribe deems appropriate, in the Tribe's sole discretion, and for any purpose the Tribe deems appropriate, including for educational, cultural and/or historic purposes.
- TCR-13 Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains and Associated Funerary or Ceremonial Objects
- A. Native American human remains are defined in PRC 5097.98 (d)(1) as an inhumation or cremation, and in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness. Funerary objects, called associated grave goods in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, are also to be treated according to this statute.

- B. If Native American human remains and/or grave goods are discovered or recognized on the project site, then Public Resource Code 5097.9 as well as Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 shall be followed.
- C. Human remains and grave/burial goods shall be treated alike per California Public Resources Code section 5097.98(d)(1) and (2).
- D. Preservation in place (i.e., avoidance) is the preferred manner of treatment for discovered human remains and/or burial goods.
- E. Any discovery of human remains/burial goods shall be kept confidential to prevent further disturbance.

Wildfire

- WF-1 During site clearing within the project site when any electrical construction equipment is in use, the construction crew shall have fire prevention equipment (such as fire extinguishers, emergency sand bags, etc.) to put out any accidental fires that could result from the use of construction/maintenance equipment.

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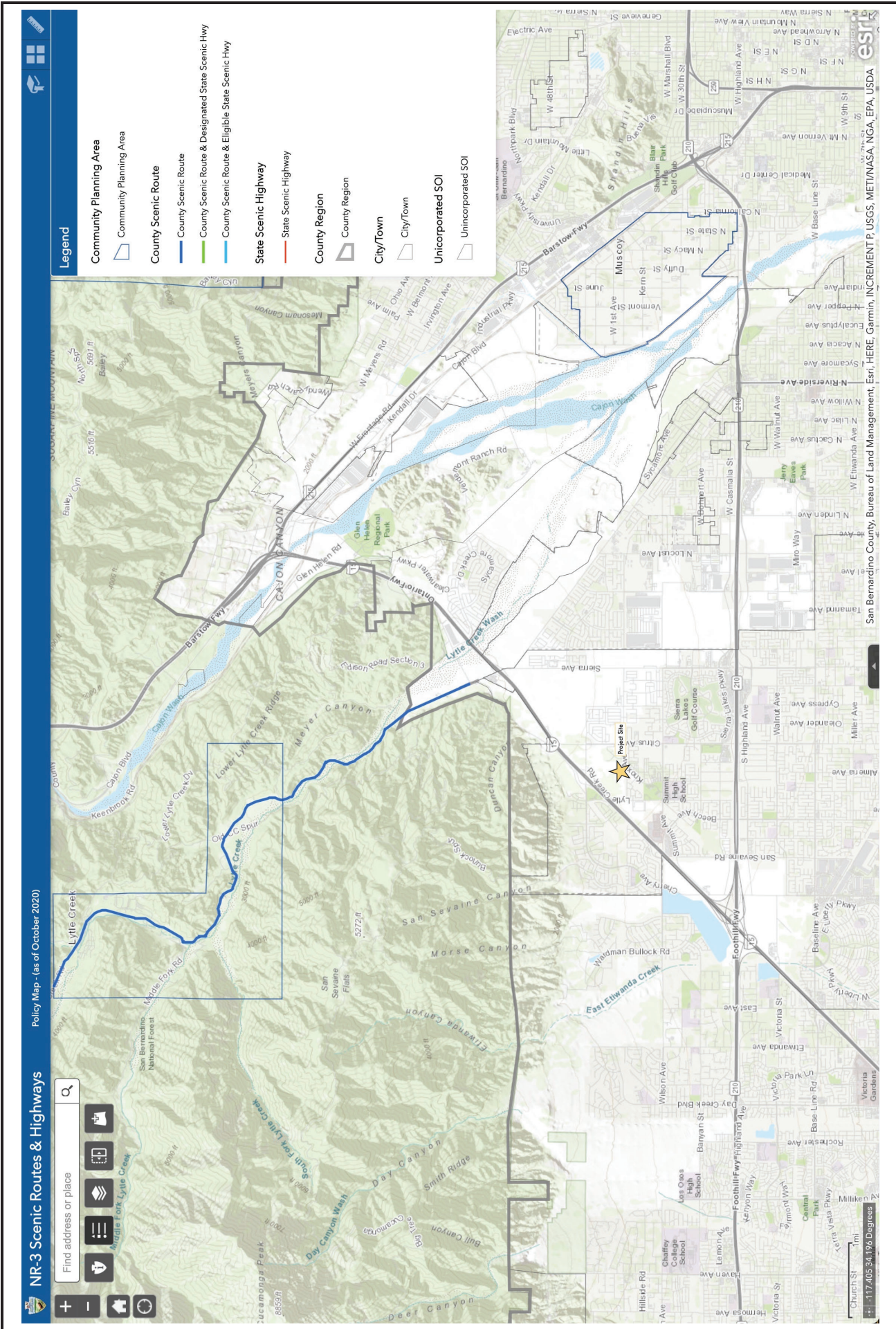
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Appendix 6

FIGURES

FIGURE I-1

Scenic Routes & Highways

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants



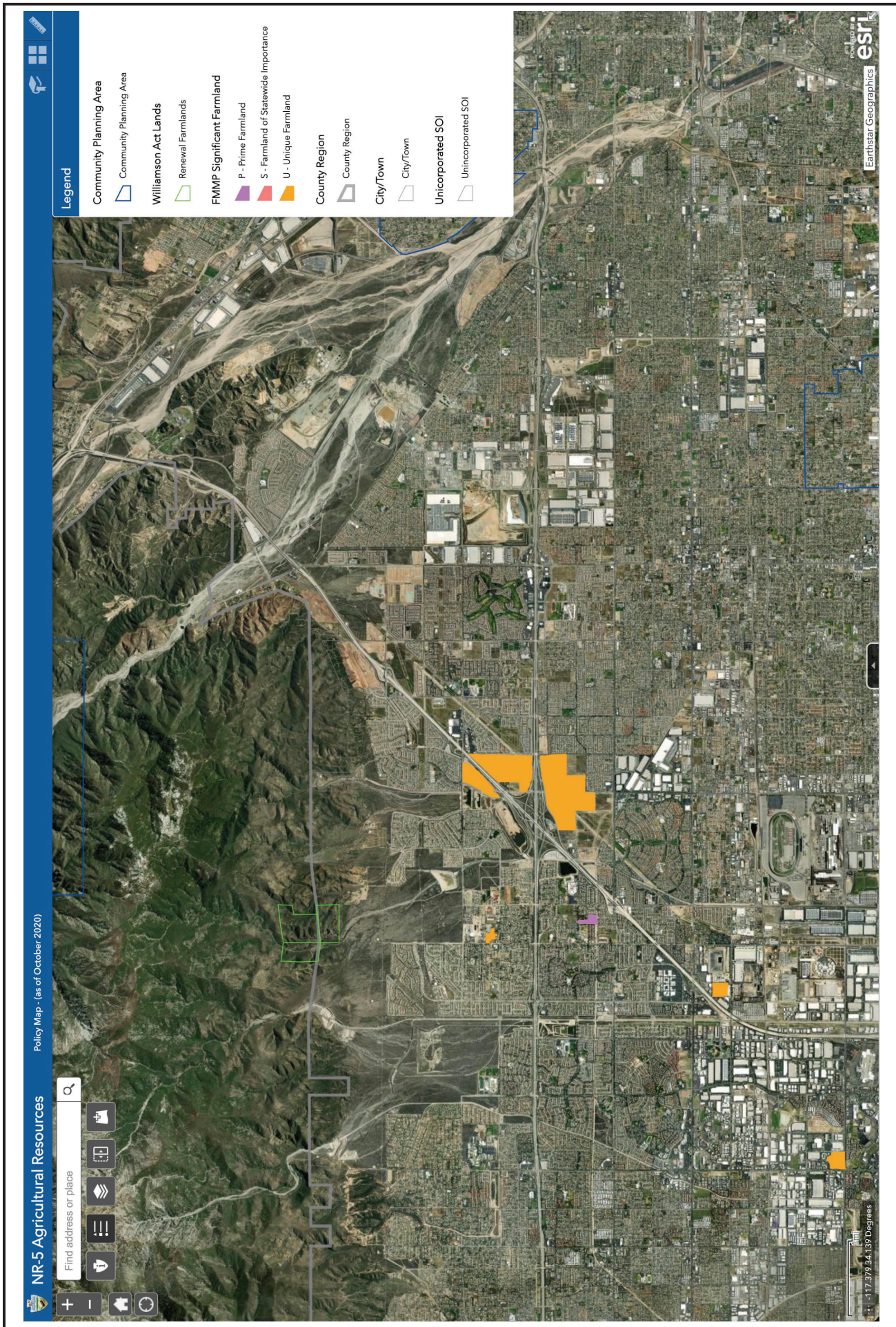


FIGURE II-1

Agricultural Resources

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

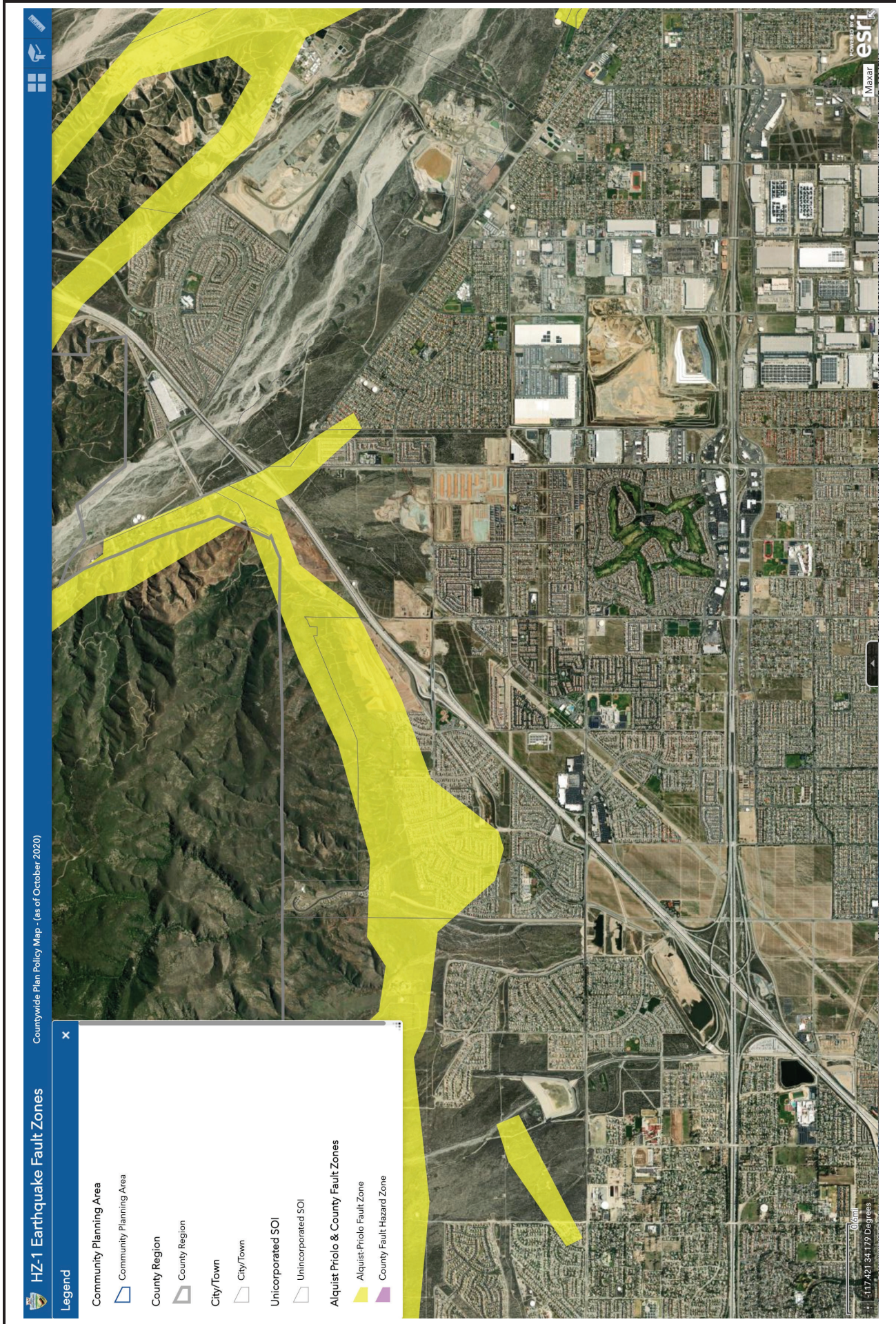


FIGURE VII-1

Earthquake Fault Zones

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

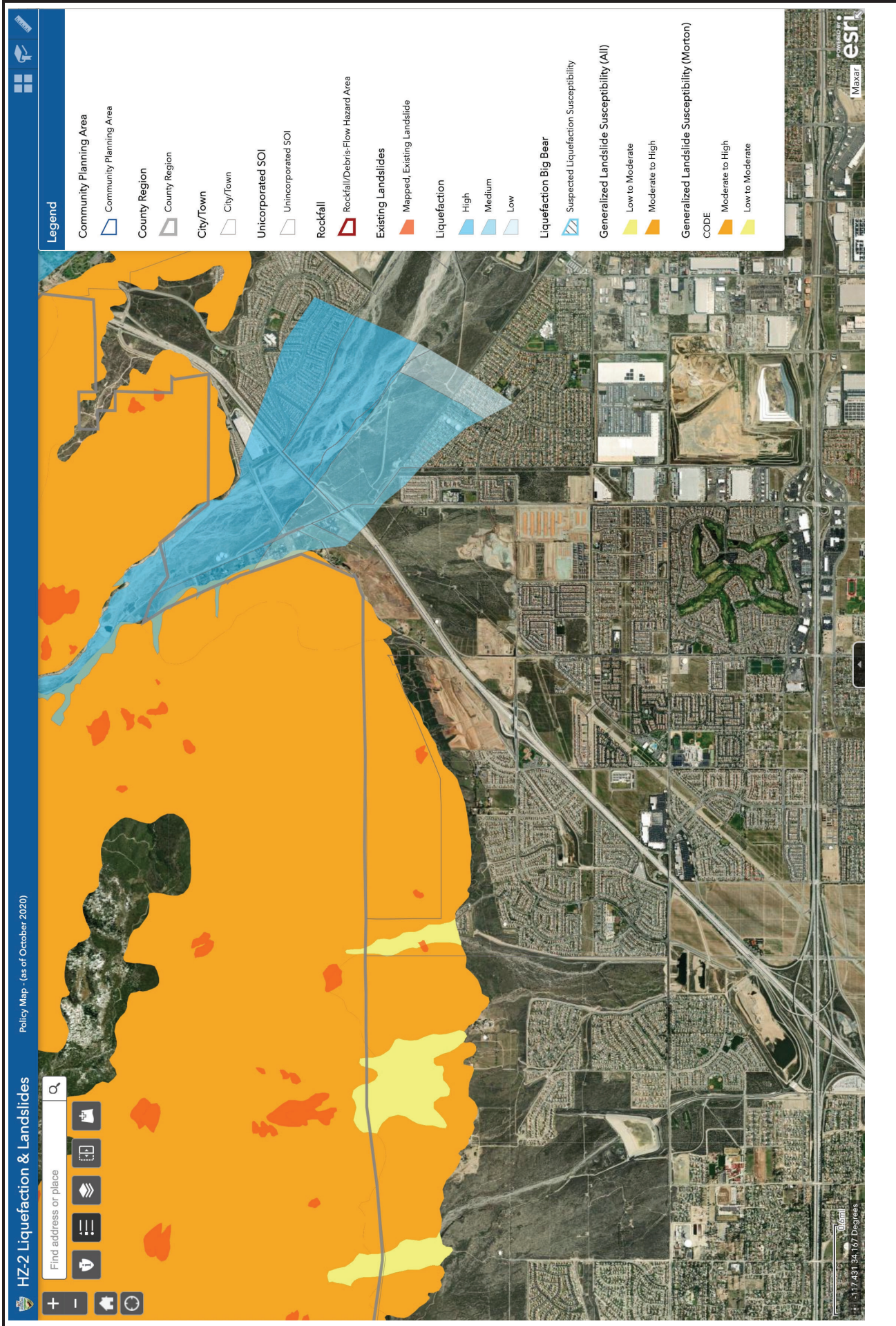


FIGURE VII-2

Liquefaction & Landslides

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

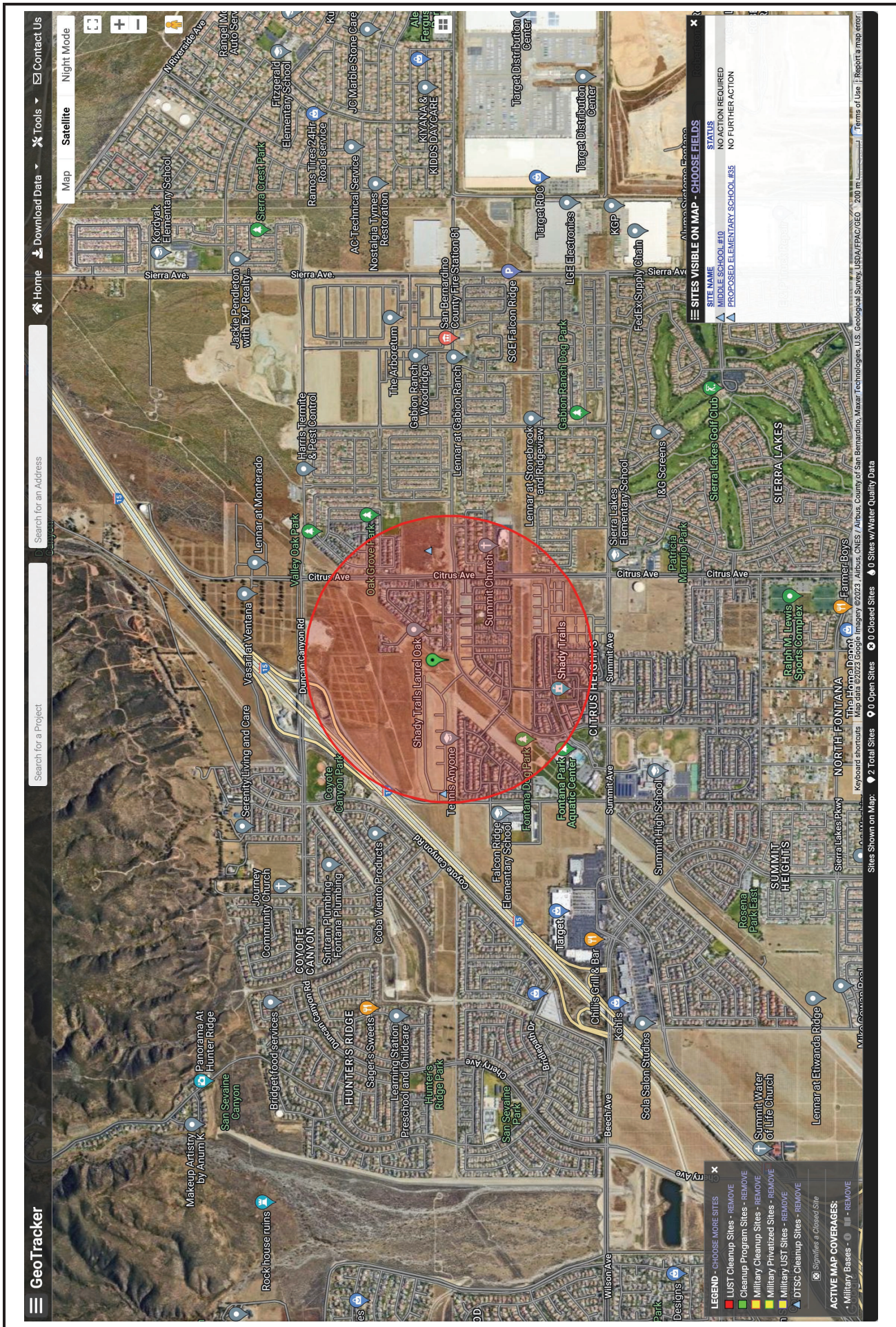


FIGURE IX-1

GeoTracker 1

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants



FIGURE IX-2

GeoTracker 2

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants



Tools

Reports

Community Involvement

How to Use EnviroStor

ESI

DTSC Web



MIDDLE SCHOOL #10 (36650021)

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS

CITRUS AVENUE/THREE MILE ROAD
FONTANA, CA 92336
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
SITE TYPE: SCHOOL

SUPERVISOR: [JAVIER HINOJOSA](#)
OFFICE: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS & BROWNFIELDS OUTREACH
SCHOOL DISTRICT: FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
CENSUS TRACT: 6071002704
CALENVIROSCREEN PERCENTILE SCORE: 75-80%

[Summary](#) | [Activities](#) | [Site/Facility Docs](#) | [Map](#) | [Related Sites](#) | [CallEnviroScreen](#)

Site Information

CLEANUP STATUS
NO ACTION REQUIRED AS OF 4/26/2005

SITE TYPE: SCHOOL
NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST: NO
ACRES: 24.5 ACRES
APN: NONE SPECIFIED
CLEANUP OVERSIGHT AGENCIES:
DTSC - SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM - **LEAD AGENCY**

SCHOOL DISTRICT: FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ENVIROSTOR ID: 36650021
SITE CODE: 404602
SPECIAL PROGRAM:
FUNDING: SCHOOL DISTRICT
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT: 45
SENATE DISTRICT: 29

Regulatory Profile

PAST USE(S) THAT CAUSED CONTAMINATION
NONE

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN
NO CONTAMINANTS FOUND

POTENTIAL MEDIA AFFECTED
NO MEDIA AFFECTED

Site History

The site is currently undeveloped. No operations, other than weed abatement using disking for fire suppression, have taken place onsite recently.

FIGURE IX-3

PROPOSED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #35 (60000432)

[SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS](#)

LYTLE CREEK ROAD/THREE MILE ROAD
FONTANA, CA 92336
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
SITE TYPE: SCHOOL

SUPERVISOR:
OFFICE:

[SHAHIR HADDAD](#)
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SCHOOLS &
BROWNFIELDS OUTREACH
FONTANA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT
6071002010
35-40%

SCHOOL DISTRICT:

CENSUS TRACT:
CALENVIROSCREEN PERCENTILE SCORE:

[Summary](#) | [Activities](#) | [Site/Facility Docs](#) | [Map](#) | [Related Sites](#) | [CalEnviroScreen](#)

Site Information

CLEANUP STATUS
NO FURTHER ACTION AS OF 2/26/2007

SITE TYPE: SCHOOL
NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST: NO
ACRES: 12 ACRES
APN: NONE SPECIFIED
CLEANUP OVERSIGHT AGENCIES:
DTSC - SITE CLEANUP PROGRAM - **LEAD AGENCY**

SCHOOL DISTRICT: FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
ENVIROSTOR ID: 60000432
SITE CODE: 404719
SPECIAL PROGRAM: SCHOOL DISTRICT
FUNDING: 45
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT: 29
SENATE DISTRICT:

Regulatory Profile

PAST USE(S) THAT CAUSED CONTAMINATION
AGRICULTURAL - ROW CROPS

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN
DIOXIN (AS 2,3,7,8-TCDD TEQ)
METALS
METHOXYCHLOR
[ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDES \(8081 OCPS\)](#)

POTENTIAL MEDIA AFFECTED
SOIL

Site History

Site consists of 12.0 acres of vacant land. Historically used for vineyards from about 1938-1980. Site is currently undeveloped land that is being used as a staging point for residential construction activities associated with the adjacent property to the south. Pile of roofing material observed on eastern portion of site and stained/discolored soils observed on western portions although, recently, stained soils have been removed and placed on tarp for disposal purposes. In 2004 a site assessment was performed; soil samples were analyzed for OCPs at that time. Concentrations of DDE and DDT present in samples.

Site originally 13.93 acres, reduced to 12.0 acres. Pile of roofing material no longer within site boundaries after reduction. PEA investigation for OCPs and metals due to past ag. use. Sample results below levels of concern. PEA determined no further action and approved Feb. 23, 2007.

FIGURE IX-5

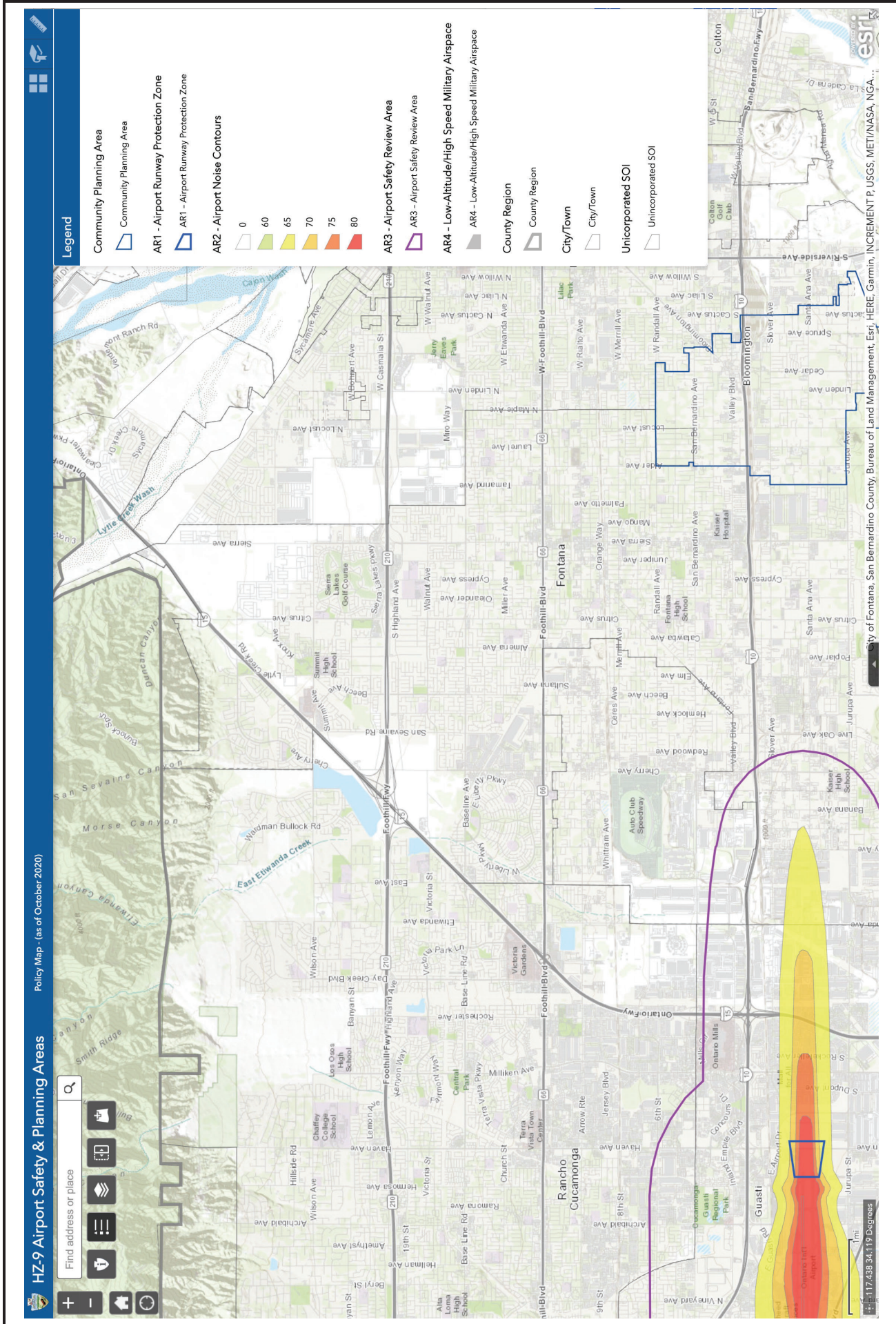


FIGURE IX-6

Airport Safety & Planning Areas

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

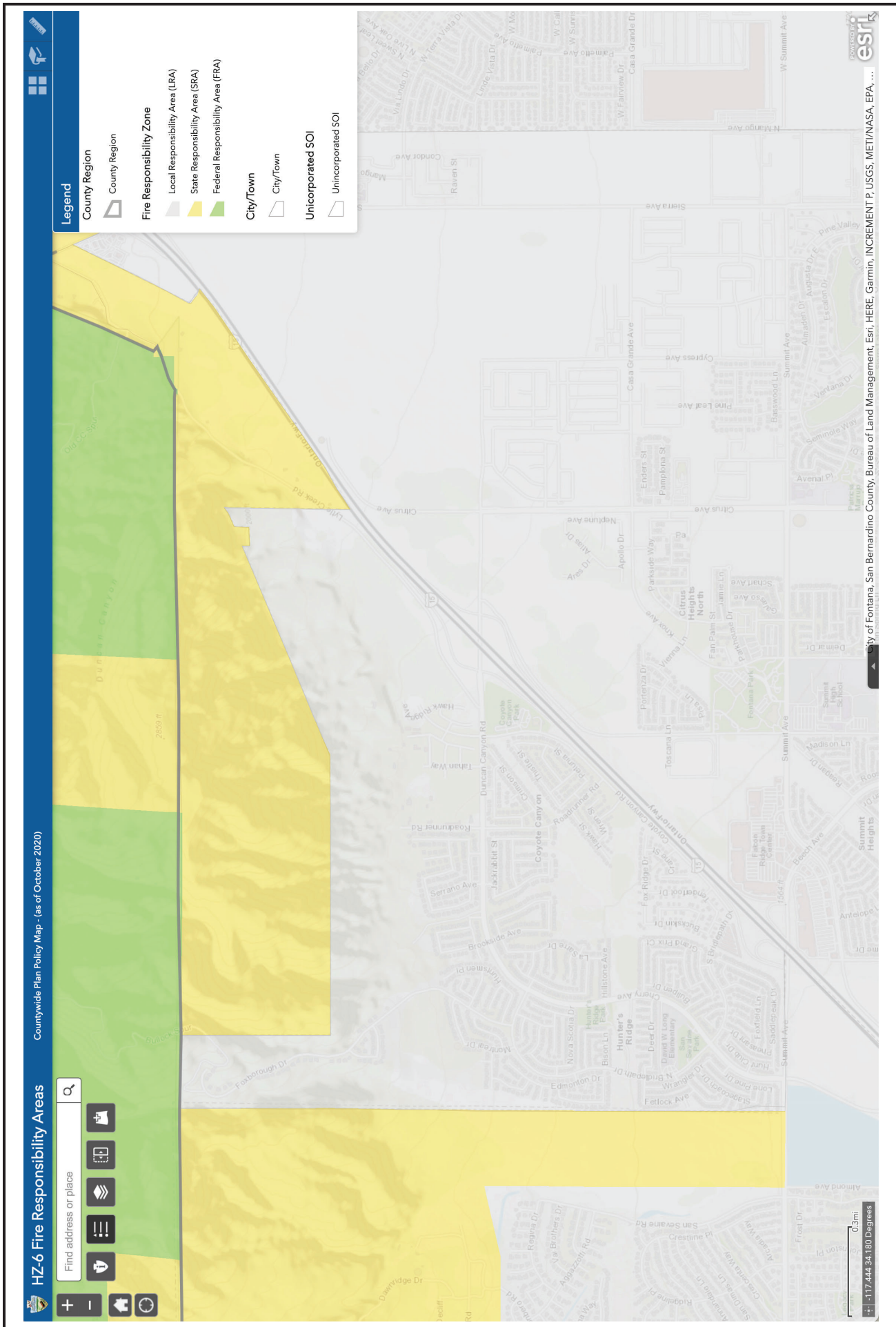


FIGURE IX-7

Fire Responsibility Areas

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Environmental Consultants

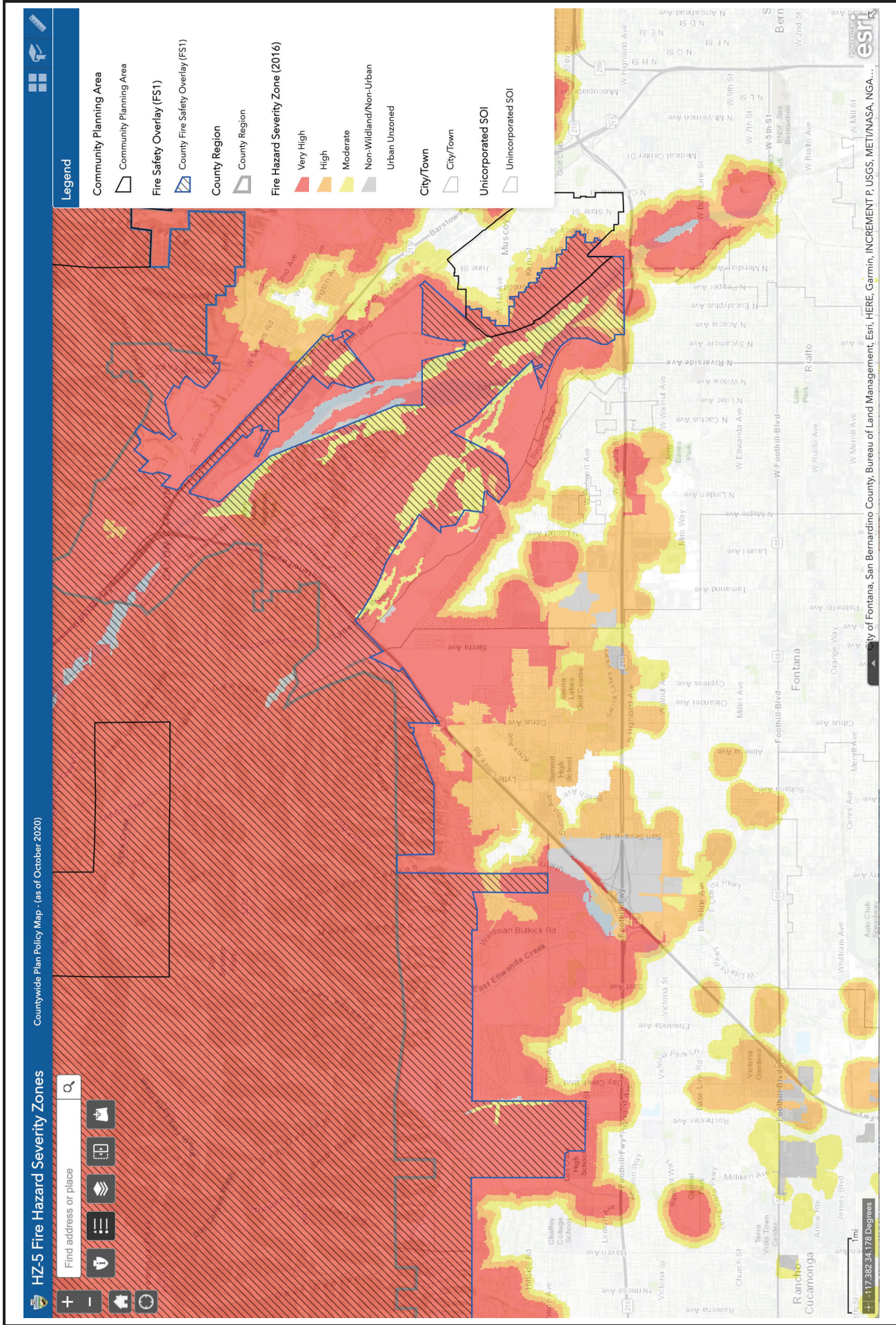


FIGURE IX-8

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

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Environmental Consultants

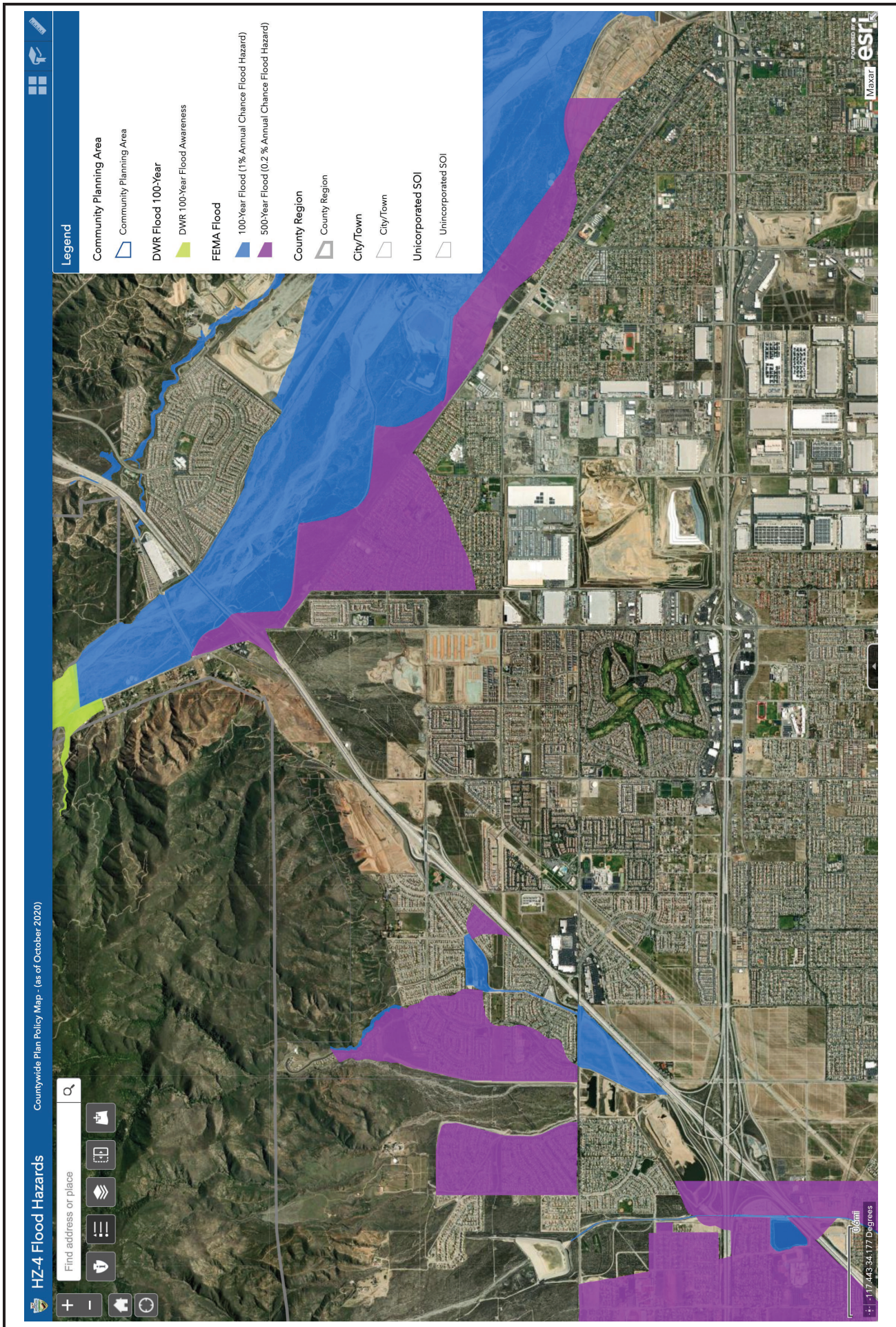


FIGURE X-1

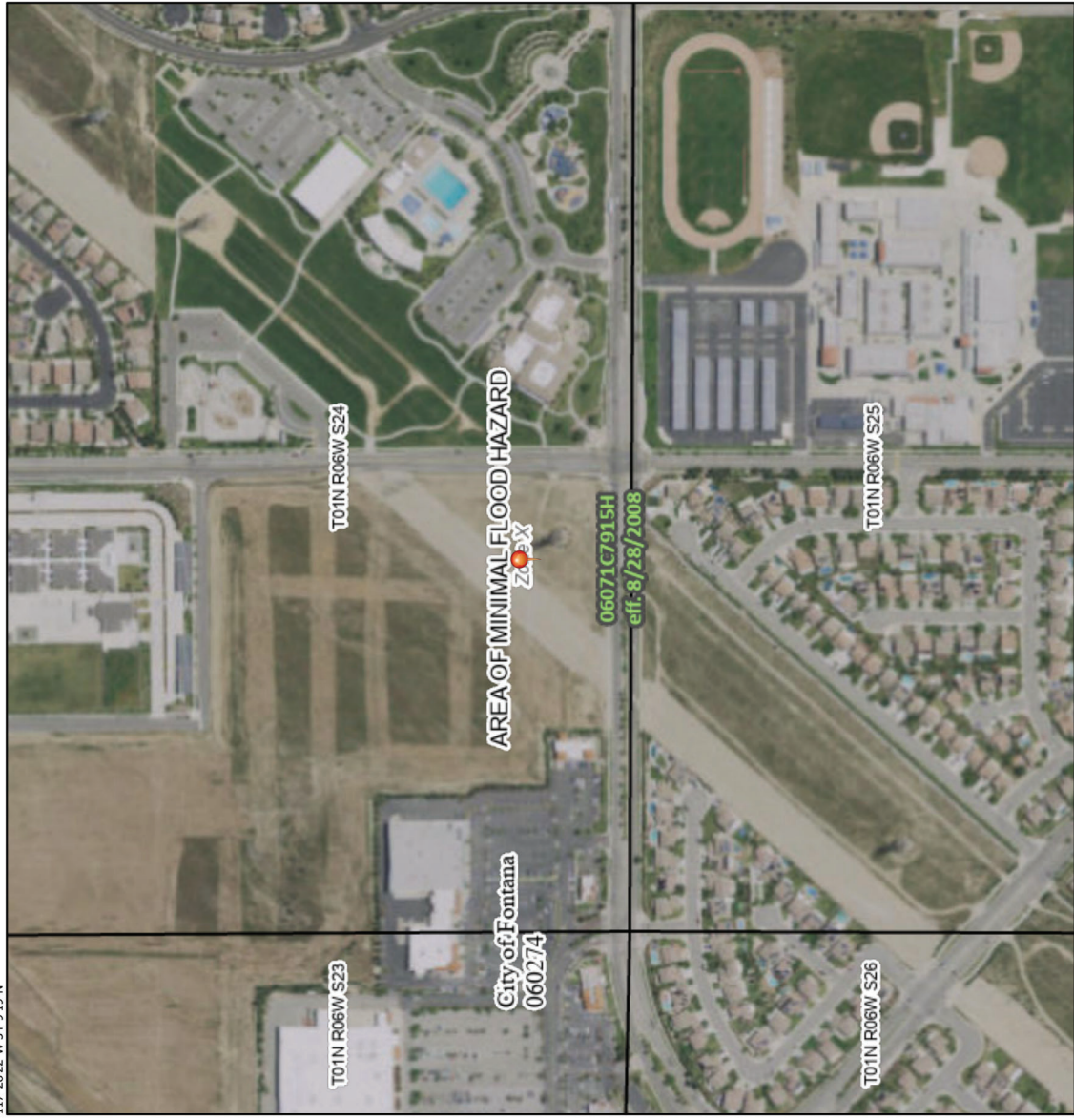
Flood Hazards

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



117°28'22"W 34°59'19"N



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

117°22'44"W 34°59'49"N

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map, 2023

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
- With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
- Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD

- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% Annual Chance Flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
- Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes, Zone X
- Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D

OTHER AREAS

- NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
- Effective LOMRS
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D

GENERAL STRUCTURES

- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

OTHER FEATURES

- 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
- 17.5 Water Surface Elevation
- 8 Coastal Transect
- Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS

- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards. The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 11/8/2023 at 5:46 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and undetermined areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

FIGURE X-2

FEMA FIRM Panel

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

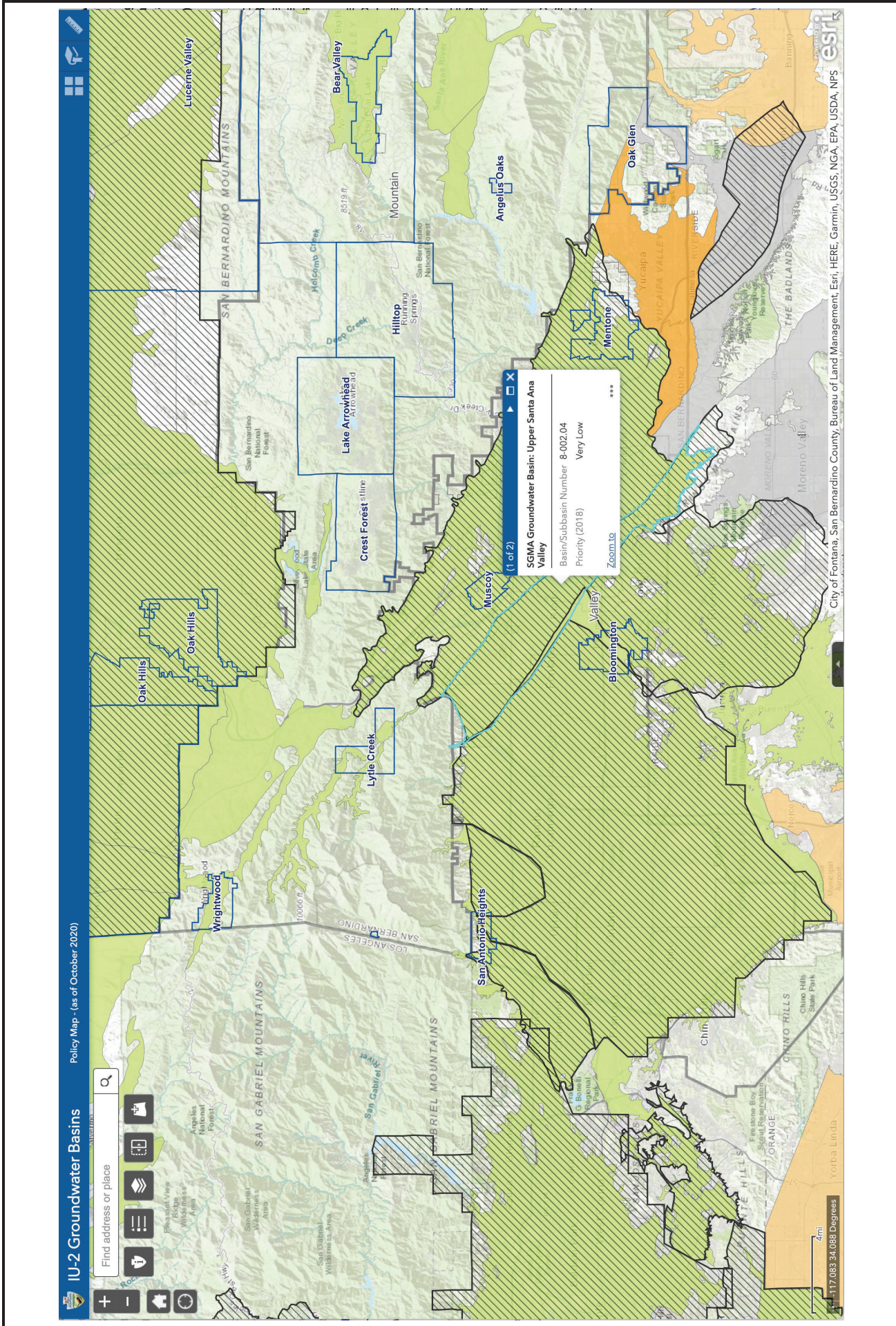


FIGURE X-3

Groundwater Basins

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

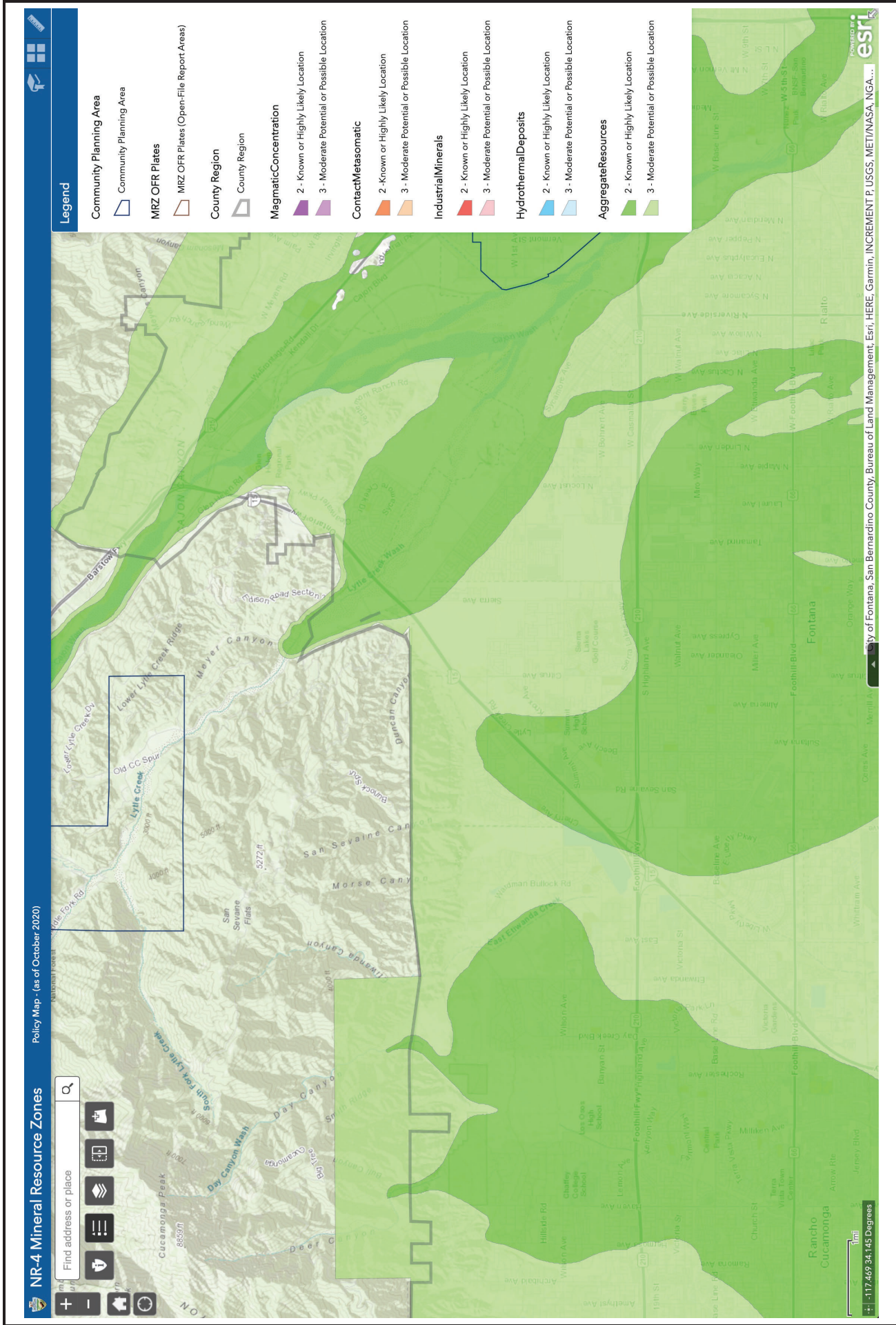


FIGURE XII-1

Mineral Resources

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

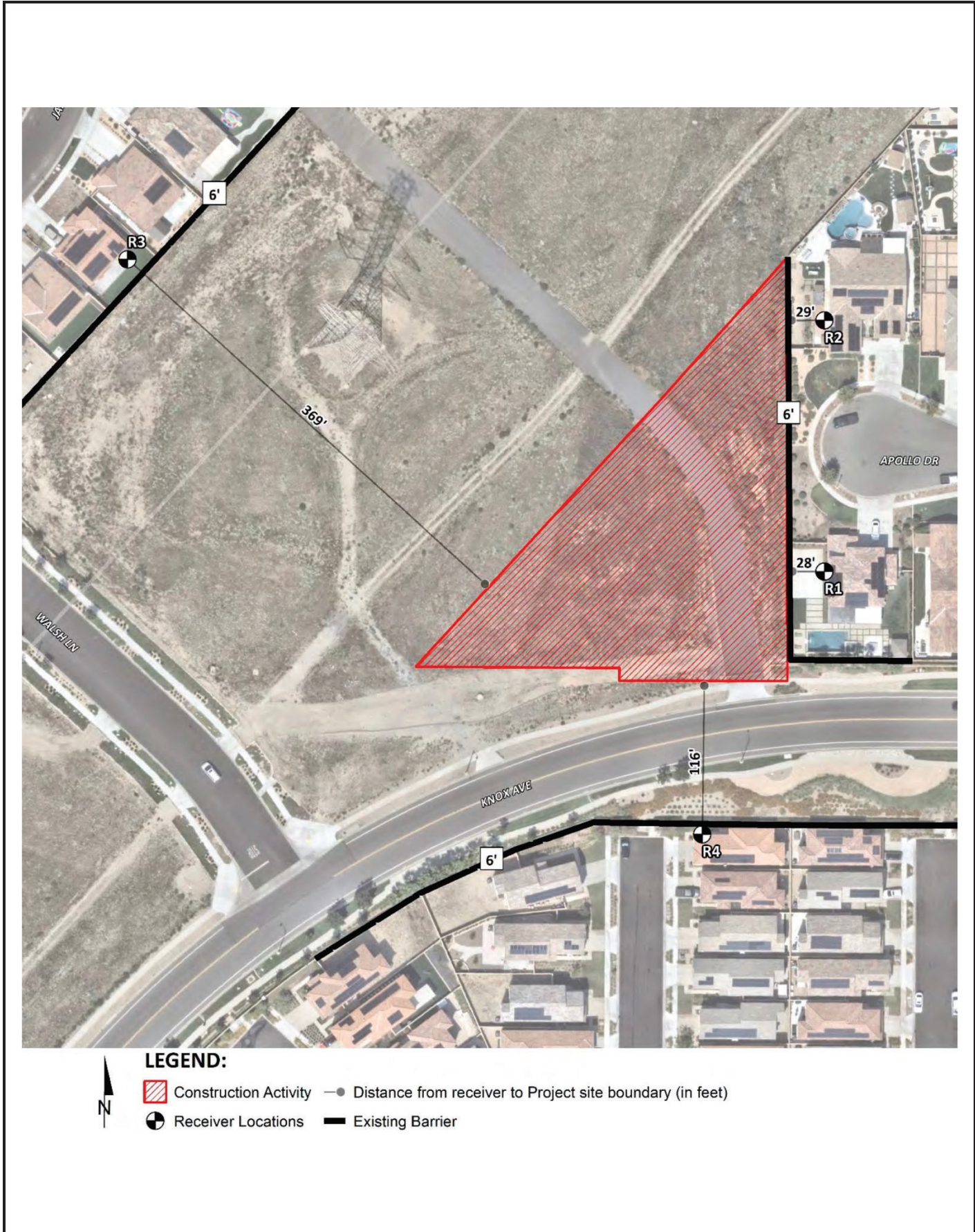


FIGURE XIII-1

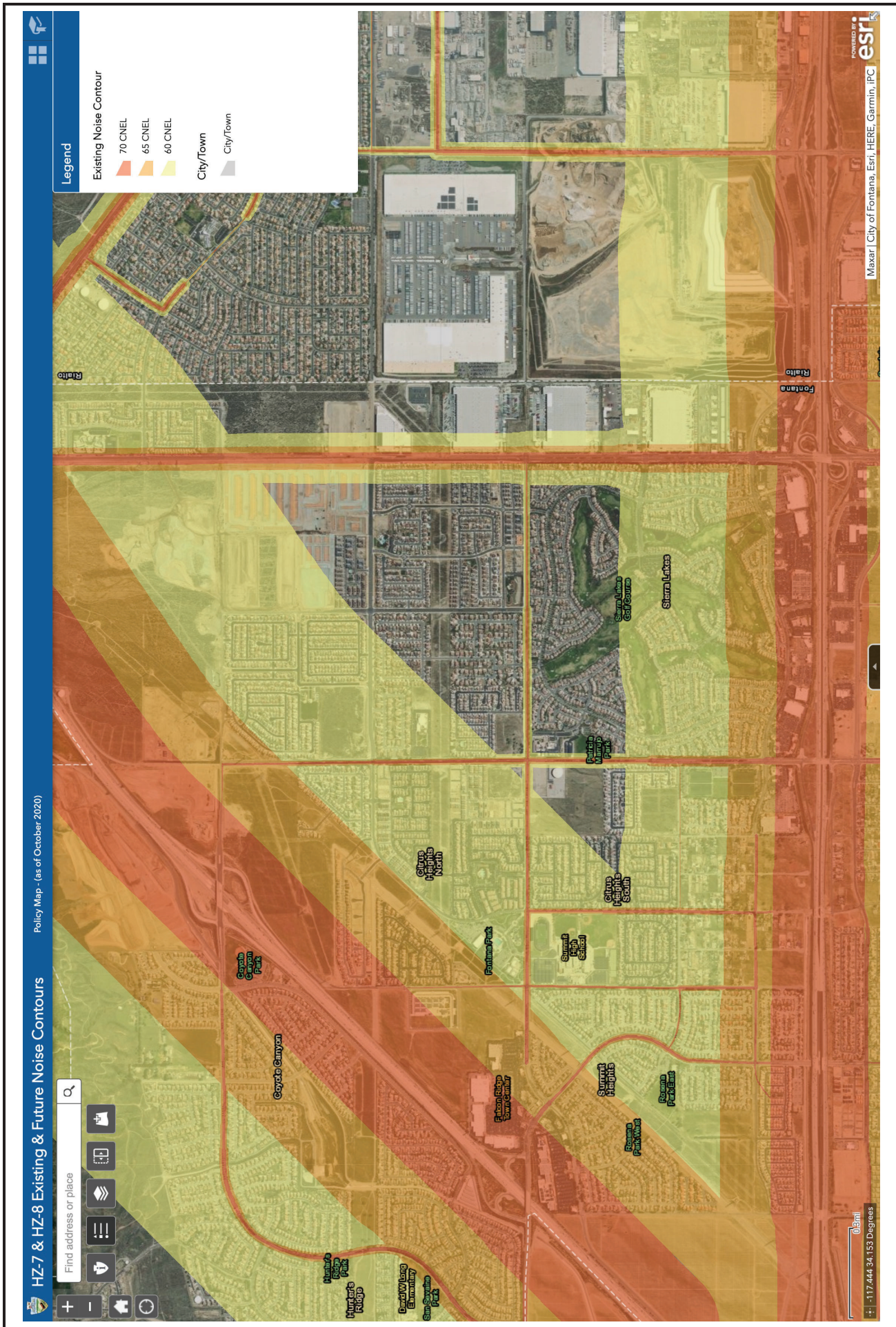


FIGURE XIII-2

Existing Noise Contours

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

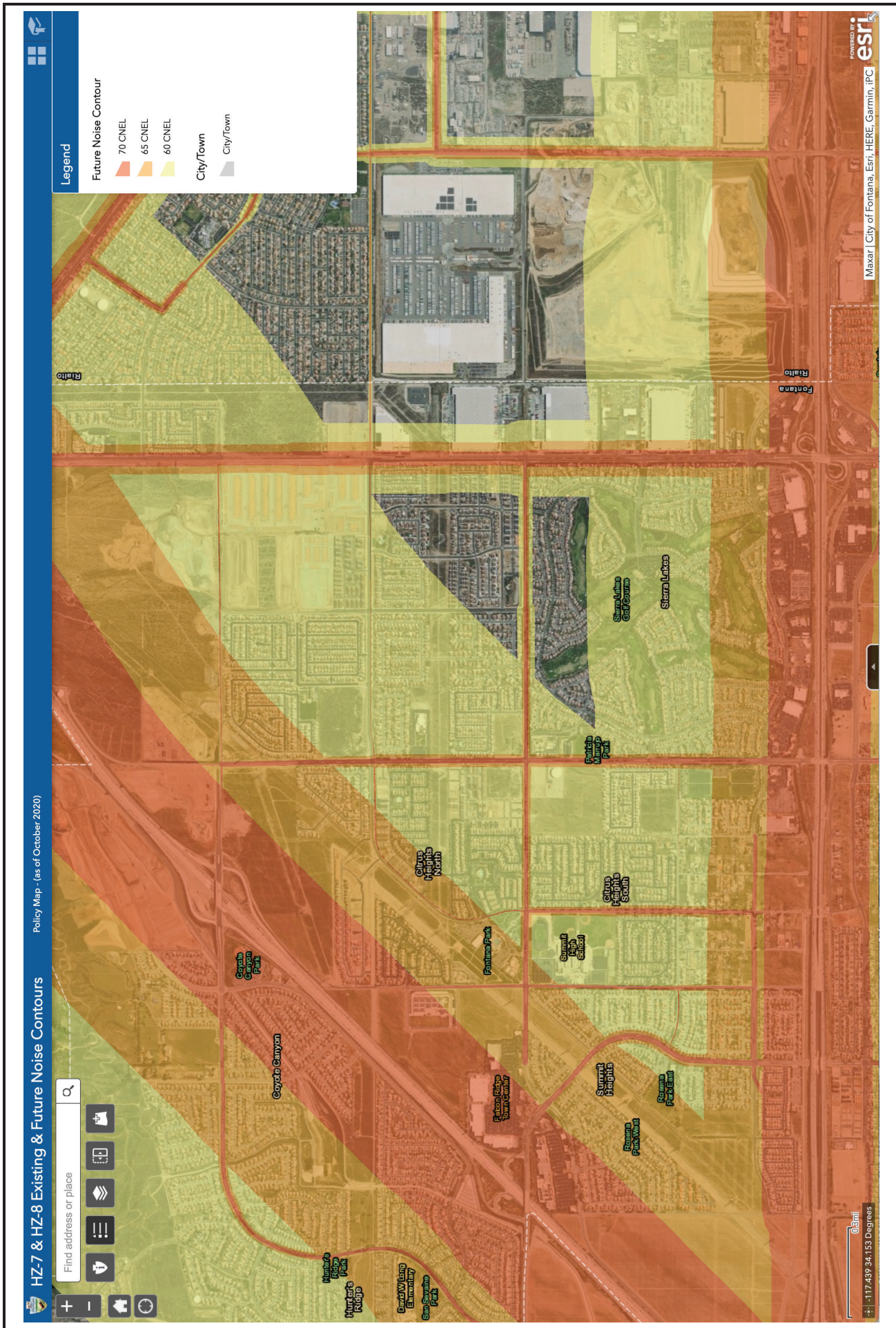


FIGURE XIII-3

Future Noise Contours

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants



LEGEND:

-  Construction Activity
-  Planned Noise Barrier

FIGURE XIII-4

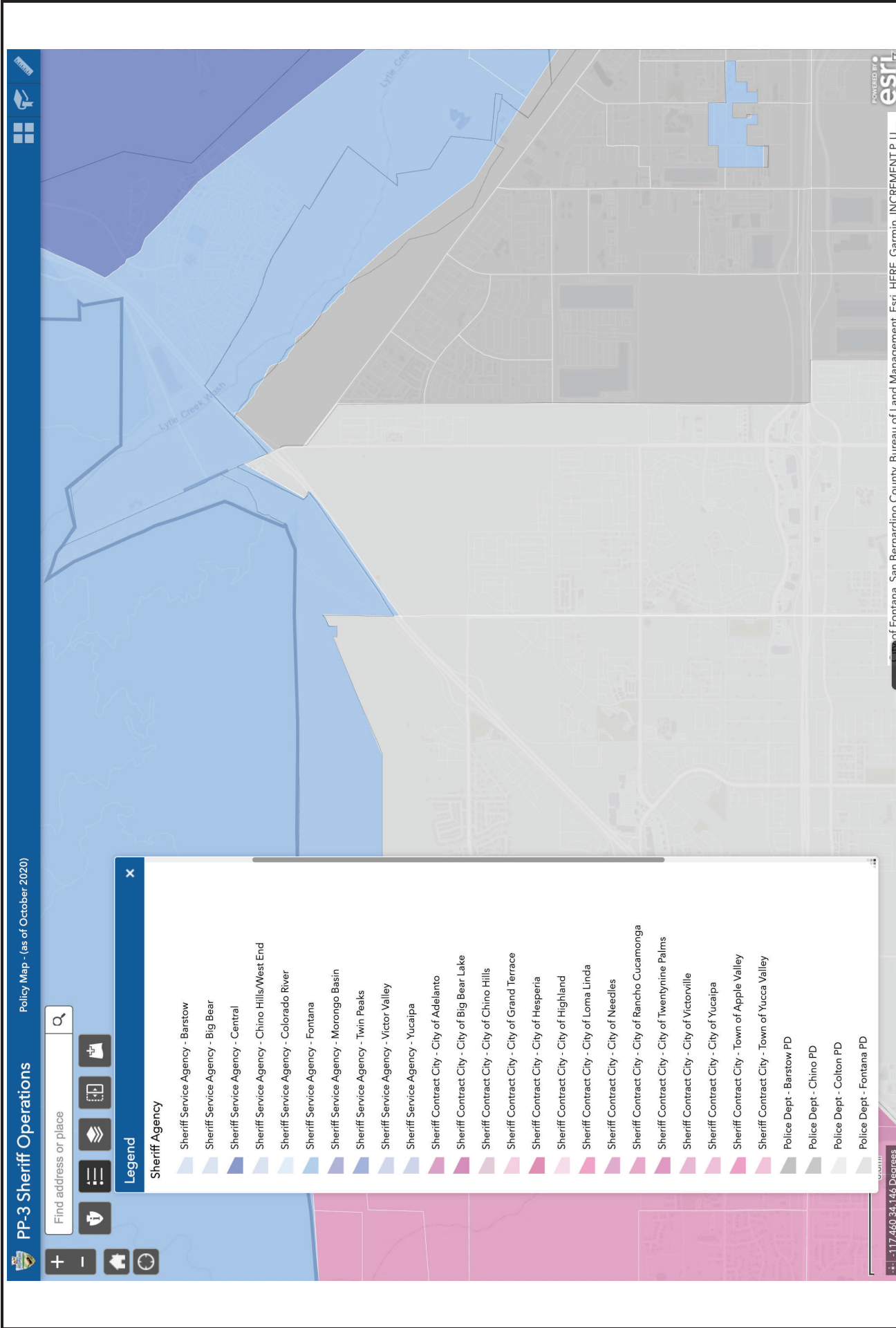


FIGURE XV-1

Sheriff Operations

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

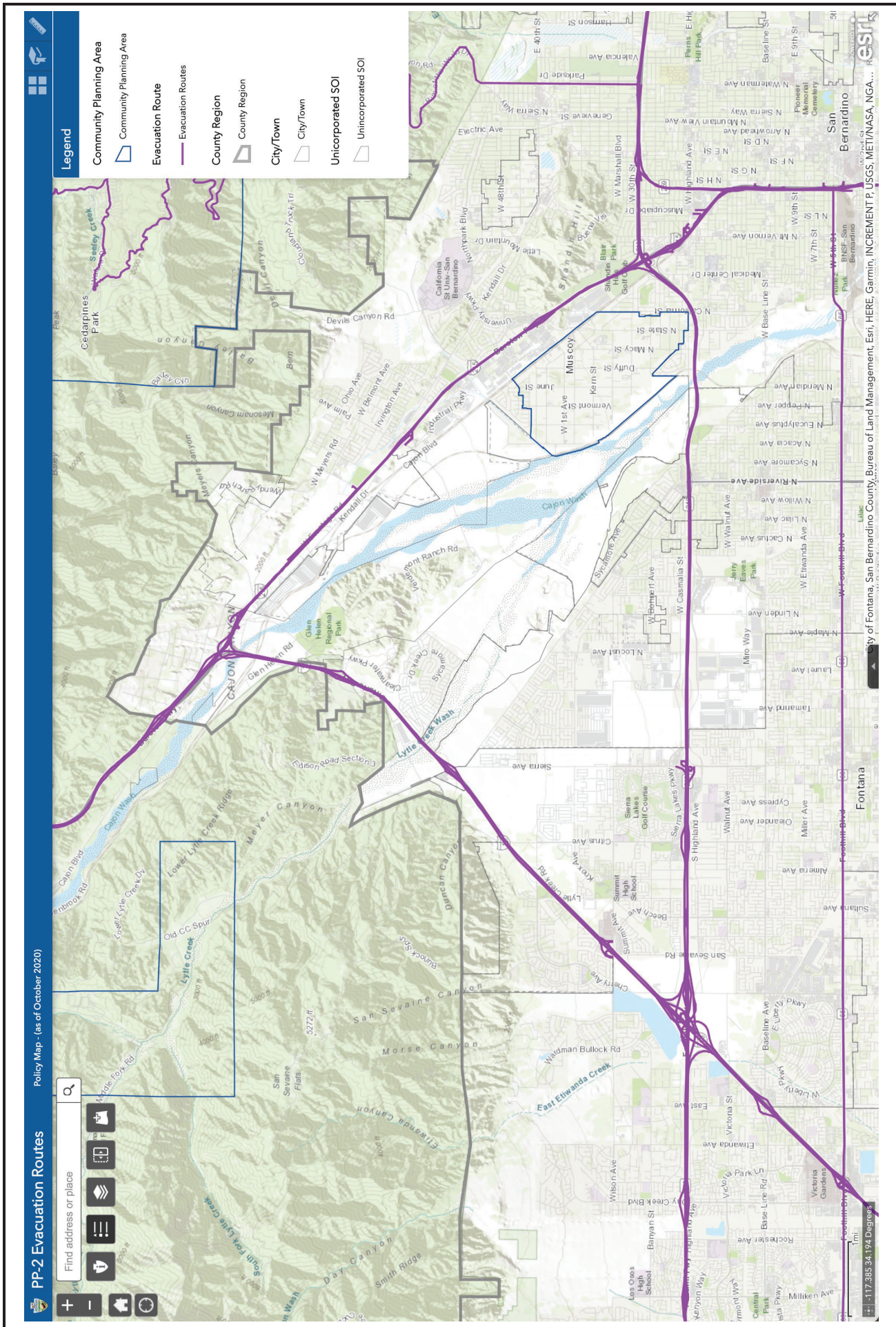


FIGURE XVII-1

Evacuation Routes

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

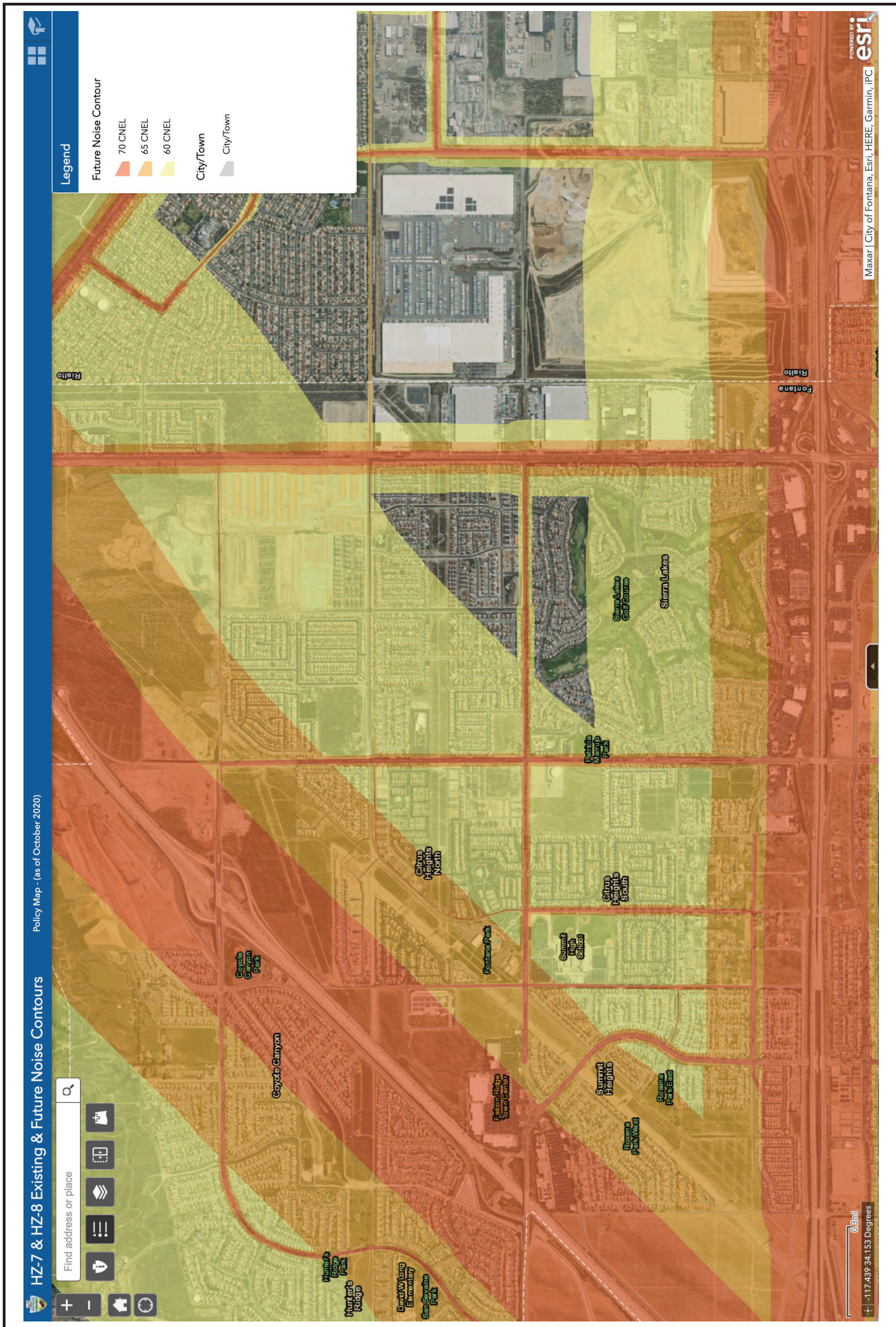


FIGURE XIII-3

Future Noise Contours

Tom Dodson & Associates
Environmental Consultants

EXHIBIT B

Notice of Determination, page 2 of 2

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

This is to certify that the Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study and record of project approval is available to the general public at:

West Valley Water District, 855 W Baseline Rd, Rialto, CA 92376

Signature *Title* *Date*

**WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Lead Agency: West Valley Water District
855 W Baseline Road
Rialto, CA 92376
Contact: Rosa M. Gutierrez
Phone: (909) 875-1322
Email: rgutierrez@wvwd.org

Project Title: West Valley Water District Well No. 57 Project

State Clearinghouse Number: 2024071103

Project Location: The West Valley Water District (WVWD or District) service area is located in southern California within southwestern San Bernardino County with a small part in northern Riverside County. The project will occur within the northern portion of the District. The potential well site is at a site northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Ave, just northeast of the intersection of Knox Avenue and Walsh Lane in the City of Fontana. The project is located within the USGS Topo 7.5-minute map for Devore, CA, and is located in Section 24, Township 1 North and Range 6 West, San Bernardino Meridian. The approximate GPS coordinates of the project site are 34.158017°, -117.458400°.

Project Description: The District seeks to install a new well, which would aid the District in meeting current and future demand, and provide backup for an existing well in the District’s water supply. Well No. 57 is proposed to be located on an approximately 1.6-acre portion of three parcels within the City of Fontana (Assessor’s Parcel Numbers [APNs] 110-752-174, 110-752-176, and 110-752-171) a site northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Ave, just northeast of the intersection of Knox Avenue and Walsh Lane in the City of Fontana. The District owns APNs 110-752-174 and 110-752-176, and are requesting access from the City of Fontana for APN 110-752-171. Additionally, the District is requesting an easement from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) for access to the site, for power to the site, to enable flush to waste drainage pipeline installation, and discharge to the existing catch basin, and a well pipeline connection to the existing 24” waterline.

The site would include the following features: a 12” in diameter pipeline connecting to the District’s distribution system in Knox Avenue; a 6” drain line the purpose for which is to connect to a pump for waste; a 6’ x 9’ chlorination building adjacent to the proposed well for sodium hypochlorite 12.5% storage; and, a 5” conduit, switch gear, and transformer to connect to the existing powerline pole.

Finding: West Valley Water District’s decision to implement this proposed project is a discretionary decision or “project” that requires evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Based on the information in the project Initial Study, the District has made a *preliminary* determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration will be the appropriate environmental determination for this project to comply with CEQA.

Initial Study: Copies of the Initial Study can be reviewed at the District’s office at 855 W Baseline Rd, Rialto, CA 92376. The Initial Study can also be found at the District’s Website: www.wvwd.org. The public review period for the Initial Study began on July 30, 2024 and ended on August 29, 2024.

Mitigation Measures: All mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study are summarized on beginning on Page 88 of the Initial Study and are proposed for adoption as conditions of the project. These measures will be implemented through a mitigation monitoring and reporting program if the Mitigated Negative Declaration is adopted.

Signature *Title* *Date*

EXHIBIT C

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - ____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION ON DISTRICT
PROJECT KNOWN AS THE NEW WELL NO. 57 PROJECT**

WHEREAS, West Valley Water District (“District”) is proposing to install a new well, which would aid the District in meeting current and future demand, and provide backup for an existing well in the District’s water supply. Well No. 57 is proposed to be located on an approximately 1.6-acre portion of three parcels within the City of Fontana (Assessor’s Parcel Numbers [APNs] 110-752-174, 110-752-176, and 110-752-171) a site northwest of the intersection of Vesta Way and Knox Ave, just northeast of the intersection of Knox Avenue and Walsh Lane in the City of Fontana. The District owns APNs 110-752-174 and 110-752-176, and are requesting access from the City of Fontana for APN 110-752-171. Additionally, the District is requesting an easement from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) for access to the site, for power to the site, to enable flush to waste drainage pipeline installation, and discharge to the existing catch basin, and a well pipeline connection to the existing 24” waterline.; and

WHEREAS, the site would include the following features: a 12” in diameter pipeline connecting to the District’s distribution system in Knox Avenue; a 6” drain line the purpose for which is to connect to a pump for waste; a 6’ x 9’ chlorination building adjacent to the proposed well for sodium hypochlorite 12.5% storage; and, a 5” conduit, switch gear, and transformer to connect to the existing powerline pole.; and

WHEREAS, District staff has determined that approval of the Project is subject to the environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and as the lead agency, the District required the preparation of an initial study (the “Initial Study”), which Initial Study has been presented to the Board of Directors of the District (“Board”), to analyze all potential environmental impacts of the Project; and

WHEREAS, on the basis of the Initial Study, which indicated that the Project will not have a significant impact upon the environment, District staff determined that a mitigated negative declaration (“Mitigated Negative Declaration”) should be prepared, which proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been presented to the Board; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was made available to the public and to all interested agencies for review and comment.

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

1. As the decision-making body for the Project, the Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study (collectively, “Documents”). The Board finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration

and Initial Study contain a complete and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the Project. The Board further finds that the Documents have been completed in compliance with CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines, and all other applicable rules and regulations.

2. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study prepared for the Project reflect the independent judgment of the District.
3. As the decision-making body for the Project, the Board reviewed and independently considered the information contained in the Documents prior to approving the Project.
4. The Board has also reviewed and independently considered the proposed Mitigation Monitoring Program, which has been presented to the Board to implement the recommended mitigation measures.
5. The Project will not result in a significant impact upon the environment.
6. The Board hereby adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program for the Project. The Board directs staff to sign the Notice of Determination and Mitigated Negative Declaration and file the Notice of Determination with the County of San Bernardino within five (5) working days of the Project approval.
7. The custodian of records for the Project is the West Valley Water District, General Manager who is located at 855 West Baseline, Rialto, California, 92376.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Gregory Young
Board President

ATTEST:

Elvia Dominguez,
Board Secretary



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: October 17, 2024
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Thiel, General Manager
SUBJECT: NITRATES STUDY

BACKGROUND:

The District produces water from five groundwater basins – Rialto-Colton, Lytle Creek, Bunker Hill, North Riverside, and Chino. The Chino Basin, which underlies our southern service area, is high in nitrates which has impacted production at District wells. Some wells have been shut down while others are part of a blending system – blending high nitrate water with lower nitrate water which will then meet the federal standard of 10ppm (parts per million or mg/L).

The District has been able to produce water in other areas which has minimized the impact of nitrates on District production capacity. While this has resulted in the District not pumping and using its allocated water rights in the Chino Basin, the District can and does sell this water to other entities such as Niagara Water Bottling Company for which a transaction was completed earlier this year.

Nonetheless, nitrate contamination persists at various levels in the District’s service area and is more pronounced in other regional areas and in the Santa Ana River Watershed as shown on the attached Regional Nitrates Map. Historically, the nitrate contamination has largely been caused by excess fertilization, dairy farms, and other agriculture activity in the region.

Some agencies are treating the nitrates, which is expensive, while others are forgoing treatment and turning to other water sources including other groundwaters, state water project water, and Colorado River water. This leaves a large amount of local water, high in nitrates, left largely untapped. Staff is currently seeking to quantify this volume of impacted water.

DISCUSSION:

As a proactive regional leader and partner, the District has been raising awareness of the nitrate contamination issue locally, regionally, and at the federal level including the recent trip to DC. We were an early supporter of Congresswoman Torres’s bill to address Nitrate and Arsenic contamination and are continuing to collaborate with her team. Much of our recent ASBCSD event focused on the nitrates issue.

As you may recall, WSC produced the current Regional Nitrates Map (attached). WSC is the

consultant working with SAWPA on groundwater modelling and engineering studies and we were able to leverage an existing groundwater model to build this map. While this map shows nitrate concentrations at various levels, it does not quantify the amount of water impacted by nitrates. Knowing the amount of water impacted is important to convey the magnitude of the problem and also the magnitude of the opportunity to gain partners and obtain funding for regional nitrate treatment and/or research to improve treatment technologies.

In that light, we have asked WSC to provide a proposal to expand on the model and quantify the volume of water impacted at various concentrations – 10 and 5ppm. While the current standard is 10ppm, there is some discussion on reducing this to 5ppm, or even lower. As you can see on the map, a reduction from 10 to 5 would have a substantial additional impact on the District and our regional partners.

The attached WSC proposal includes two options ranging from \$24k to \$28k depending on the geographical extent of the study. The first option includes the areas outlined in green and blue on the map included in the proposal, while the second option includes the areas outlined in green, blue, and red.

This potential work was discussed at the Engineering Operations and Planning Committee. The committee suggested that we reach out to other agencies in search of funding partners to complete this work and we are in the process of doing that. This may take some time to materialize, however, and given the schedule provided by WSC, the work must begin early in November in order to have the study with the more detailed information in hand when we visit Sacramento in late January and DC in late February.

Therefore, while the cost of this study is within the GM's purchasing authority, we want to make sure the Board is in support of this additional effort and that we pursue it in the manner and schedule desired.

Strategic Plan Alignment: This work aligns with the established Core Values – Innovation; Regional Partner; and Sustainability. This work aligns with Strategic Goals including – Manage and Deliver a Safe, Reliable, and Sustainable Water Supply; Strengthen Partnerships with Outside Agencies; and Health, Safety, and Regulatory Compliance.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not to Exceed \$28,000

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is requesting that the Board discuss this item and provide direction to staff.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. WSC Nitrate Characterization Proposal
2. Map



Proposal for Nitrate Characterization

September 9, 2024

West Valley Water District

Linda Jadeski
Assistant General Manager
855 W. Baseline
Rialto, CA 92377

Laguna Hills

25201 Paseo De Alicia, Suite
290
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
P: 949.528.0960

Michael Cruikshank

P: 714.721.7298
E: mcruikshank@wsc-inc.com

Dear Ms. Jadeski,

Water Systems Consulting, Inc. (WSC) is pleased to submit this scope of work and fee estimate to the West Valley Water District (WVWD) for assessing nitrate levels in the vicinity of WVWD's service area and other groundwater basins within the Santa Ana River Watershed. WSC understands that WVWD seeks to quantify the volume of water impacted by nitrate concentrations exceeding 5 mg/L and 10 mg/L to improve understanding of nitrate contamination and provide essential data for future funding advocacy related to nitrate treatment systems at well sites.

WSC will leverage data from the Basin Monitoring Program Task Force (BMPTF) as documented in the "Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality in the Santa Ana River Watershed" (WSC, 2020). The Ambient Water Quality process is well documented and uses nitrate data collected from well owners across the watershed, along with volume-weighted averages for nitrate and TDS in each Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) within the Santa Ana Watershed.

The findings will be documented in a concise technical memorandum (TM), including tables and figures that detail the methodology and results. Per your request, we have broken up the analysis into two categories, Upper Santa Ana Watershed and the entire Santa Ana Watershed as shown in the scope of work. If WVWD wishes to evaluate the entire Watershed, WSC will summarize the results by Upper Santa Ana River Watershed and the entire Santa Ana River Watershed in one TM and Task 1 will be removed from the scope of work. Regardless of the extent of the analysis, WSC will develop a 1 to 2 page graphical summary that can be used to communicate the results of analysis, effects of nitrate contamination on human health, and nitrate treatment options intended for the public/elected officials.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact WSC's project manager, Michael Cruikshank (714) 721- 7298 (mcruikshank@wsc-inc.com).

Sincerely,

Water Systems Consulting, Inc.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Cruikshank".

**Michael Cruikshank, P.G., C.Hg.
Project Manager**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laine Carlson".

**Laine Carlson, P.E.
Principal in Charge**

Scope of Work

For this project, the scope of work has been developed to offer two options: an analysis of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed or the entire Santa Ana River Watershed, which will include a summary of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed. If WVWD opts for the full Santa Ana River Watershed analysis, Task 1 will not be executed. Conversely, if WVWD choose to proceed with only the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed analysis, Task 2 will not be executed. The estimated fees for both options are detailed in the fee section of this proposal.

Task 0 Project Management

0.1 Project Administration

- Provide project administration, including preparation of monthly invoices with progress reports and updating the project schedule.

Deliverables: Monthly invoices with progress reports.

Assumptions: Project duration is 3 months.

Task 1 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed (USARW) Nitrate Analysis

This section details our proposed scope of work to quantify and document the nitrate contamination in the Upper Santa Ana Watershed Groundwater Management Zones

1.1 Perform analysis to characterize volume of groundwater impacted by Nitrates >5 mg/L and 10 mg/L in the USARW

- Summarize the nitrate data by Groundwater Management Zone and the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed in tables and figures:

Assumptions:

- (1) WSC will utilize the data derived from the "Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality in the Santa Ana River Watershed" (WSC, 2020)

Deliverables: WSC will prepare a concise technical memorandum to present the findings of the USARW Nitrate Analysis

Task 2 Santa Ana River Watershed (SARW) Nitrate Analysis

2.1 Perform analysis to characterize volume of groundwater impacted by Nitrates >5 mg/L and 10 mg/L in the SARW

- Summarize the nitrate data by Groundwater Management Zone and the Santa Ana River Watershed in tables and figures:

Assumptions:

- (1) WSC will utilize the data derived from the "Recomputation of Ambient Water Quality in the Santa Ana River Watershed" (WSC, 2020)
- (2) If WVWD chooses to characterize the entire Santa Ana River Watershed, Task 2 will replace Task 1 and the data will be summarized by GMZ, Upper Santa Ana River Watershed and the entire Santa Ana River Watershed.

Deliverables: WSC will prepare a concise technical memorandum to present the findings of the SARW Nitrate Analysis

Task 3 Graphical Leave Behind on Nitrate Contamination in the Santa Ana River Watershed

Develop one graphical leave-behind handout to support legislative outreach and / or community engagement.

3.1 Collateral Development

- Work with the client to determine the best format, e.g. brochure, one-pager, and priority audience(s).
- Design custom graphics and write content based on TM.
- Coordinate with local printer to have final handouts printed.

Assumptions: Costs do not include printing.

Deliverables: WSC will develop one designed document based on client input and TM findings.

Project Schedule

Upon receipt of WVWD’s authorization to proceed, WSC anticipates the following project schedule:

- One month Task 1 and Task 2, analysis and TM
- Following the completion of the analysis, WSC’s Communication team will develop a draft leave behind in one month

Task	Deliverable	Timeline	Prelim Date	Assumptions
1 and 2	Technical Memorandum	1 month	11/1/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start date of 10/1/2024
3	DRAFT Graphical Deliverable	1 month	12/1/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start after the completion of Task 1 and 2
3	Final Deliverable	1 month	1/15/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumes two-week review by WVWD

Fee Estimate

Our scope of work will be provided on a time-and-materials basis, as outlined in the attached fee estimate and summarized below. The estimated cost to conduct the nitrate characterization for the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed is \$23,563. For the entire Santa Ana River Watershed, including a summary of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed, the estimated cost is \$27,745.

Fee Estimate for the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed

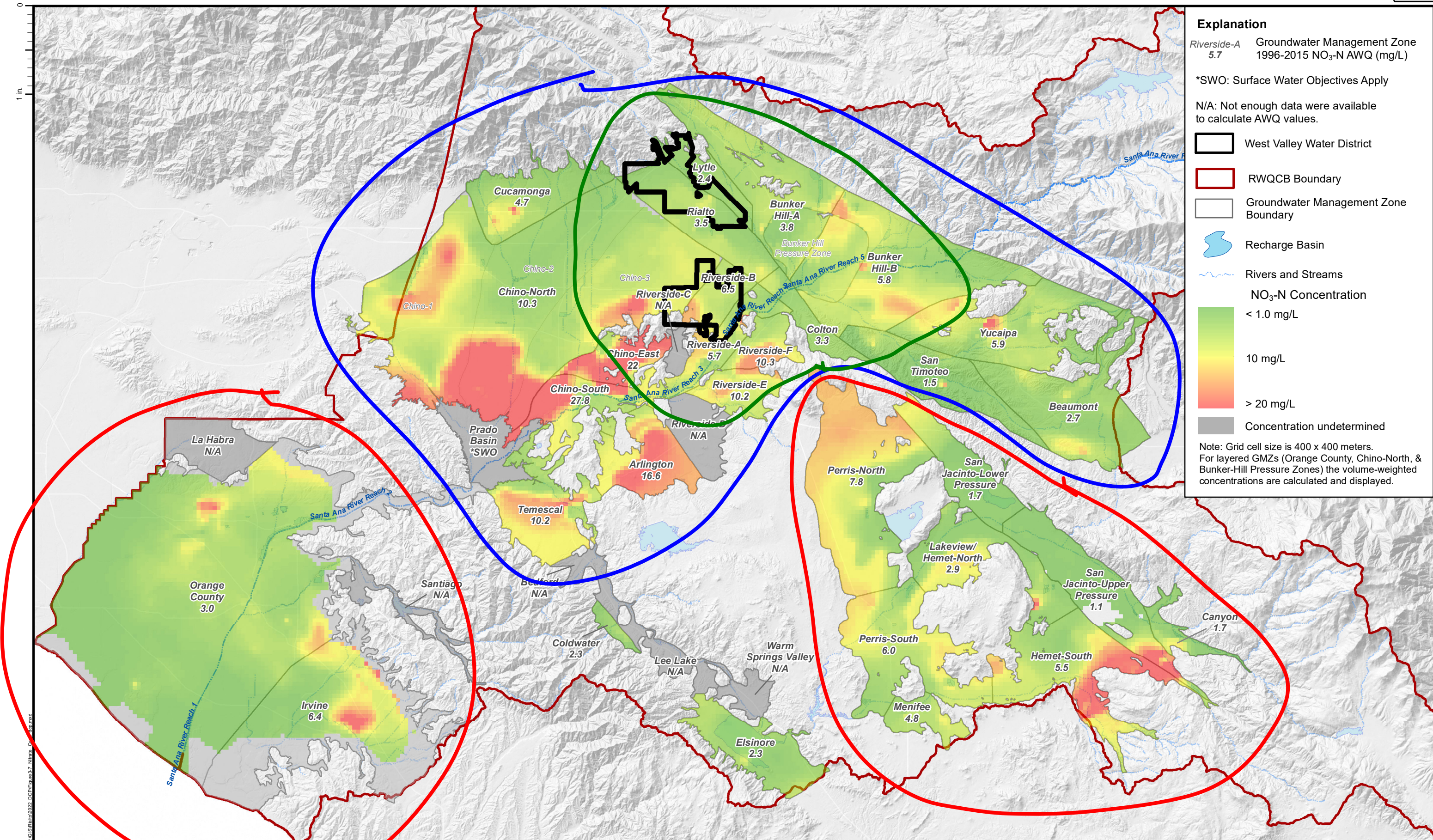
Task	Fee
0 Project Management	\$2,476
1 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Nitrate Analysis	\$11,150
3 Graphical Leave Behind on Nitrate Conamination in the Santa Ana River Watershed	\$9,937
Total	\$23,563

Fee Estimate for the Entire Santa Ana River Watershed

Task	Fee
0 Project Management	\$2,476
2 Santa Ana River Watershed Nitrate Analysis	\$15,332
3 Graphical Leave Behind on Nitrate Conamination in the Santa Ana River Watershed	\$9,937
Total	\$27,745

Task No.	Task Description	WSC										ALL FIRMS
		Project Manger	QA/QC	Communications	Graphics	Administration	GIS Analysis	WSC Labor Hours	WSC Labor Fee	Expenses	WSC Fee	Total Fee
		Michael Cruikshank	Laine Carlson	Amy Stevens	Nina Thoming	Kay Merrill	Cassandra Springer					
	<i>Billing rates, \$/hr</i>	\$352	\$352	\$247	\$221	\$179	\$173					
0	Project Mangement											
0.1	Project Administration	4	1			4		9	\$ 2,476	\$ -	\$ 2,476	\$ 2,476
	SUBTOTAL	4	1	0	0	4	0	9	\$ 2,476	\$ -	\$ 2,476	\$ 2,476
1	Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Nitrate Analysis											
1.1	Perform analysis to characterize volume of groundwater impacted by Nitrates >5 mg/L and 10 mg/L in the USARW	4					8	12	\$ 2,792	\$ -	\$ 2,792	\$ 2,792
1.2	Prepare TM including summary tables and maps for the USARW	8	1				30	39	\$ 8,358	\$ -	\$ 8,358	\$ 8,358
	SUBTOTAL	12	1	0	0	0	38	51	\$ 11,150	\$ -	\$ 11,150	\$ 11,150
2	Santa Ana Watershed Nitrate Analysis											
2.1	Perform analysis to characterize volume of groundwater impacted by Nitrates >5 mg/L and 10 mg/L entire SARW	6					12	18	\$ 4,188	\$ -	\$ 4,188	\$ 4,188
2.2	Prepare TM including summary tables and maps for entire SARW	10	2				40	52	\$ 11,144	\$ -	\$ 11,144	\$ 11,144
	SUBTOTAL	16	2	0	0	0	52	70	\$ 15,332	\$ -	\$ 15,332	\$ 15,332
3	Task 3 Graphical Leave Behind on Nitrate Contamination in the Santa Ana River Watershed											
3.1	Collateral Development	4	1	13	20		2	40	\$ 9,737	\$ 200	\$ 9,937	\$ 9,937
	SUBTOTAL	4	1	13	20	0	2	40	\$ 9,737	\$ 200	\$ 9,937	\$ 9,937
	COLUMN TOTALS	36	5	13	20	4	92	170	\$ 38,695	\$ 200	\$ 38,895	\$ 38,895

10% mark-up on direct expenses; 15% mark-up for sub-contracted services
 Standard mileage rate \$0.625 per mile (or current Federal Mileage Reimbursement Rate)
 Rates are subject to revision as of January 1 each year.



Explanation

Riverside-A 5.7 Groundwater Management Zone 1996-2015 NO₃-N AWQ (mg/L)

*SWO: Surface Water Objectives Apply

N/A: Not enough data were available to calculate AWQ values.

West Valley Water District

RWQCB Boundary

Groundwater Management Zone Boundary

Recharge Basin

Rivers and Streams

NO₃-N Concentration

< 1.0 mg/L

10 mg/L

> 20 mg/L

Concentration undetermined

Note: Grid cell size is 400 x 400 meters. For layered GMZs (Orange County, Chino-North, & Bunker-Hill Pressure Zones) the volume-weighted concentrations are calculated and displayed.