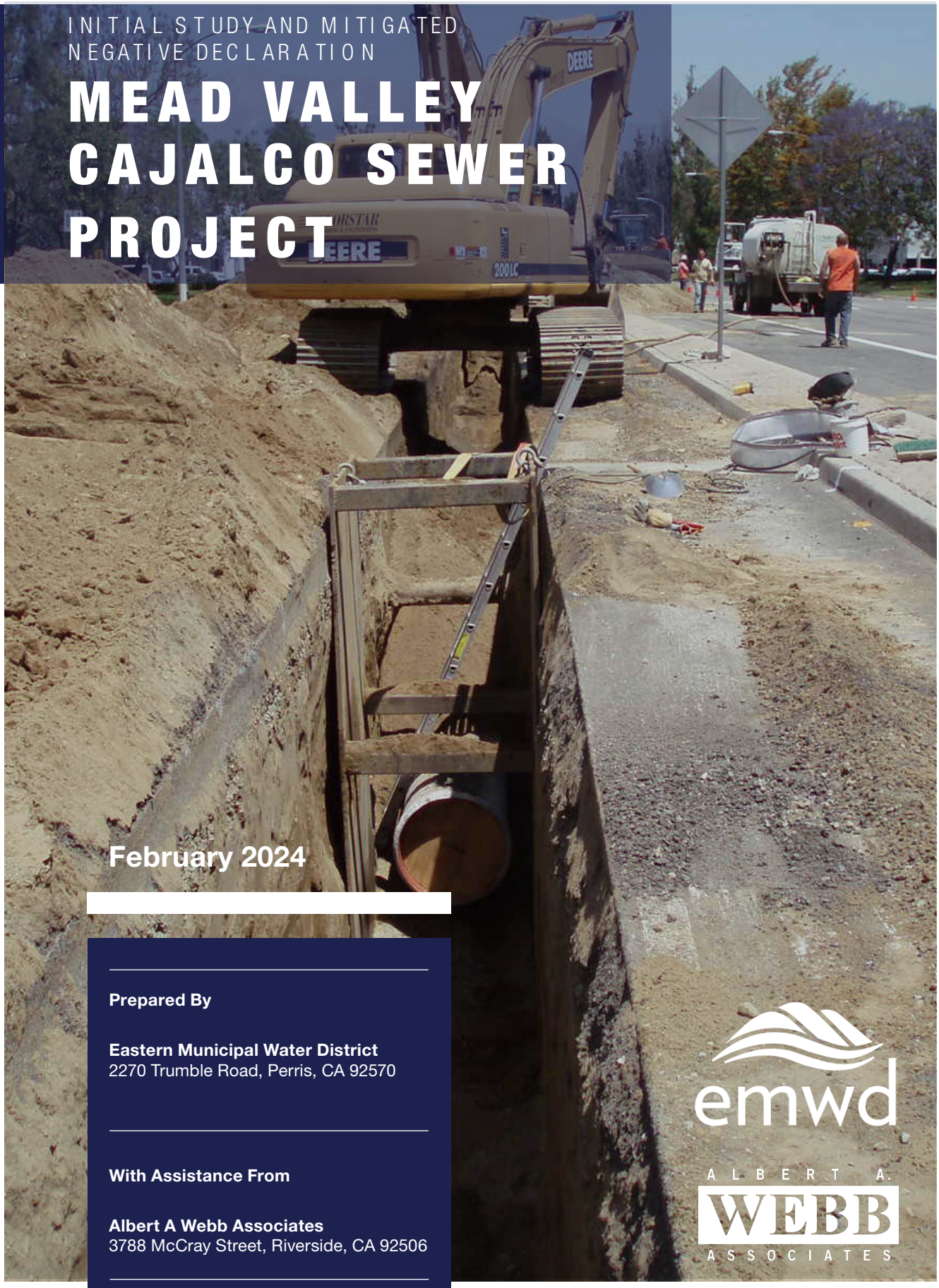
INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

MEAD VALLEY CAJALCO SEWER PROJECT



February 2024

Prepared By

Eastern Municipal Water District
2270 Trumble Road, Perris, CA 92570

With Assistance From

Albert A Webb Associates
3788 McCray Street, Riverside, CA 92506

emwd

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

Prepared by:

Eastern Municipal Water District
2270 Trumble Road

With Assistance From:

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

3788 McCray Street
Riverside, CA 92506

February 2024

Table of Contents

Figures

Tables

APPENDICES

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
Basin Plan	Santa Ana Basin Water Quality Control Plan
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDOC	California Department of Conservation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CH_4	methane
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
dB	decibel
dBA	a-weighted decibel
DNL or L_{dn}	day-night average sound level
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EO	Executive Order
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EIC	Eastern Information Center
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EMWD	Eastern Municipal Water District
US EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency

Acronym	Definition
FHWA	U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration
FTA	U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration
FRAP	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assessment Program
GHG	greenhouse gas
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
GWP	global warming potential
H_2S	hydrogen sulfide
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IBC	International Building Code
IS	Initial Study
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
kHz	kilohertz
Pb	lead
L_{eq}	equivalent sound level
L_{10}	ten-percentile exceeded sound level
LHMP	Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
LST	localized significance thresholds
ND	Negative Declaration
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NO_X	Nitrogen oxides
MARB	March Air Reserve Base
mgd	million gallons per day
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
MT	metric tons
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Acronym	Definition
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NHMLA	Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O_3	ozone
O&M	operations and maintenance
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
OPR	Governor's Office of Planning and Research
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter with diameters that are generally <2.5 micrometers
PM_{10}	particulate matter with diameters that are generally <10 micrometers
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
RCFCWCD	Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
rms	root mean square
RTA	Riverside Transit Agency
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
RWRF	regional water reclamation facility
SB	Senate Bill
Basin	South Coast Air Basin
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SRA	Source Receptor Area
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TACs	Toxic air contaminants
TMDL	total maximum daily load
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Acronym	Definition
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VdB	vibration decibels
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VHFHSZ	very high fire hazard severity zone
VOC	volatile organic compound
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
WRCOG	Western Riverside Council of Governments

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Document

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) has prepared this Initial Study (IS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts related to implementation of the Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project (the "proposed Project" or "Project"), which consists of construction of a sewer pipeline and the removal of an existing lift station.

EMWD is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Project. CEQA requires that the lead agency prepare an IS to determine whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Negative Declaration (ND), or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is needed. EMWD has prepared this IS to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with the Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project, and to disclose to the public and decision makers the potential environmental effects of the proposed Project. Based on the analysis presented herein, an MND is the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the proposed Project.

1.2 Scope of this Document

This IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA (as amended) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et. seq.), as updated on December 28, 2018. CEQA Guidelines Section 15063 describes the requirements for an IS and Sections 15070–15075 describe the process for the preparation of an MND. Where appropriate, this document refers to either the CEQA Statute or State CEQA Guidelines (as amended in December 2018). This IS/MND contains all of the contents required by CEQA, which includes a project description, a description of the environmental setting, potential environmental impacts, mitigation measures for any significant effects, consistency with plans and policies, and names of preparers.

This IS/MND evaluates the potential for environmental impacts to resource areas identified in Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines (as amended in December 2018). The environmental resource areas analyzed in this document include:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

1.3 CEQA Process

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, this Draft IS/MND will be circulated for a 30-day public review period February 16, 2024 – March 18, 2024 to local and state agencies, and to interested organizations and individuals who may wish to review and comment on the report. EMWD will circulate the Draft IS/MND to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to State agencies. In addition, EMWD will circulate a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration to the Riverside County Clerk, responsible agencies, and interested entities. A copy of the Draft IS/MND is available for review at: https://www.emwd.org/public-notices.

Written comments can be submitted to EMWD by 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2024 and addressed to:

Joseph Broadhead, Principal Water Resources Specialist – CEQA/NEPA
Eastern Municipal Water District
2270 Trumble Road
P.O. Box 8300
Perris, CA 92572-8300
broadhej@emwd.org

Following the 30-day public review period, EMWD will evaluate all comments received on the Draft IS/MND and incorporate any substantial evidence that the proposed project could have an impact on the environment into the Final IS/MND and prepare a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

The IS/MND and MMRP will be considered for adoption by the EMWD Board of Directors in compliance with CEQA at a future publicly noticed hearing, which are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at EMWD's headquarters.

1.4 Impact Terminology

The level of significance for each resource area uses CEQA terminology as specified below:

No Impact. No adverse environmental consequences have been identified for the resource or the consequences are negligible or undetectable.

Less than Significant Impact. Potential adverse environmental consequences have been identified. However, they are not adverse enough to meet the significance threshold criteria for that resource. No mitigation measures are required.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant but can be reduced to less than significant levels through the application of identified mitigation strategies that have not already been incorporated into the proposed project.

Potentially Significant. Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant according to the threshold criteria identified for the resource, even after mitigation strategies are applied and/or an adverse effect that could be significant and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR must be prepared to meet the requirements of CEQA.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Overview

The Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project ("Project" or "proposed Project"), partially funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in partnership with the County of Riverside (County), involves the construction of approximately 12,600 linear feet of 8-inch to 15-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or vitrified clay pipe (VCP) gravity trunk sewer pipeline (including 4-to-5-foot manholes), and removal of the existing Clark Street Sewer Lift Station. The Project is located within the Mead Valley community located west of the City of Perris within the unincorporated area of Riverside County. (see **Figure 1 – Regional Location Map)** . Please refer to *Section 2.5 Proposed Project Description* for a detailed description of the Project components.

2.2 Project Purpose

The overall goal of the Project is to install a trunk sewer in Mead Valley, as described below in *Section 2.3 Project Location,* and redirect existing flow to the proposed trunk sewer in order to decommission the Clark Street Lift Station.

2.3 Project Location

The proposed Project is in the unincorporated Mead Valley area of Riverside County, located west of the City of Perris. (See **Figure 1** – Regional Location Map) The Project would be constructed entirely within Cajalco Road from Carpinus Drive to Day Street. (See **Figure 2 – Project**) The Project site is located entirely within Sections 8, 9, and 10 of Township 4 South, Range 4 West on the United States Geological Survey Steele Peak, California 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Map.

2.4 Environmental Setting

Refer to Section 3 *Environmental Checklist Form* for a discussion of the environmental setting applicable to each of the environmental factors evaluated.

2.4.1 Existing Site Conditions

The Project site, as shown in **Figure 4 – Existing Conditions**, is located on Cajalco Road which is a heavily traveled arterial road which connects I-15 and I-215. The Project site extends from Carpinus Drive to Day Street. Between Clark Street and Day Street, there is an existing 6-inch force main line that connects to an 18-inch sewer line. (DPR, p. 1.) Cajalco Road is a two-lane arterial road for the entire extent of the Project site with turn lanes at every intersection. Cajalco Road is bordered by residential, commercial, and undeveloped lots. The speed limit is 45 mph. There are no paved sidewalks along the roadway but there are bike lanes on each side of the road. The Project site crosses existing Cajalco Creek culverts (Arizona crossings) at Cajalco Road at Barton Street and Brown Street. The area near the western portion of the Project site contains willows that have been disturbed by past fires and clearing activities, (WEBB-B 2023, p. 21.)

Staging Area 1, which includes the Clark Street Lift Station, is located at the southwest corner of Cajalco Road and Clark Street. The lift station is enclosed by a chain link fence and contains paved and unpaved surfaces, an electrical panel, emergency generator, various sewer pumps, one wet well approximately 20-feet deep and 8-feet in diameter, and two submersible pumps. Influent flow is routed into the wet well from Clark Street via an 8-inch PVC sewer line. Effluent flow is routed north to Cajalco Road and is pumped east to a discharge manhole at Cajalco Road and Day Street.

Staging Area 2, located at the southeast corner of Elmwood Street and Carroll Street, is a fenced undeveloped parcel that is disturbed and contains mostly unpaved surfaces and portions of Staging Area 2 is used for storage and parking.

Staging Area 3, located at 22391 Cajalco Road, is a fenced EMWD-owned property that contains a 1.25 million-gallon (MG) water storage tank and associated appurtenances with paved and unpaved surfaces.

2.5 Proposed Project Description

The Project would construct approximately 12,600 linear feet of 8-inch to 15-inch diameter of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or vitrified clay pipe (VCP) gravity trunk sewer and associated appurtenances along Cajalco Road in unincorporated Mead Valley. The Project would also remove the existing EMWD Clark Street Lift Station, and redirect EMWDs existing sewer flows to Western Municipal Water District's (WMWD's) existing 15-inch sewer line near the Cajalco Road and Carpinus Street intersection. Details are provided in the following subsections.

2.5.1 Flow Swap

The District and Western discussed the redirected flows and Western's facility capacities on December 12, 2023 and January 9, 2024. Western concluded that capacity exists at their Markham Lift Station and Treatment Plant to manage the District's existing flows. Buildout flows are not anticipated within the defined "near-term" through 2030. As such, Western will incorporate those future flows as part of Western's system-wide masterplan and CIP improvement priorities. The masterplan will establish a prioritization list of future system infrastructure expansion projects as determined by Western to adequately address capacity needs from buildout flows.

2.5.2 Sewer line and Associated Appurtenances Construction

The Project entails the construction of approximate 12,600 linear feet of 8-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sewer pipeline to 15-inch diameter vitrified clay pipe (VCP) sewer pipeline within Cajalco Road from Day Street to Carpinus Street. The majority of the Project site would require trenching, except at Cajalco Creek, where trenchless construction is anticipated. The depth of proposed pipelines would not exceed 20 feet in depth.

The Project also entails the construction of 12-inch to 15-inch precast polymer concrete manholes every 500 feet. The manholes would be installed at changes in alignment, and

at intersections to capture potential future inflow. Sections of ballast would be installed to provide stability and keep the pipeline from moving in areas where shallow groundwater occurs. A dead end manhole to remove receiving flows east of Day Street is proposed near the intersection of Cajalco Road and Day Street. A portion of the proposed sewer line in Cajalco Road, west of Day Street, which would be approximately 400-feet long, would not contain enough flows to self-clean because the dead end manhole is just upstream. This portion of the sewer line would be regularly maintained, at least twice a year, to meet EMWDs self-cleaning velocities. The existing 6-inch force main line between Day Street and Clark Street would no longer be used and would be left in place, that is, this segment of pipeline would not be removed.

Groundwater seepage may occur during construction activities in those areas of the Project site where there is high perched groundwater. The contractor may determine their means and methods of how to handle the groundwater depending on where it is encountered. At this time, it's assumed the groundwater could be pumped into a tank truck and then used within the Project site or on nearby lands for irrigation or dust control purposes. The application rate will ensure no site runoff occurs.

2.5.3 Clark Street Sewer Lift Station

The Project includes removal of the Clark Street lift station and associated sewer connections to re-direct the existing sewer flows to the Project's new sewer line. The above ground structures at the lift station site would be demolished and removed. Buried on-site utilities up to three feet below the soil surface would also be removed. This site would then be stabilized with a layer of crushed rock and resurfaced. The lift station decommissioning process includes filling the existing manhole in Clark Street and plugging the existing PVC gravity sewer at the wet wall and abandoning the pipe in place.

2.5.4 Construction Schedule

Project construction is anticipated to begin in approximately April 2024 and continue until December 2025. Construction would include the following three construction activities:

- Trenching/Pipeline installation Activities – April 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025
- Paving – October 1, 2025 to October 15, 2025
- Lift Station Decommissioning – October 16, 2025 to December 16, 2025

The majority of construction would take place Monday through Friday during daytime hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Because some areas of the Project site are narrow and Project construction would lead to lane closures, night and weekend construction would be required on portions of the Project site.

Construction of the pipelines would require the estimated offroad construction equipment shown in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1: Offroad Construction Equipment

Construction Activity	Construction Equipment	Unit Amount
Trenching (Grading and Excavation)	Excavators	2
	Rollers	2
	Rubber Tired Loaders	1
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	2
Paving (Linear Paving)	Pavers	1
	Paving Equipment	1
	Rollers	3
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	2
Lift Station Decommissioning/Demo (Grubbing & Land Clearing)	Crawler Tractors	1
	Crush Processing Equipment	1
	Excavators	1

2.5.5 Equipment Staging Areas

Three construction staging area options are included in this environmental analysis (See **Figure 2 – Project Site**). These three staging areas would be used for stockpiling, storage, and parking. No construction activities would occur. Staging Areas 1 and 3 are both owned by EMWD. Staging Area 1 is located at the existing Clark Street Lift Station, on the corner of Clark Street and Cajalco Road. This area is approximately 6.78 acres. Staging Area 3 is located along Cajalco Road between Day Street and Decker Road and is approximately 6.06 acres. Staging Area 2 is not owned by EMWD, but it is part of an existing vacant lot which has been highly disturbed. This lot is located south of Cajalco Road on the corner of Caroll Street and Elmwood Street. The approximate acreage of this area is 4.4 acres. The site conditions of staging areas used would be returned to existing conditions following construction of the pipeline and removal of the lift station.

2.6 Operations

Project O&M activities would only include pipeline inspection and repair, as necessary.

2.7 Environmental Commitments

The following measures are EMWD construction best management practices (BMPs) that would be implemented as part of the Project:

- The design and construction of the facilities would be based on the geotechnical investigation report (Appendix D: Atlas 2023) to minimize geological risk.
- According to the geotechnical investigation report (Appendix D: Atlas 2023), high groundwater levels along the pipeline alignment are anticipated to be deeper than 10 feet below the existing ground surface. During construction, temporary

groundwater seepage may occur and a dewatering system would be designed as part of final design.

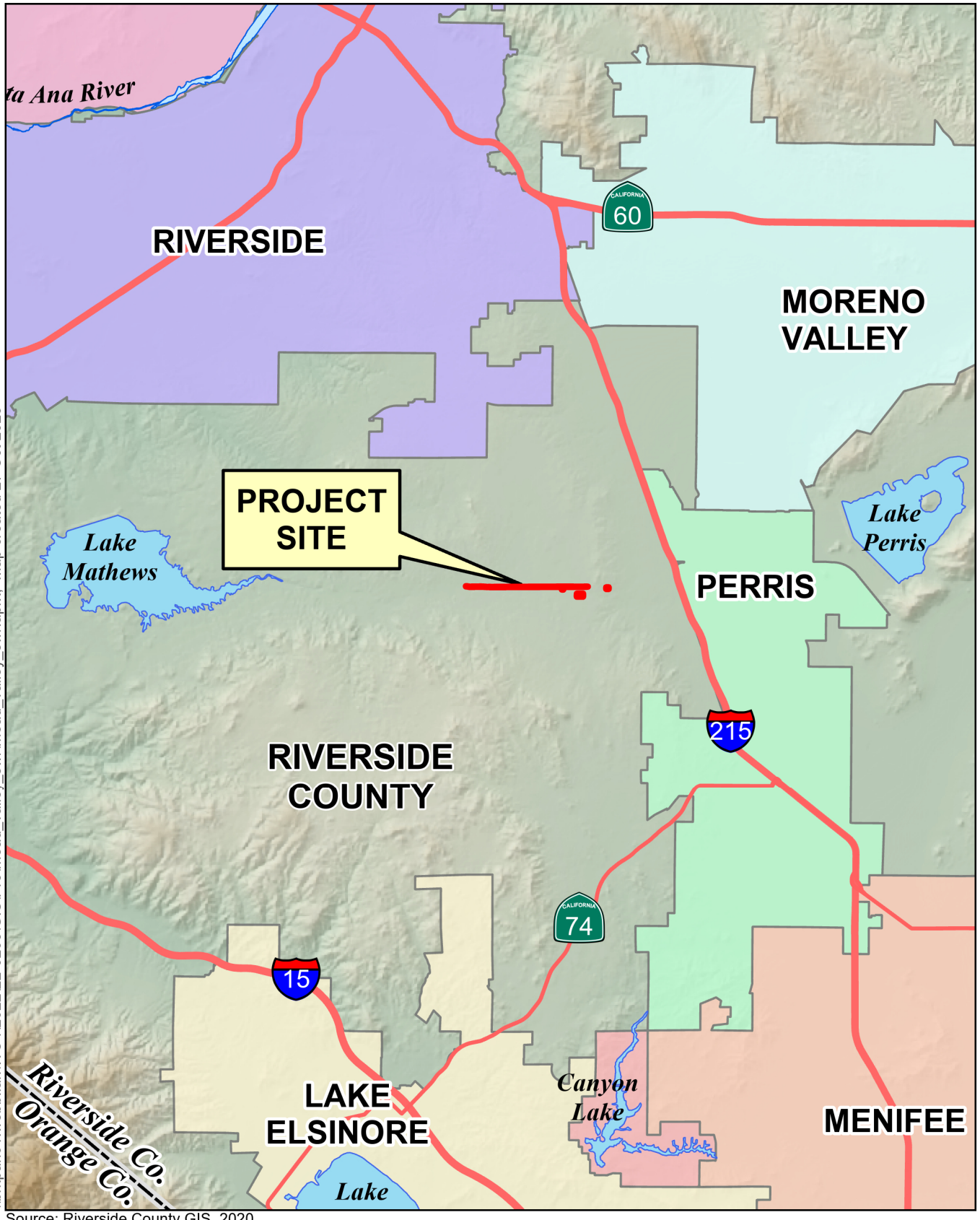
- "A traffic control plan (TCP) will be approved for all construction work within public roadways. The TCP will be prepared in accordance with US Department of Transportation Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the California Department of Transportation Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, and Permit requirements by the authority having jurisdiction. Conventional traffic control measures used for a given project could include typical traffic control devices such as; traffic cones, K-rails, signs, message boards, flaggers (as needed), and related devices. When work is not being performed, trenches would be covered with an appropriate cover to restore normal traffic flow."
- All construction work would require the contractor to implement fire hazard reduction measures, such as having fire extinguishers located onsite, use of spark arrestors on equipment and using a spotter during welding activities.
- Open trenches shall be covered with recessed trench plates during non-construction periods in accordance with encroachment permits.
- Construction would comply with SCAQMD Rule 403 Fugitive Dust Control requirements.
- Specifications would require the contractor to prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Construction would implement BMPs to control water quality of stormwater discharges offsite, according to the SWPPP, such as site management "housekeeping," erosion control, sediment control, tracking control and wind erosion control.
- EMWD is required to comply with all relevant and applicable federal, State and local laws and regulations that pertain to the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste during construction of proposed facilities. Cal/OSHA regulations provide for the proper labeling, storage, and handling of hazardous materials to reduce the potential harmful health effects that could result from worker exposure to hazardous materials.
- Specifications would require the contractor to implement standard fire prevention measures. EMWD Specifications Detailed Provisions Section 02201 – Construction Methods & Earthwork of the Standard Detailed Provisions (EMWD 2015) include the entire work and site, including storage areas, is inspected at frequent intervals to verify that fire prevention measures are constantly enforced; fully charged fire extinguishers of the appropriate type, supplemented with temporary fire hoses wherever an adequate water supply exists, are furnished and maintained; and flammable materials are stored in a manner that prevents spontaneous combustion or dispersion.

2.8 Required Permits and Approvals

Anticipated permits are identified in **Table 2-2**.

Table 2-2: Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permit/Approval
County of Riverside	Encroachment Permit
South Coast Air Quality Management District	Dust Control Permits
Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Encroachment Permit
State Water Resources Control Board	NPDES Construction General Permit for Storm Water Discharges NPDES De Minimum Threat Discharge
California Occupational Safety and Health Administration	Trenching/Shoring Permit



\\brkpan01.webb.lan\WO4\2022\22-0203\GIS\Pro\mead_valley_swr\mead_valley_swr.aprx; Map created 27 Oct 2023

Source: Riverside County GIS, 2020.

0 2 4 6 Miles

Figure 1 – Regional Map
Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

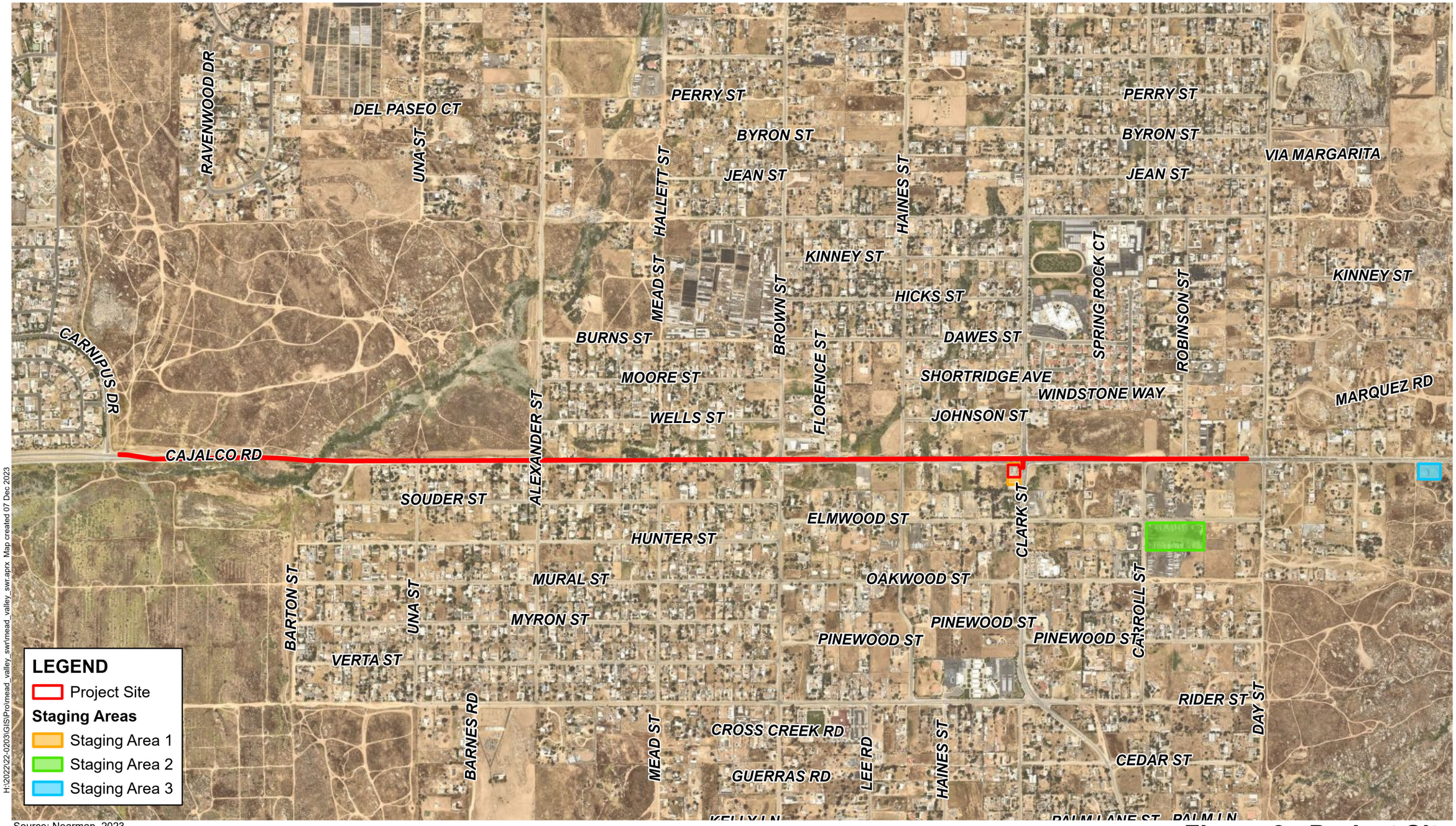
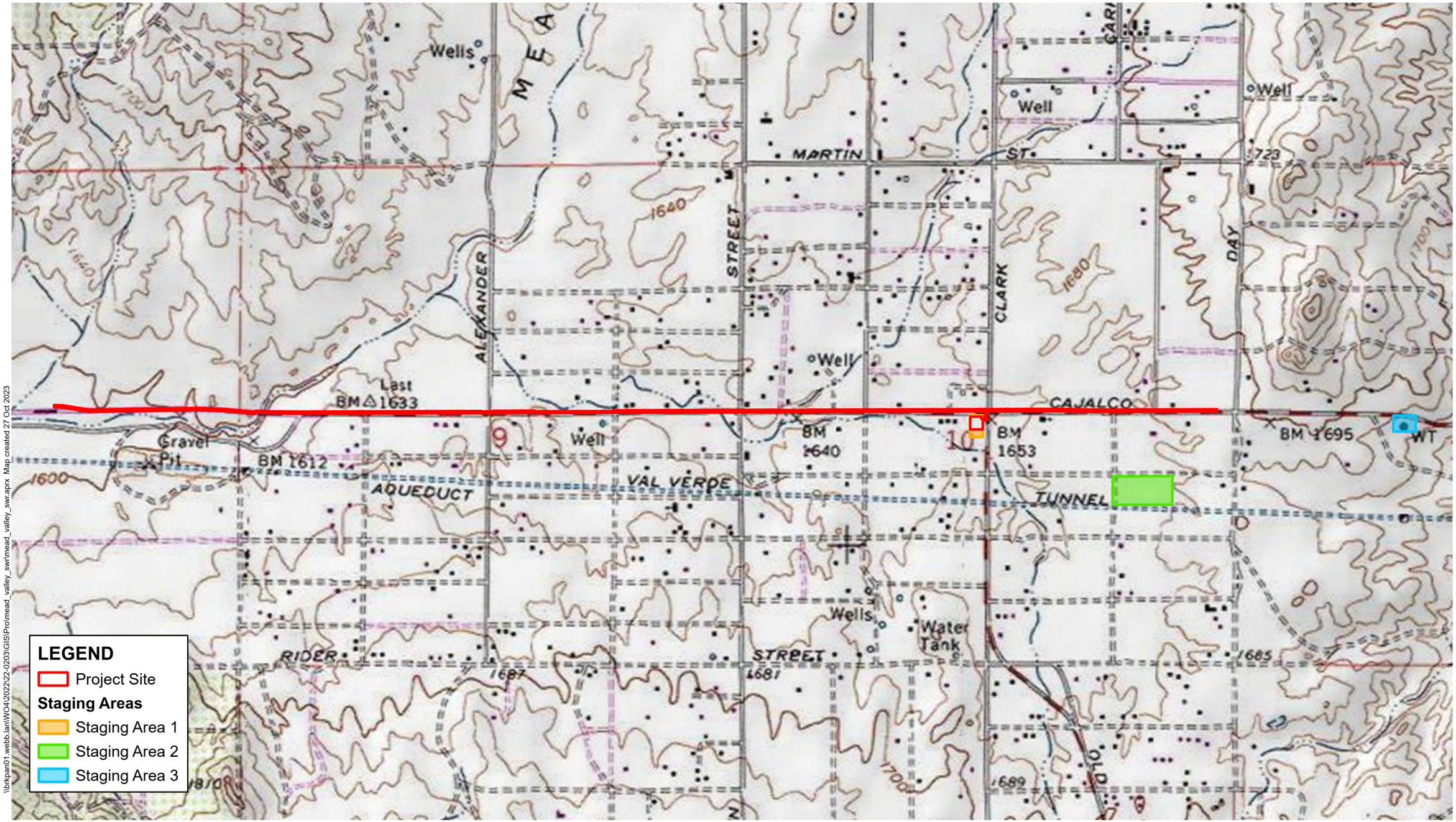


Figure 2 - Project Site

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

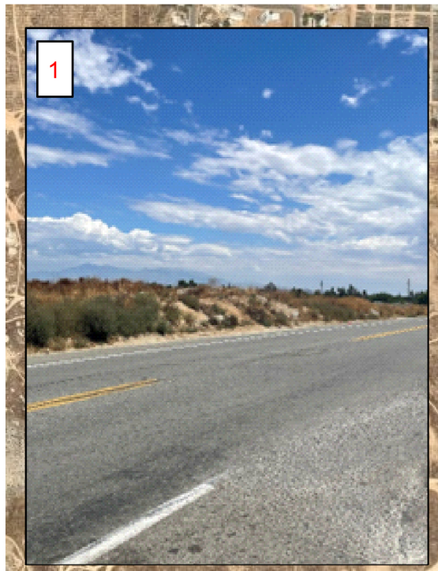
ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

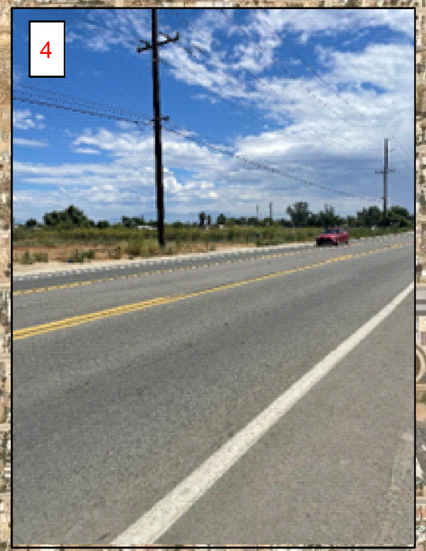


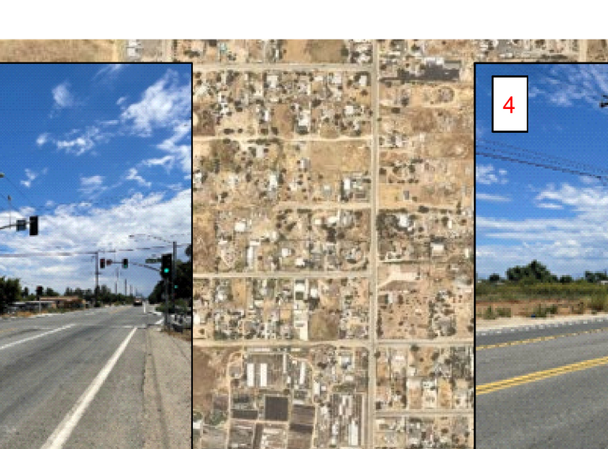
\\brkpan01.webb.lan\WO4\2022\22-0203\GIS\Pro\mead_valley_swr\mead_valley_swr.aprx Map created 27 Oct 2023

Figure 3 - USGS Map
Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES







1
2
3
4

LEGEND

Project Site

Staging Areas

Staging Area 1

Staging Area 2

Staging Area 3

H:\2022\22-0203\GIS\Prolmead_valley_swr\mead_valley_swr.aprx Map created 27 Oct 2023

Source: Nearmap, 2023.

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 US Feet

Figure 4 - Existing Conditions

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project title:** Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

2. **Lead agency name and address:** Eastern Municipal Water District
2270 Trumble Road
P.O. Box 8300
Perris, CA 92572-8300

3. **Contact person and phone number:** Joseph Broadhead,
Principal Water Resources Specialist
broadhej@emwd.org
(951) 928-3777 ext. 4545

4. **Project location:** Unincorporated County,
Riverside County, California

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Same as Lead Agency

6. **General plan designations:** Cajalco Road roadway Right-of-way, Rural Community

7. **Zoning:** Right-of-way, A1-1 (Light Agricultural), RR (Rural Residential)

8. **Description of project:** The Cajalco Sewer Project involves (Project) involves construction and operation of approximately 12,600 linear feet of 8-inch to 15-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or vitrified clay pipe (VCP) gravity trunk sewer pipelines with interconnections and appurtenances within the Mead Valley communities in unincorporated Riverside County west of the City of Perris. The proposed sewer pipelines would connect to existing sewer lines located in Cajalco Road between Carpinus Drive to Day Street. The Project would also involve redirecting existing sewer flows within this area, removal the Clark Street Lift Station, and providing flows to Western Municipal Water District's (WMWD) Western Water Recycling Facility for recycled water production. **Figure 1 – Regional Location Map, Figure 2 – Project Site,** and **Figure 3 – USGS Map** shows the vicinity of the Project site and the proposed pipeline alignments.

9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The area around the Project site is partially built-out. Surrounding land uses include residential, rural residential, residential agricultural, church, vacant and undeveloped land uses, and public facilities.

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)**
    - County of Riverside: Encroachment Permit

- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District: Encroachment Permit
- State Water Resources Control Board: NPDES Construction General Permit for Storm Water Discharges
- California Occupational Safety and Health Administration: Trenching/Shoring Permit
- South Coast Air Quality Management District: Dust Control Permits

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 2180.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

EMWD has consulted with Native American tribal representatives through written correspondence, based on a contact list of tribes who indicated to EMWD that they are interested in receiving notification. Additionally, EMWD staff has undertaken consultation with representatives from Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to discuss the Project, potential effects to tribal cultural resources, and appropriate mitigation. Refer to the discussion in *Section 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources.*

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" or “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

Joe Broadhead
Signature

2/16/24
Date

Joe Broadhead
Printed Name

Eastern Municipal Water District
For

3.1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
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 and other regulations governing scenic quality?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

Discussion

The Project site is within the County's Mead Valley Area Plan. This area contains a wide variation in physical terrain, including flat valley floors, gentle foothills, and steep hillsides. This area lies entirely within the larger Perris Valley, which is framed by the Gavilan Hills to the west, and the Lakeview Mountains across the valley to the east. The eastern flank of Mead Valley is generally flat, sloping gently upward toward the Gavilan Hills, which form a portion of the planning area's western boundary. Notable features within the Mead

Valley Area include the Gavilan Hills, located to the west of the Project site, Steele Peak, located near the Gavilan hills, and the Motte-Rimrock Reserve, located above a rocky plateau above the City of Perris. (MVAP, PP 6-7.)

As shown in the photographs of the existing conditions of the site (*Section 2.4.8 Existing Site Conditions*), the new sewer pipeline would be constructed within Cajalco Road that supports intermittent views of surrounding mountains and hills for motorists and pedestrians. The demolition of the Clark Street Sewer Lift Station would take place at that location.

Riverside County Ordinance Number 655 regulates light pollution by restricting the permitted use of certain outdoor light fixtures that emit light into the night sky which have a detrimental effect on astronomical observation and research. It defines various zones relative to the distance between the light source and Palomar Observatory and sets requirements for shielding for various types of outdoor lighting (e.g., decorative, parking lots, walkways, security). The Palomar Observatory has two zones. Zone A is within a fifteen (15) mile circular radius. Zone B is within a forty-five (45) circular radius. (ORD655.) The Project site is located approximately 40 miles from Palomar Observatory and is within Zone B.

The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) manages the State Scenic Highway Program which was created by the State Legislature in 1963 with the purpose of protecting the natural scenic beauty of California highways. State-designated scenic highways have locally adopted policies to preserve the scenic quality of the corridor. Highways receive designation based on how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler's enjoyment of the view. The nearest State-designated scenic highway is State Route 243, approximately 24 miles east of the Project area. There are no state or county scenic highways adjacent to the Project site. (CAL 2023.)

a) Less than Significant Impact

The nearby foothills and hills can be seen from the Project site. The primary scenic impairments associated with the Project would be temporary and would occur during the construction phase. During construction, scenic views of surrounding hills and mountains near the Project site would be temporarily altered by the construction equipment such as tractors and excavators. Once the Project is completed, the pipeline would be underground and the area of temporary disturbance would be restored to its original condition. Accordingly, the underground pipelines would not obstruct any views. The permanent, above-ground pipeline appurtenances, including but not limited to valves, would be painted and labeled standard EMWD colors to match the existing appurtenances in the Project vicinity and would not block view. Thus, the Project would have no long-term impact on scenic vistas. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) No Impact

The proposed Project site is not located within the viewshed of a State scenic highway. Therefore, there would be no impact on scenic resources associated with a State scenic highway.

c) Less than Significant Impact

Project implementation may result in short-term impacts regarding the visual character or quality to the Project's surrounding area as a result of disturbed roadways, excavation, trenching, placement of materials and staging of equipment. Public views in the vicinity of the Project site include those from roadways, sidewalks and bicycle lanes. Installation of the proposed pipeline may cause slower traffic during construction, however the public views of the Project construction from Cajalco Road would be fleeting – on the order of seconds or minutes – whereas public views of the construction from the Class II bicycle lane in Cajalco Road would be longer. This short-term effect on visual continuity is considered less than significant because after construction the alignment would be returned to existing conditions or otherwise improved. The above-ground structures, including the valves and fire hydrants would be painted and labeled standard EMWD colors to match the existing visual character of appurtenances in the Project vicinity; the impact on visual quality would be minimal. Therefore, scenic vistas and visual character impacts would be less than significant.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Daytime construction would temporarily create a minor new source of light and glare from construction equipment. Once Project construction is complete, the equipment would be removed. Because some areas of the Project site are narrow and Project construction would require to lane closures, night and weekend construction would be required on portions of the Project site. Nighttime construction would temporarily create a new source of light and glare from the lighting that would be used for security purposes and construction activities. Security lighting and nighttime construction lighting would be directed downward and not onto adjacent properties consistent with Palomar Observatory Zone B's outdoor lighting requirements. Because temporary lighting would be directed downward and not onto adjacent properties, such lighting would not substantially affect views nor impact the Palomar Observatory, which is more than 40 miles south of the Project site. Once construction is complete, no permanent lights or sources of glare would be installed as part of the Project. Therefore, light and glare impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

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

Discussion

The Project site and staging areas would be located solely on disturbed lands (paved roadway, unpaved disturbed roadway, and vacant disturbed parcels). The Cleveland and San Bernardino National forests are major forests in the County of Riverside. The Project site is not near any forest land. Per the California Department of Conservation (CDOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, the Project site is within or nearby Other Land, Urban and Built-Up Land, and Farmland of Local Importance. (CDOC-A 2022.) Additionally, there are no Williamson Act contracts, or zoning classifications for forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526) or timberland production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g)) within or near the Project site. (CDOC-B 2023; RIVZ 2023; RIVORD 348.)

a-e) No Impact

The proposed Project site and staging areas are not located on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, impacts to Farmland would not occur. Similarly, the proposed Project site and staging areas are not within Williamson Act contracted lands and no impacts would occur in this regard.

The proposed Project site and staging areas are not zoned forest lands, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Implementation of the Project would not conflict with zoning, or result in loss of forest land, or convert Farmland or forest land to a non-agricultural or non-forest use.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non- attainment	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?				
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

Discussion

The Project, and all of EMWD's service area, is located within the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). (AQMP 2022.) The SCAQMD monitors air pollutant levels to ensure the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are met and, if they are not met, to develop strategies to meet the standards. Air pollution in the Project area is monitored at stations in Perris and Roubidoux.

The NAAQS, which are required to be set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under the Clean Air Act, provide public health protection, including protecting the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly (US EPA 2023.) Similarly, the CAAQS are established to protect the health of the most sensitive groups and are mandated by State law. EPA has set NAAQS for six pollutants, which are called "criteria pollutants:" carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), Particulate Matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2). In addition to these, California has added three criteria pollutants: hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), visibility reducing particles, and vinyl chloride. (CARB-A 2023.) In total, California regulates about 200 different substances and groups of substances as toxic air contaminants (TACs). (CARB-B 2023.)

Depending on whether or not the NAAQS or CAAQS are met or exceeded, the Basin is classified as being in "attainment" or "nonattainment." The 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) assesses the attainment status of the Basin. **Table 3-1** summarizes the Basin's criteria pollutant status. The Basin is in nonattainment for the State 1-Hour Ozone, 8-Hour Ozone, PM_{10}-, and $PM_{2.5}$ requirements and the Federal 1-hour Ozone, 8-Hour Ozone, $PM_{2.5}$-24 hour, and $PM_{2.5}$ requirements. Thus, the Basin is required to implement strategies that would reduce pollutant levels to recognized standards.

Table 3-1: Criteria Pollutant Attainment Status – Basin

Criteria Pollutant	State CAAQS	Federal (NAAQS)
1-Hour Ozone	Nonattainment	Nonattainment (Extreme)
8-Hour Ozone	Nonattainment	Nonattainment (Extreme)
Carbon monoxide (CO)	Attainment	Attainment (Maintenance)
Nitrogen Dioxide ($NO_{2)}$	Attainment	Attainment (Maintenance)
Sulfur dioxide ($SO_{2)}$	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
PM_{10}	Nonattainment	Attainment (Maintenance)
$PM_{2.5}$	Nonattainment	Nonattainment (Serious)

Source: AQMP 2022

The SCAQMD provides numerical thresholds to analyze the significance of a project's construction and operational emissions on regional air quality. These thresholds are designed such that a project consistent with the thresholds would not have an individually or cumulatively significant impact on the Basin's air quality. These thresholds are listed in **Table 3-2**.

Table 3-2: SCAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds

Pollutant	Mass Thresholds – Construction Thresholds (pounds/day)	Mass Thresholds – Operation Thresholds (pounds/day)
NO_x	100	55
VOC	75	55
PM_{10}	150	150
$PM_{2.5}$	55	55
SO_x	150	150
CO	550	550
Lead	3	3
Toxic Air Contaminants	• Maximum Incremental Cancer Risk $\geq$ 10 in 1 million • Cancer Burden > 0.5 excess cancer cases (in areas $\geq$ 1 in 1 million) • Chronic & Acute Hazard Index $\geq$ 1.0 (project increment)	
Odor	Project creates an odor nuisance pursuant to SCAQMD Rule 402	

Source: SCAQMD 2023

In addition, the SCAQMD has developed Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs) in response to concern regarding exposure of individuals to criteria pollutants in local communities. LSTs have been developed for nitrogen oxides (NO_X), CO, PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that will not cause or contribute to an air quality exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard at the nearest sensitive receptor, taking into consideration ambient concentrations in each source receptor area, distance to the sensitive receptor, and project size. LSTs only apply to emissions within a fixed stationary location; they are not applicable to mobile sources. The use of LSTs is voluntary, to be implemented at the discretion of local agencies. (SCAQMD 2008a.)

The SCAQMD LSTs are defined for 37 source receptor areas (SRA). The Project site is located in SRA 24. (SCAQMD 2008a.) LSTs have been developed for emissions within construction areas up to five acres in size. The SCAQMD provides lookup tables for sites

that measure up to one, two, or five acres. The proposed Project is limited to pipeline and appurtenance construction. Pursuant to SCAQMD guidance, LSTs for the one-acre site should be used for sites that are less than one acre in size. The Project is expected to disturb approximately 12.82 acres. Since the Project is linear it will progress in a linear fashion and would disturb a less than one acre per day. To be conservative, the one-acre LST lookup tables were utilized to estimate the construction emissions. LSTs for construction on a one-acre site in SRA-24 are shown in **Table 3-3**. LSTs are provided for receptors at a distance of 25 meters (82 feet) from the Project site boundary, which is the most conservative LST distance (LSTs range from 25 to 500 meters).

Table 3-3: SCAQMD LSTs for Construction and Operation

Pollutant	Allowable emission from a one-acre site in SRA-24 for a receptor within 25 meters, or 82 feet (pounds/day)
Gradual Conversion of NO_x to NO_2	118
CO	602
PM_{10} – operation	1
PM_{10} – construction	4
$PM_{2.5}$ – operation	1
$PM_{2.5}$ – construction	3

Source: SCAQMD 2009

a) Less than Significant Impact

The SCAQMD's 2022 AQMP is the applicable air quality plan for this IS/MND. The AQMP assesses the attainment status of the unincorporated Riverside County area and the EMWD area of the Basin and provides a strategy for attainment of State and federal air quality standards. The AQMP strategies are developed based on population, housing, and employment growth forecasts anticipated under local city general plans and the SCAG's 2022 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.[1]

A project would conflict with or obstruct an applicable air quality plan if it would lead to population, housing or employment growth that exceeds the forecasts used in the development of the applicable air quality plan. The proposed Project would construct approximately 12,600 linear feet of pipeline and appurtenances to improve operational efficiency and redundancy of the sewer system. The proposed Project promote economic development of the disadvantaged community of Mead Valley. Therefore, the proposed Project would not lead to unplanned population, housing or employment growth that

[1] SCAG completed an update to the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy in 2020 (known as Connect SoCal). The 2022 AQMP was developed reflecting updated growth projections from Connect SoCal and was adopted December 2, 2022 by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board.

exceeds the forecasts used in the development of the AQMP. Potential for conflicts with the AQMP would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project would result in emissions of criteria pollutants from short-term construction activities. The pipeline and appurtenances would not be associated with long-term energy usage or additional EMWD O&M activities. Inspection of the pipeline, above ground appurtenances and exercise of the valves would be incorporated into EMWD's existing O&M activities. Construction emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) 2022.1, which was developed by the California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association (CAPCOA) in association with SCAQMD and is used throughout California to quantify criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

Project construction emissions have been analyzed in the *Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Analysis for the Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project* (WEBB-A) study included in Appendix A. The CalEEMod emissions scenarios were based on Project-specific information, found in *Section 2.5 Project Description*. In instances where Project-specific information was not available (e.g., construction equipment horsepower, length of worker trips, soil moisture content), the analysis relied on CalEEMod default values for construction activities. As explained in *Section 2.5 Project Description*, it is assumed that construction would begin in April 2024 and have a duration of approximately 20 months. SCAQMD's Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust) requires construction projects to implement measures to suppress fugitive dust emissions, such as watering of exposed soils and the preparation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan, where applicable. The construction contractor would be required to comply with Rule 403 prior to ground disturbing activities.

Construction Emissions

Air emissions of criteria pollutants during construction would result from the use of construction equipment with internal combustion engines, and offsite vehicles to transport workers, deliver materials to the site, and haul import and export material to and from the site. Project construction would also result in fugitive dust emissions, which would be lessened through the implementation of the fugitive dust control measures required by SCAQMD rules. **Table 3-4** summarizes the maximum daily pollutant emissions during construction of the proposed Project. As shown in **Table 3-4,** Project construction would not exceed SCAQMD regional thresholds for any criteria pollutant.

Table 3-4: Proposed Project Maximum Daily Construction Emissions Compared to Regional Thresholds (pounds/day)

Emissions Source	ROG	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
2024	1.07	**8.06**	12.5	0.02	0.64	0.40
2025	**34.30**	8.00	**52.10**	**0.02**	**1.12**	**0.70**
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds	*75*	*100*	*550*	*150*	*150*	*55*
Threshold exceeded?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: WEBB-A, Table 2.
Note: See the detailed model output reports included in Appendix A. Numbers are the maximum of summer or winter emissions in a given year and may not match due to rounding within the model.

Additionally, while the use of LSTs is voluntary, the proposed Project emissions were compared to LSTs for the Project area and are provided in **Table 3-5**. As noted above, LSTs are only applicable to emissions within a fixed, stationary location, such as construction sites, and vary based on project site size. **Table 3-5** provides LSTs that are applicable to the onsite construction activities, including pipeline trenching, installation of pipeline and appurtenances, and roadway resurfacing. As explained under the discussion above, SCAQMD provides LST lookup tables for sites that measure up to one, two, or five acres; LSTs for construction sites smaller than one acre should use the one-acre threshold. This threshold was used since less than one acre will be disturbed each day.

Table 3-5: Proposed Project Maximum Daily Construction Emissions Compared to Localized Significance Thresholds (pounds/day)

Emissions Source	NO_x	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Trenching – 2024	**7.74**	11.00	0.35	0.33
Trenching - 2025	7.17	11.00	0.30	0.27
Paving – 2025	7.71	10.80	0.34	0.31
Decommissioning/Demolition – 2025	4.24	**51.6**	**0.94**	**0.65**
LST (one-acre LST)	*118*	*602*	*4*	*3*
Threshold exceeded?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: WEBB-A, Table 3
Note: Maximums are the greater of either Trenching, Paving or Decommissioning/Demolition because these activities do not overlap. Maximums are shown in bold.

Operations

The pipeline and appurtenances would not be associated with long-term energy usage or additional EMWD O&M activities. Inspection and maintenance of the pipeline and above ground appurtenances, and exercise of the valves would be incorporated into EMWD's existing O&M activities. Thus, no new emissions would be associated with operation of the proposed Project.

c) Less than Significant Impact

Sensitive receptors are typically defined as schools (preschool–12th grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, senior housing facilities, day care centers, or other facilities that

may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. (CARB 2018.) Sensitive receptors near the proposed Project consist of single-family and multi-family residences along the pipeline alignment and adjacent to the lift station. Manual L. Real Elementary School, Columbia Elementary School, and California Rancho School are located within one-quarter mile of the proposed Project site.

LSTs represent the maximum emissions from a project that will not cause or contribute to an air quality exceedance of the most stringent applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard at the nearest sensitive receptor. The California and National Air Quality Standards provide public health protection, including protecting the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. If a project is consistent with the latest adopted clean air plan and does not exceed the SCAQMD significance thresholds, it can be assumed that it will not have a substantial adverse impact on public health. Therefore, projects that conform to the LSTs and SCAQMD regional thresholds are assumed to have a less than significant impact on nearby sensitive receptors. As discussed under response “3.3b” above, the proposed Project’s construction and operational emissions would not exceed SCAQMD regional thresholds or LSTs. Therefore, sensitive receptors would not be subjected to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts would be less than significant.

d) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project would involve emissions of sulfur compounds from use of oil and diesel fuel during construction, which would potentially result in unpleasant odors. Construction would be temporary and odorous emissions from construction equipment tend to dissipate quickly within short distances from construction sites. Once the proposed Project is operational, the pipeline would not be associated with odors. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

	resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]

Discussion

A Biological Technical Report (BTR) was prepared in September 2023 for the proposed Project and is provided in **Appendix B.** The BTR is relied upon for the analysis in this IS/MND. The BTR defines a biological study area (BSA) that encompasses the Project Site and a 100-foot buffer. Because suitable habitat to support burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) was present within the BSA, focused surveys for these species were conducted.

Regulated or sensitive resources studied and analyzed in the BTR included special status plant and wildlife species, nesting birds and raptors, wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages, sensitive plant communities, potentially jurisdictional waters and wetlands, and locally protected resources (i.e., heritage trees). Potential impacts on biological resources were analyzed based on the following statutes:

- Federal Endangered Species Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- California Endangered Species Act
- California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Native Plant Protection Act
- Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)
- Stephen's Kangaroo Rat Habitat Conservation Plan (SKR HCP)
- County of Riverside Code of Ordinances

A literature review was completed to ensure that current and accurate data were integrated into the determination of the proposed Project's environmental and regulatory setting. The review consisted of publicly available spatial data from a variety of public agencies, geospatial warehouses, aerial imagery, and previously written reports related to the proposed Project area and surrounding U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 8.) Pertinent sources reviewed included, but were not limited to, the following:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database
- California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants
- Google Earth aerial imagery
- NearMap aerial imagery
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Critical Habitat Mapper and File Data, and Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC)
- USFWS National Wetlands Inventory on-line wetlands mapper
- USGS National Hydrography Dataset
- Western Riverside County MSHCP

Field reconnaissance surveys of the 79.3-acre BSA were performed on February 22, 2023 and February 27, 2023. The purpose of the surveys was to characterize the existing biological conditions, search for special-status plants, animals, and habitats, and to map habitats and potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources. During the surveys, existing biological conditions were noted and vegetation communities (or land cover types if vegetation was absent) were mapped. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 8.) A formal jurisdictional delineation of waters and wetlands was not performed for the Project because no components of the proposed Project would be located within potentially jurisdictional features.

a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The proposed Project would be constructed within paved or otherwise disturbed road rights-of-way and at the Clark Street Lift Station site. All potential staging areas are either sparsely vegetated with non-native, often invasive plant species and/or comprised of disturbed, barren ground. As a result, although sensitive vegetation communities are present in the BSA, these species are not present within the Project footprint and staging areas due to the lack of suitable habitat as well as historical and existing disturbances. While the literature review identified 58 special-status amphibian, bird, crustaceans, fish, insect, mammal, and reptile species within the BSA, no special-status wildlife species were found on the Project site during the surveys, and 53 of the 58 species had no suitable habitat present in the BSA. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 23-26.)

Suitable habitat was present in the BSA for the following five special-status bird species: burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), Lawrence's goldfinch (*Spinus lawrencei*), and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). (WEBB-B 2023, Appendix C.)

Focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted for the Project site in accordance with the survey guidelines set forth in the California Department of Fish and Game *Staff Report*

on Burrowing Owl Mitigation, March 7, 2012. The burrowing owl survey area consisted of a 500-foot radius around the Project footprint and staging areas. As shown on **Figure 5 – Burrowing Owl Survey Results**,[2] a total of 79 burrows suitable for burrowing owl were recorded in the burrowing owl survey area. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 24-25.) No burrowing owl or burrowing owl sign (i.e., pellets with regurgitated fur, bones, and insect parts; whitewash; or feathers) was detected at the burrows; therefore, burrowing owl is presumed to be absent from the burrowing owl study area. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 9, 24–25.) Although burrowing owl is presumed to be absent, because suitable habitat for burrowing owl is present in the area adjacent to the Project footprint, a significant indirect impact to burrowing owls could occur if owls colonize burrows prior to construction. Therefore, **Mitigation Measure BIO-1**, which requires preconstruction surveys, would be implemented to avoid impacts to burrowing owls that may have colonized the burrows within the burrowing owl study area prior to Project construction.

As shown on **Figure 6A through Figure 6J – Vegetation and Land Cover Types**, southern riparian woodland (SRWD) habitat, which is suitable habitat for riparian birds including least Bell's vireo, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, and Lawrence's goldfinch, is present within the BSA. Because suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo was present in the BSA, a total of eight protocol (focused) surveys were conducted for this species. The protocol surveys were conducted in accordance with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, *Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines*, January 19, 2001 (USFWS LBV Survey Guidelines). As set forth in the USFWD LBV Guidelines, the least Bell's vireo survey area for the Project encompassed the Project footprint and a survey buffer of 500-feet around the Project footprint. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 10–11.) There were no observations of yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, or Lawrence's goldfinch during the vireo surveys; they are therefore presumed to be absent. (WEBB-B 2023; Appendix C.) Results of the vireo protocol surveys were positive for least Bell's vireo (one pair; adult male and female and one territorial male) within the southern riparian woodland vegetation on the north and south sides of the Project footprint as shown on **Figure 7 – Least Bell's Vireo Survey Results**. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 25-26.) Because occupied least Bell's vireo habitat is present adjacent to the Project footprint, indirect impacts in the form of increased ambient noise or lighting (if construction takes place at night) from construction activities may affect this species. Therefore, **Mitigation Measures BIO-2, BIO-3, BIO-4, and BIO-5** would be implemented to avoid indirect impacts to least Bell's vireo and would address potential indirect impacts to other nesting birds. With incorporation of mitigation measures, impacts to special status species are less than significant.

b) Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

As shown on **Figure 6A through Figure 6J**, six types of vegetation community (or land cover type) were identified in the BSA: urban/developed, disturbed habitat, non-native grassland, eucalyptus woodland, southern riparian woodland, and emergent wetland. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 28.) Only urban/developed, disturbed, and non-native grassland are

[2] Figures for *Section 3.4 Biological Resources* commence on page 3-25.

present within the Project footprint and staging areas. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 28.) Although southern riparian woodland and emergent wetland are sensitive vegetation communities, they are outside of the Project footprint and staging areas; thus, no direct impacts would occur. Inadvertent impacts, in the form of unintentional disturbances, to these sensitive vegetation communities from construction activities are possible. However, with incorporation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-2** to install temporary construction fencing adjacent to the construction footprint, inadvertent impacts to sensitive vegetation are less than significant.

The literature review conducted as part of the BTR identified 59 special-status plant species with potential to occur in the Project BSA. (WEBB-B 2023; Appendix C.) However, no special-status plant species were identified during the reconnaissance surveys; therefore, no impacts to special-status plants are expected to occur. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 24, 28.) Given the Project location in the road rights-of-way and the disturbed condition of the Clark Street Sewer Lift Station and potential staging areas, impacts to special-status plants are not anticipated. Sensitive plant species typically have very specific habitat requirements which the Project area does not support.

The Project BSA is within the boundaries of the Western Riverside County MSHCP, which identifies sensitive natural communities and seeks to protect those communities by protecting areas with biological and ecological diversity. Within the Western Riverside MSHCP area, Criteria Areas, Public-Quasi Public Reserve Lands, and Core or Linkage Areas are defined in order to permanently preserve portions of habitat and decrease development in these areas. No components of the Project are within an existing or proposed Western Riverside MSHCP Criteria Area, Public-Quasi Public Reserve Lands, or within a Core or Linkage. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 31.)

Nine potentially jurisdictional aquatic features, identified as Features A through I on **Figure 8A through Figure 8J - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features**, occur within the BSA. These features are underground corrugated steel road culverts that intersect the Project footprint along Cajalco Road. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 29, 36.) The Project will use trenchless installation methods (i.e., jack and bore) to install the proposed pipe in order to avoid direct impacts to these culverts. Construction activities may result in an inadvertent discharge of pollutants that could indirectly impact the riparian habitat along Cajalco Road, outside of the Project footprint, However, with preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to prevent the discharge of pollutants during construction using Best Management Practices, training, monitoring and reporting per *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitments*. impacts on a riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community will be less than significant.

c) Less Than Significant With Mitigation

No riparian habitat occurs in the Project footprint including staging areas and therefore no direct impacts to riparian habitat would occur. Riverine features that are potentially jurisdictional do intersect the Project footprint via underground corrugated steel culverts that extend out adjacent to either side of the proposed Project site some of which have

ephemeral pools (within the BSA). Although these ephemeral pools related to the Cajalco Road. culverts are suitable habitat for fairy shrimp species, no fairy shrimp surveys were conducted for the Project because the Project would avoid these areas. Inadvertent impacts to potentially jurisdictional features from Project construction are possible in the event construction activities results in ground disturbance outside the Project footprint and results in a direct disturbance or discharge into these features. Through compliance with Environmental Commitments (identified in Section 2.7) and implementation of **Mitigation Measures BIO-2 and BIO-4,** impacts are less than significant.

d) No Impact

No components of the Project footprint are within existing or proposed wildlife corridors or habitat linkages defined in the Western Riverside MSHCP or observed during field surveys. The proposed Project would not impact wildlife movement corridors, habitat linkages, and wildlife nurseries because the Project would be constructed within an existing roadway and previously disturbed, barren, unvegetated, and/or sparsely vegetated areas, outside the area of wildlife connectivity. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

e) No Impact

The Project will not require the removal of trees. Therefore, there would be no impact.

f) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The proposed Project is located within the boundaries of two Habitat Conservation Plans: the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and Stephen's kangaroo rat Habitat Conservation Plan (SKR HCP).

The MSHCP was developed by Riverside County to aid in maintaining biological and ecological diversity within the region, while addressing requirements of the California Endangered Species Act and Federal Endangered Species Act. The MSHCP defines a reserve system that includes existing and proposed core habitat blocks and habitat linkages to accommodate the needs of wildlife and plant species. The Plan was completed in 2003, and associated permits were issued in 2004. EMWD is not a signatory to the MSHCP or a Participating Special Entity and none of the Project features are located within existing or proposed reserve or criteria areas of the MSHCP. Nonetheless, Project implementation cannot conflict with the provisions of the MSHCP and because an encroachment permit is needed from the RCFCWCD, the Project must be consistent with the MSHCP.

Consistency of the MSHCP is determined through compliance with Sections 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.3.2, and 7.5.3 of the MSHCP. The proposed Project is not located in a Criteria Area and therefore a Reserve Assembly Analysis is not required. (WEBB-B 203, p. 31.)

Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP requires assessment of riparian, riverine, fairy shrimp, and vernal pool habitats. No riparian habitat or riparian features occur within the project site. However riverine features do occur within the BSA. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 31.) No vernal

pools were identified in the Project site. Some ephemeral pools riverine features do occur within the BSA, however these do not exhibit characteristics of vernal pools. No fairy shrimp surveys were conducted as part of the Project evaluation. (WEBB-B 203, p. 31.) With implementation of **Mitigation Measures BIO-1**, **BIO-4**, and **BIO-5**, impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, the implementation of the Project site would not conflict with Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP.

Section 6.1.3 requires assessment of sites in a designed survey area for narrow endemic plants to be completed. The Project is not located in a Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Area. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 34.) Therefore, the implementation of the Project site would not conflict with Section 6.1.3 of the MSHCP.

Section 6.1.4 requires projects located adjacent or near MSHCP conservation areas to consider edge effects or conditions of their urban/wildlife interface into the project design. The proposed Project does not have any adjacency or on-site connection to existing conservation areas or lands designated for conservation purposes. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 34.) Therefore, the implementation of the Project site would not conflict with Section 6.1.4 of the MSHCP.

Section 6.3.2 requires assessments for particular species in designated survey areas. The BSA is within designated survey areas for Criteria Area Plant Species, amphibians, and burrowing owls. The Project site is not located within a survey area for Criteria Area Plant species or amphibians. No permanent, temporary, direct, or indirect impacts are proposed to burrowing owls. Burrowing owls are presumed absent from the burrowing owl study area. (WEBB-B 2023, pp. 33-34.) Because there was suitable habitat in the BSA, **Mitigation Measure BIO-2** would be required to conduct a preconstruction burrowing owl survey. Through compliance with **Mitigation Measure BIO-2,** Project impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, the implementation of the Project site would not conflict with Section 6.3.2 of the MSHCP with implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-2**.

Section 7.5.3 requires projects to adhere to standard best management practices and guidelines to minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats. The MSHCP lists standard best management practices and guidelines to be implemented during project construction that will minimize potential impacts to sensitive habitats in the vicinity of a project. The guidelines relate to water pollution and erosion control, equipment storage, fueling, and staging, dust control, exotic plant control and timing of construction. Therefore, the implementation of the Project site would not conflict with Section 7.5.3 of the MSHCP.

The EMWD is not a permittee nor a Participating Special Entity to the Western Riverside County MSHCP. Furthermore, the Project does not occur in existing Criteria Cells or areas designated for conservation. Therefore, the Project will not conflict with the provisions of the Western Riverside County MSHCP.

Because the Project does not propose to remove or alter Stephen's kangaroo rat habitat, it is exempt from paying mitigation fees. No conflict with this HCP would occur. (WEBB-B 2023, p. 5.)

Mitigation Measures:

BIO-1: Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey.

Two burrowing owl construction surveys shall be conducted. An initial burrowing owl take avoidance survey shall be conducted in suitable habitat no less than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities using the recommended methods described in the CDFW *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation.*[3] (Refer to **Figure 5 – Burrowing Owl Survey Results** for location of suitable burrowing owl habitat.) Additionally, a final burrowing owl survey shall be conducted in suitable habitat within 24 hours prior to any ground disturbance related activities. If active nests are identified within the burrowing owl survey area during the pre-construction survey, the nests shall be avoided and an appropriate no-work buffer shall demarcated in the field at a defined distance deemed adequate by the Project biologist. If burrowing owls are present, the CDFW shall be consulted to determine if a Habitat Loss Mitigation and Relocation Program is warranted. Based on the location of the owls and if avoidance of the area is not feasible, mitigation options may range from passive relocation to habitat replacement.

BIO-2 Temporary Construction Fencing.

To protect biologically sensitive areas adjacent to the construction footprint or within any staging area (i.e., suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo and potentially jurisdictional aquatic features) from indirect and inadvertent disturbances, temporary construction fencing will be installed at the limits of Project impacts as shown on **Figure 8A through Figure 8J - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features** for locations of potentially jurisdictional aquatic features and as shown on **Figure 6A through Figure 6J – Vegetation and Land Cover Types** for the locations of least Bell's vireo suitable habitat (i.e., southern riparian woodland, SRWD). The installation of the fencing will be carefully supervised by a Project biologist to ensure that it does not adversely affect the sensitive areas that need to be preserved. In the event that work extends beyond the fenced areas or occurs within sensitive habitat areas, all activities will immediately cease until the issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). Any impacts that occur to sensitive areas beyond the approved fence will be addressed through mitigation measures determined by EMWD in coordination with relevant authorities, such as the USFWS, USACE, RWQCB, and/or the CDFW, as applicable based on jurisdiction. Upon completion of the project, the temporary construction fencing will be removed from the site.

[3] California Dept. of Fish and Game, March 7, 2012, available at https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83843)

BIO-3 Least Bell's Vireo.

To avoid impacts to lead Bell's vireo, construction activities shall avoid the off-site riparian habitat, as shown on **Figure 6A through Figure 6J – Vegetation and Land Cover Types,** within 300 feet from Project construction, from March 15 to July 31, which corresponds to the least Bell's vireo breeding season, if feasible. If it is infeasible to avoid construction during this timeframe, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for the least Bell's vireo and noise monitoring shall be conducted for any activities within 300 feet of occupied habitat. In the event that noise levels are found to potentially adversely affect the least Bell's vireo, appropriate noise attenuation measures shall be implemented. This may involve installing a sound wall or employing other methods to minimize noise disturbances. If it is determined that noise levels cannot be adequately reduced to a level that will not harm the least Bell's vireo breeding cycle, construction activities within 300 feet of occupied habitat shall be temporarily halted in these areas until the earliest of (i) qualified biologist has determined construction will not impact the breeding cycle or (ii) after July 31, when the breeding season has concluded.

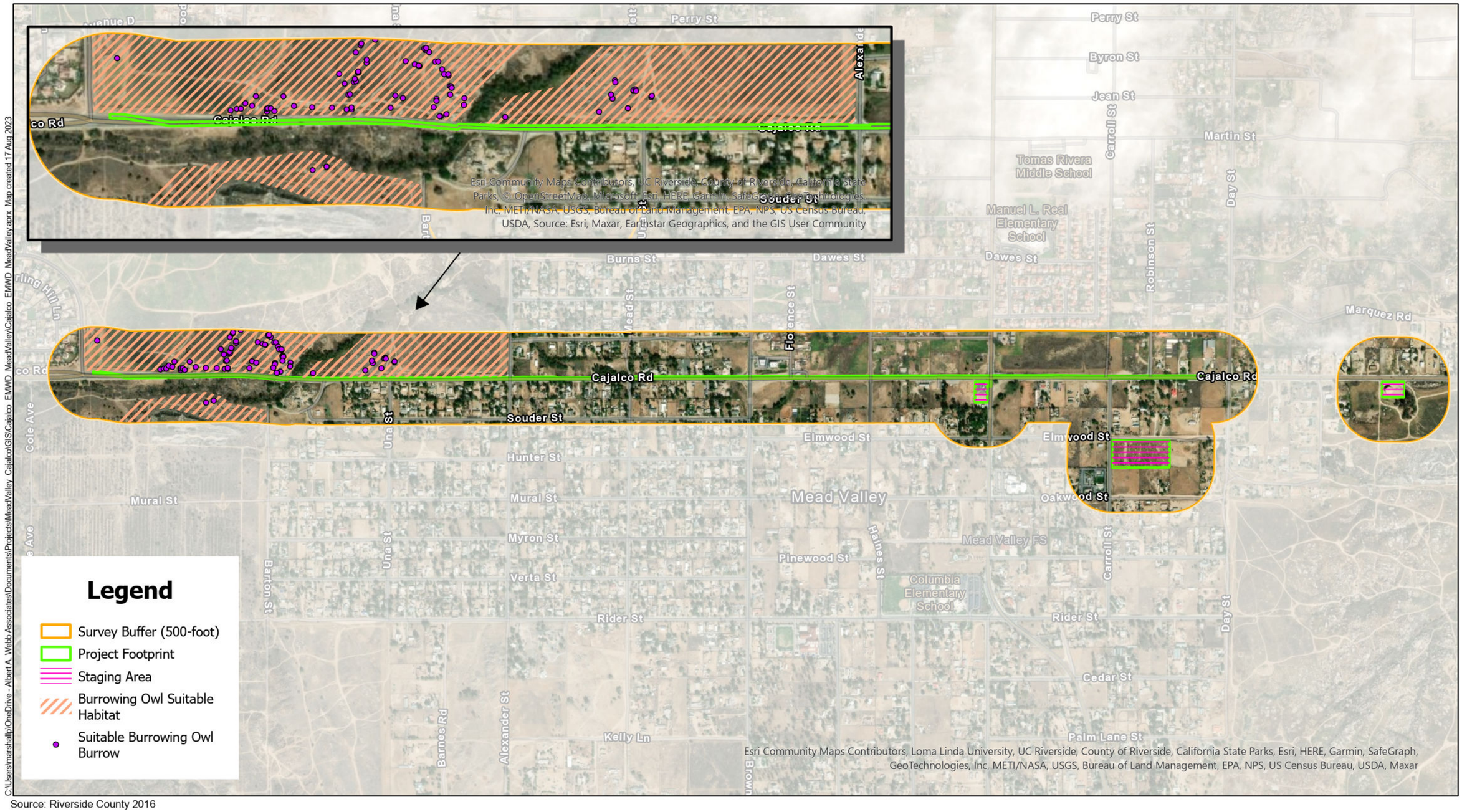
BIO-4 Workers Environmental Awareness Training and Biological Monitoring.

To ensure compliance with Project approvals and protection of aquatic resources and sensitive biological resources, a pre-construction environmental training session will be conducted by a qualified biologist for all construction personnel (i.e., Workers Environmental Awareness Training). This training will provide personnel with comprehensive information about the resources present within the Project vicinity and the specific avoidance measures that must be followed. The purpose is to enhance worker awareness and understanding of the importance of protecting these resources during construction activities. Additionally, the qualified biologist will conduct periodic monitoring of the construction limits to ensure that designated avoidance areas are clearly delineated with the installation of temporary fencing. The biologist will also verify that the fencing remains intact and effectively prevents any encroachment or disturbance in the protected areas.

BIO-5 Nesting Bird and Raptor Avoidance.

If Project related ground disturbing activities or construction cannot be avoided during the avian nesting season, February 1st to August 31st, a qualified biologist the Project Biologist) shall be retained by EMWD and shall will conduct a nesting bird survey within 72 hours prior to commencement any Project-related ground disturbance or construction within a specified area to determine if active nests of species protected by the MBTA or the California Fish and Game Code are present in the construction zone and appropriate survey buffer defined as, 500-feet for raptor species, and 100-feet for passerines. If active nests are located during the nesting bird survey; a no-construction buffer will be demarcated in the field at a distance defined by the Project Biologist retained by EMWD. The no-construction buffers will be applied until it is determined by the Project Biologist that the nesting cycle is completed or the nests are no longer active. If a previously surveyed area is left vacant (i.e., no Project-related

ground disturbance or construction work performed) for more than 72 hours, an additional nesting bird survey shall be conducted in those areas prior to commencement of construction to ensure no active nests are present.



Source: Riverside County 2016

Figure 5- Burrowing Owl Survey Results

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Mead Valley

Figure 6-A - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

NNG

URB/DEV

SRWD

DH

Cajalco Rd

Souder St

Una St

Barton St

Hunter St

Mural St

1

2

3

Source: Riverside County 2016

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

0 90 180 360 Feet

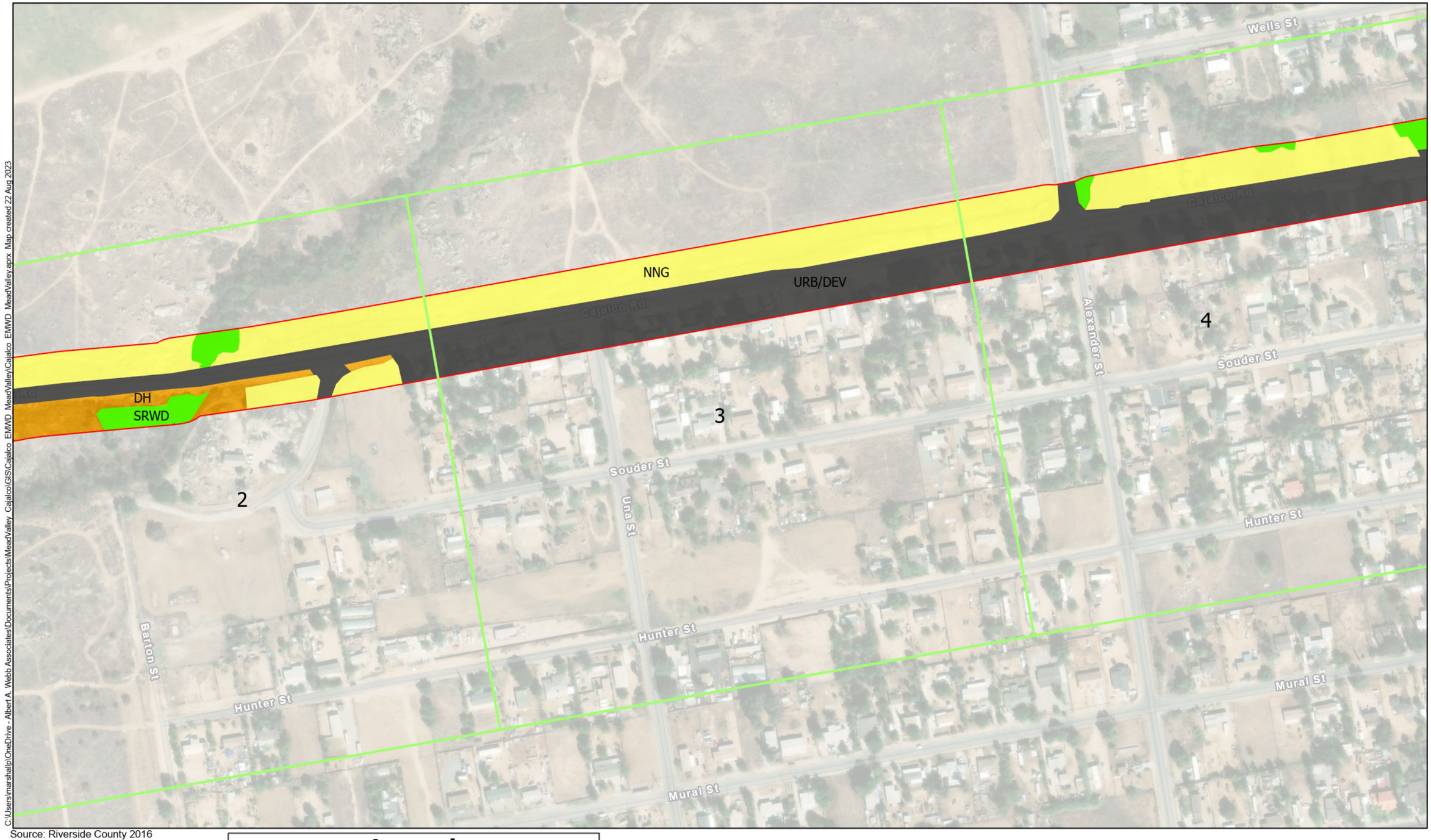
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Mead Valley

Figure 6-B - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

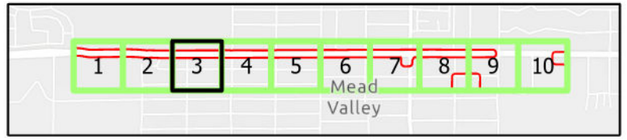
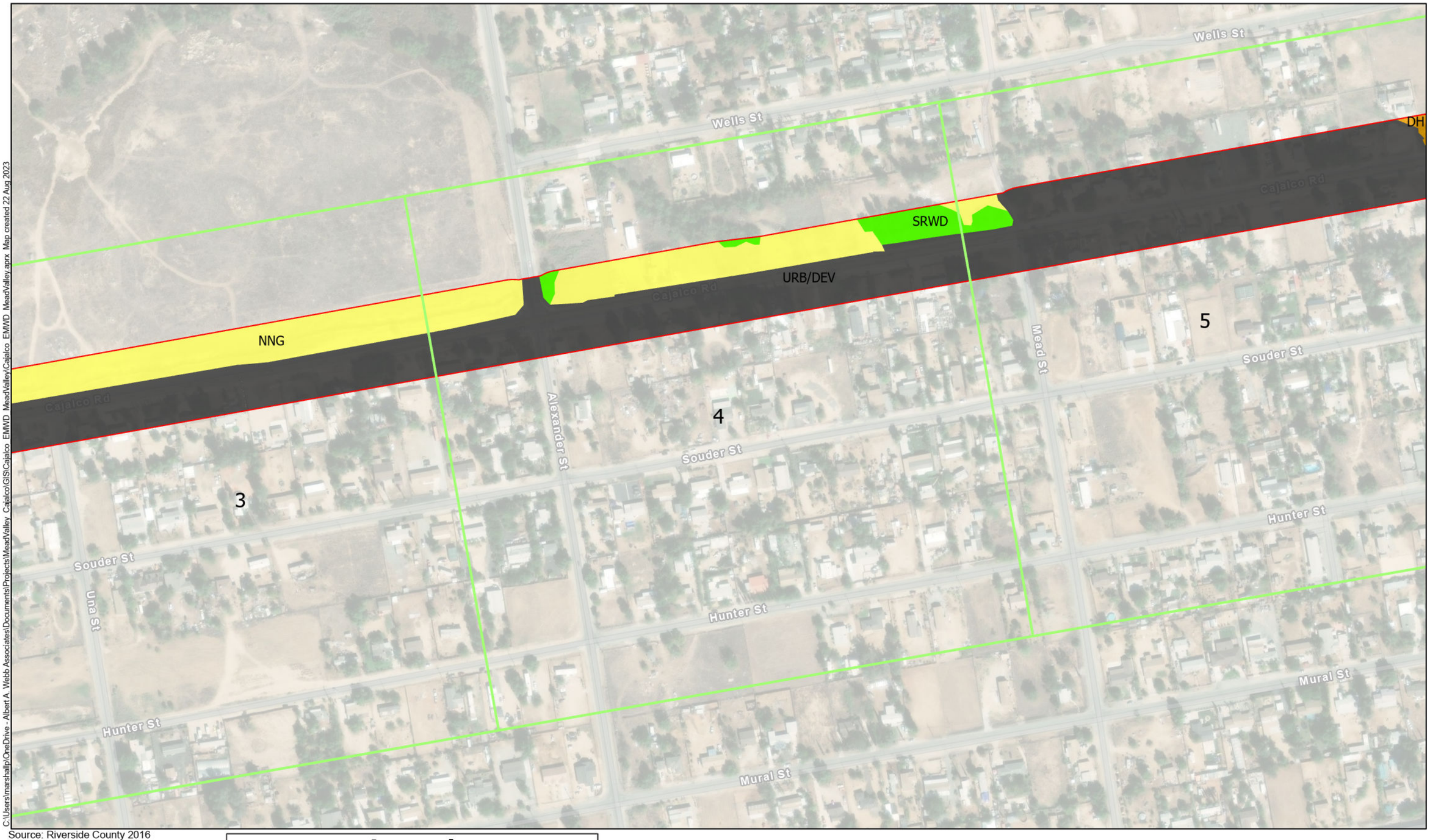


Figure 6-C - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

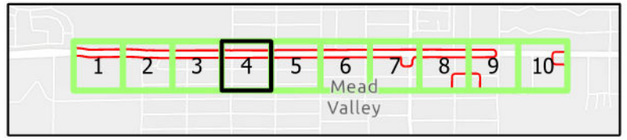
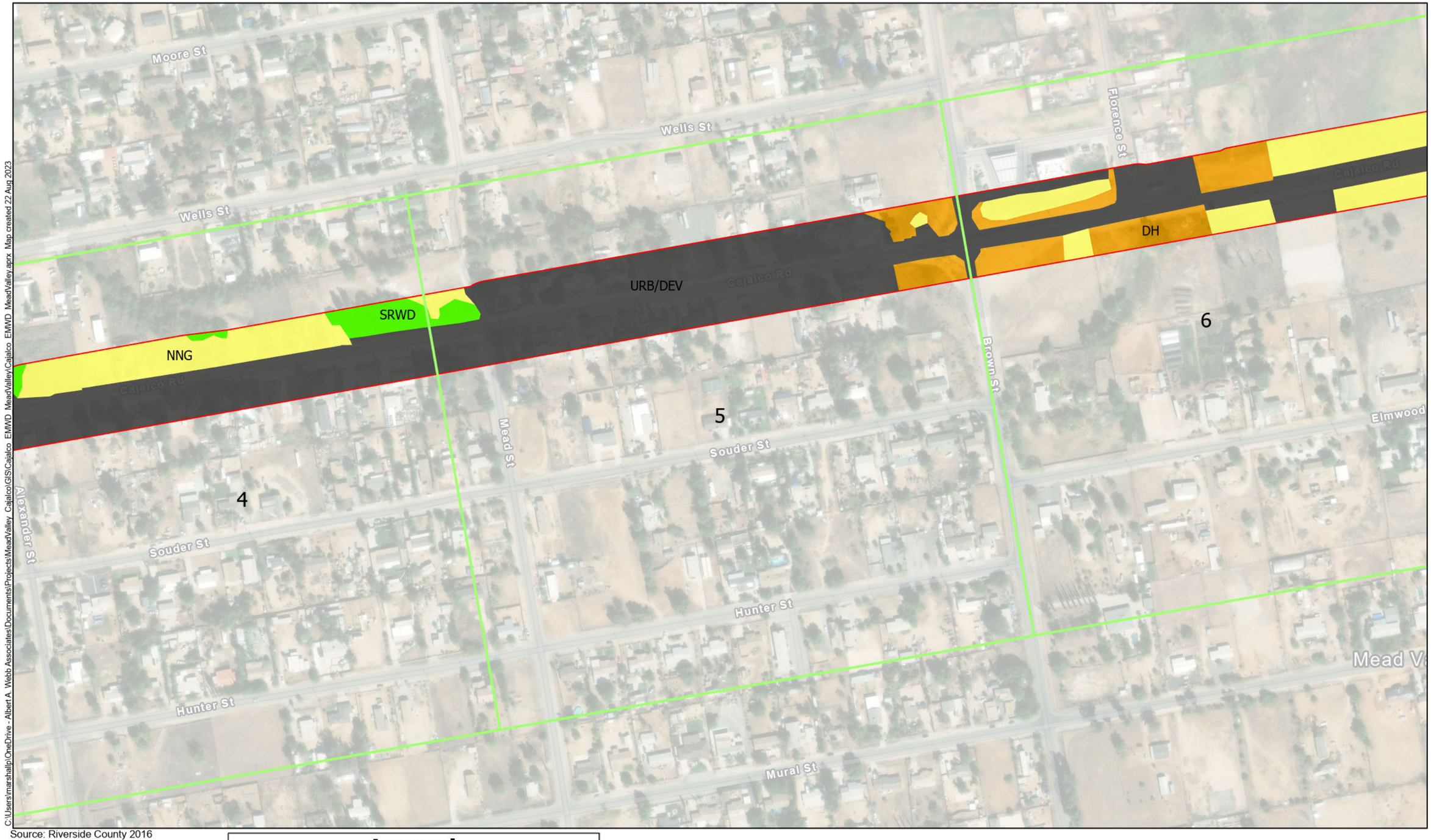


Figure 6-D - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

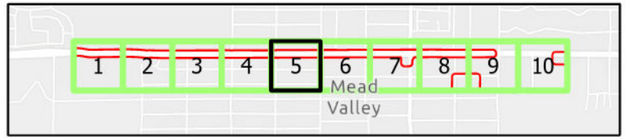
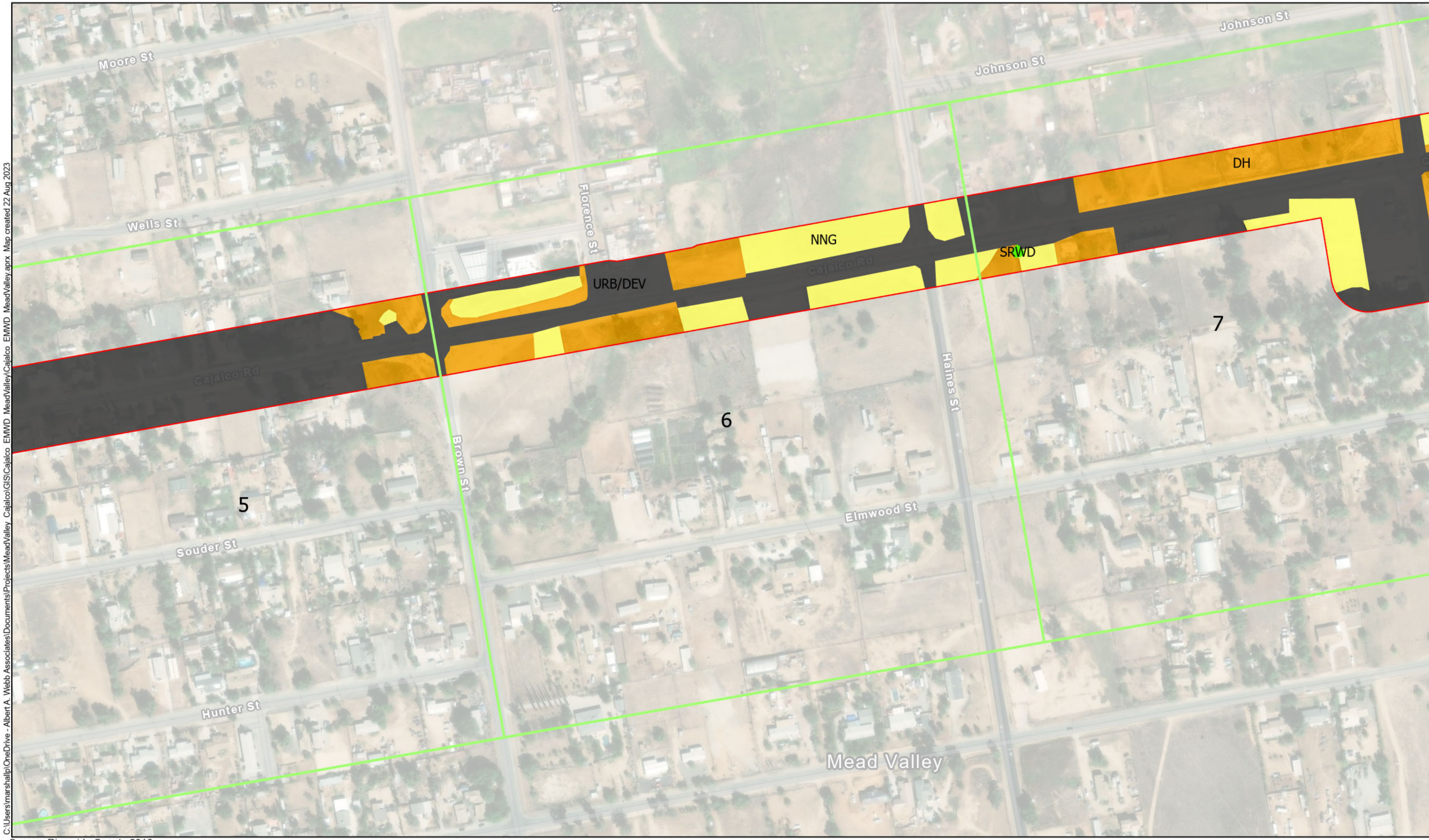


Figure 6-E - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

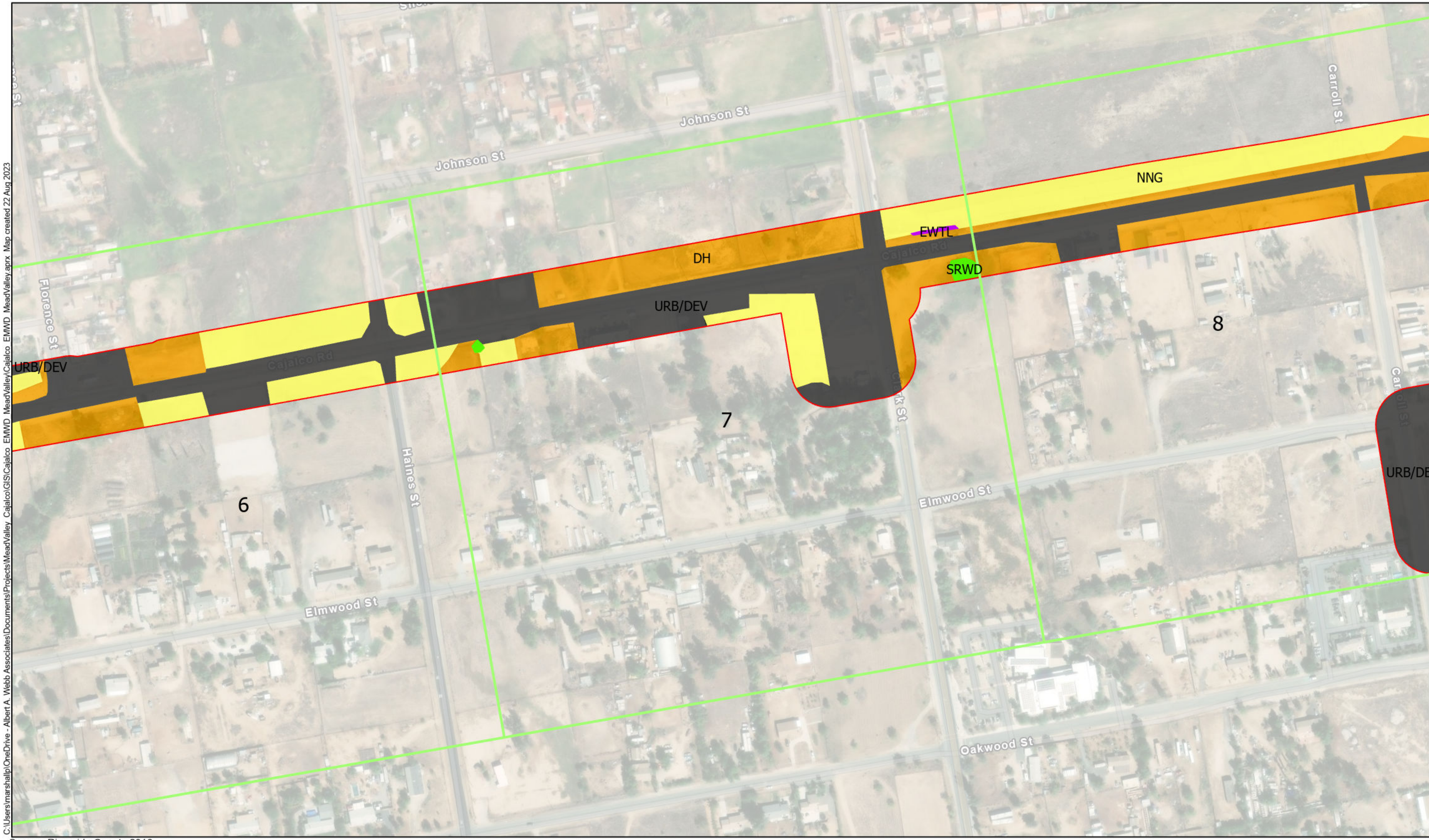
Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

Figure 6-F - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

Source: Riverside County 2016

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Emergent Wetland (EWTL)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

0 90 180 360 Feet

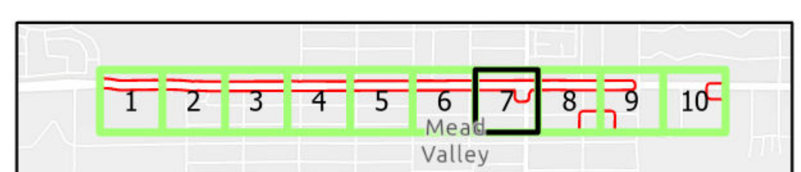


Figure 6-G - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Emergent Wetland (EWTL)
- Southern Riparian Woodland (SRWD)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

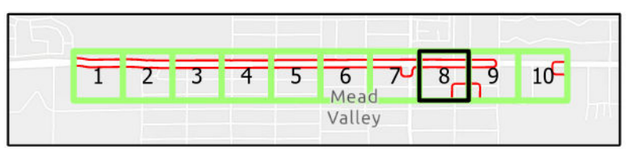
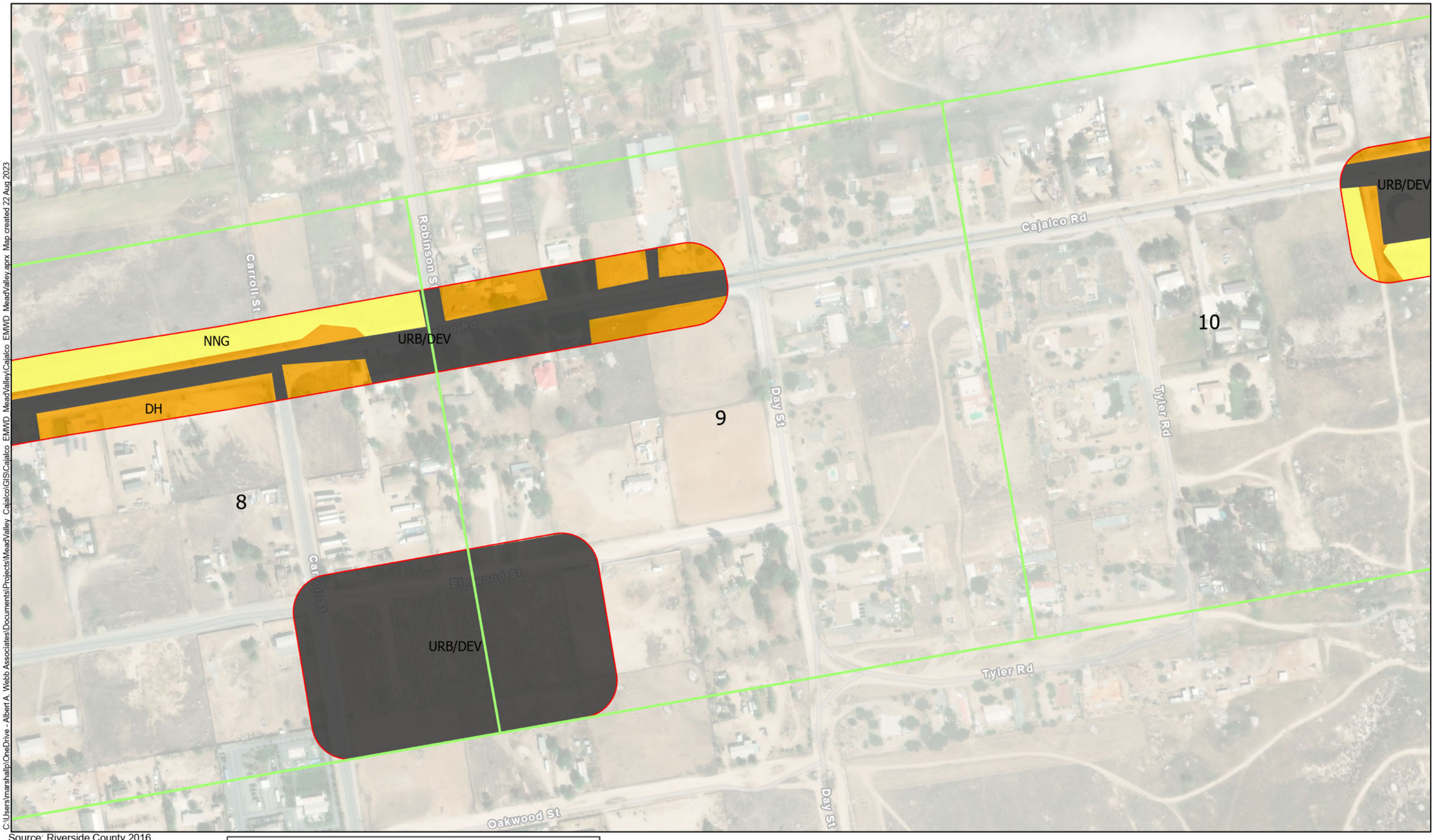


Figure 6-H - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

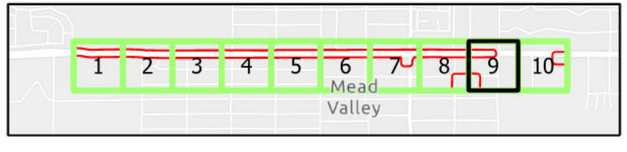


Figure 6-I - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

Marquez Rd

Decker Rd

Cajalco Rd

Cajalco Rd

URB/DEV

DH

URB/DEV

NNG

EUC

10

9

D St

Tyler Rd

Anderson Rd

URB/DEV

Tyler Rd

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Eucalyptus Woodland (EUC)
- Urban/Developed (URB/DEV)
- Non Native Grassland (NNG)
- Disturbed Habitat (DH)

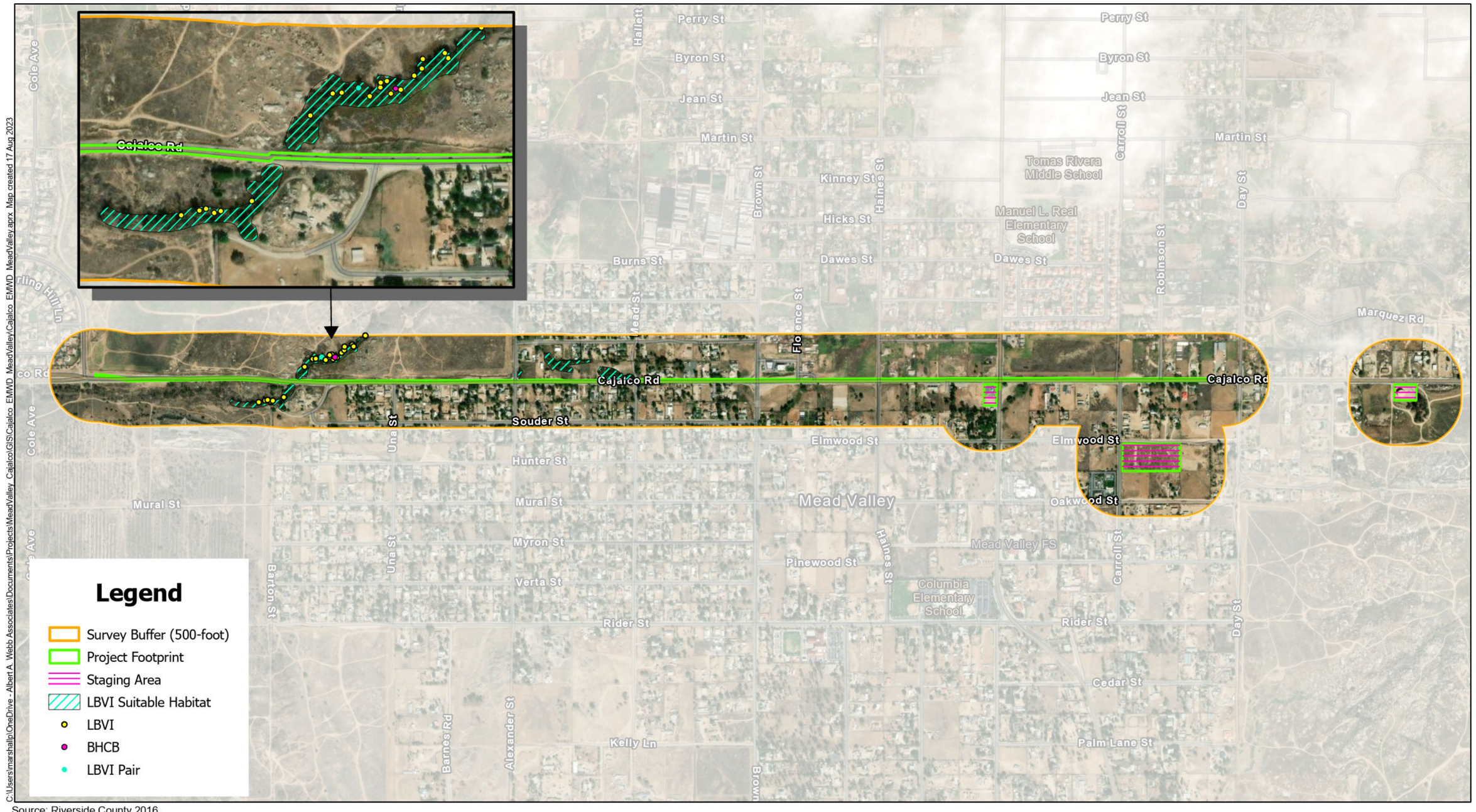
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Mead Valley

Figure 6-J - Vegetation and Land Cover Types

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Source: Riverside County 2016

Figure 7 - Least Bell's Vireo Survey Results

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Feature A
Feature B
Feature C
Cajalco Rd
Carpinus Dr
Cole Ave
Barton St
Hunter St
Mural St
1
2
0 90 180 360 Feet
Source: Riverside County 2016

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Aquatic Features
- Culverts

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Mead Valley

Figure 8-A - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Aquatic Features
- Culverts

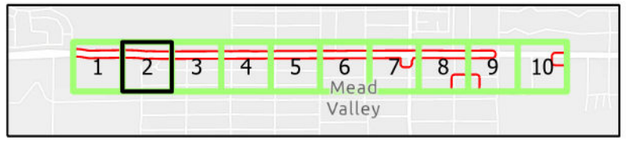
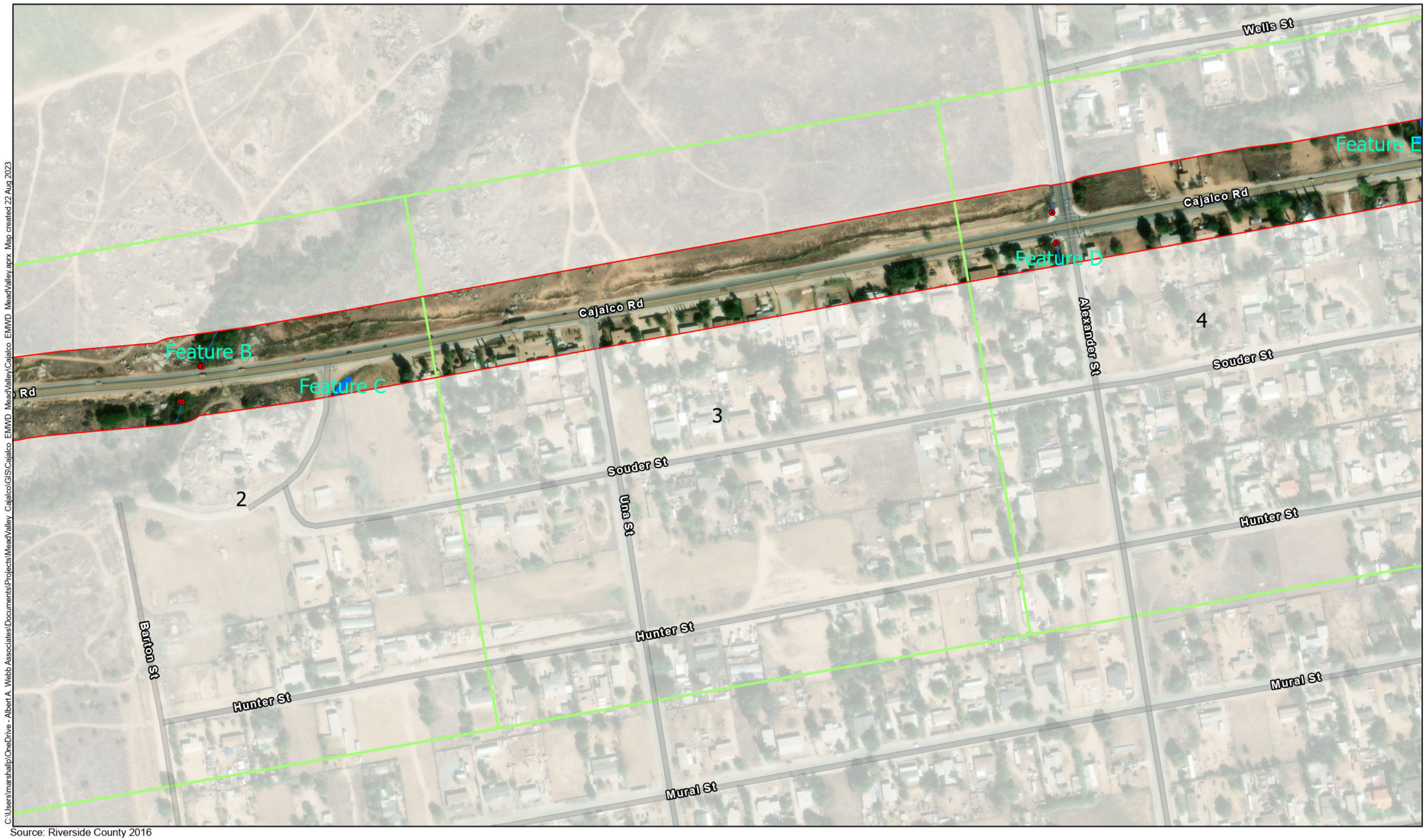


Figure 8-B - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Aquatic Features
- Culverts

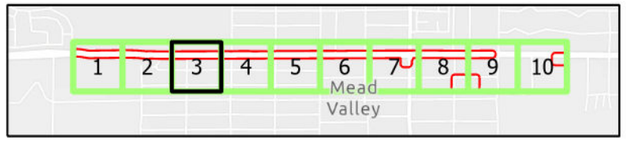


Figure 8-C - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Figure 8-D - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Aquatic Features
- Culverts

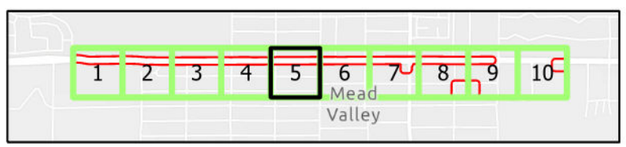


Figure 8-E - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Aquatic Features
- Culverts

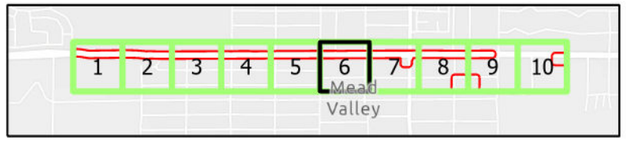


Figure 8-F - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Aquatic Features
- Culverts

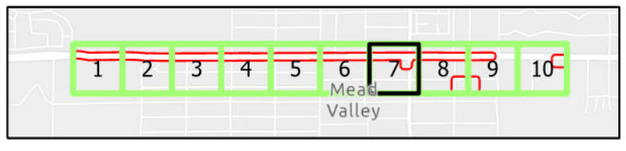
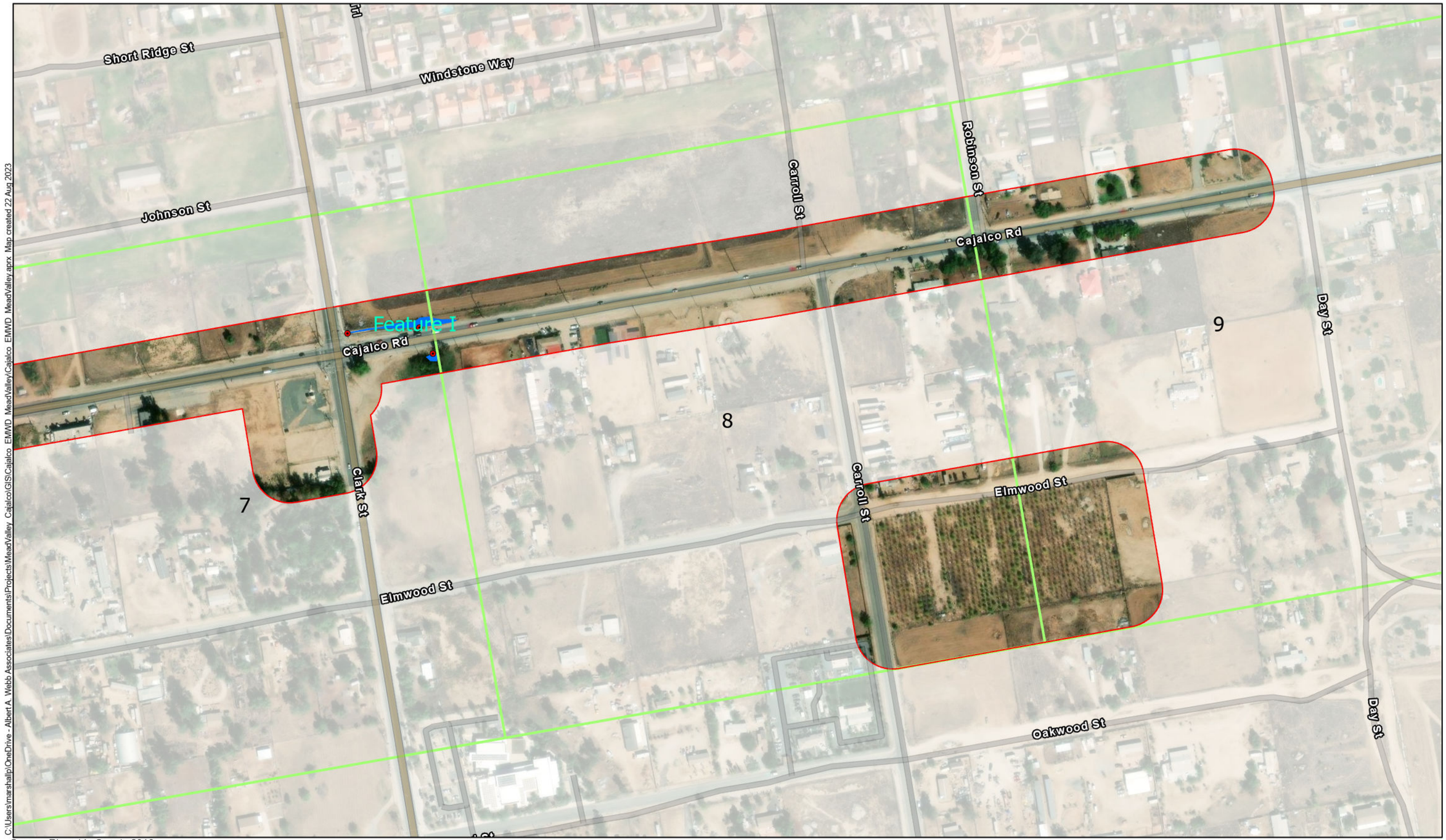


Figure 8-G - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Aquatic Features
- Culverts

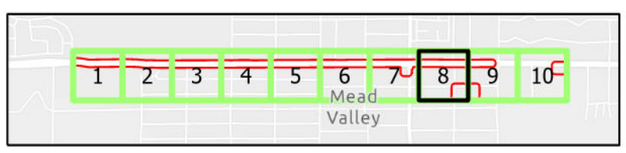


Figure 8-H - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

C:\Users\marshallp\OneDrive - Albert A. Webb Associates\Documents\Projects\MeadValley_Cajalco\GIS\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley\Cajalco_EMWD_MeadValley.aprx Map created 22 Aug 2023

Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

Biological Study Area (BSA)

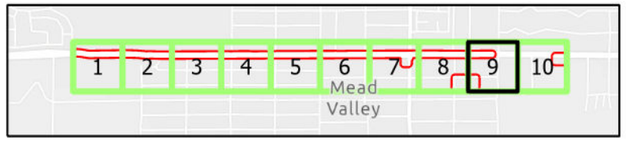
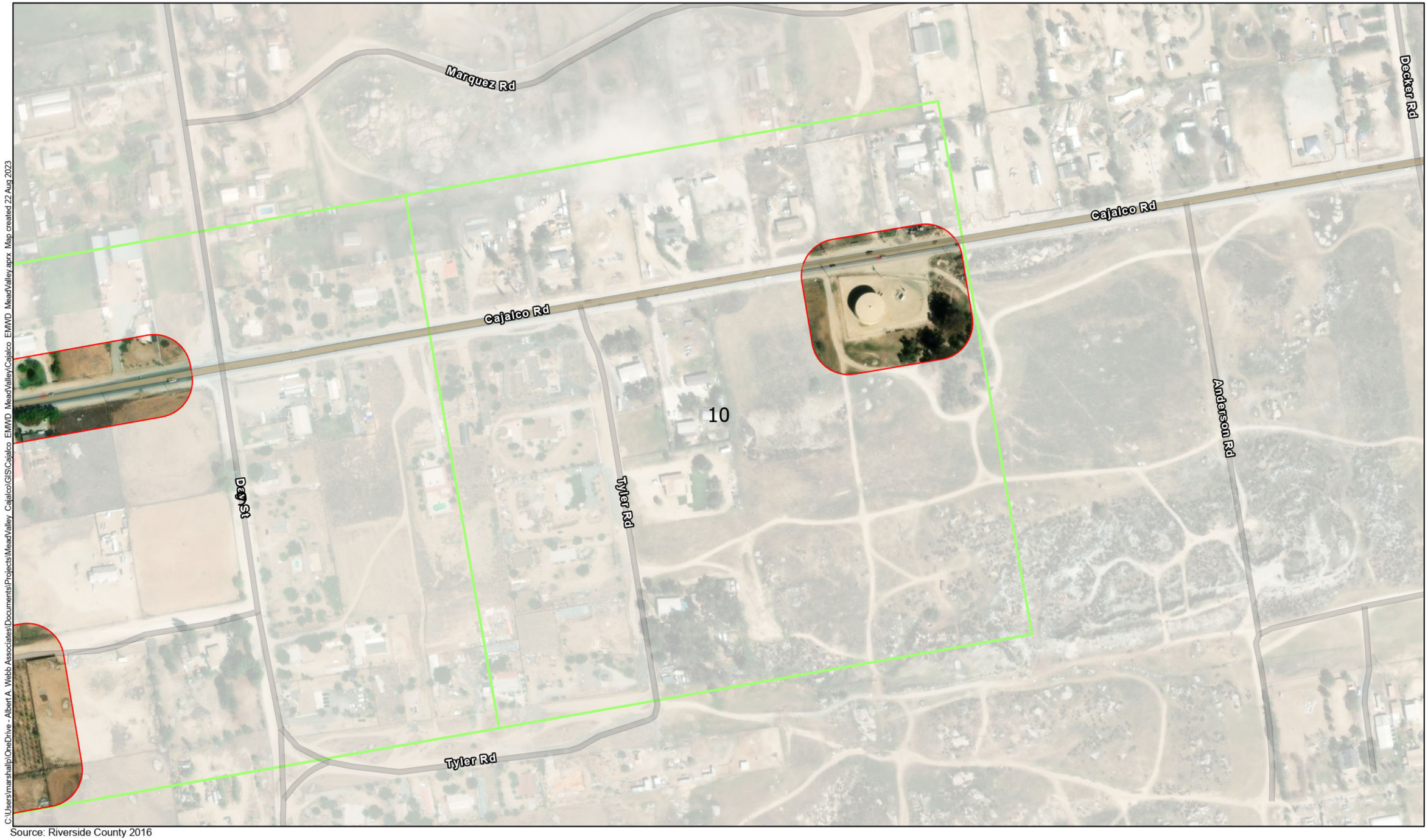


Figure 8-I - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES



Source: Riverside County 2016

0 90 180 360 Feet

Legend

Biological Study Area (BSA)

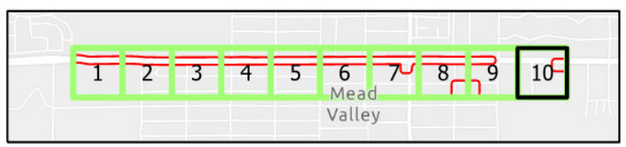


Figure 8-J - Potentially Jurisdictional Aquatic Features

Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project

ALBERT A. WEBB ASSOCIATES

3.5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]

Discussion

The discussion in this section is based on the findings of the *Cultural Resource Technical Report for the Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project* dated October 2023, prepared by South Environmental (hereinafter referred to as the Cultural Resource Study). The Cultural Resources Study consisted of a cultural resources records search, literature review, and a cultural resources survey.

a) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

On August 23 2023, a cultural resources records search of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) at the University of California, Riverside was conducted to identify any previously recorded cultural resources and cultural resources studies in and within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed Project site. (SE 2023, p. 12.) The CHRIS record search included their collections of mapped prehistoric and historic archaeological resources and historic built-environment resources, State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Site Records (DPR forms), technical reports, archival resources, and ethnographic references. Additional consulted sources include historical maps of the study area, the NRHP, the CRHR, the lists of California State Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and the Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility. (SE 2023, p. 12.)

The records search found 24 cultural resource studies that had been previously conducted within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project site between 1972 and 2012. (SE 2023,

pp. 21-28.) From these studies, 44 previously recorded cultural resources were identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed Project site. However no historic resources are within the Project site or the staging areas. (SE 2023, pp. 22-28.)

A pedestrian field survey was conducted on August 23, 2023. The purpose of the survey was to identify cultural resources that may be present along the Project site. The Project vicinity included paved roads, graded dirt roads, or plowed private lots. Ground visibility varied from 0 percent to 95 percent. (SE 2023, p 46.) During the pedestrian survey no cultural resources or features were observed. (SE 2023, p. 46.)

As concluded by the Cultural Resource Study, no significant historical resources were identified within the Project site. Although no known historical resources would be affected by the proposed Project, construction has the potential to encounter previously unknown archaeological or historical resources. While encountering unknown historical resources is unlikely based on the previously disturbed condition of the proposed Project site and surrounding area's ground disturbance from previous development, because the Project site is near historical resources the Cultural Resource Study recommends archaeological monitoring. **Mitigation Measures CUL-1** and **CUL-2** will be implemented to reduce impacts to historic cultural resources. **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** requires archaeological monitoring and the preparation of a Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan by a qualified archaeologist. **Mitigation Measure CUL-2** requires evaluation of discovered artifacts. Operation of the proposed Project would not involve ground disturbing activities and would therefore have no impact on cultural resources. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2** would reduce potential impacts to previously unknown historical resources, if encountered during construction, to less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

As discussed in response "5a" above, a total of 44 previously recorded cultural resources were identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the proposed Project site. One previously recorded prehistoric village complex, overlaps the proposed pipeline alignment along Cajalco Road. This resource contains Areas of Tribal Interest (ATI) and is eligible for the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP). There is a second previously recorded cultural resource adjacent to the pipeline alignment, which is likely associated with the village complex. (SE 2023, p. 21.)

The pedestrian field survey conducted on August 23, 2023, did not identify any new archaeological resources within the Project site or staging areas.

Construction activities have the potential to inadvertently impact known and unknown archaeological resources. Implementation of **Mitigation Measures CUL-1** and **CUL-2** would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

c) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

Previous land uses along the proposed pipeline, alignment, Clark Street Sewer Lift Station, and staging areas uses do not include known cemetery use and the Project site

is not expected to contain human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. However, the potential exists for previously unknown human remains to be discovered during Project construction activities. **Mitigation Measure CUL-3** would be implemented to ensure proper procedures are in place if human remains are discovered during construction. There would be no ground disturbing activities during operation of the proposed Project and therefore no mitigation related to discovery of human remains would be required during operation. With implementation of **Mitigation Measures CUL-3** during construction, impacts as a result of the inadvertent discovery of human remains would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

CUL-1 Cultural Resources Monitoring and Plan Development.

Prior to grading activities, a Cultural Resources Monitoring Plan (Plan) shall be prepared by a qualified archaeologist (Project Archaeologist) in consultation with the Consulting Tribe(s). The plan shall also identify the location and timing of cultural resources monitoring. The plan shall contain an allowance for the qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards, based on observations of subsurface soil stratigraphy or other factors during initial grading, and in consultation with the Consulting Tribe(s) and their designated Native American monitor and the lead agency, may reduce or discontinue monitoring as warranted if the Project Archaeologist determines that the possibility of encountering archaeological deposits is low. The plan shall outline the appropriate measures to be followed in the event of unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during project implementation (including the survey to occur following vegetation removal and monitoring during ground-disturbing activities). The plan shall identify avoidance as the preferred manner of mitigation impacts to cultural resources. The plan shall establish the criteria utilized to evaluate the historic significance (per CEQA) of the discoveries, methods of avoidance consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3), as well as identify the appropriate data recovery methods and procedures to mitigate the effect of the project if avoidance of significant historical or unique archaeological resources is determined to be infeasible. The plan shall also include reporting of monitoring results within a timely manner, disposition of artifacts, curation of data, and dissemination of reports to local and state repositories, libraries and interested professionals. The Project Archaeologist and Consulting Tribe(s) tribal monitor shall attend a pre-grade meeting with Eastern Municipal Water District staff, the contractor, and appropriate subcontractors to discuss the monitoring program, including protocols to be followed in the event that cultural material is encountered.

CUL-2 Evaluation of Discovered Artifacts.

Artifacts discovered along the pipeline alignment. Clark Lift Station site, or any staging areas shall be inventoried and analyzed by the Project Archaeologist and Native American monitor(s). A monitoring report will be prepared, detailing the methods and results of the monitoring program, as well as the disposition of cultural material

encountered. If no cultural material is encountered, a brief letter report will be sufficient to document monitoring activities.

CUL-3 Procedure for Discovery of Human Remains.

If Native American human remains are encountered, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 will be followed. If human remains are encountered, no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin. Further, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b), the remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours. Subsequently, the NAHC shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the "most likely descendant." The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

3.6 Energy

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

Discussion

Electrical service for the proposed Project area is provided by Southern California Edison (SCE). Natural gas service for the entire proposed Project area is provided by the Southern California Gas Company. SCE's power content mix utilizes approximately 31 percent renewables, two percent large hydroelectric, 22 percent natural gas, nine percent nuclear, and 34 percent from purchased unspecified power sources. (SCE 2021.)

The County of Riverside approved their 2019 Climate Action Plan (CAP) on December 17, 2019. The 2019 CAP updates the 2015 CAP and builds upon the 2015 CAP GHG reduction strategies. The 2019 CAP Update refines the County's efforts to meet greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies, specifically for the years 2035 and 2050. The CAP describes the County of Riverside's GHG emissions for the year 2017, projects how these emissions will increase into 2020, 2030, and 2050, and includes strategies to reduce emissions to a level consistent with the State of California's emissions reduction targets. In order to reach the reduction target, the County of Riverside would also need to implement additional local reduction measures. These measures encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy, development and penetration of zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), water conservation, and increased waste diversion. In addition to local government, efforts at the local business and community level would be required to achieve these targets. These strategies complement Riverside County's General Plan policies and are consistent with Riverside County's vision for a more sustainable community. (CAP 2019.)

The County of Riverside partners with Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), SCE, and SoCalGas for outreach events, such as annual energy-efficiency fair. In addition, the County of Riverside also promotes programs such as Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) program sponsored by the Western Riverside County Council of Governments (WRCOG) and other Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs. (CAP 2019)

a) Less than Significant Impact

Construction of the proposed Project would involve construction-related fossil fuel consumption from operation of diesel-powered construction equipment, and fossil fuel consumption from material hauling, delivery, and worker vehicle trips. The anticipated construction fleet for the proposed Project includes typical off-road construction equipment and on-road vehicle fleet such as a backhoe/loader, excavator, rubber-tired loaders, pavers, graders, water truck, and dump trucks.

Operation of the proposed Project would not involve the consumption of energy. Routine inspection of above ground components would be incorporated into EMWD's existing O&M activities and would not cause a net change in vehicle trips and hence fossil fuel consumption.

The proposed Project would implement typical construction practices such as trenching and repaving. The Project would not require unusual or excessive construction equipment or practices that would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy compared to projects of similar type and size. In addition, the construction fleet contracted for the proposed Project would be required to comply with the CARB In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations, which would limit vehicle idling time to five minutes, restrict adding vehicles to construction fleets with older-tier engines, and establish a schedule for retiring older, less fuel-efficient engines from the construction fleet and replacing the retired vehicles with newer vehicles, repowering older engines, or installing verified diesel emission control strategies in older engine. Effective January 1,

2024, the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations would require contracting entities to obtain and retain a fleet's valid Certificate of Reported Compliance prior to awarding a contract or hiring a fleet. (CARB-C 2023.)

Once construction is complete, the proposed Project would not involve operational energy consumption. As such, construction and operation of the proposed Project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

The County of Riverside's 2019 CAP focuses on reducing energy and emissions from the County as an organization and encourages the local community and local business to reduce their own energy and GHG emissions. The County of Riverside's 2019 CAP includes the suggested measures to reduce emissions and GHGs through energy use reduction, water use reduction, recycling and diversion, alternative transportation, and renewable energy utilization. The proposed Project would not result in a net increase beyond existing levels in energy use or vehicle trips during operation. The Project would not involve land use changes that would indirectly result in an increase in vehicle trips or vehicle miles travelled, such as from relocation of an existing road. As explained under response "*3.6a",* above, the Project would not involve wasteful or inefficient energy consumption. Operation of the Project would not involve consumption of water or generation of solid waste. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with the 2019 CAP's plan for energy efficiency, which was developed to keep countywide GHG emissions in line with State reduction targets. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
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.	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
iv) Landslides?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of top soil?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994),	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]

Discussion

Riverside County contains rugged mountains, flat valley areas, open desert, and expansive natural open space areas. As with many regions in Southern California, the County is located in areas of several known active earthquake faults. Riverside County contains Alquist—Priolo Zones including the San Jacinto Fault Zone, San Andres Fault Zone, and the Elsinore Fault Zone. (GPEIR, 4.10.1.) Areas throughout Riverside County maybe susceptible to liquefaction hazards, unstable soils, and/or be susceptible to landslides. (GPEIR, 4.10.1.)

A Geotechnical Investigation Report was prepared for the proposed Project **(Appendix D**) to address potential geologic hazards and geotechnical conditions that could impact the proposed construction. As part of the geotechnical investigation, pertinent documents reviewed included published reports and mapping, aerial photographs, in-house geotechnical reports, and available reports by others. Additionally, thirteen (13) test borings were drilled within and near the Project site. The borings drilled to the approximate depths up to 41½ feet below the existing ground surface found that Project site consisted of soils that include: fill, very old axial-channel deposits, young wash deposits, and Val Verde tonalite (granitic rock). (ATLAS 2023, p. 3.) Groundwater was encountered in depths as shallow as 13 feet below ground surface. The approximate depth to granite igneous rock ranged from below the surficial spills to the depths the borings explored. (ATLAS 2023, pp. 3.)

The Project is located within the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province of California, which stretches from the Los Angeles basin south into Baja California. This province is characterized as a series of northwest-trending mountain ranges separated by subparallel fault zones and a coastal plain of subdued landforms. (ATLAS 2023, p. 2.)

The mountain ranges are underlain primarily by Mesozoic metamorphic rocks that were intruded by plutonic rocks of the southern California batholith, while the coastal plain is underlain by subsequently deposited marine and non-marine sedimentary formations. The Project site is located in the coastal plain and the subsurface materials consists of

fill, very old axial-channel deposits, young wash deposits, and Val Verde tonalite (granite rock). (ATLAS 2023, pp. 2-3.)

The closest active fault to the Project site and the staging areas is the Glen Ivy North fault (ATLAS 2023, p. 5.) The Project site and the staging areas are not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. (ATLAS 2023, p. 4.)

a.i) No Impact

The Project would not be associated with significant levels of risk of loss, injury or death from rupture of a known earthquake fault. Based on California's Geological Survey's Earthquake Fault Zone Map the Project site and the staging areas are not within a known fault. (DOC-B 2023.) The Project site and the staging areas are not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. (ATLAS 2023, p. 5.) The closest active fault to the Project site and the staging areas is the Glen Ivy North fault located southwest of the Project site. (ATLAS 2023, p. 5; DPC-B 2023.) The shortest distance between this Glen Ivy North fault and the Project site is 10 miles. Due to the distance of the Glen Ivy North fault, there is no potential for surface fault rupture in the Project site.

a.ii) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project is situated in a seismically active region. As is the case for most areas of Southern California, ground-shaking resulting from earthquakes associated with nearby and more distant faults may occur at the proposed Project site. During the life of the Project, seismic activity associated with active faults can be expected to generate moderate to strong ground shaking at the Project site.

However, the Project facilities would be designed per EMWD's Engineering Standards and Specifications, which would ensure structural resiliency. The Project would also be designed and constructed pursuant to recommendations and requirements of the Geotechnical Investigation Report (**Appendix D**) as well as applicable American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards and would incorporate measures to accommodate seismic loading pursuant to guidelines such as the "Greenbook" Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction and the International Building. These guidelines are produced through joint efforts by industry groups to provide standard specifications for engineering and construction activities, including measures to accommodate seismic loading parameters. These standards and guidelines are widely accepted by regulatory authorities and are regularly included in related standards such as municipal building and grading codes. In addition, the Project design would follow guidelines within the California Building Code (CBC; California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2), which is based on the International Building Code (IBC) with amendments to reflect conditions specific to California.

Because building and construction codes related to seismic shaking would be followed, there would be less potential for structural damage or loss due to seismic ground shaking. Even if structural damage does occur during a seismic event, it would be isolated to the various Project components; the Project would not exacerbate a risk of seismic-related

damage to other existing resources and land uses in the vicinity. Impacts would be less than significant.

a.iii) Less than Significant Impact

Liquefaction occurs when loose, saturated, generally fine sands and silts are subjected to strong ground shaking. The soils lose shear strength and become liquid, potentially resulting in large total and differential ground surface settlements as well as possible lateral spreading during an earthquake. (ATLAS 2023, p. 5.) Shallow hard material was mapped along the Project site and no liquefiable material was found. (ATLAS 2023, p. 6.)

Additionally, the Project would be designed and constructed in accordance with EMWD's Engineering Standards and Specifications, and the other standards and guidelines described under response "3.7a.ii" above. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

a.iv) Less than Significant Impact

Seismically induced landslides and slope failures are common occurrences during or soon after large earthquakes. However, the Geotechnical Report Investigation did not indicate slope instability near the Project site and determined that slope instabilities, or landslides, to affect the Project site were considered low. (ATLAS 2023, p. 5.) As described under response "3.7a.ii" above, all Project facilities would be designed in accordance with EMWD's Engineering Standards and Specifications and the other standards and guidelines in accordance with recommendations in the Geotechnical Investigation Report. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

Construction of the Project components would require soil-disturbing activities such as excavation, which would expose soil. The soil exposed by construction would be subject to erosion during strong winds, heavy rains, or other storm events. Proposed Project construction activities would disturb one acre or more in total and would be covered under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit. A SWPPP would be prepared and implemented in compliance with the Construction General Permit. Best management practices (B MPs) would be identified in the SWPPP to control and reduce pollutant discharges associated with construction and erosion. Once construction is complete, all pipelines and associated appurtenances disturbance areas would be returned to pre-Project conditions and therefore would not result in further soil erosion. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the seismically induced landslide impacts addressed in response "3.7a.iv" above and the liquefaction impacts addressed in response "3.7a.iii" above, the Project's potential to result in unstable soils that could result in landslides would be low because the relatively flat nature of the Project area and the Project's location within an existing roadway.

The Project site has a low potential for liquefaction and settlement because of the dense soils, depth to groundwater, and absence of liquefiable material. (ATLAS 2023, p. 5.) The Project site is not located in an area known for subsidence and the potential for subsidence is low. (ATLAS 2023, p. 6.) Additionally, adherence to the Geotechnical Investigation Report design recommendations, EMWD's Engineering Standards and Specifications, and other standards and guidelines would ensure structural resiliency to earthquake events and any other causes of lateral spreading or liquefaction. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Expansive soils have the ability to significantly change their volume, shrink and swell, due to their soil moisture content. (GPEIR, 4.10.1.) As part of the Geotechnical Investigation Report, samples of the soils along the Project site were evaluated and determined that they have a very low to low potential for expansion. (ATLAS 2023, p. 8.) Additionally, as described above, the Project's design would adherence to the Geotechnical Investigation Report design recommendations, EMWD's Engineering Standards and Specifications, and other standards and guidelines for structural resiliency that include, but are not limited to, grading recommendations to further reduce risk associated with expansive soils. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

e) No Impact

The Project does not propose the construction or use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The proposed Project would provide wastewater services to the surrounding area, eliminating the current usage of septic tanks Therefore, there would be no impact.

f) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

A *Cultural Resources Technical Report the Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project* dated October 2023, was prepared by South Environmental and is included as Appendix C of this IS. The paleontological study prepared as part of the Cultural Resources Technical Report was completed in compliance with CEQA, federal, state, and local regulations to determine the potential Project impacts to paleontological resources in the Project area. Fossils are valuable and nonrenewable resources of remains of ancient, commonly extinct organisms that help us understand the evolutionary history of life on earth.

The California Public Resources Code (Section 5097.5) prevents an individual from removing, destroying, or altering any paleontological resources found on public lands without the permission of the public agency that has jurisdiction over the lands. Riverside County contains a policies (Policy OS 19.6 – Policy OS 19.9) for paleontological resources in its General Plan which states that areas within high-paleontological sensitivity designation must prepare a paleontological impact mitigation program (PRIMP), areas within a low-paleontological sensitivity designation would not require direct mitigation unless fossils are encountered, areas within undermined-paleontological sensitivity designation must prepare a paleontological report to document potential

significance of paleontological resources and appropriate mitigation, and should paleontological resources are found, these resources would be sent to Riverside County for curation. (COR 2015, p. OS-51.)

Paleontological sensitivity of the geological units beneath the Project area was assessed through a literature review and a paleontological locality search. A request was submitted to the Western Science Center (WSC) in Hemet for a list of known fossil localities for the Project site area and within a one-mile radius. (SE 2023, p. 35.) The records did not identify fossil localities within the Project site and the staging area or the surrounding one-mile radius. (SE 2023, p. 35.) However, the geologic units underlying the Project site are mapped as alluvial sand and gravel from the Pleistocene epoch and quartz diorite from the Cretaceous. (SE 2023, p. 35.) Pleistocene alluvial units are considered to be highly paleontologically sensitive. Should paleontological resources be discovered within the Project site, these resources have a potential to be scientifically significant. (SE 2023, p. 36.)

Although no known paleontological resources were identified within the Project site, the Project site area is highly paleontological sensitive. To ensure that potential paleontological resources impacts are less than significant, EMWD would be required to implement mitigation measures that include paleontological monitoring, the preparation of a Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP), and implementation of a Workers Environmental Awareness Program, (WEAP). Therefore, with implementation of **Mitigation Measure GEO-1 through Mitigation Measure GEO-3,** impacts would be less than significant**.**

Mitigation Measures:

GEO-1 Paleontological Resources Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP).

To educate construction crews about the types of paleontological resources that may be encountered during construction, EMWD shall retain a professional paleontologist (the “Project Paleontologist”) to prepare a Paleontological Resources Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP). The Paleontological Resources WEAP shall provide a description of the laws and ordinances protecting fossil resources, the types of fossil resources that may be encountered in the area, the role of the paleontological monitor, outline steps to follow in the event that a fossil discovery is made, and provide contact information for the Project Paleontologist. The Project Paleontologist or designee(s) shall present the Paleontological Resources WEAP to the construction contractor and construction crew(s) during a preconstruction meeting. The Paleontological Resources WEAP shall be taped and presented to any construction crew members not present at the preconstruction meeting during which it was initially presented prior to such crew members working on the Project. This training may be conducted concurrent with other preconstruction training (e.g., biological resources, safety).

GEO-2 Paleontological Mitigation Monitoring.

Prior to the commencement of Project-related ground-disturbing activities the Project Paleontologist retained under **Mitigation Measure GEO-1** shall prepare and implement a Paleontological Resources Mitigation Monitoring Plan (PRMMP) for the Project. The PRMMP shall describe the monitoring required during excavations that extend into the three Pleistocene alluvial units and the location of other areas deemed to have a high paleontological resource potential. Paleontological Monitoring shall entail the visual inspection of excavated or graded areas and trench sidewalls. If the Project Paleontologist determines full-time monitoring is no longer warranted, based on the geologic conditions at depth, the Paleontological Monitor may recommend that monitoring be reduced or cease entirely.

GEO-3 Fossil Discoveries.

In the event that a paleontological resource is discovered, the Project Paleontologist shall have the authority to temporarily divert the construction equipment around the find until it is assessed for scientific significance and, if appropriate, collected. If the resource is determined to be of scientific significance, the Project Paleontologist shall complete the following:

1. Salvage of Fossils. If fossils are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity should be halted to allow the paleontological monitor, and/or Project Paleontologist to evaluate the discovery and determine if the fossil may be considered significant. If the fossils are determined to be potentially significant, the Project Paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) should recover them following standard field procedures for collecting paleontological as outlined in the PRMMP prepared per Mitigation Measure GEO-1. Typically, fossils can be safely salvaged quickly by a single paleontologist and not disrupt construction activity. In some cases, larger fossils (such as complete skeletons or large mammal fossils) require more extensive excavation and longer salvage periods. In this case the Project Paleontologist shall have the authority to temporarily direct, divert or halt construction activity to ensure that the fossil(s) can be removed in a safe and timely manner.

2. Fossil Preparation and Curation. The PRMMP shall identify the museum that has agreed to accept fossils that may be discovered during project-related excavations. Upon completion of fieldwork, all significant fossils collected shall be prepared in a properly equipped laboratory to a point ready for curation. Preparation may include the removal of excess matrix from fossil materials and stabilizing or repairing specimens. During preparation and inventory, the fossils specimens will be identified to the lowest taxonomic level practical prior to curation at an accredited museum. The fossil specimens must be delivered to the accredited museum or repository no later than 90 days after all fieldwork is completed. The cost of curation will be assessed by the repository and will be the responsibility of EMWD.

3. Final Paleontological Mitigation Report. Upon completion of ground disturbing activity (and curation of fossils if necessary), the Project Paleontologist shall

prepare a final mitigation and monitoring report outlining the results of the mitigation and monitoring program. The report shall include discussion of the location, duration and methods of the monitoring, stratigraphic sections, any recovered fossils, and the scientific significance of those fossils, and where fossils were curated.

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

Discussion

GHGs are pollutants that are known to increase the greenhouse effect in the earth's atmosphere thereby adding to global climate change impacts. Several pollutants have been identified as GHGs, and the State of California definition of a GHG in the Health and Safety Code, Section 38505(g) includes CO_2, methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Water vapor is also a GHG, however, it is short lived, and concentrations are largely determined by natural processes such as evaporation. Other GHGs such as fluorinated gases are created and emitted through anthropogenic sources. The most common anthropogenic sourced GHGs are CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O.

Measuring how much energy the emissions of one ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time relative to the emissions of one ton of CO_2 is called the Global Warming Potential (GWP). CO_2e is the amount of GHG emitted multiplied by its GWP. CO_2 has a 100-year GWP of one; CH_4 has a GWP of 25; and N_2O has a GWP of 298.

In 2005, Executive Order (EO) S-3-05 set GHG emission reduction targets:

- 2010 should have 2000 levels;
- 2020 should have 1990 levels; and
- GHG emissions should be 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Senate Bill (SB) 32, passed in 2016, required that the CARB include in its next update to the Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Scoping Plan, "ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced to at least 40 percent below the statewide GHG emissions limit no later than December 31, 2030." EO B-55 set a GHG emission reduction target for California to be carbon neutral by 2045.

CARB adopted the *Scoping Plan* in December 2008 and *2022 Scoping Plan Update* in December 2022. The *Scoping Plan* contains the strategies California will implement to achieve a reduction of 85 percent below 1990 levels no later than 2045. In the *Scoping Plan*, CARB recommends that lead agencies prioritize onsite design features that reduce emissions, especially from mobile sources, and direct investments in GHG reductions within the proposed Project's region that contribute potential air quality, health, and economic co-benefits locally."

EMWD service area and the proposed Project lie within the jurisdiction of the SCAQMD. On December 5, 2008, the SCAQMD Board approved interim CEQA GHG significance thresholds for stationary sources, rules, and plans using a tiered approach for determining significance. Tier 3, the primary tier the SCAQMD board uses for determining significance, set a screening significance threshold of 10,000 $MTCO_2e$/year for determining whether a stationary source project would have a less than significant cumulative GHG impact. (SCAQMD 2008b.)

The County of Riverside adopted a CAP in 2015 to establish goals and policies that incorporate sustainability and GHG reduction targets into its management process. The County set a goal to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 in line with the State's AB 32 GHG reduction targets. The CAP was updated in 2019 to contain further guidance on Riverside County's GHG Inventory reduction goals, thresholds, policies, guidelines, and implementation programs including 2030 thresholds to reduce emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels. In particular the CAP elaborates on the County's *General Plan* goals and policies relative to GHG emissions and provides a specific implementation tool to guide future decisions of the County. The County's CAP includes a review process procedure for evaluating individual project GHG impacts and determining the significance under CEQA. The County's CAP is qualified for CEQA tiering and streamlining of individual projects' CEQA review. The County's CAP has set a threshold of 3,000 metric tons (MT) CO_2e per year to be used to identify projects that, when combined with the modest efficiency measures (e.g., energy efficiency matching or exceeding the Title 24 requirements in effect as of January 2017; water conservation measures that match the California Green Building Standards Code in effect as of January 2017) are considered less than significant.

a) Less than Significant Impact

The Project would create GHG emissions during construction only. Construction is expected to last approximately twenty months, and the Project's life expectancy is conservatively assumed to be 30 years for the purposes of this GHG analysis. Construction impacts would include emissions associated with pipeline trenching and installation, as well as on-road vehicle trips for mobilization and demobilization activities (e.g., potholing, testing/chlorination, and other activities). The Project would not be associated with a net increase in operation emissions because the pipeline would not require energy use to operate, and inspection of the pipeline and above ground appurtenances, and exercise of the valves would be incorporated into EMWD's existing O&M trips. Further details can be found in *Section 2.5 Project Description*.

Modeling of air emissions from construction was completed in CalEEMod version 2022.1 for construction of the pipeline. Details on construction, including timing and equipment, can be found in *Section 2.5 Proposed Project Description.* The Project would not emit GHGs associated with electricity consumption; all GHG emission would result from vehicle use, including construction equipment, haul trips, and worker trips. No energy requirements are expected for the operation of the pipeline. Other Project details necessary for GHG emissions modeling were obtained from CalEEMod and design engineer estimates (e.g., equipment horsepower, load factors, fleet mix, and vehicle emissions factors). The Project's short-term GHG emissions were analyzed in the *Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Analysis for the Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project* (WEBB-A) included as Appendix A.

The results of the inventory for GHG emissions, as shown in the CalEEMod output tables in Appendix A, are presented in **Table 3-6** along with the significance threshold. Consistent with the methodologies in the County CAP and SCAQMD GHG significance thresholds, total GHG emissions from construction have been amortized over the 30-year lifetime of the Project.

Table 3-6: Proposed Project GHG Emissions per Year ($MTCO_2e$/year)

Source	Total CO_2	Total CH_4	Total N_2O	Total R	Total CO_2e
Operation	negligible				
Construction 2024	184	0.01	0.00	0.06	186
Construction 2025	210	0.01	0.01	0.07	212
Total	**394**	**0.02**	**0.01**	**0.13**	**398**
Construction (amortized over 30 years)					13.27
Threshold					3,000
Exceed Threshold?					*No*

Source: WEBB-A, Table 4.
Note: CalEEMod's default CO_2e intensity factor for Southern California Edison is 531.983 lb/MWhr, which was used in this analysis.

During construction, the proposed Project would emit a total of 398 $MTCO_2e$. Amortized over a 30-year period, the Project would generate approximately 13.27 $MTCO_2e$ per year). In addition to the low per-year generation of $MTCO_2e$, the Project would adhere to existing energy efficiency requirements during construction, including CARB's In-Use Off-

Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations that limit vehicle idling time to five minutes, restrict adding vehicles to construction fleets that have lower than Tier 3 engines, and establish a schedule for retiring older and less fuel-efficient engines. (CARB 2011.) Construction related GHG impacts would be less than significant.

The State of California has set targets for renewable energy from the energy sector through the Renewable Portfolio Standard. The Renewable Portfolio Standard directs energy utilities to source half of their electricity sales from renewable sources by 2030. (CEC 2017.) The proposed Project would not consume electricity. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct this target, and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

California's 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan focuses on reducing energy demand and GHG emissions that result from mobile sources and land use development. The proposed Project would not involve a considerable increase in new vehicle trips or land use changes that would result in an increase in vehicle trips, such as urban sprawl. California Department of Water Resources recognizes that about two percent of the total energy used in the state is related to water conveyance, the proposed Project improves operational flexibility for EMWD, thus improving management of sewer systems.

The proposed Project would not interfere with existing County or regional programs intended to reduce energy and improve water use efficiency. It would not result in GHG emissions higher than the SCAQMD or Riverside County CAP significance screening thresholds. The proposed Project would not, therefore, conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?					
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	

Discussion

a) Less than Significant Impact

Construction and operational activities would involve the routine use, transport, and storage of hazardous materials (e.g., gasoline, diesel fuel, automotive fluids, solvents, lubricants). To minimize the risks of exposure to hazardous materials from construction and routine O&M activities, federal, state and local regulations have been put into place to regulate hazardous material use, storage, transportation, and handling. EMWD would be required to be in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to hazardous materials pursuant to Federal Code Title 40 and 49; Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 29 CFR 1910; California code section 5001, 5401, 5701, and 25507; California Health and Safety Code Division 20, Chapter 6.5, Article 6.5, Article 6.6, and Article 13; and Riverside County ordinance 651.5. In addition, the proposed Project would require implementation of a SWPPP to address the discharge of contaminants (including construction-related hazardous materials) through appropriate BMPs. While specific BMPs would be determined during the SWPPP process based on site-specific characteristics (equipment types, etc.), they would include standard industry measures and guidelines contained in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit text. *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitments* requires conformance with federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) and California Health and Safety Code Division 20, Chapter 6.5, Article 6.5 would require precautionary measures be taken during the routine transport of hazardous materials, such as testing and preparation of a transportation safety plan. According to California Health and Safety Code Division 20, Chapter 6.5, Article 13, used oil that may be produced from construction or operation of the Project would be recycled. Through compliance with the Project's Environmental Commitments and existing regulations, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

The Project involves construction and operation of underground pipelines and aboveground valves and associated appurtenances. Construction of the Project may include the transport and storage of hazardous materials, such as fuels for the construction equipment. The transportation of hazardous materials can result in accidental spills, leaks, toxic releases, fire, or explosion. Construction activities would be required to comply with fire protection and prevention requirements specific by the California Code of Regulations (CCR) and Division of Occupational Safety and Health

(DOSH), better known as Cal/OSHA protects workers from health and safety hazards on the job as identified in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitments*. This includes various measures such as easy accessibility of firefighting equipment, proper storage of combustible liquids, no smoking in service and refueling areas, and worker training for firefighter extinguisher use. Further, all new construction is required to comply with the California Fire and Building Codes. Compliance with the Project's Environmental Commitments and applicable federal and state laws related to the transportation, use, storage, and response to upsets or accidents that may involve hazardous materials would reduce the likelihood and severity of upsets and accidents during transit and storage.

Construction and operation of the Project is not expected to result in the use of large amounts of hazardous materials that would create a hazard to the public or environment. As stated under response "3.3c" above, there are sensitive receptors within the Project vicinity which increases the risk of impact from an accidental release of hazardous materials; however implementation of the Project's Environmental Commitments identified in Section 2.7, would minimize the risk of hazardous material exposure through material use and accidents by requiring EMWD and its construction contractor to develop a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Prevention and Control Plan to ensure Project-specific contingencies are in place. These contingencies include, but are not limited to, the delineation of hazardous material storage areas, and spill control and countermeasures. Therefore, through compliance with the Project's Environmental Commitments and existing regulations, potential impacts would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact

The Project site is located within one-quarter mile of the following schools: Manual L. Real Elementary School, Columbia Elementary School, and California Rancho School.

There is a risk of accidental release of hazardous materials or toxic air pollutants during Project construction. As explained under responses "3.9a" and "3.9b" above, construction of the proposed Project would be compliant with local regulations and would implement Environmental Commitments that includes preparation of a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Prevention and Control Plan that includes, but is not limited to, the delineation of hazardous material storage areas, and spill control and countermeasures to reduce risk of release of hazardous materials**.** Therefore, through implementation of Project Environmental Commitments described in Section 2.7, impacts to schools within one-quarter mile of the proposed Project would be less than significant.

d) No Impact

The Project site, and adjacent areas are not listed on the Department of Toxic Substance Control's Cortese List, compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. (DTSC 2021.) Because the proposed Project site and its adjacent areas are not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, the Project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Therefore, no impacts will occur.

e) Less than Significant Impact

The Project site is located approximately 2.3 miles southwest of March Air Reserve Base/Inland Port Airport (MARB/IPA). The MARB/IPA is currently active as a center for military reserve activities and as a military communication center. The Project site is within the March Air Reserve Base/Inland Port Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (MARB/IPA ALUCP). The MARB/IPA ALUCP classifies the area close to the airport into zones based on proximity to the airport and perceived risks. The MARB/IPA ALUCP indicates the allowable uses, potential noise impacts, potential safety impacts, and density/intensity restrictions for each zone. The pipeline alignment, Clark Street Lift Station site, and staging areas are located within Compatibility Zone E. Zone E is designated as having low noise and low aircraft safety risks. (ALUC 2014.) The Perris Valley Airport, a private airport, is located approximately 6 miles southeast from the Project site. Since the Project does not propose habitable structures, and the duration of Project construction would be short and temporary, people would not be exposed to safety hazards or excessive noise from MARB/IPA. In addition, the Project does not include tall structures that would interfere with airport safety measures. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

f) Less than Significant Impact

The Couty of Riverside Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) identify the County's hazards, review and assess past disaster occurrences, estimate the probability of future occurrences, and set goals to mitigate potential risks to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards. (MJLHMP 2023.)

The Project site can be accessed by various nearby roadways near Cajalco Road including Day Street, Clark Street, and Brown Street. Construction of the proposed Project may potentially result in temporary traffic obstructions. However, with implementation of EMWD's standard construction BMPs identified in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitment*s 2.7, which requires preparation and implementation a Traffic Control Plan that would coordinate lane closures, access, and construction work hours in order to minimize potential impacts associated with emergency response. Thus, the proposed Project will not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan. Impacts would be less than significant.

g) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project is the installation, operation, and maintenance of an underground pipeline and several above-ground valves, and other appurtenances. Operation of these types of infrastructure is not typically associated with fire risk. (See *Section 3.20 Wildfire*.) However, the portions of the proposed Project site are within a State Responsibility Areas of moderate, high and very high fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs). The use of construction equipment could potentially spark or otherwise ignite a fire during normal construction activities. Implementation of standard fire safety prevention measures, as required by EMWD's standard construction BMPs identified in *Section 2.7 Environmental*

*Commitment*s 2.7, would ensure Project implementation would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or				
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

Discussion

Surface Water

Existing drainage facilities within the Project site include an 84-inch and 60-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) via culvert located West of Barton Road, and two parallel 28-inch by 20-inch arch CMPs via an Arizona crossing located west of Brown Street.

The Project site is located within the San Jacinto River watershed, (Santa Ana RWQCB 2015.) Water quality is regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Santa Ana Region.

The proposed Project is located in the Santa Ana River Basin, which includes portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties. Within the Basin, the Project is located in the San Jacinto River Watershed, which drains approximately 540 square miles into Canyon Lake. Canyon Lake discharges into Lake Elsinore, and Lake Elsinore discharges into a tributary of the Santa Ana River; however, discharges from these two lakes are very rare.

The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) prepares and maintains the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Santa Ana Region which includes the upper and lower Santa River water sheds, the San Jacinto River watershed, and several small drainage areas. (RWQCB 2019, p. 1-1.) The Basin Plan sets water quality standards in the Santa Ana River Basin by establishing beneficial uses for specific water bodies and designating numerical and narrative water quality objectives. Intermittent, and existing or potential beneficial uses of the San Jacinto River Basin include municipal and domestic supply waters, agricultural supply waters, groundwater recharge waters, water contract recreation waters, non-water recreation waters, warm freshwater habitat waters, cold freshwater habitat waters, wildlife habitat waters, rare, threatened or endangered species waters, and spawning waters. (RWQCB 2019, pp. 3-42–3-43.)

The Santa Ana RWQCB also maintains the 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies, which identifies water bodies where water quality indicators exceed acceptable thresholds. The Project area does not directly drain to a 303(d)-listed impaired water body. However, Lake Elsinore and Canyon Lake are not attaining water quality standards due to excessive nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous). Lake Elsinore is on the 303(d) list of impaired waters due to excessive levels of nutrients and organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen. Canyon Lake is 303(d)-listed for excessive levels of nutrients. (SWRCB 2019, p. 6-134.) The Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) develops and implements total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) to address water quality impairments and help achieve water quality standards. Water quality is also governed through NPDES stormwater discharge permits issued to municipalities, construction sites, and industrial facilities to control non-point-source pollutants in stormwater discharges to surface waters.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) identifies flood hazard areas on Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared for the National Flood Insurance Program. These areas, known as Special Flood Hazard Areas, are defined as areas where there is a one percent chance of flooding in any given year (also referred to as a 100-year flood). These zones are labeled Zone A, Zone AO, Zone AH, Zones A1-A30, Zone AE, Zone A99, Zone AR, Zone AR/AE, Zone AR/AO, Zone AR/A1-A30, Zone AR/A, Zone V, Zone VE, and Zones V1-V30. FEMA maps also identify moderate flood hazard areas, which are areas outside the one-percent flood area where there is a 0.2 percent chance of flooding in a given year (also referred to as a 500-year flood). These zones are labeled as Zone B or Zone X (shaded). A. Areas outside the 100-year and 500-year flood zones are considered areas of minimal flood hazard and are labeled as Zone C or Zone X (unshaded). (FEMA 2020.) There are no 100-year or 500-year flood zones in the Project area.

Groundwater

The San Jacinto Groundwater Basin (California Department of Water Resources [DWR] Basin Number 8-05). the underlies the San Jacinto, Perris, Moreno Valley, and Menifee Valley in the western Riverside County and contains a surface area of approximately 293 square miles. (DWR 2006.) The San Jacinto Groundwater Basin is bounded by the San Jacinto Mountains on the east, the San Timoteo Badlands on the northeast, the Box Mountains on the north, the Santa Rosa Hills and Bell Mountain on the south, and unnamed hills on the west. Lake Perris is located in the eastern part of Perris Valley. The valleys are drained by the San Jacinto River and its tributaries. (DWR 2006.)

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) prevents significant and unreasonable impacts to groundwater basins in California. Under SGMA, each high and medium priority basin, as identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), is required to have a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) that will be responsible for groundwater management and development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSP will document basin conditions, and basin management will be based on measurable objectives and minimum thresholds defined to

prevent significant and unreasonable impacts on the sustainability indicators defined in the GSP. (EMWD-A 2023.) The EMWD Board of Directors is the GSA for the West San Jacinto Groundwater Basin and is responsible for development and implementation of a GSP. The San Jacinto Groundwater Basin is deemed a high priority basin, but not critically overdrafted, by DWR, and the GSA is required to develop by 2022 and implement by 2042 a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). EMWD became the exclusive GSA for the western portion of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin and prepared a GSP for the West San Jacinto Groundwater Sustainability Agency Area. (EMWD-A 2023.) The Project site is outside the West San Jacinto Groundwater Sustainability Agency Area and is outside a GSA or GSP.

The beneficial uses for the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin include municipal and domestic supply waters, agricultural supply waters, industrial service supply waters, and industrial process supply waters. (RWQCB 2019, 3-49.)

a) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project would disturb an area greater than one acre in size and would therefore be required to obtain coverage under the NPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit during Project construction. The total Project disturbance area is approximately 12.82 acres. As part of the NPDES conditions, the construction contractor would be required to prepare a SWPPP, which would identify BMPs to control sediment and other construction-related pollutants in stormwater discharges. Typical BMPs include housekeeping practices such as proper waste disposal, covering stockpiles with tarps, containment of building materials, and inspection of construction vehicles to prevent leaks or spills. Contractors would be required to comply with the Construction General Permit throughout construction. Construction dewatering will occur in areas where there is high perched groundwater, and would be discharged to land in accordance with RWQCB Waste Discharge Requirements for construction dewatering; or discharged to the local storm drain system per Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (RCFCWCD) requirements; or discharged to the EMWD sewer system. Compliance with these permits, including implementation of BMPs would ensure the Project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, nor significantly degrade surface water quality. Impacts on surface water quality during Project construction would be less than significant.

Operation of the proposed Project would consist of distributing wastewater through the proposed pipeline to EMWD's sewer water system which would not require groundwater. No impacts would occur as a result of Project operation.

b) Less than Significant Impact

As discussed in *Section 2 Project Description*, the proposed Project would improve operational efficiency of EMWD's sewer service to disadvantaged communities of Mead Valley and promote economic development; redirect existing flow to the proposed trunk sewer in order to decommission the Clark Street Lift Station; and provide additional flow to WMWD to produce additional recycled water. The Project would connect to existing

pipelines and would be designed for future connections. As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing,* the proposed Project would serve existing demand and planned future growth and would not induce population growth or increased water demands. Therefore, the proposed Project would not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge efforts. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact

Existing drainage facilities within the Project site include an 84-inch and 60-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) via culvert located West of Barton Road, and two parallel 28-inch by 20-inch arch CMPs via an Arizona crossing located west of Brown Street.

The proposed Project pipelines would be constructed in an existing roadway which would be restored to pre-construction conditions, and thus would not permanently increase total impervious surface area. The associated aboveground appurtenances would have a cumulatively small footprint and not add a substantial new amount of impervious surface area to the watershed. Project construction may result in disturbance or exposure of soil that could be subject to erosion and sedimentation during a rain event. However, implementation of BMPs as required by the NPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit and SWPPP as described in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitments*, would limit erosion and sedimentation. As a result, the proposed Project would not impede or redirect flood flows, alter drainage patterns of the Project area, cause substantial erosion, substantially increase surface runoff, generate runoff in excess of the existing storm drainage systems, or be a source of polluted runoff. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) No Impact

A tsunami is a large ocean wave, caused by earthquakes or major ground movement. The proposed Project site is located approximately 38 miles from the Pacific Ocean; at this distance, a tsunami would not impact the Project vicinity. A seiche is a large wave generated in an enclosed body of water such as a lake, which is also typically caused by an earthquake. The waterbodies near the Project site are Lake Perris, approximately 5.5 miles east and Lake Elsinore approximately 6.5 miles to the west, may have the potential for seismically induced seiche. However, the Project site has low risk for flooding from a seiche due to the distance of the Project site from these waterbodies. According to the FEMA maps there are no 100-year or 500-year floodplains within the Project area. (FEMA 2008.) In addition, the Project pipeline would be installed underground on along Cajalco Road would be resurfaced after construction, so there would be no risk of 100-year or 500-year floods inundating the Project and the potential for release of pollutants is low. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

e) Less than Significant Impact

As previously discussed, the Basin Plan sets water quality objectives for the Project area. Water quality thresholds identified in the Basin Plan are intended to reduce pollutant discharge and ensure that water bodies are of sufficient quality to meet their designated

beneficial uses. The Project would not conflict with the water quality standards outlined in the Basin Plan or worsen water quality conditions in any 303(d)-listed water body. As discussed above, pollutant discharge during construction would be avoided via compliance with the Construction General Permit and SWPPP and NPDES permits for construction dewatering, if needed. Once operational, the Project would convey wastewater to WMWD's lift station to produce recycled water. The Project would not discharge extracted or treated water or be a source of pollutants for downstream water bodies (e.g., San Jacinto River, Canyon Lake, Lake Elsinore). Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with the Basin Plan.

As previously stated, the Project site is not within a GSA or GSP. Moreover, the proposed Project is not expected to have any adverse impacts on groundwater sustainability. The purpose of the Project is to provide sewer service to disadvantaged communities of Mead Valley and promote economic development; redirect existing flow to the proposed trunk sewer in order to decommission the Clark Street Lift Station; and provide additional flow to WMWD to produce additional recycled water. The Project does not involve the extraction of groundwater nor would result in any increases in impervious surfaces that could affect groundwater recharge, and thus the Project would not impact groundwater sustainability. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with applicable water quality control plans or groundwater management plans, and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.11 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

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	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

Discussion

The proposed Project is located in an unincorporated area of Riverside County in the community of Mead Valley. Land use in Riverside County is governed by the land use designations established in the General Plan and by the County's zoning ordinance that identifies acceptable uses in each zone. The surrounding land uses within and adjacent to the pipeline alignment, Clark Street Lift Station, and staging areas include residential, rural residential, residential agricultural, vacant and undeveloped, and public facilities. The pipelines would be constructed underground and the associated appurtenances would be constructed aboveground within various paved and unpaved roadways within the pipeline alignment as shown on **Figure 4 – Existing Conditions.**

a) Less than Significant Impact

The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a physical feature (such as a wall, interstate highway, or railroad tracks) or the removal of a means of access (such as a local road or bridge) that would impair mobility. The Project pipelines are underground facilities and once construction is complete, any roads in which the pipeline is installed would be returned to its original condition and access restored. For these reasons impacts regarding physically dividing an established community would be less than significant. The temporary construction staging areas would be located on disturbed land, roadway shoulder, and EMWD-owned property. The proposed Project would not permanently interfere with pedestrian, bicycle or vehicle circulation and would not result in a physical barrier within the existing community. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to physically dividing an established community.

b) No Impact

EMWD is the agency with jurisdiction over the proposed Project. However, EMWD does not have land use authority in Mead Valley, that authority rests with Riverside County. Construction and operation of the Project would not conflict with Riverside County's land use plans, zoning policies, or regulations.

As described in *Section 3.4, Biological Resources*, no components of the Project site are located within existing or proposed criteria areas or reserves defined in the Western Riverside MSHCP. The proposed Project would not impact wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages because the Project would be developed within a roadway and previously disturbed, barren, unvegetated, and/or sparsely vegetated areas. Therefore,

the Project would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations intended to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect, and no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.12 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

Discussion

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA, Public Resources Code, Sections 2710-2796) policies regulate surface mining operations to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the state's mineral resources. (DOC 2023.) Classification of land within the State of California takes place according to a priority list that was established by the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) in 1982, or when the SMGB is petitioned to classify a specific area. (GPEIR, 4.12.1.) The SMGB established Mineral Resources Zones (MRZs) to designate lands that contain mineral deposits. Classification and designation of lands containing potentially important mineral deposits is carried out by the California Geological Survey (CGS) State Geologist and designation is a function of the CGS State Mining and Geology Board. Lands are given a priority listing through classification into MRZs. These MRZs are based on geological appraisals which include the use of literature, geological maps, and publications and data from the CDOC Division of Mines and Geology, US Geological Survey, the former US Bureau of Mines, and the US Bureau of Land Management. It also includes site investigations that determine the chemical and physical components of the area. An area can be classified as (GPEIR, 4.12.1):

- MRZ-1: Areas where the available geologic information indicates no significant likelihood of significant mineral deposits
- MRZ-2a: Areas where the available geologic information indicates that there are significant mineral deposits
- MRZ-2b: Areas where the available geologic information indicates that there is a likelihood of significant mineral deposits
- MRZ-3a: Areas where the available geologic information indicates that mineral deposits exist, however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined.
- MRZ-3b: Areas where the available geologic information indicates that mineral deposits are likely to exist, however, the significance of the deposit is undetermined
- MRZ-4: Areas where there is not enough information available to determine the presence or absence of mineral deposits

Riverside County's Open Space-Mineral Resource land use designation allows for mineral extraction and processing facilities designated on the basis of the SMARA of 1975 classification. Areas held in reserve for future mining activities also fall under this designation. (GP EIR,4.12.3.) Ancillary structures or uses may be permitted which assist in the extraction, processing, or preservation of minerals. Actual building or structure size, siting, and design will be determined on a case-by-case basis. According to the GPEIR, the Project site is located within MRZ-3, where mineral deposits are likely to exist, but significance is undetermined.

a, b) Less Than Significant Impact

Implementation of the proposed Project could result in direct impacts to mineral resources; however, given the small footprint of the Project pipelines, appurtenant structures and temporary nature of the staging areas, this loss is not considered substantial. Additionally, since the Project site and staging areas are not currently used as a mineral resource recovery site, implementation of the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

Discussion

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. Noise can cause hearing impairment for humans, and may also disrupt everyday activities such as sleep, speech, and activities requiring concentration. Noise can also interfere with the activities of wildlife, especially nesting birds. Noise-sensitive land uses are generally those where excess noise would disrupt how humans and/or wildlife use the land. Land uses such as schools, churches, and hospitals would typically be considered noise-sensitive. Noise may be generated by mobile (i.e., line) sources (for example, cars, trains, and aircraft) or stationary (i.e., point) sources (for example, machinery, airports, and construction sites).

EMWD, as a public agency, is not subject to other jurisdictional agencies' established noise standards. EMWD has not established an applicable noise standard of its own for permanent or temporary ambient noise levels. However, EMWD follows a "good neighbor" approach to adhering to local noise standards. The Riverside County noise

standards are used for the purposes of evaluating the significance of the proposed Project's noise levels for the purposes of this analysis under CEQA. Riverside County outlines their noise regulations and standards within its County Code and the Noise Element of the *County of Riverside General Plan*. The proposed Project would not construct a noise sensitive land use or create an operational source of noise. The regulations and standards applicable to pipeline construction would be those associated with construction noise and vibration. The following describes standards, goals, and policies related to the construction of the proposed Project:

Noise Standards

The proposed Project would be located entirely within unincorporated Riverside County. The noise standards for this jurisdiction are summarized herein.

The Riverside County Municipal Code, *Section 9.52 – Noise Regulation, Table 1 Sound Level Standards (Dbl L_{max})* establishes the maximum exterior noise to protect land uses from noise emitted by outside sources. However, the proposed Project is exempt from these noise regulations per *Section 9.52.020- Exemptions (B)* which indicates that sounds emanating from capital improvement projects of a governmental agency, like this waterline Project, is exempt from the provisions of *Section 9.52*.

Noise levels from grading and other construction activities would potentially result in noise levels reaching 91 dBA L_{max} at off-site locations 50 feet from the noise source. (GPEIR, 4.13.3.) This would result in potentially significant noise impacts to off-site sensitive receptors adjacent to the individual construction site.

EMWD's standard specification and contracts require the use of construction equipment with noise reduction features no less effective than those originally installed by the manufacturers.

Groundborne Vibration

Riverside County has not adopted any criteria or regulations for groundborne vibration impacts. While the Noise Element of the Riverside County GP contains policies that stipulate restricting the placement of sensitive land uses in proximity to vibration-producing lands and prohibiting exposure of residential dwellings to perceptible ground vibration from passing trains, these policies do not apply to the proposed Project.

Groundborne vibration levels resulting from construction activities within the Project area were estimated using the data published by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in its *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* (FTA, 2018.)

Groundborne vibration may occur when heavy equipment or vehicles create vibrations in the ground, which can then propagate through the ground to buildings, creating a low-frequency sound. Groundborne vibration can be described by both its amplitude and frequency. Amplitude may be characterized by particle velocity, which is measured in inches or millimeters per second. Vibration can be felt outdoors, but the perceived intensity of vibration impacts is much greater indoors, due to the shaking of the structure.

Groundborne vibrations can be a source of annoyance to humans due to a "rumbling" effect, and such vibrations may also cause damage to buildings. Groundborne vibration is discussed in terms of these impacts on humans and structures. The annoyance potential of groundborne noise is typically characterized with the A-weighted sound level. Some of the most common sources of vibration come from trains, transit vehicles, construction equipment, airplanes, and large vehicles. Several land uses are especially sensitive to vibration, and therefore have a lower vibration threshold. The following vibration terminology have been adapted from the FTA's *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* (FTA 2018):

- **Vibration Decibels (VdB)**. The vibration velocity level in decibel scale.
- **Peak Particle Velocity (PPV)**. The peak signal value (maximum positive or negative peak) of the vibration signal. PPV is often used in monitoring of construction vibration (such as blasting) because it is related to the stresses that are experienced by buildings and is not used to evaluate human response. PPV is usually expressed in inches/second in the United States.
- **Root Mean Square (rms)**. The rms is used to describe the smoothed vibration amplitude. The rms amplitude is used to convey the magnitude of the vibration signal felt by the human body, in inches/second. The average is typically calculated over a one-second period. The rms amplitude is always less than the PPV and is always positive.

a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Construction of the proposed pipeline and demolition of the Clark Street Lift Station is expected to last 20 months. The pipeline trenching and installation phase would involve the most noise-generating activities from use of heavy construction equipment and hauling during day and nighttime construction activities. The offroad construction equipment that would be used for this Project is identified in *Section 2.5.4, Construction Schedule.* The typical noise level for each piece of construction equipment anticipated to be used is shown in **Table 3-7**: Typical Construction Equipment Noise Levels.

Table 3-7: Typical Construction Equipment Noise Levels

Equipment[1]	Typical Noise Levels (dBA, at 50 feet)
Backhoe/Loader	78
Excavator	81
Grader	85
Front End Loader	79
Paver	77
Roller	80
Tractor	84
Source: FHWA 2006, Table 1, CA/T equipment noise emissions and acoustical usage factors database [1]. Selected equipment that would be used for Project construction.	

The equipment listed above that will be used for the construction of the proposed pipeline and demolition of the Clark Street Lift Station would increase ambient noise levels. The Project site is adjacent to various uses, including residential properties. However, construction activities and the associated noise impacts would be temporary and would cease once the Project is completed. Moreover, as stated in Riverside County's Municipal Code, *Section 9.52.020- Exemptions (B),* this Project is exempt from noise regulations outlined in Section 9.52 because the Project is a capital improvement project. Nevertheless, due to the proximity of construction activities to residences and other noise-sensitive receptors, EMWD will incorporate **Mitigation Measure NOI-1**, which requires the construction contractor to implement BMPs, such as locating noise-generating equipment as far from sensitive receptors as feasible, for noise control. Therefore, with mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.

Once operational, the below-ground pipelines would not generate noise. Noise may be associated with occasional vehicle maintenance trips but these trips would be negligible and no long term noise impacts would occur.

b) Less than Significant Impact

Construction and demolition activities associated with the proposed Project would have the potential to generate low levels of groundborne vibration. Groundborne vibrations propagate through the ground and decrease in intensity quickly as they move away from the source. (FTA 2018, p. 117.) Vibrations with a PPV of 0.2 inches/second or greater have the potential to cause damage to non-engineered timber and masonry buildings (FTA 2018, p. 186.) The *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* provides average source levels for typical construction equipment that may generate groundborne vibrations. Most construction equipment that would be used in construction of the Project is not expected to generate substantial groundborne vibration. For example, a loaded truck would generate 0.076 PPV at a distance of 25 feet. None of the construction equipment to be used would exceed the PPV threshold at a distance of 25 feet which is the closest that the Project construction would be to adjacent, existing building structures along the Project site.

According to the FTA's *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*, 80 VdB is the threshold for human annoyance from groundborne vibration noise when events are infrequent. Typical vibration dB levels for a loaded truck are 86 VdB at 25 feet which is the closest that the Project construction would be to adjacent, existing building structures along the Project site. Pipeline construction would occur near sensitive receptors, including residences. However, vibrations associated with pipeline construction would occur infrequently and would be short in duration. Additionally, pipeline construction would move along the alignment and would not remain in the same location for an extended period of time; therefore, sensitive receptors near the pipeline alignment would not experience vibrations for the entire duration of Project construction. Exposure would be temporary, sporadic, and limited in duration. Once operational, the pipeline would not produce groundborne vibration or groundborne noise. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c) No impact

The pipeline alignment, Clark Street Lift Station, and staging areas are not located within two miles of an airport. The pipeline alignment, Clark Street Lift Station, and staging areas are within Land Use Compatibility Zone E of the MARB/IPA ALUCP. This zone is designated as having low noise and low aircraft safety risks. (ALUC 2014.)

The Project is located approximately 2.3 miles from MARB/IPA and is outside the 60-CNEL noise contour for the airport. (ALUC 2014.) The Project does not propose housing. Because noise from the MARB/IPA is less than 60 dBA CNEL and the Project does not propose housing, Project implementation would not expose workers to excessive aircraft noise and there would be no impacts.

Mitigation Measures:

To mitigate possible noise impacts resulting from the Project, EMWD shall implement **Mitigation Measure NOI-1**. With implementation of this mitigation measure, Project-related noise impacts are considered less than significant.

NOI-1 Construction and Demolition Noise Reduction Measures.

EMWD shall require its contractor to implement the following actions relative to construction and demolition noise:

- Two weeks prior to construction or demolition activities, EMWD in coordination with the construction contractor, shall provide written notification to all properties within 50 feet of the proposed Project facilities informing occupants of the type and duration of construction activities. Notification materials shall identify a method to contact EMWD's program manager with noise concerns. Prior to commencing construction or demolition activities, the EMWD program manager shall establish a noise complaint process to allow for resolution of noise problems. This process shall be clearly described in the notifications.
- Stationary noise-generating equipment shall be located as far from sensitive receptors as feasible. Such equipment shall also be oriented to minimize noise that would be directed toward sensitive receptors. Whenever possible, other non-noise generating equipment (e.g., roll-off dumpsters) shall be positioned between the noise source and sensitive receptors.
- Equipment and staging areas shall be located as far from sensitive receptors as feasible. At the staging location, equipment and materials shall be kept as far from adjacent sensitive receptors as possible.
- Construction vehicles and equipment shall be maintained in the best possible working order; operated by an experienced, trained operator; and shall utilize the best available noise control techniques (including mufflers, use of intake silencers, ducts, engine enclosures and acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds).

- Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines shall be prohibited. In practice, this would require turning off equipment if it would idle for five or more minutes.
- Electrically powered equipment shall be used instead of pneumatic or internal-combustion powered equipment, where feasible.
- The use of noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, alarms, and bells, shall be for safety warning purposes only.

3.14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

Discussion

In 2020, EMWD served an estimated retail population of 603,950 through approximately 155,561 single family, multi-family, and other commercial, industrial, institutional, landscape, and irrigation accounts. EMWD 2020, pp.3-9, 2-2.) EMWD's service area is currently 40 percent built out, making it one of the few regions in Southern California that will see significant population growth in the coming decades. (EMWD 2020, p. 9-4.) Ultimate demand estimates indicate that before EMWD reaches build out, the population will more than double compared to the current size. As planned for in the EMWD 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), EMWD's retail service area population will increase to approximately 807,200 in 2045. (EMWD 2020, p. 3-8.)

a) No Impact

The proposed Project would not directly induce unplanned population growth because no new housing or permanent employment are proposed. The proposed Project involves expansion of EMWD's sewer service infrastructure within its existing service area to improve sewer access to existing residents surrounding the Project area and provide additional flow to Western Municipal Water District's (WMWD) Western Water Recycling Facility to produce additional recycled water. Inspection and repair of the proposed Project would be incorporated into EMWD's existing O&M activities; no new staff would be required to serve the Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce unplanned population growth and no impact would occur.

b) No Impact

Construction and operation of the Project would occur entirely within the existing Cajalco Road and the designated staging areas which are disturbed lots and EMWD-owned facilities. The Project would not displace existing people or houses or require the construction of replacement housing. For these reasons, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.15 Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
i) Fire protection?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

ii) Police protection?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
iii) Schools?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
iv) Parks?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
v) Other public facilities?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

Discussion

Fire Protection

Riverside County Fire Department operates 85 fire stations. A total of 51 of these stations, as well as three stations operated by the California Department of Forestry, are located in the unincorporated portion of Riverside County. Riverside County Fire Department provides fire protection services to unincorporated areas. (GPEIR, 4.15.1.) The closest station to the Project site is the Riverside County Fire Station No 59 located at 21510 Pinewood Street, approximately 0.37 miles to the south.

Police Protection

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department provides area-level community service. The Riverside County Station requires one sworn officer per 1,000 population. (GPEIR, 4.15.2.) The closest Riverside County Sheriff's office is located at 22850 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, approximately five miles to the northeast.

Schools

Children who reside in the Mead Valley Area and Good Hope attend schools within the Val Verde Unified School District. The Val Verde Unified School District operates 22 preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and alternative schools within Riverside County. (VVUSD 21.) Manual L. Real Elementary is located approximately 0.3 miles north of the Project site and Columbia Elementary is located approximately 0.4 miles south of the Project site.

Parks

Within Riverside County there are approximately 70 national, state, and county parks. Out of the 70 parks, 35 are maintained by Riverside County. Private recreational facilities are found primarily in planned communities and apartment complexes. These facilities usually include tennis/basketball courts, pools/spas, and/or playgrounds. However, the existing facilities are generally small and are so few in number that they have a minor impact in the overall provision of recreational facilities within Riverside County. (GPEIR, 4.14.1.)

Libraries

Riverside County operates a system of 35 libraries and two (2) book mobiles to serve unincorporated populations. The library system manages the library catalog of the 1.3

million items in the library system and the annual checkout of over 3.5 million books/audios/videos. (GPEIR, 4.15.6.) The Mead Valley Library, located at 21580 Oakwood, is 0.14 miles from the Project site.

Hospitals

There are two hospitals near the Project site vicinity. The Kindred Hospital is located at 2224 Medical Center Drive in the City of Perris, approximately four miles southeast from the Project site.

a.i.) No Impact

The proposed Project would not construct new or physically alter existing fire protection facilities, nor would it substantially change response times or service ratios for fire protection services and facilities. Fire protection requirements during construction of the proposed Project would be short-term and the demands would be filled by the existing fire personnel. Existing fire protection services provided by the Riverside County Fire Department would be sufficient to provide fire or other emergency response to the proposed Project site. In addition, operation of the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce unplanned population growth that would require construction of new fire departments or expansion of fire protection facilities. No additional or increased fire protection facilities to maintain response times, service ratios, or other measures of performance would be required. As a result, no impact on fire protection service facilities would occur.

a.ii.) No Impact

The proposed Project would not construct new or physically alter existing police protection facilities, nor would it substantially change response times or service ratios for police services and stations. In the event of an emergency or non-emergency call , the existing police services provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's Department would be sufficient. In addition, operation of the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce unplanned population growth that would require construction of a new or expansion of an existing sheriff station to maintain response ratios, service ratios, or other measures of performance. As a result, no impact on police service facilities would occur.

a.iii.) No Impact

The proposed Project would not change existing demand on schools because the Project would serve existing and planned communities and population. Construction of the proposed Project does not include housing and operation would not result in new employment or population growth that would result in an influx of students. No new school facilities would need to be built to maintain class size ratios or other performance objectives. As a result, no impact on school facilities would occur.

a.iv.) No Impact

The proposed Project would not change existing demand on parks or recreational facilities because the Project does not propose new housing units, nor would it directly or indirectly induce population or employment within the area. Construction and operation of the Project would not necessitate expansion of existing or construction of new parks or recreational facilities. Therefore, no impact on park facilities would occur.

a.v.) No Impact

The proposed Project would not change existing demand on other public facilities because the Project does not propose new housing units, nor would it directly or indirectly induce population or employment within the area. Construction and operation of the Project would not necessitate expansion of existing or construction of new public facilities such as libraries or hospitals. Therefore, no impact on other public facilities would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

Discussion

As discussed under *Section 3.15 Public Services*, Riverside County contains approximately 70 national, state, and county parks. There are no parks within the Project site. According to the County of Riverside Mead Valley Area Plan, Cajalco Road is designated as a Class II Bike Path. (MVAP, Figure 9),

a) Less than Significant

The proposed Project would serve existing and planned communities. The proposed Project does not include residential housing and would not induce permanent employment or population growth that would permanently increase the use of the parks and recreational facilities. Accordingly, the Project would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated. The proposed Project would require temporary closures of roadways, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks, with Cajalco Road. However, these impacts are temporary, and access would be restored upon completion of the Project. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) No Impact

Implementation of the proposed Project would not require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which could have an adverse physical impact on the environment. As a result, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

Discussion

The Project site is located site is located roughly one and a half miles west of Interstate Highway I-215 (I-215) and seven miles south of Highway 60/Moreno Valley Freeway. Local access within the Project site is provided by various streets near Cajalco Road including Day Street, Clark Street, and Brown Street.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission owns a commuter rail line parallel to I-215 (roughly 2 miles from the Project site), which provides commuter rail service for the region and a low volume of freight trains. Public transportation in the Project area consists of bus service provided by the RTA. Bus route 41 services the Mead Valley area and includes a transfer stop at the intersection of Cajalco Road and Clark Street. (RTA 2023.)

Bikeways also exist in the Project vicinity. There is a Class II bike lane along Cajalco Road, adjacent to the Project site. Day Street and Clark Street are community trails. (MVAP, Figure 9 – Mead Valley Area Plan Trails and Bikeway System.)

Section 15064.3 of the 2023 CEQA Guidelines provide that transportation impacts of projects are, in general, best measured by evaluating the project's vehicle miles traveled (VMT), a measure of the total number of miles driven to or from a development which is sometimes expressed as an average per trip or per person. Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines suggests that the analysis of VMT impacts applies mainly to land use and transportation projects, rather than water infrastructure projects.

On September 3, 2020, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopted Connect SoCal, SCAG's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy. The plan is a long-range visioning plan that balances future mobility and housing needs with economic, environmental, and public health goals. The plan details how the region will address its transportation and land use challenges and opportunities in order to achieve its regional emissions standards and GHG reduction targets. The Connect SoCal plan represents the vision for Southern California's future, including policies, strategies, and projects for advancing the region's mobility, economy, and sustainability through 2040. (SCAG 2020.)

a) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project does not consist of a traffic-generating land use project since the Project entails underground pipes, aboveground appurtenances, and demolition of the Clark Street Lift Station. Project construction and demolition is estimated to last 20

months. Most of the construction activities would take place during daytime hours, however construction along portions of the Project site would require construction to occur during nighttime hours. Additional details on the construction schedule can be found in *Section 2.5 Proposed Project Description*.

Construction-related conflict with the circulation system has the potential to occur. Construction of the Project may require temporary closures of roadways, bicycle lanes, and sidewalks. However, with the implementation of a Traffic Control Plan, as described in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitments*, impacts would be less than significant.

Project construction would require approximately 36 round-trip worker trips per day during the pipeline trenching/ installation phase of construction, which is phase with the most worker trips. (WEBB-A.)

During Project operations, minimum trips would be generated to service and maintain installed pipelines and associated appurtenances which would be built to EMWD standard specifications such that they would not impact circulation. Inspection of the above ground appurtenances and exercise of the valves would be incorporated into EMWD's existing O&M activities. As described in response "3.17b", below, the Project would not conflict with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 related to Vehicle Miles Traveled. Moreover, because of the nature of the project, underground pipes and aboveground appurtenances, Project operations would not conflict with local or regional transportation plans, ordinance, or policy addressing circulation system.

Therefore, as described above, through implementation of a TCP as described in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitment*s, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) outlines criteria for analyzing transportation impacts in terms of VMT for land use projects and transportation projects. VMT refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. According to the Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA (OPR 2018), the term "automobile" refers to on-road passenger vehicles, specifically cars and light-duty trucks. In the case of the proposed Project, worker trips would be conducted in cars and light-duty trucks. Vendor and hauling trips would be conducted in medium- or heavy-duty trucks and are therefore excluded from the estimation of VMT. Environmental impacts associated with the use of medium- and heavy-duty truck trips are addressed in the Air Quality, Energy, and Greenhouse Gas sections of this document.

Construction of the proposed Project would involve temporary trips associated with workers, delivery of construction supplies and equipment, and hauling materials to and from the site. These trips would be temporary and would cease once construction is completed. During the busiest phase of construction - pipeline trenching/ installation - Project construction would require approximately 36 round-trip worker trips per day. Worker trip details were based on CalEEMod default assumptions. According to OPR

Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, projects that generate fewer than 110 trips per day may be assumed to cause a less-than-significant transportation impact (OPR 2018.) Therefore, construction of the Project would not result in a considerable increase in VMT. Operations associated with the proposed Project would not expect to require worker trips for inspection and testing of the pipeline, valves, and other appurtenances. These trips would be incorporated into EMWD's existing O&M program and would not increase VMT in the Project area. Therefore, the Project would be consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) and the impact would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact

The Project would not construct new roadways or introduce vehicles that are incompatible with existing roads; existing roadways would be restored to their prior condition once construction is complete. Therefore, after construction, the Project would not create roadway hazards.

Project construction would temporarily increase transportation hazards in the Project vicinity because it would require incompatible uses (i.e., use of heavy construction equipment) and ingress/egress to temporary staging areas from existing roadways. However, through implementation of a TCP as described in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitment*s, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Construction of the proposed Project may require lane closures along the pipeline alignment and would generate trips associated with construction (worker travel and delivery of materials and equipment). Lane closures have the potential to hinder access for emergency vehicles. Traffic control measures implemented during Project construction would require that emergency crews be able to access sites and surrounding areas. The contractor would coordinate to ensure that emergency responders are informed of construction locations. Traffic control measures would also require that the contractor make a reasonable effort to preserve access to business and properties during construction. In order to prevent Project construction from interfering with emergency responders, a TCP as described in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitment*s is required and with the implementation of the TCP, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) 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	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
ii) 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.	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]

Discussion

a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Per AB 52, EMWD initiated consultation with Native Tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed Project to identify resources of cultural or spiritual value to the Tribe. On June 1, 2023, EMWD sent consultation notification letters to Native Tribes on the District's Master List pursuant to the requirements of AB 52 pertaining to government-to-government consultation. **Table 3-8: Tribal Consultation Summary** summarizes the District's consultation efforts. To date, EMWD has conducted consultation with one federally recognized Native Tribe: Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians. An additional five Native Tribes were contacted but declined consultation or did not respond, as noted in **Table 3-8**.

Table 3-8: Tribal Consultation Summary

Tribe	Individual Contacted	Date Letter Mailed	Response Received	Consultation Held
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Pattie Garcia	06/01/2023	06/06/2023	09/21/2023
Morongo Band of Mission Indians	Laura Chatterton	06/01/2023	08/02/2023	N/Ac
Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians	Ebru Ozdil	06/01/2023	Did not Respond	N/A
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians	Cheryl Madrigal	06/01/2023	06/25/2023	N/A
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians	Bonnie Bryant	06/01/2023	06/12/2023	N/A
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians	Joe Ontiveros	06/01/2023	Did not Respond	N/A

During the consultation meeting, the responding Tribe highlighted their concerns for the general area noting that it is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Areas and considered sensitive as there are existing sites in the surrounding areas. The Tribe provided recommendations with regards to mitigation. The Tribe expressed concern with potential unearthing of unknown artifacts while grading the selected site. The Tribe recommended tribal monitoring consistent with those measures used in prior CEQA analysis conducted by EMWD to mitigate the potential for uncovering of unknown buried artifacts.

As a result of the AB 52 consultation process, **Mitigation Measure TRI-1**, **Mitigation Measure TRI-2**, **Mitigation Measure TRI-3**, and **Mitigation Measure TRI-4** shall be implemented. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRI-1** through **Mitigation Measure TRI-4,** impacts to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

To mitigate possible tribal cultural impacts resulting from the Project, EMWD shall implement **Mitigation Measures TRI-1** through **TRI-4**. With implementation of these mitigation measures, Project- related tribal cultural impacts are considered less than significant.

TRI-1 Tribal Resources Monitoring Agreement.

At least 30 days prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities, Eastern Municipal Water District (District) shall contact the Consulting Tribe(s) to develop Cultural Resources Treatment Monitoring Agreement (Agreement). The Agreement shall address the treatment of archaeological resources that may be Tribal cultural resources inadvertently discovered on the project site; project grading; ground disturbance and development scheduling; the designation, responsibilities, and participation of tribal monitor(s) during grading, excavation, and ground disturbing activities; and compensation for the tribal monitors, including overtime, weekend rates, and mileage reimbursement.

TRI-2 Tribal Monitoring.

Prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities, a Tribal monitor may participate in the construction workers archaeological resources sensitivity training, conducted by the project archaeologist. At least seven business days prior to ground-disturbing activities, the District shall notify the Tribe of the grading/excavation schedule and coordinate the tribal monitoring schedule.

A Tribal monitor shall be present for ground-disturbing activities associated with the Project. Both the project archaeologist and Tribal monitor working together will determine the areas with a potential for encountering potential Tribal cultural resources. Both the archaeologist and tribal monitor shall have the authority to stop and redirect grading activities in order to evaluate the nature and significance of any archaeological resources discovered within the project limits. Such evaluation shall include culturally appropriate temporary and permanent treatment pursuant to the Cultural Resources Treatment and Monitoring Agreement, which may include avoidance of tribal cultural resources, in-place preservation, data recovery, and/or reburial so the resources are not subject to further disturbance in perpetuity. Any reburial shall occur at a location determined between the District and the consulting Tribe as described in **Mitigation Measure TRI-4**. Treatment may also include curation of the resources at a tribal curation facility or an archaeological curation facility, as determined in discussion among the District, the Tribe and the project archaeologist as addressed in the Cultural Resources Treatment and Monitoring Agreement. The on-site Tribal monitoring shall end when all ground disturbing activities on the project site are completed, or when the Tribal representatives and Tribal monitor have indicated that the project site has little or no potential for impacting Tribal Cultural Resources.

TRI-3 Disposition of Inadvertent Discoveries.

In the event that Tribal Cultural Resources are recovered during the course of grading, the District shall relinquish ownership of all cultural resources, including sacred items,

burial goods, archaeological artifacts, and non-human remains. The District will coordinate with the project archaeologist and the Tribe to conduct analysis of recovered resources. If it is determined that the resource is a Native American resource and thus significant under CEQA, avoidance of the resource will be explored as the preferred option and on-site reburial will be evaluated as the second option. If avoidance and on-site reburial are not possible, a treatment plan shall be prepared with State guidelines and in consultation with the Tribe. The treatment plan may include, but would not be limited to capping in place, excavation and removal of the resource, interpretive displays, sensitive area signage, or other mutually agreed upon measures. Treatment may also include curation of the cultural resources at a tribal curation facility, as determined by the District and the consulting Tribe.

TRI-4 Non-Disclosure of Reburial Locations.

It is understood by all parties that unless otherwise required by law, the site of any reburial of culturally sensitive resources shall not be disclosed and shall not be governed by public disclosure requirements of the California Public Records Act. The coroner, pursuant to the specific exemption set forth in California Government Code 6254(r), parties, and Lead Agencies will be asked to withhold public disclosure information related to such reburial.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

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?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

Discussion

Water Supply

EMWD is the primary potable water, recycled water, and wastewater services purveyor for the Project area. The majority of EMWD's supply is imported from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) via the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct for potable and non-potable use and groundwater recharge. (EMWD 2020, pp. E-2, 6-2, 6-4.) Groundwater is also pumped from the Hemet/San Jacinto and West San Jacinto areas of the San Jacinto Groundwater Basin to offset imported water supplies. (EMWD 2020, pp. 6-5, 6-23.) Groundwater in portions of the West San Jacinto Basin is high in salinity and requires desalination treatment in one of two EMWD desalination plants before potable use. (EMWD 2020, p. 6-20.)

Wastewater and Recycled Water

EMWD provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycled water services in the Project area. EMWD currently treats approximately 49 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater at its four active regional water reclamation facilities (RWRF) in San Jacinto Valley, Moreno Valley, Perris Valley, and Temecula Valley. (EMWD 2020, p. 3-3; EMWD-B 2023.) The Perris Valley RWRF is located at 301 Case Road in Perris and is the closest RWRF location to the Project site. In 2021, the Perris Valley RWRF typically treated an average of 15.5 mgd and has a current capacity of 22 mgd. (EMWD 2021.)

EMWD owns, operates, and maintains a recycled water system in conjunction with the RWRFs. Recycled water is used extensively in EMWD's service area and EMWD

regularly uses 100 percent of its recycled water supply for beneficial use. (EMWD 2020, p. 6-2.) The majority of recycled water sold is used for agricultural irrigation. A portion of the water sold for agriculture is used in lieu of groundwater, preserving the groundwater basin, and improving water supply reliability. (EMWD 2020, p. 6-14.)

Western Municipal Water District (WMWD) borders EMWD to the west. Sewer flows within the WMWD service area are conveyed to the Western Water Recycling Facility located off the I-215 freeway near the MARB. The Western Water Recycling Facility produces up to 3 million gallons of high-quality, tertiary-treated recycled water daily. WMWD also owns an existing 15-inch sewer line connection near the Cajalco Road and Carpinus Street intersection.

Stormwater

Existing drainage facilities within the Project site include an 84-inch and 60-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) via culvert located West of Barton Road, and two parallel 28-inch by 20-inch arch CMPs via an Arizona crossing located west of Brown Street.

The RCFCWCD is the regional flood management authority for the western part of Riverside County. The purpose of the RCFCWCD is to identify flood hazards and problems, regulate floodplains and development, regulate drainage and development, construct and maintain flood control structures and facilities, and complete County watercourse and drainage planning. While RCFCWCD oversees all aspects of flood protection, they collaborate with local agencies on project development and implementation. Stormwater quality and flooding potential in the proposed Project area are described in *Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality*.

Solid Waste

Solid waste services, include waste pickup within the proposed Project area are provided by CR&R Environmental Services and Waste Management of the Inland Empire. Solid waste collected within the Project area is primarily deposited in the Riverside County Waste Management District's Badlands Landfill (31125 Ironwood Avenue, Moreno Valley). (CAL-A 2019.) However, trash haulers can also use other County landfills such as the Lamb Canyon Landfill (16411 Lamb Canyon Road, Beaumont) and El Sobrante Landfill (10910 Dawson Canyon Road, Corona). (CAL-B 2019; CAL-C 2019.)

Utilities

Electrical service in the Project area is provided by Southern California Edison (SCE). Natural gas service in the Project area is provided by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas). Telecommunications services in the Project vicinity are provided by Frontier Communications. Existing facilities for these utilities are located throughout the Project vicinity.

a) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project would construct sewer pipelines, interconnections, and appurtenances. The Project would not require or result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities beyond the expansion of EMWD's sewer system as described and analyzed in this IS. Construction of the Project would occur within the paved and unpaved roadways of the Project site and the roadway would be restored to pre-construction conditions, so no permanent change in stormwater drainage would occur. As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*, the proposed Project would serve existing and planned communities and would not induce unplanned population or employment growth that would require or result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. As explained in *Section 3.6 Energy*, operation of the proposed Project would not involve the consumption of electricity. Therefore, the Project would not result in the need to construct new electrical facilities. The environmental impacts of the proposed Project's sewer pipeline and associated above ground appurtenances and valves are evaluated throughout this IS/MND and are anticipated to all be mitigated to a less than significant level.

b) No Impact

The proposed Project involves expansion of EMWD's sewer service to disadvantaged communities of Mead Valley and promote economic development; redirect existing flow to the proposed trunk sewer in order to decommission the Clark Street Lift Station; and provide additional flow to WMWD to produce additional recycled water. Construction of the proposed Project would require a minimal water supply for purposes such as dust control and concrete mixing. Existing sources would be sufficient and no new or expanded supply would be required for construction. Operation of the proposed Project would not induce unplanned population growth that would require or result in the construction of new water treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. EMWD's water supply would accommodate existing water demand and is consistent with planned growth anticipated in the 2020 UWMP. No impact related to sufficient water supplies would occur.

c) No Impact

As discussed under response "3.19 b" above, construction and operation of the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly induce unplanned population or employment growth that would require or result in the construction of a new or expanded wastewater collection infrastructure or treatment services. As discussed in *Section 2.5 Proposed Project Description*, the sewer lines would allow redirect wastewater to WMWD for recycled water production. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Construction of the proposed Project would generate soil and asphalt waste during installation of underground pipelines, which must be disposed of at a legal landfill.

Construction-generated solid waste would be delivered via private haulers to an a materials recovery facility (MRF) or licensed landfill. There are two state regulations that set standards for solid waste generation: AB 939 mandates 50 percent diversion of solid waste; and AB 341 mandates recycling programs to help reduce GHG emissions. Waste material may be hauled to the El Sobrante Landfill located at 10910 Dawson Canyon Road, Corona, approximately 13.2 miles southwest of the Project site. The El Sobrante Landfill has a remaining capacity of 143,977,170 cubic yards with a daily maximum capacity of 16,054 tons per day (CAL-C 2019.) Therefore, the existing landfill would have sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate construction debris from the proposed Project.

Operation of the proposed Project is not anticipated to generate solid waste in the long-term. Therefore, solid waste generation would be limited to temporary construction activities and would not affect available solid waste disposal capacity in the region. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

e) Less than Significant

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would comply with local, State, and federal regulations related to solid waste. While operation of the proposed Project is not anticipated to generate long-term solid waste, construction activities would create debris such as excavated soil and asphalt. Excavated soil would be backfilled to the extent possible, but construction contractor(s) would be required to dispose of excess construction debris in accordance with existing reduction statutes including the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939) and Solid Waste Diversion AB 341 regulations. These regulations require mandatory 50 percent diversion of solid waste (AB 939), and mandatory recycling programs to reduce GHG emissions (AB 341.) Therefore, impacts related to compliance with local, state, and federal reduction statues and regulations related to solid waste would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.20 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
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?	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]	[X]

Discussion

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) assesses the amount and extent of California's forests and rangelands, analyzes their conditions and identifies alternative management and policy

guidelines. The State Fire Marshal is mandated to classify lands within State Responsibility Areas into Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs). A portion of the Project site, along Cajalco Road between Barton Street and Carpinus Road, are located directly adjacent to the Moderate, High, and Very High FHSZs. (OSFM 2023.)

The County of Riverside's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes roles and responsibilities, assigns tasks, and specifies policies and general procedures. The plan includes critical elements of the Standardized Emergency Management System, the National Incident Management System, the Incident Command System, and the National Response Framework. (EOP 2019.)

The Couty of Riverside Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) identies the County's hazards, reviews and assesses past disaster occurrences, estimate the probability of future occurrences, and sets goals to mitigate potential risks to reduce or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from natural and human-caused hazards. (MJLHMP 2023.)

a) Less than Significant Impact

Portions of the western Project site are located within a State Responsibility Area of Moderate, High, and Very High fire hazard severity zones. (OSFM 2023.) These Moderate, High, and Very High fire hazard severity zones are be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread. (OSFM 2023.) The proposed Project would construct potable water pipelines, interconnections, and appurtenances within existing roadways and ROW. Construction of the proposed Project may potentially result in temporary traffic obstructions. However, the Project will implement a TCP as described in *Section 2.7 Environmental Commitments.* The TCP will include provisions to coordinate lane closures, access, and construction work hours in order to minimize potential impacts associated with emergency response. Project operations and routine maintenance and service of underground pipelines and aboveground appurtenances would not impair an emergency response or emergency evacuation plan. Thus, with through compliance with the Project's Environmental Commitments, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant

The Project involves construction and operation of underground pipelines and aboveground valves and associated appurtenances. Construction of the Project would not entail grading that would create new or change existing slopes or otherwise change the current level of fire risk that exists within the area. Therefore, impacts regarding the exposure of Project occupants to pollutant concentrations form a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant

The Project does not include roads, fire breaks, power lines, or installation of any new utilities. As discussed in response "20.b", implementation of the Project would not change the current level of fire risk that exists within the area. Impacts would be less than significant.

d) No Impact

The proposed Project does not include habitable structures, nor would it substantially alter existing drainage patterns. Therefore, there would be no impacts with regard to exposing people or structures to significant wildfire risks.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Does the project have the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or an endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]
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	[ ]	[ ]	[X]	[ ]

of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects?				
c) Does the project have Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	[ ]	[X]	[ ]	[ ]

Discussion

a) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

Potential to Degrade the Quality of Environment: Construction of the Project site does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment. As indicated in the foregoing analysis, either no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated would occur with respect to each of the environmental issues analyzed in this Initial Study.

Potential to Impact Biological Resources: As discussed in *Section 3.4, Biological Resources*, implementation of the proposed Project would not:

- substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species;
- cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; or
- threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community or restrict the range the range or endangered plant or animal.

The results of the analysis in *Section 3.4, Biological Resources*, analysis indicate that with implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-1** through **Mitigation Measure BIO-5** and the Environmental Commitments described in Section 2.7, impacts to biological resources would be less than significant.

Potential to Eliminate Important Examples of the Major Periods of California History or Prehistory: As discussed in *Section 3.4, Cultural Resources*, no known cultural or historical resources are within the Project site. Although no known historical resources would be affected by the proposed Project, construction has the potential to encounter previously unknown archaeological and historical resources. With implementation of **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** through **Mitigation Measure CUL-3**, impacts to cultural resources would be less than significant. Regarding Tribal Cultural Resources, based on the outcome of AB 52 consultation, **Mitigation Measure TRI-1** through **Mitigation Measure TRI-4** would be implemented. Through regulatory compliance and implementation of the aforementioned mitigation measures, impacts to historic and archaeological resources would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

Other projects proposed near the Project site include: County of Riverside sponsored road and drainage improvement project along Cajalco Road and EMWD water improvements in the communities of Mead Valley and Good Hope as described below.

The County of Riverside is proposing a road and drainage improvement project along Cajalco Road. The proposed project would widen Cajalco Road, install new storm drains and culverts, and channelize the historical Cajalco Creek drainageway west of Barton Street. Although the County is the lead agency for this project, the channelization of the drainageway between Alexander Street and Brown Street is in accordance with RCFCWCD master planning efforts. The preliminary roadway plans indicate that minor grading will raise the elevation of Cajalco Road. West of Barton Street this project proposes dividing the west and east bound traffic lanes with the east bound lanes traversing the existing Cajalco Creek Crossing and constructing a new bridge over Cajalco Creek for the west bound lanes. (PDR, p. 17.) From Barton Street to Day Street, the County is proposing a new median. The location of the proposed Project was selected, in part, to facilitate future access by placing the sewer alignment outside of the future median. (PDR, p. 17.)

EMWD is proposing water improvements along within the Mead Valley and Good Hope communities. This proposed water improvement project may commence as early as April 2024 and is near the proposed Project site.

As demonstrated by the analysis in this IS, the Project will not result in any impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. The Project is consistent with applicable local and regional plans, and the Project does not result in significant air quality emissions. The Project adheres to all other land use plans and policies that have jurisdiction over the Project site and does not contribute to substantial traffic volumes. The Project is not considered growth-inducing as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.2(d) and will not induce, either directly or indirectly, population and/or housing growth. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated t

Effects on human beings were evaluated as part of the aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, population and housing, and transportation thresholds sections of this IS and found to be less than significant for each of the above sections with implementation of **Mitigation Measure GEO-1 through Mitigation Measure GEO-3, Mitigation Measure NOI-1,** and the Environmental Commitments described in Section 2.7. Based on the analyses and conclusions in this IS, the proposed Project will not cause substantial adverse effects directly or indirectly to human beings. Therefore, potential direct and indirect impacts on human beings that result from the proposed Project are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

4. REPORT PREPARATION

4.1 Report Authors

This report was prepared by EMWD and Albert A Webb Associates. Staff from these agencies and companies that were involved include:

EMWD

- Al Javier, Director Environmental Regulatory Control
- Joseph Broadhead, Principal Water Resources Specialist
- Helen Stratton, Water Resources Specialist Assistant II
- Nathaniel Olivas, Associate Engineer II

Albert A Webb Associates

- Monica Tobias, Associate Environmental Analyst
- Jackie Gamboa, Assistant Environmental Analyst
- Noemi Avila, Assistant Environmental Analyst
- Eliza Laws, Senior Environmental Analyst
- Cheryl DeGano, Environmental Services Practice Area Leader
- Stephanie Standerfer, Vice President

4.2 References

ALUC 2014 Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, *March Air Reserve Base/Inland Port Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*. November 13, 2014. (Available at New Compatibility Plan 2 | Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (rcaluc.org), accessed on October 16, 2023.)

AQMP 2022 South Coast Air Quality Management District, *2022 Air Quality Management Plan*. Adopted December 2, 2022. (Available at http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/clean-air-plans/air-quality-management-plans/2022-air-quality-management-plan/final-2022-aqmp/final-2022-aqmp.pdf?sfvrsn=16, accessed on September 28, 2023.)

ATLAS 2023 Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC, *Geotechnical Investigation Mead Valley Sewer Improvements, Eastern Municipal Water District*. March 3, 2023. (Appendix D.)

CAL 2023 California Department of Transportation, *State Scenic Highways System List*. 2023. (Available at https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways, accessed October 12, 2023.)

CAL-A 2019 California Department of Resources, *Recycling and Recovery Solid Waste Information System: Facility Detail: Badlands Sanitary Landfill (33-AA- 0006)*. October 3, 2023. (Available at, https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Summary/2367, accessed October 18, 2023.)

CAL-B 2019 California Department of Resources, *Recycling and Recovery Solid Waste Information System: Facility Detail: Lamb Canyon Sanitary Landfill (33-AA-0007)*. October 4, 2023. (Available at https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Summary/2368, accessed October 18, 2023.)

CAL-C 2019 California Department of Resources, *Recycling and Recovery Solid Waste Information System: El Sobrante Landfill (33-AA-0217)*. September 15, 2023. (Available at https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Summary/2402, accessed October 18, 2023.)

CAP 2019 County of Riverside, Climate Action Plan Update. 2019. (Available at, https://planning.rctlma.org/sites/g/files/aldnop416/files/migrated/Portals-14-CAP-2019-2019-CAP-Update-Full.pdf, accessed October 13, 2023.)

CARB 2018 California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2018. Community Air Protection Blueprint. (Available at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-10/final_community_air_protection_blueprint_october_2018.pdf accessed October 31, 2023.)

CARB-A 2023 California Air Resources Board, *California Ambient Air Quality Standards,* 2023. (Available at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/california-ambient-air-quality-standards, accessed on October 30, 2023.)

CARB-B 2023 California Air Resources Board. *CARB Identified Toxic Air Contaminants*, 2023. (Available at https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/carb-identified-toxic-air-contaminants, accessed on October 30, 2023.)

CARB-C 2023 California Air Resource Board, *Overview of Amendments to the In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations.* August 23, 2023. (Available at, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/fact-sheets/overview-amendments-use-road-diesel-fueled-fleets-regulation, accessed on October 14, 2023.)

CDOC-A 2022 California Department of Conservation (CDOC), *California Important Farmland 1984-2020, Interactive Map.* 2022. (Available at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciftimeseries/, accessed October 12, 2023.)

CDOC-B 2022 California Department of Conservation (CDOC), *California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder, Interactive Map.* 2022. (Available at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/WilliamsonAct/, accessed October 12, 2023.)

CEC 2017 California Energy Commission (CEC). *Renewables Portfolio Standard Eligibility, Ninth Edition*. (Available at https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=217317, accessed on October 31, 2023.)

DOC 2022 Department of Conservation, *DOC Maps: Geologic Hazards*. 2022. (Available at https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/geologichazards/, accessed on October 16, 2023.)

DOC 2023 Department of Conservation, *SMARA Statutes and Regulations*. 2023. (Available at https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dmr/lawsandregulations, accessed on October 14, 2023)

DTSC 2021 California Department of Toxic Substances Control, *Envirostor Database*. 2023. (Available at https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site_type=CSITES,FUDS&status=ACT,BKLG,COM&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST+%28CORTESE%29, accessed October 16, 2023.)

DWR 2006 Department of Water Resources, *San Jacinto Groundwater Basin*. January 20, 2006. (Available at https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118/Files/2003-Basin-Descriptions/8_005_SanJacinto.pdf, accessed October 20, 2023.)

EMWD 2015 Eastern Municipal Water District, *General Construction Specifications, Section 02201- Construction Methods & Earthwork,* April 2015. (Available at https://www.emwd.org/engineering-standards-specifications-and-drawings, accessed August 19, 2023.)

EMWD 2020 Eastern Municipal Water District, 2020 *Urban Water Management Plan. a*dopted July 1, 2021. (Available at https://www.emwd.org/sites/main/files/file-

attachments/urbanwatermanagementplan_0.pdf?1625160721, accessed on June, 21 2023.)

EMWD 2021 — Eastern Municipal Water District, *Perris Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility*. January 2021. (Available at https://www.emwd.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/pvrwrffactsheet.pdf?1620227213, accessed on October 18, 2023.)

EMWD-A 2023 — Eastern Municipal Water District, *Sustainable Groundwater Management Act*. (Available at https://www.emwd.org/post/sustainable-groundwater-management-act, accessed on October 17, 2023.)

EMWD-B 2023 — Eastern Municipal Water District, *Wastewater Service*. 2023. (Available at https://www.emwd.org/wastewater-service, accessed on October 18, 2023.)

EOP 2019 — County of Riverside, *Emergency Operations Plan EOP*. August 2019. (Available at https://riversidecountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_LegiFile.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=2048&MediaPosition=3715.315&ID=10490&CssClass=, accessed on October 16, 2023.)

FEMA 2008 — Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Flood Insurance Rate Map for Riverside County, California, and Incorporated Areas. Map Numbers 06065C1420G and 06065C1410G*. Effective August 28, 2008. (Available at https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home, accessed on October 17, 2023.)

FEMA 2020 — Federal Emergency Management Agency, *Flood Zones.* July 8, 2020. (Available at https://www.fema.gov/glossary/flood-zones, accessed on October 17, 2023.)

FTA 2018 — Federal Transit Administration, *Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual*. September 2018. (Available online at: 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 on September 19, 2023.)

FWHA — Federal Highway Administration, *FHWA Roadway Construction Noise Model User's Guide*. January 2006. (Available at https://www.gsweventcenter.com/Draft_SEIR_References/2006_01_Roadway_Construction_Noise_Model_User_Guide_FHWA.pdf, accessed on October 18, 2023.)

GP 2015 Riverside County, *County of Riverside General Plan*. December 8, 2015. (Available at https://planning.rctlma.org/general-plan-and-zoning/riverside-county-general-plan, accessed on October 17, 2023.)

MJLHMP 2023 County of Riverside Emergency Management Department (EMD), *County of Riverside Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*. April 2023. (Available at https://rivcoready.org/sites/g/files/aldnop181/files/2023-08/MJLHMP%208.7.23.pdf, accessed on October 15, 2023.)

MVAP County of Riverside, *Mead Valley Area Plan*. Revised September 28, 2021. (Available at https://planning.rctlma.org/sites/g/files/aldnop416/files/migrated/Portals-14-genplan-GPA-2022-Compiled-MVAP-4-2022-rev.pdf, accessed August 14, 2023.)

OPR 2018 Office of Planning and Research, *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA.* December 2018. (Available at https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf, accessed October 15, 2023.)

ORD655 Riverside County. *Riverside County Ordinance No. 655 Regulating Light Pollution.* 1988. (Available at https://www.rivcocob.org/ords/600/655.htm, accessed October 12, 2023.

OSFM 2023 Office of the State Fire Marshall, *Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area*. September 29, 2023.(Available at https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/#explorefhsz, accessed on October 16, 2023.)

PDR 2023 Ardurra, *Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project, Preliminary Design Report*. January 2, 2023. (Appendix E.)

RIVORD 348 County of Riverside, *Ordinance No. 348-4997 an Ordinance of the County of Riverside Providing for Land Use Planning and Zoning Regulations and Related Functions.* April 28, 2023. *(*Available at https://planning.rctlma.org/sites/g/files/aldnop416/files/2023-06/Ord348-04-28-2023-FINAL.pdf?ver=2022-03-02-162154-373, accessed on October 13, 2023.)

RIVZ 2023 County of Riverside, *Map My County*. 2023. (Available at https://gis1.countyofriverside.us/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=MMC_Public, accessed on October 13, 2023.)

RTA 2023 Riverside Transit Agency, *Maps and Schedules: Line 41*. 2023. (Available at https://www.riversidetransit.com/index.php/riding-the-bus/maps-schedules, accessed on August 14, 2023.)

RWQCB 2015 Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, *San Jacinto Watershed Fact Sheet*. April 15, 2015. (Available at https://content.rcflood.org/downloads/NPDES/Documents/SA_WAP/AppH_SubwatershedFactSheets.pdf, accessed on September 28, 2023.)

RWQCB 2019 Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, *Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Ana River Basin.* January 24, 1995, Updated June 2019. (Available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/, accessed on October 17, 2023.)

SCAG 2020 Southern California Association of Governments, Connect *SoCal*. Adopted September 3, 2020. (Available at SCAG Connect SoCal - The 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy Adopted on September 3, 2020, accessed on October 15, 2023.)

SCAQMD 2008a South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Final Localized Significance Threshold Methodology.* June 2003, Revised July 2008. (Available at Microsoft Word - EJI-4 Final April 2008.doc (aqmd.gov), accessed October 31, 2023.)

SCAQMD 2008b South Coast Air Quality Management District. *Board Meeting Agenda No. 31: Interim CEQA GHG Significance Threshold for Stationary Sources, Rules and Plans*. Available at http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/greenhouse-gases-(ghg)-ceqa-significance-thresholds/ghgboardsynopsis.pdf?sfvrsn=2, accessed October 31, 2023.)

SCAQMD 2009 South Coast Air Quality Management District, *Final LST Methodology Document, Appendix C – Mass Rate LST Look-up Tables.* Revised October 21, 2009. (Available at http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/localized-significance-thresholds/appendix-c-mass-rate-lst-look-up-tables.pdf?sfvrsn=2, accessed October 31, 2023.)

SCAQMD 2023 South Coast Air Quality Management District, *South Coast AQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds*. March 2023. (Available at https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/south-

coast-aqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=25, accessed October 31, 2023.)

SCE 2021 Southern California Edison. *2021 Power Content Label.* (Available at https://www.energy.ca.gov/filebrowser/download/4676, accessed October 13, 2023.)

SE 2023 South Environmental, *Cultural Resources Technical Report, Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Projec*t. October 2023. (Appendix C)

US EPA 2023 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *NAAQS Table*, March 15, 2023. (Available at https://www.epa.gov/criteria-air-pollutants/naaqs-table, accessed on October 30, 2023.)

VVUSD 21 Val Verde Unified School District. *Schools Infograph 21-22*. 2021. (Available at vvusd Infograph 21-22-01.png - Google Drive, accessed October 15, 2023.)

WEBB-A Albert A Webb Associates, *Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Analysis for the Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project*. October 31, 2023. (Appendix A.)

WEBB-B 2023 Albert A Webb Associates, *Biological Technical Report For Mead Valley Cajalco Sewer Project*. September 2023. (Appendix B.)