



Final Mitigated Negative Declaration

# North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project

SCH No. 2014111011

*Valley Center, CA*

December 2014

HDR, Inc.  
3230 El Camino Real, Suite 200  
Irvine, CA 92602



## FINAL IS/MND INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD) distributed the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project for public review on November 6, 2014, with the public review period ending on December 6, 2014. During this time, nine comment letters were received. Comment letters were accepted and considered timely through December 8, 2014.

This Final IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15000 et seq.). CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(b) states:

“(b) Prior to approving a project, the decision-making body of the lead agency shall consider the proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration together with any comments received during the public review process. The decision-making body shall adopt the proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration only if it finds on the basis of the whole record before it (including the initial study and any comments received), that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration reflects the lead agency’s independent judgment and analysis.”

## CONTENTS OF THE FINAL IS/MND

This final version of the IS/MND includes changes that were made to the Draft IS/MND based on comments received. Revisions were also made to clarify information presented in the Draft IS/MND and only minor technical changes or additions have been made. These changes and additions to the IS/MND do not constitute substantial revisions that would result in new, avoidable significant effects. The IS/MND has been completely reprinted from the Draft IS/MND and changes made since public review are signified as a replacement, addition, or revision to existing text. Revisions to existing text are signified by ~~strikeout~~ (i.e., ~~strikeout~~) where text is removed, and by underline (i.e., underline) where text is added for clarification.

The Final IS/MND contains all comments received on the Draft IS/MND and responses to comments.



COMMENT LETTER A	RESPONSE
<p><b>From:</b> George E. Lucia Sr. [<a href="mailto:georgel@vcfpd.org">mailto:georgel@vcfpd.org</a>]  <b>Sent:</b> Wednesday, November 12, 2014 1:21 PM  <b>To:</b> Dennis Williams  <b>Cc:</b> Gaby Olson; North Village Infrastructure Project  <b>Subject:</b> Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project</p> <p>Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project. Section XIV. Public Services (a) (i).</p> <p>Dennis / Gabriela:            I have reviewed the MND document for the above captioned project.            Could we set up a short meeting to discuss VCFPD ability to deal with increased "confined space" (technical rescues) exposures with the additions of "lift stations" and other CS structures to the VCMWD system.            Also an item for discussion is the VCFPD's ability to deal with "trench rescues during construction (technical rescues).</p> <p>Yours in Safety,</p> <p><b>George E. Lucia Sr.</b>  <b>Battalion Chief / Fire Marshal</b>  <b>Valley Center Fire Protection</b>            Cell 760-644-9933  <a href="mailto:georgel@vcfpd.org">georgel@vcfpd.org</a></p>	<p><b>Letter A</b>  <b>Valley Center Fire Protection District</b>  <b>November 12, 2014</b></p> <p><b>Response to Comment A-1:</b> In response to the Valley Fire Protection District's request, Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD) staff met with representatives of the Valley Center Fire Protection District on November 19, 2014 to discuss technical rescues and address the Fire District's concerns as they relate to the construction of the proposed project. Specific questions and/or comments on the IS/MND were provided by George Lucia (Fire Marshal) in a follow-up letter dated November 25, 2014. This letter is provided as Comment Letter B. Please refer to response to comment B-1.</p>

} A-1



COMMENT LETTER B	RESPONSE
<p>From: George Lucia [<a href="mailto:georgel@vcfpd.org">mailto:georgel@vcfpd.org</a>] Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 2:42 PM To: Dennis Williams Cc: Gaby Olson; North Village Infrastructure Project; <a href="mailto:byrne@vcfpd.org">byrne@vcfpd.org</a> Subject: Comments on the MND / Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project</p> <p><b><u>Comments on the MND / Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project</u></b></p> <p><b>XIV. Public Services. Would the project:</b> <i>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 to other performance objectives for any of the public services:</i></p> <p>i) <b><u>Fire protection.</u></b></p> <p>I would agree that the project will not increase the demographic impact towards the Valley Center Fire Protection District's (normal fire and medical responses) ability to service the general public, I am concerned that the product of the project may raise the odds of a technical rescue event. Specific areas of concern are the VCFPD ability to respond and mitigate a Confined Space Rescue and / or a Trench Rescue event. A technical rescue requires special trained and certified first responders using speciality equipment. Response and mitigation (victim rescue) has a limited success time based upon the response time of the closest available and certified crew. This involves reaction time, contact time, response time, assessment time, preparation time and rescue time. I understand that the options in confined space are non entry, entry by others or entry by trained employees from the VCMWD. It is good that the VCMWD has designed all their new facilities as Non-Entry Rescue Technique. The odds of Trench Rescues Events may also increase during and after this project. Private Property systems will need to be disconnected from the septs and connected to the sewer system. I am suggesting that this project may be the catalyst for the development of a joint rescue plan between the VCMWD and the VCFPD. Joint training and equipment was done in the past and perhaps a consolidated effort towards awarness, training, equipment and response should be in our future. The VCFPD will have a new fire chief on board by the first of the year and as he reviews the operations side of the fire district, I am sure there may be additional comments.</p> <p>Thank you all for your continuing cooperation and interest in community safety.</p> <p>Yours in Safety,</p> <p>George E. Lucia Sr. Battalion Chief / Fire Marshal Valley Center Fire Protection District cell 24/7 @ 760-644-9933 <a href="mailto:georgel@vcfpd.org">georgel@vcfpd.org</a></p> 	<p><b>Letter B</b> <b>Valley Center Fire Protection District</b> <b>November 25, 2014</b></p> <p><b>Response to Comment B-1:</b> As noted in this comment, VCMWD has designed all its new facilities as Non-Entry Rescue Technique. The proposed project can also be designed to accommodate non-access confined space rescue, which would address the service concern identified in this comment. For the proposed project, the project will be designed in a manner such that a davit crane (or similar) could be utilized where appropriate and/or necessary for project construction. Use of a davit crane would minimize or eliminate the need for construction crews to be in trenched locations. Regardless of what type of construction techniques are employed for the proposed project, the Initial Study conclusion that the project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or to other performance objectives for fire services would not change.</p> <p>A joint rescue plan will not be prepared by VCMWD. At this time, VCMWD and the Valley Center Fire Protection District have not committed to joint rescue plans or training. However, VCMWD will pursue the opportunity for joint training in the future should the opportunity arise. As part of its Safety Policies, VCMWD has an established confined space safety program which includes contact with the local fire/rescue departments. After construction, VCMWD will coordinate with the Valley Center Fire Protection District when accessing confined space facilities.</p>

} B-1



COMMENT LETTER C	RESPONSE
<div data-bbox="625 365 850 406" data-label="Section-Header"> <p><b>PALA TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="583 422 850 479" data-label="Text"> <p>PMB 50, 35008 Pala Temecula Road Pala, CA 92059 760-891-3510 Office   760-742-3189 Fax</p> </div> <div data-bbox="856 370 940 479" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="289 483 420 503">November 19, 2014</p> <p data-bbox="289 519 562 597">Dennis Williams, Project Manager Valley Center Municipal Water District 29300 Valley Center Road Valley Center, CA 92082</p> <p data-bbox="289 617 646 636">Re: North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project</p> <p data-bbox="289 657 430 677">Dear Mr. Williams,</p> <p data-bbox="289 690 940 747">The Pala Band of Mission Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office has received your notification of the NOI to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the above-referenced project. This letter constitutes our response on behalf of Robert Smith, Tribal Chairman.</p> <p data-bbox="289 763 940 901">In reviewing the project documents, we note that the Pala THPO was not included on the distribution list for consultation provided by the NAHC. This was very surprising considering that the project is in close proximity to the Pala Reservation and is within the boundaries of the territory that the tribe considers its Traditional Use Area (TUA). We also noted that no other Luiseno tribe in close proximity was consulted (e.g. Rincon, Pauma, and La Jolla). This oversight appears to have occurred at the NAHC and not at your agency; nevertheless, it is troubling as we would have responded to the request for consultation. Fortunately, in reviewing the documents we concur with the mitigation measures for protection of cultural resources.</p> <p data-bbox="289 917 940 974">We request to be kept in the information loop as the project progresses and would appreciate being maintained on the receiving list for project updates, reports of investigations, and/or any documentation that might be generated regarding previously reported or newly discovered sites.</p> <p data-bbox="289 990 940 1047">We appreciate involvement with your initiative and look forward to working with you on future efforts. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 760-891-3515 or by e-mail at <a href="mailto:sgaughen@palatribe.com">sgaughen@palatribe.com</a>.</p> <p data-bbox="289 1063 367 1083">Sincerely,</p> <div data-bbox="289 1084 478 1128" data-label="Text"> </div> <p data-bbox="289 1136 514 1193">Shasta C. Gaughen, Ph.D. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Pala Band of Mission Indians</p> <p data-bbox="289 1209 940 1274">ATTENTION: THE PALA TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL REQUESTS FOR CONSULTATION. PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO <b>SHASTA C. GAUGHEN</b> AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO ALSO SEND NOTICES TO PALA TRIBAL CHAIRMAN ROBERT SMITH.</p> <div data-bbox="945 682 1071 1071" data-label="Text"> <p>C-1</p> <p>C-2</p> <p>C-3</p> </div>	<p data-bbox="1108 243 1837 365"><b>Letter C</b> <b>Pala Band of Mission Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office</b> <b>November 19, 2014</b></p> <p data-bbox="1108 430 1669 462"><b>Response to Comment C-1:</b> Comment noted.</p> <p data-bbox="1108 487 1911 852"><b>Response to Comment C-2:</b> Comment noted. VCMWD acknowledges that the commenter agrees with the proposed cultural resources mitigation measures. As a component of preparation of the cultural resources study for the project, the Native American Heritage Commission was contacted, and subsequently letters were sent to the 19 Native American individuals/groups listed in the Native American Heritage Commission response. Follow-up phone calls were placed to the 18 individuals/group that had not responded. A total of three responses were received which included the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, and the Kumeyaay</p> <p data-bbox="1108 885 1911 1071"><b>Response to Comment C-3:</b> Comment noted. As requested in this comment, the VCMWD will continue to keep the Pala Band of Mission Indians informed as the project progresses. The VCMWD will include the Pala Band of Mission Indians on the receiving list for project updates, reports, and or documentation regarding previously reported or newly discovered sites.</p>



COMMENT LETTER D	RESPONSE
<p><b>From:</b> Cultural [<a href="mailto:Cultural@pauma-nsn.gov">mailto:Cultural@pauma-nsn.gov</a>]  <b>Sent:</b> Wednesday, November 26, 2014 10:45 AM  <b>To:</b> North Village Infrastructure Project  <b>Cc:</b> <a href="mailto:pdixon@palomar.edu">pdixon@palomar.edu</a>; Jeremy Zagarella  <b>Subject:</b> North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>The Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians has received the notice to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project. The Cultural Study provided in the mailing identified multiple sites near the proposed project(s). On a side note, there were no copies of any letters that were sent to the Luiseno Bands on the disk that was provided. The Pauma, Pala, Rincon and La Jolla Bands of Luiseno have a high probability of being the Most Likely Descendants to sites within the Valley Center Area. There is a high probability that culturally related resources could be discovered near the identified sites. The Cultural report recommends training construction personnel to identify cultural resources. We disagree with this recommendation. The ability to sift through soil, identify soil changes or even see small fragments takes some time to learn. We would recommend the drafting and implementation of a Monitoring Agreement to include Mitigation Measures for any potential discoveries. We would also request that an archaeologist and Native Monitor be onsite for all ground disturbing activities.</p> <p>If you should have any questions please contact us.</p> <p>Chris Devers Cultural Clerk Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians</p>	<p><b>Letter D</b>  <b>Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians</b>  <b>November 26, 2014</b></p> <p><b>Response to Comment D-1:</b> Comment noted. The VCMWD, through its cultural resources consultant HDR, contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on September 9, 2014. On September 16, 2014, letters were sent to the 19 Native American individuals/groups listed in the NAHC letter. The Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians were not identified on the list provided by the NAHC; but nonetheless received direct notice of the draft IS/MND from VCMWD. Please refer to response to comment D-2.</p> <p><b>Response to Comment D-2:</b> In response to this comment, Mitigation Measure CR-1 has been revised to include the requirement that a Native American monitor be present on site specifically during construction at the lift station sites where there has been limited or no past subsurface disturbance. The pipeline portion of the proposed project is located in existing paved roadway right of way and this component of the project will be monitored by an archaeologist; however, should potential cultural resources be discovered during construction of this portion of the project, the project archaeologist would contact the appropriate Native American monitor (assumed to be the same as will be required for the lift stations). Mitigation Measure CR-1 has been revised as follows:</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measure CR-1:</b> <u>Cultural resources monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist for all phases of construction that involve ground disturbing activities. A Native American monitor shall be present during ground disturbance at the lift station sites, and as deemed necessary by the archaeologist during the pipeline construction.</u> In the event of a discovery, work will be stopped within the immediate area of the find until a professional archaeologist, in consultation with the Native American monitor, can determine the nature of the resources discovered. The Native American monitor shall be requested from a group identified by the Native</p>

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D-2



American Heritage Commission as having affiliation with the project vicinity. On agreement between the qualified archaeologist and the Native American monitor, the archaeological monitor may notify the Native American monitor in the event of an archaeological discovery for the pipeline portion of the project. As appropriate, the archaeologist and/or Native American monitor will assist Project personnel in avoiding the newly discovered resources or in implementing management measures to evaluate the significance and potential eligibility of the resources for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or any local registers, as appropriate.

If the archeologist determines that the find is significant or may qualify as significant, the archaeologist shall prepare a treatment plan. Preservation in place shall be implemented as treatment, where feasible. Results of monitoring and any archaeological treatment shall be reported in an appropriate technical report to be filed with Valley Center Municipal Water District and the California Historical Resources Information System. Any artifacts recovered during monitoring or treatments shall be curated at an appropriate facility. ~~discovery is determined to be a site, after securing the work area from additional disturbance, in concert with the Construction Foreman or Field Supervisor, the archaeological monitor will notify the Principal Investigator (PI). The PI will determine what additional fieldwork is necessary, such as a limited test excavation, to determine the site's potential eligibility for the CRHR or the NRHP. It may be determined that a site visit by the PI is necessary to make that determination. If test excavation is required to evaluate a discovery, this will be discussed in consultation with the lead agency.~~



**COMMENT LETTER E**

**RESPONSE**



State Water Resources Control Board

DEC 03 2014

Dennis Williams  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

Dear Mr. Williams:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (DISTRICT); NORTH VILLAGE WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (PROJECT); SAN DIEGO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2014111011

We understand that the District is pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project (CWSRF No. C-06-7454-110). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information on the IS/MND being prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state. The CWSRF Program provides low-interest funding equal to one-half of the most recent State General Obligation Bond Rates with a 30-year term. Applications are accepted and processed continuously. Please refer to the State Water Board's CWSRF website at:  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml).

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and requires additional "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-Plus" environmental documentation and review. Three enclosures are included that further explain the CWSRF Program environmental review process and the additional federal requirements. For the complete environmental application package please visit:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml). The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoli, at (916) 341-5855.

E-1

**Letter E**  
**State Water Resources Control Board**  
**December 3, 2014**

**Response to Comment E-1:** These comments regarding the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) and CEQA-Plus processes are noted. The VCMWD has, and will continue, to coordinate with the State Water Resources Control Board as it relates to processing the proposed project. The IS/MND was prepared in accordance with the content and process requirements for CEQA documents that are processed through the SRF.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)





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The District's IS/MND, Cultural Resources Technical Report, and Biological Technical Report have been received. The State Water Board requests additional Cross-Cutter documents which can be found in the Environmental Package at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/forms/application\\_environmental\\_package.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/forms/application_environmental_package.pdf)

Following are specific comments on the District's draft IS/MND:

1. Page 53 of the District's IS/MND references a Traffic Control Plan that will be implemented. Please include a copy of this plan in the IS/MND or a reference to the location where this document can be found.

2. Please make sure to include a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program (MMRP) as a part of the District's IS/MND.

3. Page 35 of the Biological Report mentions that Lilac Creek provides potentially suitable habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Please indicate the location of Lilac Creek in relation to the Project area through discussion and on a map.

4. Page 49 states that potential winter foraging habitat may be lost for the Swainson's hawk as a result of Project activities, and page 50 states potential foraging habitat would be lost for the white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike and the golden eagle as a result of Project activities. Please make a determination for the impacts to each of these species based on the findings presented.

5. It is important to note that prior to a CWSRF financing commitment, projects are subject to provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and must obtain Section 7 clearance from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special-status species. Consultation with the USFWS will be necessary for impacts related to San Diego Ambrosia, San Diego Thorn-mint, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and California Gnatcatcher.

Please be advised that the State Water Board will consult with the USFWS, and/or the NMFS regarding all federal special-status species that the Project has the potential to impact if the Project is to be financed by the CWSRF Program. The District will need to identify whether the Project will involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement, that may affect federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that are known, or have a potential to occur in the Project site, in the surrounding areas, or in the service area, and to identify applicable conservation measures to reduce such effects.

Please provide us with the following documents applicable to the proposed Project following the District's CEQA process: (1) one copy of the draft and final IS/MND, (2) the resolution adopting the IS/MND and making CEQA findings, (3) all comments received during the review period and the District's response to those comments, (4) the adopted MMRP, and (5) the Notice of Determination filed with the San Diego County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board.

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**Response to Comment E-2:** Comment noted. VCMWD will submit the additional Cross-Cutter documents to the State Water Resources Control Board as part of the SRF process for this project.

**Response to Comment E-3:** The proposed project is located in unincorporated San Diego County; therefore, any public roadways affected by pipeline construction are owned and maintained by the County of San Diego. Submittal of a Traffic Control Permit Application and preparation of a Traffic Control Plan are required as part of the application package for a County of San Diego Excavation Permit. As such, the Traffic Control Plan will be prepared by the project construction contractor prior to, or at the construction phase of the project. The Traffic Control Plan will be submitted to and must be approved by the County of San Diego prior to any excavation work and must comply with County requirements such as identifying the work being performed and the exact location of work being performed. Upon approval of an Excavation Permit, the project contractor will be responsible for implementing the Traffic Control Plan during construction of the proposed project.

**Response to Comment E-4:** A Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program (MMRP) is included as part of this Final IS/MND.

**Response to Comment E-5:** The Biological Report has been revised to indicate the location of Lilac Creek in relation to the Project Area. The following text (in underline) has been added:

Lilac Creek, located in the southwest portion of the North Village Lift Station site, provides potentially suitable habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher where it supports southern arroyo willow riparian forest as depicted on Figure 4B.

**Response to Comment E-6:** Please refer to Section 5.4.1.2 of the Biological Report for the determination of impacts to Swainson's hawk, and Section 5.4.2.2 of the Biological Technical Report for the determination of impacts to white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike and the golden eagle. As stated, no significant impacts to these species has been identified.

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the District's draft IS/MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Elysar Naja at (916) 341-5799 or by email at [Elysar.Naja@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Elysar.Naja@waterboards.ca.gov), or contact me at (916) 341-5855, or by email at [Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Ahmad Kashkoli  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Enclosures (3)

1. Clean Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Review Requirements
2. Quick Reference Guide to CEQA Requirements for State Revolving Fund Loans
3. Basic Criteria for Cultural Resources Reports

cc: State Clearinghouse  
(Re: SCH# 2014111011)  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**Response to Comment E-7:** Comment noted. Valley Center Municipal Water District understands that consultation with the USFWS will be necessary for impacts to San Diego Ambrosia, San Diego Thorn-mint, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and California Gnatcatcher.

As addressed on page 45 of this Initial Study, if San Diego Ambrosia and San Diego Thorn-mint are present, project construction would have potential to result in direct impacts to these species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-1 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

As addressed on pages 45-46 of this Initial Study, no direct impacts to habitat with potential to support southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo or California gnatcatcher will occur. However, if breeding southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo or California gnatcatcher were present during construction, construction-related noise and lighting could result in indirect impacts to these species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-2 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

**Response to Comment E-8:** Comment noted. The proposed project's effects on federal special-status species is analyzed in the IS/MND and Biological Technical Report (dated December 2014.)

**Response to Comment E-9:** Comment noted. Following the District's approval of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, the following will be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board:

- One copy of the draft and final IS/MND
- Resolution adopting the IS/MND
- All comments received during the review period and the District's response to those comments
- Adopted MMRP
- Notice of Determination



**COMMENT LETTER F**

**RESPONSE**



**San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc.**

Environmental Review Committee

4 December 2014

To: Mr. Dennis Williams, Project Manager  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, California 92082

Subject: Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration  
North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Dear Mr. Williams:

I have reviewed the subject DMND on behalf of this committee of the San Diego County Archaeological Society.

Based on the information contained in the DMND, we have the following comments:

1. We concur with the impact analysis for the sites specifically mentioned in the DMND.
2. Mitigation Measure CR-1, based on paragraph 8.1 of the cultural resources report, is poorly written and incomplete. It appears to have been patched together from two other, unrelated documents. The second paragraph refers to an archaeological monitor (and no Native American monitor) who is not called for by the first paragraph. The first paragraph has the vague "if somebody spots something" wording which places no archaeologist involvement on the project unless someone does. It is also devoid of any specifics on analysis, report preparation and curation for any recovered. Meanwhile, CR-7 melds reporting and treatment of archaeological and paleontological material, resulting in some ambiguity. It also appears to assume the South Coastal Information Center has some responsibility for recording paleontological sites.
3. CR-5 is also ambiguous whether it applies to archaeological resources, paleontological resources, or both, while CR-6 appears to apply only to paleontological material.
4. We recommend rewriting the mitigation measures section to clearly separate and identify the treatment of archaeological and paleontological resources, from treatment of discoveries through curation.

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Thank you for including SDCAS in the public review of this DMND.

Sincerely,

James W. Royle, Jr., Chairperson  
Environmental Review Committee

P.O. Box 81106 San Diego, CA 92138-1106 (858) 538-0935

**Letter F**  
**San Diego County Archaeological Society, Inc.**  
**December 4, 2014**

**Response to Comment F-1:** Comment noted.

**Response to Comment F-2:** Mitigation Measure CR-1 has been revised to include a Native American monitor on site during project construction. Mitigation Measure CR-1 has been revised as follows:

**Mitigation Measure CR-1:** Cultural resources monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist for all phases of construction that involve ground disturbing activities. A Native American monitor shall be present during ground disturbance at the lift station sites, and as deemed necessary by the archaeologist during the pipeline construction. In the event of a discovery, work will be stopped within the immediate area of the find until a professional archaeologist, in consultation with the Native American monitor, can determine the nature of the resources discovered. The Native American monitor shall be requested from a group identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as having affiliation with the project vicinity. On agreement between the qualified archaeologist and the Native American monitor, the archaeological monitor may notify the Native American monitor in the event of an archaeological discovery for the pipeline portion of the project. As appropriate, the archaeologist and/or Native American monitor will assist Project personnel in avoiding the newly discovered resources or in implementing management measures to evaluate the significance and potential eligibility of the resources for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or any local registers, as appropriate.

If the archeologist determines that the find is significant or may qualify as significant, the archaeologist shall prepare a



~~treatment plan. Preservation in place shall be implemented as treatment, where feasible. Results of monitoring and any archaeological treatment shall be reported in an appropriate technical report to be filed with Valley Center Municipal Water District and the California Historical Resources Information System. Any artifacts recovered during monitoring or treatments shall be curated at an appropriate facility. discovery is determined to be a site, after securing the work area from additional disturbance, in concert with the Construction Foreman or Field Supervisor, the archaeological monitor will notify the Principal Investigator (PI). The PI will determine what additional fieldwork is necessary, such as a limited test excavation, to determine the site's potential eligibility for the CRHR or the NRHP. It may be determined that a site visit by the PI is necessary to make that determination. If test excavation is required to evaluate a discovery, this will be discussed in consultation with the lead agency.~~

Mitigation Measure CR-7 has been revised to specify the treatment of paleontological resources only. The treatment of archaeological resources has been deleted. Additionally, the responsibility of the South Coastal Information Center has been deleted from this mitigation measure.

Mitigation Measures CR-7 has been revised as follows:

**Mitigation Measure CR-7:** A report of findings with an appended itemized inventory of identified paleontological specimens shall be prepared and submitted to Valley Center Municipal Water District. The report will address ~~archaeological and~~ paleontological items. The report and inventory, when submitted to Valley Center Municipal Water District, will signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts on paleontological resources. This report shall incorporate the full results of the literature review, as well as the full results of the recommended review of the records of the South Coastal Information Center, San Diego, California. The report shall be submitted prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.



**Response to Comment F-3:** Mitigation Measures CR-5 and CR-6 have been revised to specify the treatment of paleontological resources only. Mitigation Measures CR-5 and CR-6 have been revised as follows:

**Mitigation Measure CR-5:** All recovered paleontological specimens shall be prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates.

**Mitigation Measure CR-6:** Paleontological Specimens shall be identified and curated into an established, accredited, professional museum repository with permanent retrievable storage. The paleontologist shall have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities.

**Response to Comment F-4:** Please refer to Response to Comments F-2 and F-3. Mitigation Measures CR-1, CR-5, CR-6, and CR-7 have been revised.



COMMENT LETTER G	RESPONSE
<p>From: Duke, Bryand@Wildlife [mailto:Bryand.Duke@wildlife.ca.gov] Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2014 3:57 PM To: North Village Infrastructure Project Subject: Draft MND for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project</p> <p>Dear Mr. Dennis Williams:</p> <p>The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), dated November 2014, for the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project. The comments provided herein are based upon information provided in the MND (and associated reference materials), our knowledge of sensitive and declining vegetation communities, and ongoing regional habitat conservation planning in the County of San Diego (County).</p> <p>We offer the comments and recommendations in this email to assist in avoiding, minimizing, and adequately mitigating project related impacts to biological resources, and to ensure that the project is consistent with ongoing regional habitat conservation planning efforts. Please note that additions to text are denoted by underlining the text and deletions are denoted by using a strikethrough line.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page 22, Migratory Birds section states "The project has the potential to impact nesting birds if clearing and grubbing occurs during the bird breeding season (February 15 through August 5)." Since some raptor species begin nesting in January we recommend the following edit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Migratory Birds</b> Mature trees (&gt;24-inch diameter) including coast live oak and Eucalyptus occur within the survey area. These trees provide suitable habitat for Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) covered species, which include nesting migratory birds and raptors. In addition to mature trees, all vegetated areas (including but not limited to sage scrub, chaparral, native landscaping, etc.), and power poles located within the survey area provide suitable habitat for MBTA covered species. The project has the potential to impact nesting birds if clearing and grubbing occurs during the bird breeding season (February 15 through August 15; <u>as early as January for some raptor species</u>). The MBTA prohibits take of active migratory bird nests. Impacts on active nests would be considered significant prior to mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-4 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Page 23, Mitigation Measure BR-3: <i>BR-2: California Gnatcatcher/Least Bell's Vireo/Southwestern Willow</i> section discusses avoidance (pre-construction) survey mitigation measures for burrowing owls as it relates to the project. The Department recommends that the following edits concerning this section. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mitigation Measure BR-2: California Gnatcatcher/Least Bell's Vireo/Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.</b> The following measures will be implemented to minimize indirect impacts on listed species during construction: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction will be timed to avoid the breeding season for listed avian species (February 15 to September 15; <u>as early as January for some raptor species</u>) to the maximum extent feasible.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Letter G</b> <b>California Department of Fish and Wildlife</b> <b>December 6, 2014</b></p> <p><b>Response to Comment G-1:</b> The discussion of migratory birds on Initial Study page 50 has been modified as suggested in this comment as follows:</p> <p>The project has the potential to impact nesting birds if clearing and grubbing occurs during the bird breeding season (February 15 through August 15; <u>as early as January for some raptor species</u>).</p> <p><b>Response to Comment G-2:</b> Mitigation Measure BR-2 has been revised to include the text "<u>as early as January for some raptor species</u>" and "<u>&lt; 3 days prior to initiation of project construction</u>" as requested in this comment. Please see Initial Study page 48 for revised Mitigation Measure BR-2.</p>



2. If construction must occur within 500 feet of potentially suitable habitat during the breeding season, then pre-construction surveys (≤3 days prior to project initiation) will be conducted by a qualified biologist. If active nests are identified during pre-construction surveys and noise levels at the nest exceed 60dBA Leq, noise attenuation structures will be placed or other noise attenuation measures (e.g., reducing the number of construction vehicles or using different types of construction vehicles) will be implemented to reduce noise levels at the nest to 60 dBA Leq (or ambient noise level if greater than 60 dBA Leq). During construction adjacent to these areas, noise monitoring shall occur during the breeding season and be reported daily to the USFWS. Construction activities that create noise in excess of the aforementioned levels will cease operation until effective noise attenuation measures are in place to the extent practicable.
3. Page 23, Mitigation Measure BR-3: Burrowing Owl section discusses avoidance (pre-construction) survey mitigation measures for burrowing owls as it relates to the project. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures would be triggered by positive owl presence on the site where project activities will occur. Because burrowing owls may re-colonize a site after only a few days, time lapses between project activities trigger subsequent take avoidance surveys including but not limited to a final survey conducted within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance. Therefore, the Department recommends that the following edit concerning this section.

G-2  
cont'd

**Mitigation Measure BR-3: Burrowing Owl.** Valley Center Municipal Water District will conduct take avoidance (pre-construction) surveys for burrowing owl no more than ~~30-14~~ days (CDFW 2012) prior to initiating ground disturbance activities. Burrowing owls may re-colonize a site after only a few days, therefore, time lapses between project activities trigger subsequent take avoidance surveys including but not limited to a final survey conducted within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance.

G-3

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this MND. We are hopeful that further consultation between you and us will ensure the protection we find necessary for the biological resources that would be affected by the project. If you have questions regarding our comments on the Project, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Bryand  
*Bryand M. Duke, Ph.D.*  
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Habitat Conservation Program, South Coast Region  
3883 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA 92123

Voice: 858.637.5511; Fax: 858.467.4299  
[Bryand.Duke@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Bryand.Duke@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Response to Comment G-3:** Mitigation Measure BR-3 has been revised to modify the requirement for pre-construction surveys to take place no more than 14 days before ground disturbance activities, and also to include that the final burrowing owl survey be conducted within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance as requested in this comment. Please see Initial Study page 49 for revised Mitigation Measure BR-3.

**COMMENT LETTER H**

**RESPONSE**



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Ken Alex  
Director

December 8, 2014

Dennis Williams  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

Subject: North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project  
SCH#: 2014111011

Dear Dennis Williams:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on December 5, 2014, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

**RECEIVED**  
DEC 12 2014  
VCMWD-ENGINEERING

} H-1

**Letter H  
State Clearinghouse  
December 8, 2014**

**Response to Comment H-1:** Comment noted. This comment acknowledges that the MND was distributed to selected state agencies for public review by the State Clearinghouse (SCH). No comment letters from state agencies were received by the SCH. It also acknowledges that the VCMWD complied with the SCH review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to CEQA.



**Document Details Report**  
**State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2014111011  
**Project Title** North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project  
**Lead Agency** Valley Center Municipal Water District

**Type** MND Mitigated Negative Declaration

**Description** The Valley Center Municipal Water District is proposing infrastructure improvement consisting of two lift stations and collection system pipelines (force main, gravity main, and low pressure system). These improvements would be constructed within the Valley Center Municipal Water District service area boundaries.

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Dennis Williams  
**Agency** Valley Center Municipal Water District  
**Phone** 760 735 4577 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 29300 Valley Center Road  
**City** Valley Center **State** CA **Zip** 92082

**Project Location**

**County** San Diego  
**City**  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long** 33° 13' 40.1" N / 117° 2' 14.9" W  
**Cross Streets** Valley Center Drive and Old Road  
**Parcel No.** Various  
**Township** 11S **Range** Variou **Section** Varies **Base** SBB&M

**Proximity to:**

**Highways** No  
**Airports** No  
**Railways** No  
**Waterways**  
**Schools** Valley Center ES  
**Land Use** Paved Right-of-Way and Vacant/C-36, S-88/General Commercial, Specific Plan Area, Local Street

**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects; Other Issues

**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5; Cal Fire; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Caltrans, District 11; Air Resources Board; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9; Native American Heritage Commission

**Date Received** 11/06/2014 **Start of Review** 11/06/2014 **End of Review** 12/05/2014



**COMMENT LETTER I**

**RESPONSE**



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Ken Alex  
Director

December 9, 2014

Dennis Williams  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

Subject: North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project  
SCH#: 2014111011

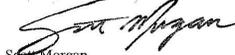
Dear Dennis Williams:

The enclosed comment (s) on your Mitigated Negative Declaration was (were) received by the State Clearinghouse after the end of the state review period, which closed on December 5, 2014. We are forwarding these comments to you because they provide information or raise issues that should be addressed in your final environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions concerning the environmental review process. If you have a question regarding the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number (2014111011) when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

  
Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044  
TEL (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

RECEIVED  
DEC 12 2014  
VCMWD-ENGINEERING

I-1

**Letter I  
State Clearinghouse  
December 9, 2014**

**Response to Comment I-1:** Comment noted. This comment states that the SCH received a comment letter on the proposed project after the close of the public review period. SCH has enclosed the comment letter from the State Water Resources Control Board dated December 3, 2014. Although the SCH received the comment letter on December 8, 2014 (after the public review period), the State Water Resources Control Board mailed this same comment letter directly to VCMWD while the public review period was still open. VCMWD considers the State Water Resources Control Board's comment letter as timely, and has provided response to comments under Comment Letter E. Please refer to Responses E-1 through E-9 above.



State Water Resources Control Board

DEC 03 2014

Dennis Williams  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

late  
12/5/14



Dear Mr. Williams:

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) FOR VALLEY CENTER MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT (DISTRICT); NORTH VILLAGE WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (PROJECT); SAN DIEGO COUNTY; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2014111011

We understand that the District is pursuing Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) financing for this Project (CWSRF No. C-06-7454-110). As a funding agency and a state agency with jurisdiction by law to preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is providing the following information on the IS/MND being prepared for the Project.

The State Water Board, Division of Financial Assistance, is responsible for administering the CWSRF Program. The primary purpose for the CWSRF Program is to implement the Clean Water Act and various state laws by providing financial assistance for wastewater treatment facilities necessary to prevent water pollution, recycle water, correct nonpoint source and storm drainage pollution problems, provide for estuary enhancement, and thereby protect and promote health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the state. The CWSRF Program provides low-interest funding equal to one-half of the most recent State General Obligation Bond Rates with a 30-year term. Applications are accepted and processed continuously. Please refer to the State Water Board's CWSRF website at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/index.shtml).

The CWSRF Program is partially funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and requires additional "California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-Plus" environmental documentation and review. Three enclosures are included that further explain the CWSRF Program environmental review process and the additional federal requirements. For the complete environmental application package please visit: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml). The State Water Board is required to consult directly with agencies responsible for implementing federal environmental laws and regulations. Any environmental issues raised by federal agencies or their representatives will need to be resolved prior to State Water Board approval of a CWSRF financing commitment for the proposed Project. For further information on the CWSRF Program, please contact Mr. Ahmad Kashkoi, at (916) 341-5855.

FELICIA MARCUS, CHAIR | THOMAS HOWARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, Ca 95812-0100 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)

RECYCLED PAPER

- 2 -

The District's IS/MND, Cultural Resources Technical Report, and Biological Technical Report have been received. The State Water Board requests additional Cross-Cutter documents which can be found in the Environmental Package at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/docs/forms/application\\_environmental\\_package.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/docs/forms/application_environmental_package.pdf)

Following are specific comments on the District's draft IS/MND:

1. Page 53 of the District's IS/MND references a Traffic Control Plan that will be implemented. Please include a copy of this plan in the IS/MND or a reference to the location where this document can be found.
2. Please make sure to include a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program (MMRP) as a part of the District's IS/MND.
3. Page 35 of the Biological Report mentions that Lilac Creek provides potentially suitable habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Please indicate the location of Lilac Creek in relation to the Project area through discussion and on a map.
4. Page 49 states that potential winter foraging habitat may be lost for the Swainson's hawk as a result of Project activities, and page 50 states potential foraging habitat would be lost for the white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike and the golden eagle as a result of Project activities. Please make a determination for the impacts to each of these species based on the findings presented.
5. It is important to note that prior to a CWSRF financing commitment, projects are subject to provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and must obtain Section 7 clearance from the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and/or the United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for any potential effects to special-status species. Consultation with the USFWS will be necessary for impacts related to San Diego Ambrosia, San Diego Thorn-mint, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, and California Gnatcatcher.

Please be advised that the State Water Board will consult with the USFWS, and/or the NMFS regarding all federal special-status species that the Project has the potential to impact if the Project is to be financed by the CWSRF Program. The District will need to identify whether the Project will involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement, that may affect federally listed threatened, endangered, or candidate species that are known, or have a potential to occur in the Project site, in the surrounding areas, or in the service area, and to identify applicable conservation measures to reduce such effects.

Please provide us with the following documents applicable to the proposed Project following the District's CEQA process: (1) one copy of the draft and final IS/MND, (2) the resolution adopting the IS/MND and making CEQA findings, (3) all comments received during the review period and the District's response to those comments, (4) the adopted MMRP, and (5) the Notice of Determination filed with the San Diego County Clerk and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse. In addition, we would appreciate notices of any hearings or meetings held regarding environmental review of any projects to be funded by the State Water Board.

- 3 -

Thank you for the opportunity to review the District's draft IS/MND. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Elysar Naja at (916) 341-5799 or by email at [Elysar.Naja@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Elysar.Naja@waterboards.ca.gov), or contact me at (916) 341-5855, or by email at [Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Kashkoli@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Ahmad Kashkoli  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Enclosures (3)

1. Clean Water State Revolving Fund Environmental Review Requirements
2. Quick Reference Guide to CEQA Requirements for State Revolving Fund Loans
3. Basic Criteria for Cultural Resources Reports

cc: State Clearinghouse  
(Re: SCH# 2014111011)  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose

This document is a Mitigated Negative Declaration/~~an~~ Initial Study for evaluation of environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project. For purposes of this document, this proposed development as described in Section 2.0, Project Description, will be called the “proposed project.”

### 1.2 Background

Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD) adopted the South Village Master Plan (“Master Plan”) for the South Village Water Reclamation Project on August 4, 2008. The Master Plan and South Village Water Reclamation Project addressed expansion of the Woods Valley Ranch Water Reclamation Facility (“WVRWRF Expansion”) and construction of seasonal storage, recycled water distribution and low pressure wastewater collection facilities to extend wastewater service to the South Village Area of Valley Center. Prior to adopting the Master Plan, VCMWD certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the South Village Water Reclamation Project (SCH #2007101049) (“EIR”). The WVRWRF Expansion would facilitate the community’s transition from septic to municipal wastewater service. The EIR analyzed, at a project level, the potential environmental impacts that could result from the South Village Wastewater Expansion Project, including: (1) the creation of an Assessment District, (2) the expansion of the WVRWRF with the maximum development allowed under zoning for the South Village Service Area at that time, (3) the installation of new wastewater collection and conveyance pipelines, and (4) the creation of a seasonal wet weather storage pond. The EIR also analyzed, at a program-level, the impacts associated with the expansion and installation of wastewater collection, treatment, seasonal storage and water reclamation facilities necessary to meet the demands of the South Village Area upon build-out in accordance with the San Diego County General Plan update proposed at that time.

VCMWD filed a Notice of Determination for approval of the South Village Water Reclamation Project and certification of the EIR on April 7, 2008. No lawsuit was filed challenging VCMWD’s approval of the South Village Water Reclamation Project or the environmental analysis. Therefore, pursuant to section 21167.2 of the Public Resources Code, the EIR was conclusively presumed to be valid with regard to its use for later activities.

Subsequently, VCMWD applied for, and ultimately secured, a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan from the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for the WVRWRF Expansion to expand the existing facility, install corresponding collection system piping, and construct seasonal storage improvements necessary to extend wastewater service within the WVRWRF Service Area and develop an alternative water supply to help reduce imported potable water demand. Assessment District No. 2012-1 was ultimately formed to provide the funding source for repayment of the SRF Loan.

Following certification of the EIR, adoption of the Master Plan and submittal of the SRF Loan application to fund the WVRWRF Expansion, VCMWD identified an alternative location for the seasonal wet weather storage pond that was not previously analyzed in the EIR, as well as a reduction in the ultimate capacity requirements of the treatment facilities, necessitating Amendment No. 1 to the Master Plan. VCMWD prepared an Initial Study to determine whether

selection of a new location for the seasonal storage pond would require preparation of a subsequent EIR. As documented in the Initial Study, the new pond location would not result in any such circumstances. Therefore VCMWD approved Addendum No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the South Village Water Reclamation Project (SCH#2007101049) and filed the corresponding Notice of Determination on January 20, 2011.

Following the filing of the Notice of Determination for Amendment No. 1 to the Master Plan, VCMWD further amended the Master Plan to be consistent with the recently updated San Diego County General Plan (August 2011), revised the average capacity requirement per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) to reflect historic trends, and extended the WVRWRF Service Area to allow development in the North Village Area to utilize the resulting available capacity. VCMWD prepared an Initial Study to determine whether Amendment No. 2 to the Master Plan required preparation of a subsequent EIR. As documented in the Initial Study, the changes to the Master Plan location would not result in any such circumstances. Therefore VCMWD approved Addendum No. 2 to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the South Village Water Reclamation Project (SCH#2007101049) and filed the corresponding Notice of Determination on January 22, 2013.

Following certification of the EIR Amendment No. 2 and adoption of the revised Master Plan, VCMWD formed Assessment District No. 2012-1, the SWRCB approved VCMWD's SRF Loan application for the WVRWRF Expansion and executed a Finance Agreement to fund the facilities to provide wastewater service to 350 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) located within the VCMWD's North and South Village Areas. VCMWD and SWRCB executed said agreement on May 23, 2013.

VCMWD thereafter modified the SRF Loan application to reflect costs associated with increasing the WVRWRF capacity to provide wastewater service up to a total of 1,095 EDUs, as allowed under the San Diego County General Plan update, and adding collection facilities within the South and North Village Areas necessary to serve the increased capacity reservation requests from project participants in both the South and North Village Areas. In response to the increased level of participation, VCMWD now intends to pursue the proposed North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project consisting of the facilities necessary to extend the wastewater collection infrastructure from the South to the North Village Area, add additional wastewater collection facilities in the South Village Area and to increase the previously proposed treatment and seasonal storage infrastructure necessary to serve the increased participation in the WVRWRF Expansion. Improvements within the South Village Area include a lift station and force main pipeline; improvements within the North Village Area include a lift station and collection system pipelines including a force main, gravity main, and low pressure collection system (Figure 3). The facilities necessary to implement the proposed project were not previously identified or analyzed under CEQA.

VCMWD is currently processing three individual State Revolving Fund loans for the Woods Valley Ranch Water Reclamation Facility Expansion Project: C-06-7454-110 (Collection System); C-06-7454-120 (Treatment Plant Expansion); and, C-06-7454-130 (Seasonal Storage). The facilities addressed in this document are identified in the collection system loan (C-06-7454-110). Revisions to the approved Finance Agreement with the SWRCB and modifications to Assessment District No. 2012-1 to provide funding for the additional facilities are being processed at this time.

### **1.3 Project Objectives**

The following objectives are identified for this project:

- Expansion of the Woods Valley Ranch Water Reclamation Facility to provide wastewater service to customers within the North Village service area of the District in accordance with current County zoning and consistent with the General Plan; and
- Provide more reliable wastewater service.

### **1.24 California Environmental Quality Act Compliance**

~~Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD)~~ is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency responsible for the review and approval of the proposed North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project. Based on the findings of the Initial Study, VCMWD has made the determination that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is the appropriate environmental document to be prepared in compliance with CEQA (California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.). As stated in CEQA Section 21064, an MND may be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when an Initial Study has identified no potentially significant effects on the environment.

The purpose of the MND and the Initial Study checklist is to determine if any potentially significant impacts are associated with the proposed project and to incorporate mitigation measures into the project design as necessary to reduce or eliminate the significant or potentially significant effects of the project.

### **1.35 CEQA-Plus Evaluation**

VCMWD is seeking a loan from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Financial Assistance. The SRF Program is partially funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is, therefore, subject to federal environmental regulations. To comply with applicable federal statutes and authorities, EPA established specific “CEQA-Plus” requirements in the Operating Agreement with the SWRCB for administering the SRF Program. The results of this evaluation are provided in the CEQA-Plus Evaluation sections within each relevant resource area (e.g., biological resources).

### **1.46 List of Discretionary Actions**

Approval of the following discretionary actions will be required in order to implement the proposed project:

- Approval of the project by the VCMWD Board of Directors
- County of San Diego Encroachment permit
- County of San Diego Excavation permit

### **1.57 Other Agencies that May Use the Mitigated Negative Declaration**

This MND is intended for use by responsible and trustee agencies that may have an interest in reviewing the project. All responsible and trustee agencies for the project, listed as follows, will, therefore, be asked to review this document:

- SWRCB
- ~~Regional Water Quality Control Board~~
- County of San Diego
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

### **1.68 Public Review Process**

In accordance with CEQA, a good-faith effort has been made during the preparation of this MND to contact affected agencies, organizations, and persons who may have an interest in this project.

In reviewing the MND, affected public agencies and the interested public should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the project's potential impacts on the environment. A copy of the Draft MND and related documents are available for review at VCMWD:

Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

The document is also available on VCMWD's website (<http://www.vcmwd.org/>).

Comments on the MND may be made in writing before the end of the public review period. A 30-day review and comment period from November 6, 2014 to December 6, 2014, has been established in accordance with Section 15072(a) of the CEQA Guidelines. Following the close of the public comment period, VCMWD will consider this MND and comments thereto in determining whether to approve the proposed project.

Written comments on the MND should be sent to the following address by 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Dennis Williams, Project Manager  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082

Comments may also be submitted electronically at [NorthVillage@vcmwd.org](mailto:NorthVillage@vcmwd.org).

## 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Project Location

The proposed project is located in southern California within an unincorporated area of northern San Diego County within the community of Valley Center. Valley Center is located approximately 20 miles north of the City of San Diego and is approximately equidistant between the community of Fallbrook to the north and the City of Escondido to the south (Figure 1). The proposed project is located in the central portion of the community of Valley Center (Figure 2). Regional access to the project area is via Interstate 15. Local access to the project site is via Valley Center Road.

### 2.2 Environmental Setting and Surrounding Land Uses

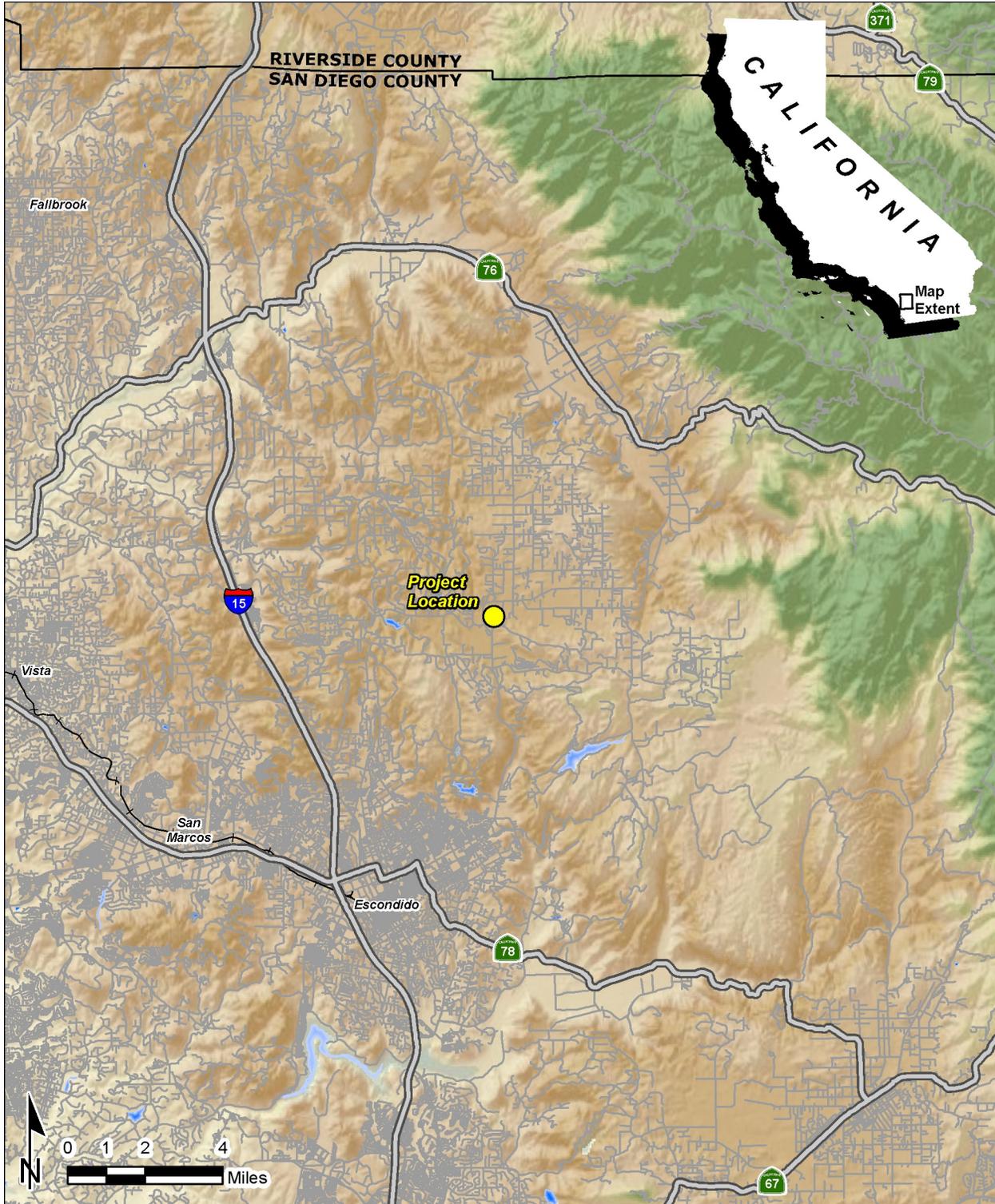
Valley Center is characterized by its rolling hills, low-density rural agricultural land uses, and a predominance of estate residential development. Although urbanization has greatly diminished agricultural uses in other areas of the County, Valley Center has maintained its rural identity. This has resulted in the transition of several large areas of open space currently under agricultural production, such as fruit orchards, to residential and commercial development. The North Village Lift Station site is bordered by Valley Center on the north, Indian Creek Road and vacant land on the east, estate residential on the south, and vacant land on the west. The Orchard Run Lift Station site is bordered by the Valley Center Community Center on the north, and vacant land on the east, south, and west.

### 2.3 Project Characteristics

VCMWD is currently processing three individual SRF loans for the WVRWRF Expansion: C-06-7454-110 (Collection System); C-06-7454-120 (Treatment Plant Expansion); and C-06-7454-130 (Seasonal Storage). The facilities addressed in this document are identified in the collection system loan (C-06-7454-110). Under the amendment to the WVRWRF Expansion, ~~The Valley Center Municipal Water District~~VCMWD is proposing infrastructure improvements consisting of two lift stations and collection system pipelines (force main, gravity main, and low pressure system) (Figure 3). These improvements would be constructed within the Valley Center Municipal Water District service area boundaries and are proposed in order to collect wastewater from additional properties that were not previously contemplated in the originally approved WVRWRF Expansion. The increased capacity of the Water Reclamation Facility that would treat this additional wastewater, as well as the Seasonal Storage volumes would not change from those anticipated, and evaluated in the South Village Water Reclamation Project EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2007101049).

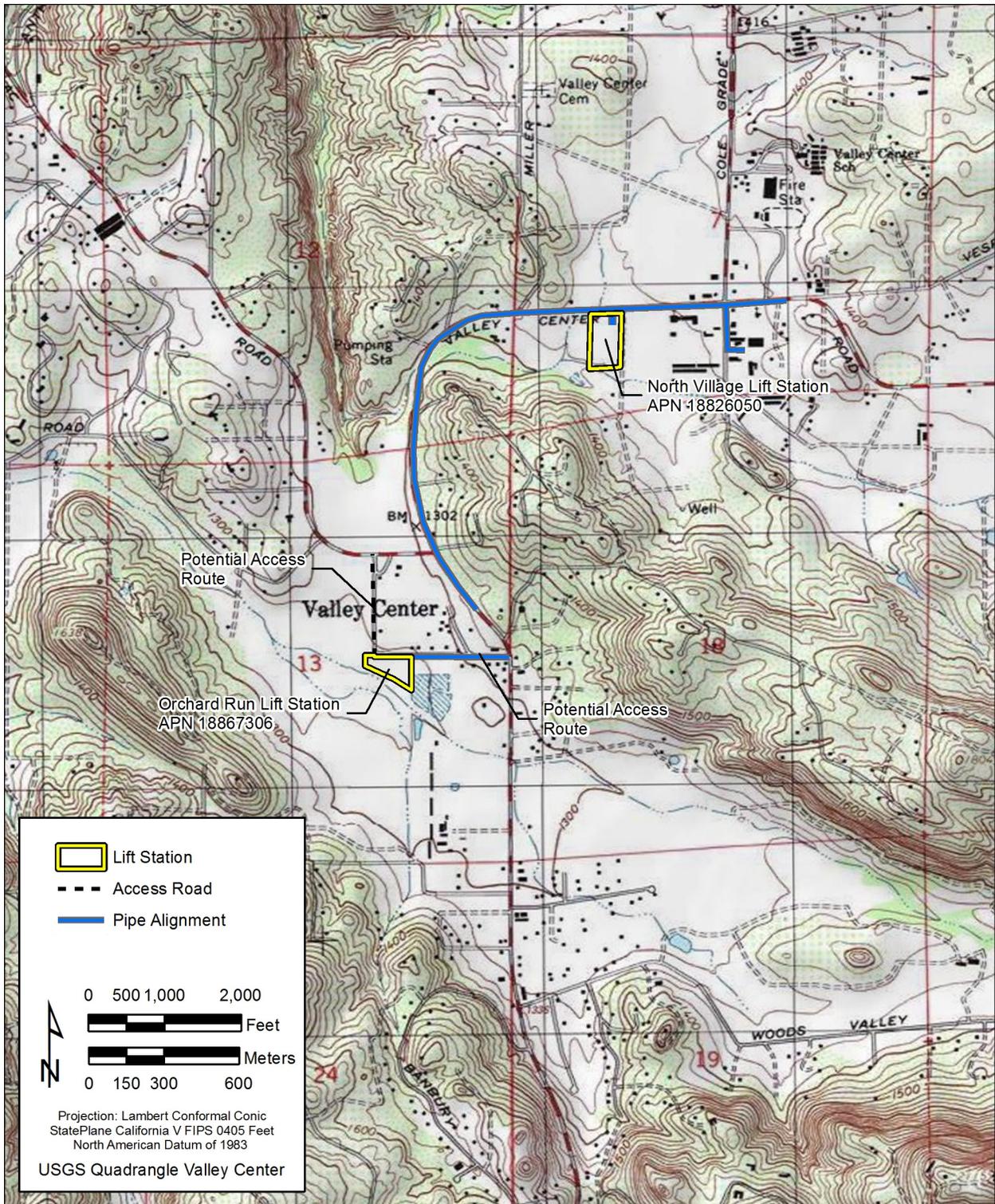
#### North Village Lift Station

The North Village Lift Station would be located on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 18826050. This parcel comprises approximately 6.5 acres, and is located, on the southwest side of the Valley Center Road and Indian Creek Road intersection. While the entire parcel comprises approximately 6.5 acres, only a small portion of the parcel would be disturbed in order to construct the North Village Lift Station. Specifically, ~~the~~ North Village Lift Station would be 90 feet by 50 feet, and can be located anywhere within the parcel should it be necessary to avoid impacts (such as biological resources).



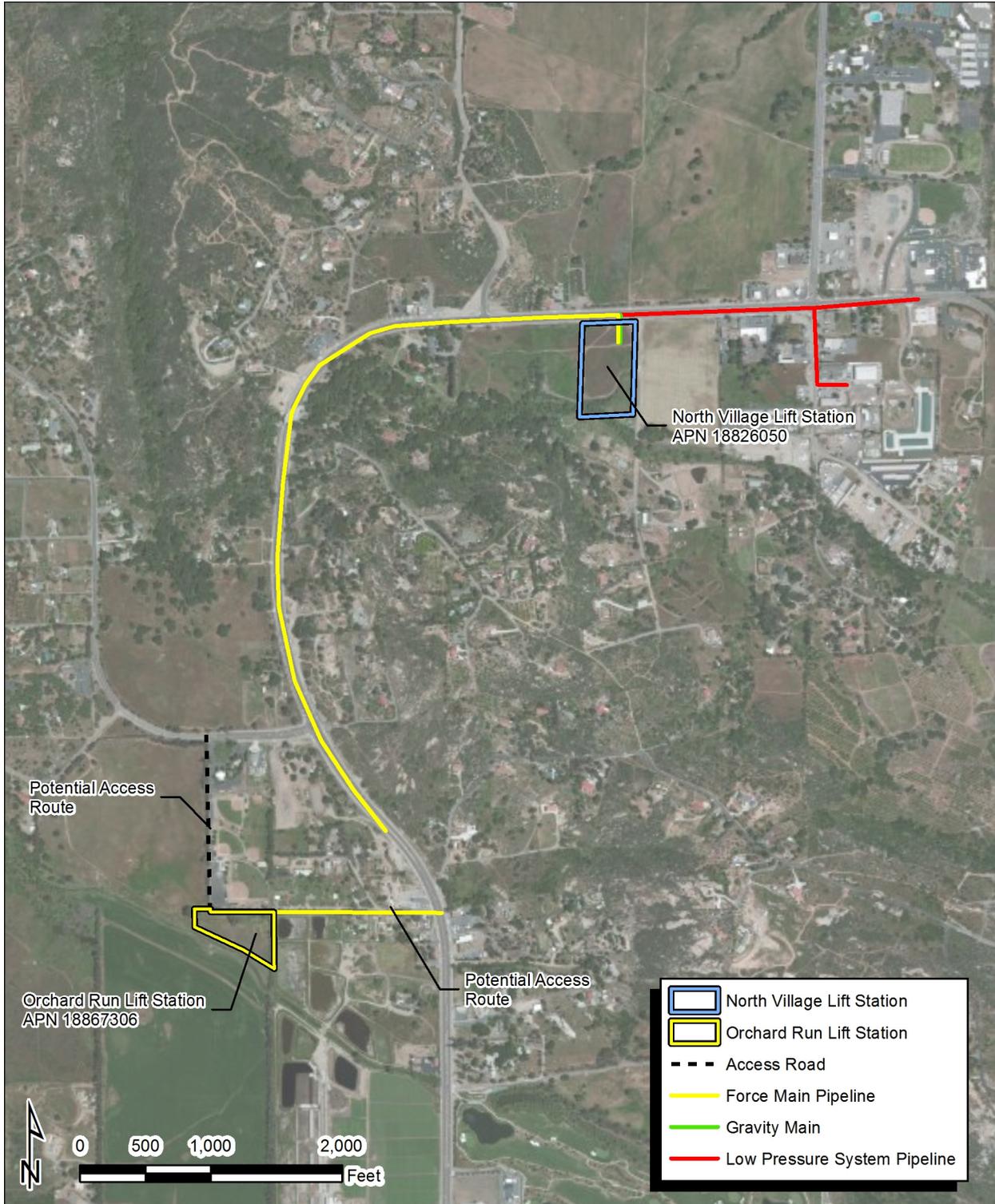
G:\GIS\_Production\Projects\ValleyCenter\_MWD\_391609\IS\_Village\_WW\_CEQ\235522\Map\_Docs\mxd\Regional\_Location.mxd-aburvall-9/16/2014

**Figure 1. Regional Location**



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**Figure 2. Vicinity Map**



**Figure 3. Project Components**

The North Village Lift Station and associated 20-foot wide off-road easement area for the gravity main and force main connection and 20-foot wide access road covers approximately 1.5 acres totals approximately 20,000 square feet. The depth of excavation required to install the lift station is no more than 20 feet. The remainder of the parcel will remain undeveloped. The entire North Village Lift Station site and related offsite areas are considered in the environmental analysis.

The lift station will consist of three submersible pumps, and has a firm capacity of 663 gpm. The lift station will include a wet well, backup generator, electrical control panels, and an emergency storage basin. The lift station site will be enclosed by a block wall with wrought iron gate and paved (inside the block wall).

### **Orchard Run Lift Station**

The Orchard Run Lift Station would be located on APN 18867306. This parcel comprises 3.76 acres, and is located approximately 0.25 miles west of Valley Center Road and immediately south of the Valley Center Community Center (28246 Lilac Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082). While the entire parcel comprises 3.76 acres, only a small portion of the parcel would be disturbed in order to construct the Orchard Run Lift Station. Specifically, the Orchard Run Lift Station would be 90 feet by 50 feet and can be located anywhere within the parcel should it be necessary to avoid impacts (such as biological resources). The depth of excavation required to install the lift station is no more than 20 feet. The remainder of the parcel will remain undeveloped. The entire Orchard Run Lift Station site and related offsite areas are considered in the environmental analysis.

The lift station will consist of three submersible pumps, and has a firm capacity of 663 gpm. The lift station will include a wet well, backup generator, electrical control panels, and an emergency storage basin. The lift station site will be enclosed by a block wall with wrought iron gate and paved (inside the block wall).

### **Pipeline Improvements**

Pipeline improvements would be constructed within existing paved right-of-way, except where the pipeline leaves Valley Center Road to connect to the North Village Lift Station and the western portion of Old Road. Approximately 1.2 linear miles of force main pipeline (6-inch diameter) would be constructed within Valley Center Road to connect to the South Village Force Main on Old Road. Approximately 0.25 linear miles of force main pipeline (6-inch diameter) would be constructed within Old Road to connect to the proposed Orchard Run Lift Station. Gravity main pipeline (8 inch diameter) would also be constructed within Valley Center Road. The gravity main pipeline alignment would then leave Valley Center Road to connect to the North Village Lift Station. The length of the gravity main pipeline from Valley Center Road to the North Village Lift Station would not exceed 0.11 linear miles. Approximately 0.7 linear miles of low-pressure system pipeline (2 inch diameter) would be constructed within Valley Center Road, south of Cole Grade Road, and east of Juba Road. Shallow trenches (no more than 6 feet deep) would be utilized to install pipeline improvements, unless at utility crossings, if necessary.



## 2.4 Project Construction

Construction activities are proposed to start in 2015 and last for up to 10 months. Final construction scheduling would be completed during engineering and contractor bidding, which may result in variations to the planned construction schedule. The proposed project's construction phases include:

- Grading
- Lift Station Construction
- Paving (Lift Station)
- Trenching (Pipeline Installation)
- Paving (Pipeline Installation).

The construction equipment mix for the proposed project is shown in Table 1. The equipment mix is meant to represent a reasonably conservative estimate of construction activity.

**Table 1. Anticipated Construction Equipment**

Construction Phase	Equipment	Quantity
<b>Lift Stations</b>		
Site Preparation	Truck trips, no equipment	n/a
Grading	Backhoe (Tractors, Loaders, Backhoes)	1
	Front End Loader (Tractors, Loaders, Backhoes)	1
	Scraper	1
Lift Station Construction	Cranes	1
	Excavator	1
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	1
	Generator Sets	1
	Water Truck	1
	Concrete Truck	1
Paving (Lift Station)	Pavers	1
	Paving equipment	1
<b>Pipelines</b>		
Trenching (Pipeline Installation)	Excavators	1
	Hand Compactor/Drum Roller	1
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	2
	Welders	2
Paving (Pipeline Installation)	Pavers	1
	Paving equipment	1

## INITIAL STUDY

1. **Project Title:** North Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**  
  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Dennis Williams, Project Manager, VCMWD,  
760- 735-4577
4. **Project Location:**  
  
North Village Lift Station: Located on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 18826050, on the south side of the Valley Center Road and Indian Creek Road intersection.  
  
Orchard Run Lift Station: Located on APN 18867306, approximately 0.25 miles west of Valley Center Road and immediately south of the Valley Center Community Center (28246 Lilac Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082).  
  
Pipeline Improvements: Located primarily within existing paved right-of way (Valley Center Road, Cole Grade Road, Juba Road, and Old Road).
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**  
  
Valley Center Municipal Water District  
29300 Valley Center Road  
Valley Center, CA 92082
6. **General Plan Designation:**  
  
North Village Lift Station: General Commercial  
Orchard Run Lift Station: Specific Plan Area  
Pipeline Improvements: Local Street
7. **Zoning:**  
  
North Village Lift Station: C-36 General Commercial  
Orchard Run Lift Station: S-88 Specific Planning Area  
Pipeline Improvements: Located within existing road right-of-way, no zoning designation assigned. The areas outside of the existing road right-of-way are designated for residential and commercial uses.
8. **Description of Project:** Please see Section 2.0 for project description.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** Please see Section 2.0 for information on surrounding land uses and setting.



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

~~Regional Water Quality Control Board~~

- County of San Diego – Encroachment Permit
- County of San Diego – Excavation Permit

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

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

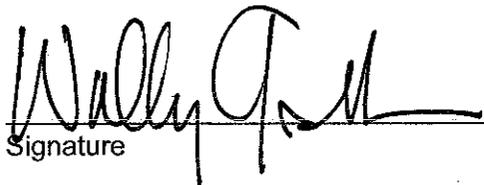
- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Forest Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>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



**DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency):**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that 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 an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

12.18.14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Wally Grabbe  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
For Valley Center Municipal Water District



## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**Issues:**

**I. AESTHETICS.** Would the project:

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

According to the Valley Center Community Plan of the County of San Diego General Plan (2011), there are a number of scenic resources within Valley Center, including: Lancaster Mountain, Keys Creek, Valley Center Ridge, and Chaparral Ridge. However, there are no designated scenic vistas within the viewshed of the project site. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not impact any scenic vistas. No significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

The proposed project is not located within a state scenic highway (Caltrans, 2011). San Diego County has two formally-designated scenic highways: State Route 125 between State Route 94 in Spring Valley to Interstate 8 in La Mesa and State Route 78 through the Anza-Borrego Desert Park. A number of scenic routes are identified within the County, including Lilac Road and Valley Center Road route (State Route 76 to State Route 76 segment). In addition, Interstate 15 has been designated a scenic corridor. The Valley Center area has varied topography and includes many rock outcroppings, however, the project does not propose any development (e.g., grading) or structures that would remove, obscure, obstruct or otherwise impact these potentially scenic resources. Historic structures are also not present within the project site. Furthermore, pipeline improvements would be underground and would not be visible. The proposed lift stations are small, and are not located on sites with these types of resources. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

The Valley Center area is characterized by its rolling hills, low-density rural agricultural land uses, and a predominance of estate residential development. Although urbanization has greatly diminished agricultural uses in other areas of the County, Valley Center has largely maintained its rural identity. The North Village Lift Station site is bordered by Valley Center on the north, Indian Creek Road and vacant land on the east, and vacant land on the south and west. The Orchard Run Lift Station site is bordered by Valley Center Community Center on the north, and vacant land on the east, south, and west.

Pipeline improvements would be constructed within existing paved right-of-way, except where the pipeline leaves Valley Center Road to connect to the North Village Lift Station and the western portion of Old Road. Construction would primarily consist of trench and backfill (i.e., below ground) activities. Therefore, since the pipelines would be below grade within existing easements or rights-of-way, no visual change would occur due to installation of the pipelines.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed lift stations would be placed underground, but would include above ground components such as a back up generator and electrical control panels. The lift stations would be surrounded by a block wall with a wrought iron gate to prevent public access. This block wall would screen these facilities from casual view. Also, minimal topographical alteration would be required as the sites are relatively flat.

Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the project site and its surroundings. A less than significant is identified for this issue area.

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

The proposed project does not propose the construction, operation, or use of infrastructure that would create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. There would be no operational lighting resulting from the underground pipelines and lift station. Potential project-related nighttime construction lighting would be temporary and would not represent a permanent new source of substantial light or glare. No impact is identified for this issue area.

**II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES.**

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

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



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The State of California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, "San Diego County Important Farmland 2010" designates the North Village Lift Station site as "Other Land" and the Orchard Run Lift Station site as "Farmland of Local Importance." According to the Department of Conservation, Farmland of Local Importance is either currently producing, or has the capability of production, but does not meet the criteria of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland (Department of Conservation, 2010). It should be noted that analysis of Farmland of Local Importance is not required under CEQA significance criteria, as this designation is not considered an "agricultural land" per CEQA Statute Section 21060.1(a).—Based on this context, the conversion of Farmland of Local Importance is not considered significant under CEQA. Furthermore, the Orchard Run Lift Station site is not currently being used for farming and would not likely be used for farming given that it is owned by VCMWD and is zoned S-88 Specific Planning Area. Pipeline improvements would be constructed primarily within existing paved right-of-way. Therefore, the proposed project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to nonagricultural use. No impact is identified for this issue area.

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract?

The proposed project is not located within a designated agricultural use area or Williamson Act contract. The North Village Lift Station site is currently zoned C-36 General Commercial under the County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance. The Orchard Run Lift Station site is zoned S-88 Specific Planning Area. The alignment of pipeline improvements would be located primarily within existing road right-of-way. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. No impact is identified for this issue area.

- 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))?

The proposed project is not located on forest lands as defined in PRC Section 12220(g). There are no existing forest lands, timberlands, or timberland zoned Timberland Production either on-site or in the immediate vicinity. Therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning of forest land or cause rezoning of any forest land. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.

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

There are no existing forest lands either on-site or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact is identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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?

The proposed project would be developed within approved development areas (designated for commercial and Specific Plan uses) and within existing road right-of-way. Due to the nature of the project (utility improvements) and its location the project would not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

**CEQA-Plus Evaluation**

**Farmland Protection Policy Act:**

**Is any portion of the project site located on important farmland?**

- No. The project will not impact farmland**
- Yes. Include information on the acreage that would be converted from important farmland to other uses. Indicate if any portion of the project site is located within Williamson Act control and the amount of affected acreage.**

The State of California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resources, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, "San Diego County Important Farmland 2010" designates the Orchard Run Lift Station site as "Farmland of Local Importance." The Orchard Run Lift Station site is approximately 3.76 acres. However, only a portion of the site (a maximum of 0.5 acres), will be developed to construct the Orchard Run Lift Station.

The proposed project is not located within a Williamson Act contract.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**III. AIR QUALITY.**

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

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



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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A project is deemed inconsistent with the applicable air quality plan if it would result in population and/or employment growth that exceeds growth estimated in the applicable air quality plan. The proposed project does not include development of housing or employment centers, and would not induce population or employment growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan and no impact is identified for this issue area.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Emissions of criteria air pollutants would result in conjunction with construction and operation of the proposed project.

### Project Construction

Air emissions are generated during construction through activities such as grading, clearing, hauling, and structural assembly. Diesel exhaust emissions are generated through the use of heavy equipment such as dozers, loaders, scrapers, and vehicles such as dump/haul trucks. During site clearing and grading, PM<sub>10</sub> is released as a result of soil disturbance. Construction emissions vary from day-to-day depending on the number of workers, number and types of active heavy-duty vehicles and equipment, level of activity, the prevailing meteorological conditions, and the length over which these activities occur.

Construction activities are proposed to start in 2015 and last for up to 10 months. Final construction scheduling would be completed during engineering and contractor bidding, which may result in variations to the planned construction schedule. The proposed project's construction phases include:

- Grading
- Lift Station Construction
- Paving (Lift Station)
- Trenching (Pipeline Installation)
- Paving (Pipeline Installation)

As shown in Table 2, construction emissions would not exceed San Diego Air Pollution Control District's significance thresholds for ROG, NO<sub>x</sub>, CO, SO<sub>x</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

Furthermore, all construction activity within the project site will comply with the dust control provisions outlined in Section 87.428 of the County of San Diego Grading Ordinance, including:

- All clearing and grading shall be carried out with dust control measures adequate to prevent creation of a nuisance to persons or public or private property.
- Clearing, grading or improvement plans shall require that measures such as the following be undertaken to achieve this result: watering, application of surfactants, shrouding, control of vehicle speeds, paving of access areas, or other operational or technological measures to reduce dispersion of dust.



	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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These project design measures are to be incorporated into all earth disturbing activities to minimize the amount of particulate matter emissions from construction.

**Project Operation**

Once the proposed lift stations and pipelines are constructed, no routine daily operational activities that would generate air pollutant emissions would occur. The proposed project would not require additional employees to operate the lift stations; as such there would be no additional vehicular traffic or associated mobile source emissions.

**Summary**

The proposed project would not generate emissions that would exceed San Diego Air Pollution Control District’s significance thresholds during construction and operation of the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. A less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

**Table 2. Construction Emissions Summary**

Phase	Pollutant					
	ROG (lb/day)	NOx (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	SOx (lb/day)	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/day)	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (lb/day)
Grading	1.77	2.61	12.30	0.02	3.76	2.37
Lift Station Construction	1.86	13.96	11.13	0.02	1.05	0.97
Paving (Lift Station)	1.29	12.10	8.48	0.01	0.86	0.76
Trenching (Pipeline Installation)	1.12	7.68	6.58	0.01	8.69	4.96
Paving (Pipeline Installation)	1.29	12.10	8.48	0.01	0.86	0.76
Maximum Daily Emissions	1.86	13.96	12.30	0.02	8.69	4.96
Thresholds of Significance	75	250	550	250	100	55
Significant?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: CalEEMod.2013.2.2

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

Refer to Responses III. a) and b), above. The proposed project would result in short-term temporary air emissions associated with the construction phase. However, due to the relatively limited scale of construction required for the proposed project, the level of emissions generated during the construction phase would not exceed SDAPCD significance thresholds. Furthermore, the proposed project would not generate substantial emissions during operations. Based on these considerations, the proposed project would not contribute to cumulative air quality emissions and a less than significant impact is identified.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Refer to Response III. b). above. Several residences are located along the Valley Center Road alignment and Old Road, and south of the North Village Lift Station site. The nearest sensitive receptors are the homes located immediately north and south of the Old Road alignment. Due to the limited construction activities necessary to construct the proposed project, fine particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and vehicle emissions (NO<sub>x</sub>) would be minimal. In addition, all construction activity within the project site will comply with the dust control provisions outlined in Section 87.428 of the County of San Diego Grading Ordinance to minimize the amount of particulate matter emissions from construction. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would primarily consist of trench and backfill (i.e., below ground) activities. Potential sources that may emit odors during construction activities include diesel equipment and gasoline fumes and asphalt paving material. The emissions will not be excessive and would be of a relatively short duration during construction. Odors associated with the operation of the lift stations would be controlled by carbon filter canisters and/or odor absorption pads. Based on these considerations, the proposed project would not expose a substantial number of people to objectionable odors. A less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.



**CEQA-Plus Evaluation**

**Clean Air Act:**

**Identify Air Basin Name:** San Diego Air Basin

**Name of the Local Air District for Project Area:** San Diego Air Pollution Control District

**Is the project subject to a State Implementation Plan conformity determination?**

- No. The project is in an attainment area.**
- Yes. The project is in a nonattainment area or attainment area subject to maintenance plans. Include information to indicate the nonattainment designation (e.g., moderate, serious, or severe), if applicable. If estimated emissions are above the federal de minimis levels, but the project is sized to meet only the needs of current population projects that are used in the approved State Implementation Plan for air quality then quantitatively indicate how the proposed capacity increase was calculated using population projects.**

The estimated project construction and operational air emissions (in tons per year) are provided in Table 3. Refer to Appendix A for the calculations used to quantify the proposed project's emissions of criteria air pollutants.

**Table 3. San Diego Air Basin Attainment Status and Estimated Construction Air Emissions**

Pollutant	Attainment Status		SDAPCD Thresholds of Significance (Pounds/Day)	Construction Emissions (Pounds/Day)		Operational Emissions (Tons/Year)
	National	State		(Pounds/Day)	Tons/Year	
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment	Attainment	550	12.30	<u>2.04</u>	0.72
Ozone (O3)	Nonattainment	Nonattainment	n/a	n/a		n/a
Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)	n/a	n/a	250	13.96	<u>2.31</u>	0.78
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	Attainment	Attainment	n/a	n/a		n/a
Particulate Matter (PM10)	Unclassified	Nonattainment	100	8.69	<u>1.44</u>	0.40
Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	Attainment	Nonattainment	55	4.96	<u>0.82</u>	0.24
Reactive Organic Gases	n/a	n/a	75	1.86	<u>0.31</u>	0.12

CEQA-Plus integrates regulations from the Clean Air Act (CAA) to projects in areas that are subject to the General Conformity Rule. CEQA-Plus requires that an analysis is conducted for each criteria pollutant for which the air basin is considered nonattainment or maintenance. Section 176(c) of the 1990 CAA Amendments contains the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR 51.850–860 and 40 CFR 93.150–160). The General Conformity Rule requires any federal agency responsible for an action in a non-attainment or maintenance area to determine that the action conforms to the applicable SIP. This means that federally supported or funded activities will not (1) cause or contribute to any new air quality standard violation, (2) increase the frequency or severity of any existing standard violation, or (3) delay the timely attainment of any standard, interim emission reduction, or other milestone. The rule allows for approximately 30 exemptions that are assumed to conform to an applicable SIP. Emissions of attainment pollutants are exempt from conformity analyses. Actions would conform to a SIP if their annual direct and indirect

emissions remain less than the applicable de minimis thresholds. Formal conformity determinations are required for any actions that exceed these thresholds. However, if the total emissions of a pollutant from a federal action exceed 10% of a nonattainment area's emissions inventory of that pollutant, the action is defined as a regionally significant action and it would also require a conformity determination. Under the Federal Clean Air Act, Federal actions may be exempt from conformity determinations if they do not exceed designated de minimis levels for criteria pollutants (40 CFR 51.853[b]).

The San Diego Air Basin (SDAB) is classified as a federal non-attainment region for ozone. Based on the present attainment status of the San Diego Air Basin (SDAB), the proposed project would conform to the most recent USEPA-approved SIP if its annual construction or operational emissions do not exceed 100 tons of NOx per year and 50 tons of ROG emissions per year. The General Conformity Rule has been adopted by the San Diego Air Pollution Control District as Rule 1501.

A summary comparison of estimated emissions from construction and de minimis thresholds is provided in Table 4. As shown in Table 4, the project's construction emissions would not exceed the de minimis thresholds for NOx and ROG emissions.

A comparison of the estimated emissions from construction and the total emissions for San Diego Air Basin is provided in Table 5. As shown in Table 5, the estimated emissions from construction would not exceed 10 percent of the total emissions in the project area.

As discussed above, if project emissions are below the de minimis levels and less than 10 percent of the nonattainment area's emissions inventory of that pollutant, further analysis under the General Conformity Rule is not required. Therefore, the project would be consistent with the General Conformity rule and no further analysis is required.



**Table 4. Comparison of Estimated Emissions from Construction and De Minimis Thresholds**

	Criteria Pollutant	
	Oxides of Nitrogen (NO <sub>x</sub> )	Reactive Organic Gases (ROGs or VOCs)
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>		
Total Estimated Emissions (Tons/year)	2.31	0.31
De Minimis Threshold (Tons/year)	100	50
Above De Minimis Threshold?	No	No
<b>OPERATION</b>		
Total Estimated Emissions (Tons/year)	0.78	0.31
De Minimis Threshold (Tons/year)	100	50
Above De Minimis Threshold?	No	No

**Table 5. Comparison of Estimated Emissions from Construction and Total Emissions from Project Area**

	Criteria Pollutant	
	Oxides of Nitrogen (NO <sub>x</sub> )	Reactive Organic Gases (ROGs or VOCs)
Total Estimated Construction Emissions (Tons/year)	2.31	0.31
SDAB Air Basin Emissions Forecast, 2010 (Tons/Year) <sup>1</sup>	40,400	97,450
Percentage	0.00005717821	0.00000318111
Exceeds 10% of nonattainment area's emissions inventory?	No	No

<sup>1</sup> – California Air Resources Board, 2013

	<b>Less than Significant</b>	
<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>with Mitigation Incorporated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>
		<b>No Impact</b>

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

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

The following information is summarized from the Biological Technical Report prepared by HDR, dated December 2014 ~~September 14~~. This report is provided as Appendix B of this Initial Study.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**Botanical Species**

***San Diego Ambrosia and San Diego Thorn-mint***

The survey area exhibits the potential to support the federally and state endangered Nevin’s barberry, federally endangered San Diego Ambrosia, federally threatened and state endangered San Diego thorn-mint and federally threatened spreading navarretia. The proposed project would impact non-native grassland, disturbed, developed and Eucalyptus woodland cover types. Nevin’s barberry and spreading navarretia do not have potential to occur in these cover types. Therefore, the proposed project would not have impacts to Nevin’s barberry and spreading navarretia. However, San Diego ambrosia has potential to occur in non-native grassland and disturbed habitat on the upper floodplain terraces at the Orchard Run and North Village Lift Station sites. In addition, San Diego thorn-mint has potential to occur in the clay soils vegetated with non-native grassland at the Orchard Run Lift Station site. If present, project construction would have potential to result in direct impacts to these species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-1 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

***Other Special-Status Botanical Species***

The survey area supports California black walnut and exhibits the potential to support Orcutt’s brodiaea, Ramona horkelia, Parry’s tetracoccus, round-leaved filaree, Nuttall’s scrub oak, San Diego milk vetch, variegated dudleya, Coulter’s saltbush, San Diego aster, beach aster, Palmer’s goldenbush, smooth tarplant and southern tarplant. However, as described above the project will only impact non-native grassland, disturbed, developed and Eucalyptus woodland cover types. Ramon horkelia, Parry’s tetracoccus, Nuttall’s scrub oak, San Diego aster, beach aster and Palmer’s goldenbush do not have potential to occur in these cover types and the Coulter’s saltbush was not observed during general biological surveys. Orcutt’s brodiaea, round-leaved filaree, smooth tarplant and southern tarplant have potential to occur in clay soils supporting non-native grassland at the Orchard Run Lift Station site. Orcutt’s brodiaea, round-leaved filaree, smooth tarplant and southern tarplant are listed in the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants on list 1B.1 (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere). Impacts at the Orchard Run Lift Station site total less than 10 percent of the site (approximately 0.3 acre including 4,500 square feet for lift station construction and up to 8,000 square feet for access road construction). If other special status botanical species are present, project construction would have potential to result in direct impacts to the species. Direct impacts to other special status botanical species have potential to be significant. Impacts at the Orchard Run Lift Station Site total approximately 0.5 acre. Loss of 0.5 acre of potentially suitable habitat for these species is not significant in the context of over 109,800 acres of permanently preserved biological core and linkage habitat within San Diego County Multiple Habitat Planning Area (Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas). Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-1 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

Implementation of construction BMPs (i.e., placement of straw waddles, silt fencing, watering bare areas for dust control) and SWPPP measures will minimize potential impacts on avoided habitat resulting from dust or erosion.

**Zoological Species**

***Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell’s Vireo, California Gnatcatcher, and Swainson’s Hawk***

The survey area exhibits the potential to support the federally and state endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell’s vireo, federally threatened California gnatcatcher and state threatened



Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Swainson's hawk. However, as described above the project will only impact non-native grassland, disturbed, developed and Eucalyptus woodland cover types. Therefore, no direct impacts to habitat with potential to support southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo or California gnatcatcher will occur. Swainson's hawk is not anticipated to breed in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, potential impacts to Swainson's hawk would be limited to loss of less than one acre of potential winter foraging habitat (0.3 acre at the Orchard Run Lift Station site and 0.6 acre at the North Village Lift Station site). In the context of over 109,800-148,000 acres of agricultural and non-native grassland habitats available for winter foraging in San Diego County, permanently preserved biological core and linkage habitat within San Diego County Multiple Habitat Planning Area (Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas), the loss of approximately 2-5.9 acres of potential foraging winter habitat would not be significant.

If breeding southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo or California gnatcatcher were present during construction, construction-related noise and lighting could result in indirect impacts to these species. Indirect impacts to federally-listed species would require consultation with USFWS and would be considered significant prior to mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-2 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

**Other Special-Status Species**

The survey area exhibits the potential to support burrowing owl, golden eagle, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, Dulzura pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, western red bat, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, San Diego desert woodrat, American badger, orangethroat whiptail, coast horned lizard, red-diamond rattlesnake and two-striped garter snake. However, as described above the project will only impact non-native grassland, disturbed, developed and Eucalyptus woodland cover types. Yellow-breasted chat, yellow warbler, Dulzura pocket mouse, northwestern San Diego pocket mouse, western red bat, San Diego desert woodrat, coast horned lizard, red-diamond rattlesnake and two-striped garter snake are not expected to occur in these cover types. Potential impacts to white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike and golden eagle would be limited to loss of less than one acre of potential foraging habitat (0.3 acre at the Orchard Run Lift Station site and 0.6 acre at the North Village Lift Station site). The lift stations are not anticipated to prohibit foraging on the remaining undeveloped portions of the property (3.4 acres and 5.9 acres). In the context of over 109,800-148,000 acres of agricultural and non-native grassland habitats available for winter foraging in San Diego County, permanently preserved biological core and linkage habitat within San Diego County Multiple Habitat Planning Area (Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas), the loss of approximately up to 0.9 acres 2.5 acres of potential foraging habitat would not be significant. Similarly, the loss of approximately up to 0.9-2.5 acres of potentially suitable habitat for San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, American badger and orangethroat whiptail is also not significant in the context of over one million acres of grassland, sage scrub, chaparral and oak woodland habitats with potential to support these species in San Diego County, of over 109,800 acres of permanently preserved biological core and linkage habitat within San Diego County Multiple Habitat Planning Area (Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas).

Although no burrowing owls were observed, the project site supports suitable nesting and foraging habitat for the burrowing owl. The project permanently impacts up to 0.9 acre of potential burrowing owl habitat (0.3 acres at Orchard Run Lift Station site and 0.6 acre at the North Village Lift Station site). At each location, non-impacted habitat will continue to provide habitat function, however, permanent loss of breeding habitat would be considered significant. This species could also be directly impacted if present during construction activities. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-3 would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**Migratory Birds**

Mature trees (>24-inch diameter) including coast live oak and Eucalyptus occur within the survey area. These trees provide suitable habitat for Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) covered species, which include nesting migratory birds and raptors. In addition to mature trees, all vegetated areas (including but not limited to sage scrub, chaparral, native landscaping, etc.), and power poles located within the survey area provide suitable habitat for MBTA covered species. The project has the potential to impact nesting birds if clearing and grubbing occurs during the bird breeding season (February 15 through August 15; as early as January for some raptor species). The MBTA prohibits take of active migratory bird nests. Impacts on active nests would be considered significant prior to mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-4 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

**Mitigation Measure BR-1: Protection of Special Status Plants and Habitat with Potential to Support Special Status Species.** The following measures shall be implemented to protect habitat with the potential to support special-status species during project-related construction.

1. A qualified biologist will conduct focused surveys for ~~San Diego ambrosia and San Diego thorn-minis~~ special-status plant species prior to construction of the Orchard Run and North Village Lift Stations. The surveys shall be conducted during the blooming season for the species. ~~If either species~~ special-status species are observed, the lift stations (4,500 square foot) and 20-foot wide access roads will be relocated as needed within the properties ~~to avoid the species~~. In the unlikely event that ~~the special-status species are~~ identified on site and impacts cannot be avoided then Valley Center Municipal Water District will consult with USFWS and CDFW as required by the federal and state law for federally or state listed endangered or threatened species. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to federally or state listed endangered or threatened species may include an in-lieu fee payment, preservation of occupied habitat and/or restoration of habitat through seed collection and dispersal. Although unlikely, if other special status species are identified and the lift station and access roads cannot be relocated to provide 90-percent avoidance, then a seed collection and dispersal program shall be implemented under the guidance of a restoration specialist/botanist with rare plant propagation experience. ~~Mitigation may include an in lieu fee payment, preservation of occupied habitat and/or restoration of habitat through seed collection and dispersal.~~
2. Valley Center Municipal Water District will comply with all regulatory permit requirements and ~~Valley Center Municipal Water District shall designate an approved biologist (project biologist) who will be responsible for overseeing compliance with regulatory permits including with~~ protective measures for the biological resources during clearing and work activities within and adjacent to areas of native habitat. The project biologist will be familiar with the local habitats, plants, and wildlife and maintain communications with the contractor to ensure that issues relating to biological resources are appropriately and lawfully managed. The project biologist will review final plans, designate areas that need temporary fencing, and monitor construction. The biologist will monitor activities within designated areas during critical times such as vegetation removal, the installation of BMPs and fencing to protect the open space buffer, and ensure that all avoidance and minimization measures are properly constructed and followed.
3. Project employees and contractors that will be on-site shall complete environmental worker-awareness training conducted by the project biologist. The training will advise workers of potential impacts on sensitive habitats and listed species and the potential penalties for impacts on such habitats and species. At a minimum, the program will include the following topics:



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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occurrences of the listed species and sensitive vegetation communities in the area, a physical description and their general ecology, sensitivity of the species to human activities, legal protection afforded these species, penalties for violations of Federal and State laws, reporting requirements, and work features designed to reduce the impacts on these species; and to the extent practicable, promote continued successful occupation of areas adjacent to the work footprint. Included in this program will be color photos of the listed species, which will be shown to the employees. Following the education program, the photos will be posted in the contractor and resident engineer's office, where they will remain through the duration of the work. Photos of the habitat in which sensitive species are found will also be posted on-site. The contractor will be required to provide Valley Center Municipal Water District with evidence of the employee training (e.g., sign-in sheet or stickers) upon request. Employees and contractors will be instructed to immediately notify the project biologist of any incidents, such as construction vehicles that move outside of the work area boundary. The project biologist will be responsible for notifying the USFWS within 72 hours of any similar incident.

4. Prior to construction, Valley Center Municipal Water District shall delineate staging areas and the construction limits for lift stations. Limits of the exclusionary fencing shall be confirmed by the project biologist prior to habitat clearing. Exclusionary fencing shall be maintained throughout the duration of construction work or until permanent fencing is in place.

All construction-related vehicles and equipment storage shall occur in the construction area and/or previously disturbed areas as approved by the project biologist. Project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, construction areas, storage areas, and staging and parking areas.

If construction activity extends beyond the exclusionary fencing into avoided native habitat, areas of disturbance shall be quantified and an appropriate restoration approach shall be developed in consultation with the USFWS and the CDFW. For example, if construction extends beyond the limits of the exclusionary fencing, temporarily disturbed areas shall be restored to the natural (preconstruction) conditions, which may include the following: salvage and stockpiling or topsoil, re-grading of disturbed sites with salvaged topsoil, and re-vegetation with native locally available species.

**Mitigation Measure BR-2: California Gnatcatcher/Least Bell's Vireo/Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.** The following measures will be implemented to minimize indirect impacts on listed species during construction:

1. Construction will be timed to avoid the breeding season for listed avian species (February 15 to September 15; as early as January for some raptor species) to the maximum extent feasible.
2. If construction must occur within 500 feet of potentially suitable habitat during the breeding season, then pre-construction surveys (≤3 days prior to project initiation) will be conducted by a qualified biologist. If active nests are identified during pre-construction surveys and noise levels at the nest exceed 60dBA Leq, noise attenuation structures will be placed or other noise attenuation measures (e.g., reducing the number of construction vehicles or using different types of construction vehicles) will be implemented to reduce noise levels at the nest to 60 dBA Leq (or ambient noise level if greater than 60 dBA Leq). During construction adjacent to these areas, noise monitoring shall occur during the breeding season and be reported daily to the USFWS. Construction activities that create noise in excess of the aforementioned levels will cease operation until effective noise attenuation measures are in place to the extent practicable.



Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**Mitigation Measure BR-3: Burrowing Owl.** ~~Valley Center Municipal Water District will conduct take avoidance (pre-construction) breeding season surveys for burrowing owl no more than 30 days no more than 14 days prior to initiating ground disturbance activities. Burrowing owls may re-colonize a site after only a few days, therefore, time lapses between project activities trigger subsequent take avoidance surveys including but not limited to a final survey conducted within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance.~~

1. ~~If burrowing owl is identified during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), and the project cannot be refined to avoid occupied habitat, then off-site mitigation will be provided as described below: then an appropriate buffer will be established by the biological monitor in accordance with the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012). Construction within the buffer will be avoided until a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owl is no longer present or until young have fledged and a CDFW-approved exclusion plan has been implemented. In addition to avoidance of the occupied habitat, off-site mitigation will be provided as described below:~~
  - a. Replacement of occupied habitat with occupied habitat: 1.5 times 6.5 (9.75) acres per pair or single bird.
  - b. Replacement of occupied habitat with habitat contiguous to currently occupied habitat: 2 times 6.5 (13.0) acres per pair or single bird.
  - c. Replacement of occupied habitat with suitable unoccupied habitat: 3 times 6.5 (19.5) acres per pair or single bird.

The location of off-site mitigation will be identified during negotiations with CDFW if permanent loss of occupied habitat cannot not be avoided. There is suitable habitat in the vicinity, including, but not limited to, fallow agricultural lands, pasture lands and non-native grasslands which are common in the vicinity of the project.

2. If burrowing owl is not identified during breeding season surveys, but suitable burrows occur within 50 meters of the proposed project, then take avoidance (pre-construction) surveys for burrowing owl will be conducted no more than 7 days prior to initiating disturbance.
  - If burrowing owl is not-identified during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), then a 50 meter buffer will be established by the biological monitor. Construction within the buffer will be avoided until a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owl is no longer present or until a CDFW-approved exclusion plan has been implemented. The buffer distance may be reduced if noise attenuation buffers such as hay bales are placed between the occupied burrow and construction activities.
  - If burrowing owl is identified during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), then an appropriate buffer will be established by the biological monitor in accordance with the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG, 2012). Construction within the buffer will be avoided until a qualified biologist determines that burrowing owl is no longer present or until young have fledged. The buffer distance may be reduced in consultation with CDFW if noise attenuation buffers such as hay bales are placed between the occupied burrow and construction activities.
3. ~~Permanent impacts on potential BUOW habitat will be off-set through preservation of 33 acres of on-site buffer as described herein.~~



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**Mitigation Measure BR-4: MBTA Covered Species.**

Should clearing and grubbing be required during the avian breeding season (February 15-August 15; as early as January for some raptor species), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction nest survey (in suitable areas) for migratory birds within 10 days of construction. Should an active nest of any MBTA covered species occur within or adjacent to the project impact area, a 100-foot buffer (300 feet for raptors) shall be established around the nest and no construction shall occur within this area until a qualified biologist determines the nest is no longer active or the young have fledged. Construction may occur within the buffer if a biologist determines that nesting behavior is not affected by construction activities or natural buffers such as the river levee adequately protect the active nest(s).

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

The proposed project results in no impacts on special-status plant communities<sup>1</sup>. The proposed project is located entirely within non-native grassland, Eucalyptus woodland, disturbed or developed cover types. Specifically, the pipeline improvements are located primarily within existing rights-of-way (except where the pipeline leaves Valley Center Road to connect to the North Village Lift Station and the western portion of Old Road) and will utilize only developed or disturbed areas for staging. The North Village Lift Station will be located entirely within the northern half of the property within a combination of non-native grassland, developed and disturbed cover types. Likewise, the Orchard Run Lift Station Site supports only non-native grassland and Eucalyptus woodland. Therefore, the proposed project would not have substantial adverse effects on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community. No impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

No impacts to Waters of the U.S. or Waters of the State are anticipated, however USACE and CDFW make the final determination if aquatic features and proposed activities are regulated. In particular, the Orchard Run Lift Station site exhibits a potential area of sheet flow. The feature exhibits no bed and bank and no indicators of an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) were present at the time of observation in the field. Given the absence of bed and bank and riparian vegetation, it is unlikely the feature is subject to CDFW's jurisdiction. However, given the current drought, indicators of OHWM may become apparent after a normal rain year. In that case, USACE could assert jurisdiction, and a 401 certification and 404 permit would be required. If USACE determines that 404 wetlands were present and that a net loss of

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this analysis, special-status vegetation communities are defined as those with an S1, S2, or S3 state ranking on the CDFW September 2010 Hierarchical List of Natural Communities.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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wetlands would occur, then mitigation would be required to assure no net loss of aquatic function. As a result, compliance with any required 404 permit would ensure that no significant impact would occur. The feature does not exhibit wetland characteristics and impacts would not be considered significant.

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Wildlife movement corridors, also called dispersal corridors or landscape linkages, are linear features primarily connecting at least two significant habitat areas. Wildlife corridors and linkages are important features in the landscape, and the viability and quality of a corridor or linkage are dependent upon site-specific factors. Topography and vegetative cover are important factors for corridors and linkages. These factors should provide cover for both predator and prey species. They should direct animals to areas of contiguous open space or resources and away from humans and development. The corridor or linkage should be buffered from human encroachment and other disturbances (e.g., light, loud noises, and domestic animals) associated with developed areas that have caused the habitat fragmentation. Wildlife corridors and linkages may function at various levels depending upon these factors and, as such, the most successful wildlife corridors and linkages will accommodate all or most of the necessary life requirements of predator and prey species.

The study area is not identified as a regionally significant corridor by the South Coast Missing Link Projects. However, it overlaps with Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas identified by the draft North County Multiple Species Conservation Program as having high habitat value, including functioning to link core foothill habitat to the lower San Luis Rey River through Valley Center.

The project would permanently place two lift stations within San Diego County Multiple Habitat Planning Area (Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas), however the lift stations are located in proximity to existing development and will not impact native habitats or prohibit wildlife movement. Impacts to the future preserve would be less than significant.

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

The project would permanently place two lift stations within San Diego County Multiple Habitat Planning Area (Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas), however the lift stations are located in proximity to existing development and will not impact native habitats or prohibit wildlife movement. Impacts to the future preserve would not be significant. By avoiding impacts to native habitats including trees, the project is consistent with the policies and recommendations in the Valley Center Community Plan. The project is not subject to any local tree preservation policy or ordinance. No impact has been identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

At this time, the North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (NCMSCP) Plan has not been adopted. Once adopted, the plan will serve as a multiple species HCP pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the federal ESA, as well as a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California NCCP Act of 1991. Because this plan has not yet been adopted, no impact has been identified for this issue area.

**CEQA-Plus Evaluation**

**Federal Endangered Species Act, Section 7:**

**Does the project involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement that may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species that are known, or have a potential, to occur on site, in the surrounding area, or in the service area.**

- No. Discuss why the project will not impact any federally listed special-status species:**
- Yes. Include information on federally listed species that could potentially be affected by this project and any proposed avoidance and compensation measures so that the SWRCB can initiate informal/formal consultation with the applicable federally designated agency. Document any previous ESA consultations that may have occurred with the project.**

Refer to Appendix B for the Biological Technical Report, evaluations analyzing the project’s direct and indirect effects on special-status species, and a current list of species list for the project area.

***San Diego Ambrosia and San Diego Thorn-mint***

Federally endangered San Diego Ambrosia San Diego ambrosia has potential to occur in non-native grassland and disturbed habitat on the upper floodplain terraces at the Orchard Run and North Village Lift Station sites. In addition, federally threatened and state endangered San Diego thorn-mint has potential to occur in the clay soils vegetated with non-native grassland at the Orchard Run Lift Station site. If present, project construction would have potential to result in direct impacts to these species. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-1 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

***Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell’s Vireo, and California Gnatcatcher, ~~and Swainson’s Hawk~~***

The survey area exhibits the potential to support the federally and state endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell’s vireo, and federally threatened California gnatcatcher ~~and state threatened Swainson’s hawk~~. However, as described above the project will only impact non-native grassland, disturbed, developed and Eucalyptus woodland cover types. Therefore, no direct impacts to habitat with potential to support southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell’s vireo or California gnatcatcher will occur. ~~Swainson’s hawk is not anticipated to breed in the vicinity of the project. Therefore, potential impacts to Swainson’s hawk would be limited to loss of potential winter foraging habitat. In the context of over 109,800 acres of permanently preserved biological core and linkage habitat within San Diego County~~

~~Multiple Habitat Planning Area (Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas), the loss of approximately 2.5 acres of potential foraging habitat would not be significant.~~

If breeding southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo or California gnatcatcher were present during construction, construction-related noise and lighting could result in indirect impacts to these species. Indirect impacts to federally-listed species would require consultation with USFWS and would be considered significant prior to mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-2 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

**Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Essential Fish Habitat:**

**Does the project involve any direct effects from construction activities, or indirect effects such as growth inducement that may adversely affect essential fish habitat?**

**No. Discuss why the project will not impact essential fish habitat:**

**There are no marine fisheries habitats or anadromous fisheries habitats that would be affected implementation of the proposed project.**

**Yes. Provide information on essential fish habitat that could potentially be affected by this project and any proposed avoidance and compensation measures. Document any consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service that may have occurred for the project. Include any comments below:**

**Coastal Barriers Resources Act:**

**Will the project impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters? Note that since there is currently no Coastal Barrier Resources System in California, projects located in California are not expected to impact the Coastal Barrier Resources System in other states. If there is a special circumstance in which the project may impact a Coastal Barrier Resource System, indicate your reasoning below.**

**No. The project will not impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters.**

**Yes. Describe the project location with respect to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, and the status of any consultation with the appropriate Coastal Zone management agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.**

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act:**

**Will the project affect protected migratory birds that are known, or have a potential, to occur on site, in the surrounding area, or in the service area?**

**No.**

**Yes. Discuss the impacts (such as noise and vibration impacts, modification of habitat) to migratory birds that may be directly or indirectly affected by the project and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate these impacts. Include a list of all migratory birds that could occur where the project is located:**

Refer to Appendix F of the Biological Technical Report (Appendix B of this Initial Study) for a list of migratory birds with the potential to occur within the survey area.

Mature trees (>24-inch diameter) including coast live oak and Eucalyptus occur within the survey area. These trees provide suitable habitat for MBTA covered species, which include nesting migratory birds and



raptors. In addition to mature trees, all vegetated areas (including but not limited to sage scrub, chaparral, native landscaping, etc.), and power poles located within the survey area provide suitable habitat for MBTA covered species. The project has the potential to impact nesting birds if clearing and grubbing occurs during the bird breeding season (February 15 through August 15; as early as January for some raptor species). The MBTA prohibits take of active migratory bird nests. Impacts on active nests would be considered significant prior to mitigation. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BR-4 would reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

**Protection of Wetlands:**

**Does any portion of the project area contain areas that should be evaluated for wetland delineation or require a permit from the ACOE?**

- No. Provide the basis for such a determination.**
- Yes. Describe the impacts to wetlands, potential wetland areas, and other surface waters, and the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to reduce such impacts. Provide the status of the permit and information on permit requirements.**

As described below, the survey area does support potential non-wetland waters subject to USACE jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No impacts to Waters of the U.S. or Waters of the State are anticipated, however USACE makes the final determination if aquatic features and proposed activities are regulated. In particular, the Orchard Run Lift Station site exhibits a potential area of sheet flow. The feature exhibits no bed and bank and no indicators of an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) were present at the time of observation in the field. However, given the current drought, indicators of OHWM may become apparent after a normal rain year. In that case, USACE could assert jurisdiction, and a 401 certification and 404 permit would be required. If USACE determined that 404 wetlands were present and that a net loss of wetlands would occur, then mitigation would be required to assure no net loss of aquatic function. As a result, compliance with any required 404 permit would ensure that no significant impact would occur. The feature does not exhibit wetland characteristics and impacts would not be considered significant.

The survey area contains several linear aquatic features that qualify as USACE jurisdictional non-wetland waters and/or CDFW jurisdictional streambeds as defined by Section 404 of the CWA, and ~~Section 1600 of the Code~~. Descriptions of each feature are provided below and a summary of jurisdictional acreages is provided in Table 4. Figures 6A through 6D (see Appendix B of this Initial Study) depict the location of the jurisdictional aquatic features.

**Table 4. ~~USACE and CDFW~~ Jurisdictional Areas within the Survey Area**

Jurisdiction	USACE			GDFW		
	Non-Wetland Acres	Wetland Acres	Total Acres	Unvegetated Streambed Acres	Riparian Acres	Total Acres
Lilac Creek	0.000	0.272	0.272	0.000	0.601	0.601
Lilac Creek Tributary A	0.028	0.176	0.204	0.028	0.193	0.221
Lilac Creek Tributary B	0.076	0.000	0.076	0.149	0.000	0.149
Lilac Creek Tributary C	0.004	0.000	0.004	0.005	0.000	0.005
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.108</b>	<b>0.448</b>	<b>0.556</b>	<b>0.182</b>	<b>0.794</b>	<b>0.976</b>

Source: Appendix B

**Lilac Creek Watershed**

Lilac Creek originates southeast of the survey area, travels northwest roughly parallel to Valley Center Road until it traverses beneath Valley Center Road at an existing bridge (see Figure 6B in Appendix B of

this ~~EIR~~ Initial Study) and exits the survey area to the northwest. This feature exhibits a predominance of hydrophytes including arroyo willow, yerba mansa, umbrella sedge (*Cyperus* spp.), and cattails. Wetland hydrology was indicated by oxidized rhizospheres. Lateral wetland limits were extended to a break in slope which was characterized by an abrupt change in vegetation community. Indicators of OHWM were absent from upland terraces. Redoximorphic features were present to the surface and soils exhibited a reduced matrix where they were sampled in Tributary B to Lilac Creek (approximately 200 feet from the main stem of Lilac Creek).

Three highly altered tributaries to Lilac Creek also traverse the study area. Tributary A originates at a small culvert where sheet flow is concentrated sufficiently to generate indicators of OHWM including flow lines and destruction of terrestrial vegetation. The channel supports a few scattered arroyo willows. As noted above, the understory supports dense yerba mansa and exhibits indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology approximately 200 feet upstream of the confluence with the Lilac Creek main stem.

Tributary B originates to the north of Valley Center Drive. Portions of the channel have been placed underground or have been channelized. The above-ground reaches are generally unvegetated. Indicators of OHWM include the presence of litter and debris, sediment deposit, and destruction of terrestrial vegetation. Storm flows eventually reach Lilac Creek outside of the study area.

The historic flow path of Tributary C has also been highly altered at Valley Center Drive. The tributary appears to have historically discharged to Lilac Creek through a culvert in the vicinity of the North Lift Station. A double box culvert was constructed at Valley Center Drive west of the North Village Lift Station Site in 2008. Indicators of OHWM are absent between the culvert and Lilac Creek and only weak indicators of sheet flow are apparent north of Village Center Drive.

#### **Moosa Creek Watershed**

Two basins, totaling 0.65 acre, occur east of Orchard Run Lift Station along the 0.25-mile force main pipeline alignment. These two basins are dairy ponds that were formerly used for agricultural purposes. Based on historic aerial and USGS topography, these artificially irrigated basins were not constructed within wetlands or streambed, so would not be subject to USACE or CDFW jurisdiction.

#### **Impact Analysis**

No impacts to Waters of the U.S. or Waters of the State are anticipated, however USACE and CDFW make the final determination if aquatic features and proposed activities are regulated. In particular, the Orchard Run Lift Station site exhibits a potential area of sheet flow. The feature exhibits no bed and bank and no indicators of an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) were present at the time of observation in the field. However, given the current drought, indicators of OHWM may become apparent after a normal rain year. In that case, USACE could assert jurisdiction, and a 401 certification and 404 permit would be required. The feature does not exhibit wetland characteristics and impacts would not be considered significant.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

The following information is summarized from the Cultural Resources Technical Report prepared by HDR, dated ~~December~~<sup>September</sup> 2014. This report is provided as Appendix C of this Initial Study.

The purpose of the Cultural Resources Technical Report was to review available archaeological, Native American, and historic literature covering the project site, to conduct a pedestrian survey of the area, and to provide a cultural resources technical report documenting the results of the inventory and to provide a finding of effect and management recommendations. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) covers four areas: North Village Lift Station that covers 6.5 acres, Orchard Run Lift Station that covers ~~5.33~~<sup>3.76</sup> acres, pipeline improvements that cover 2.01 linear miles along Valley Center Road, Cole Grade Road and Juba Road, and 0.25 linear miles along Old Road, and an access road that covers 1,300 linear feet.

On August 18, 2014, a request was submitted to the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) for a records search of all archaeological and historical resources within one-half mile of the project APE. Within or adjacent to the project APE there are eight known cultural resources; four of which are historic-age sites. These sites are described in detail below.

**CA-SDI-13728**

Site SDI-13728 was recorded by the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works in 1992. It was described as an historic trash scatter containing tin cans, adobe bricks, buttons, and hundreds of glass and ceramic fragments.

As mapped by the SCIC, the site appears to be bisected by the project APE. Upon field inspection however, the site was relocated and found to be mapped incorrectly. The site is located 25 m outside the project APE to the west. An updated DPR form was completed and submitted to the SCIC to document the new location.

Based on the corrected location of this site outside of the APE, it will be avoided and will not be impacted by any project-related work.

**CA-SDI-13729**

Site SDI-13729 was recorded by the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works in 1991. It was described as an historic one-story, irregularly shaped board-and-batten structure with a water tower. It housed Corral Liquor and is believed to have been the oldest remaining commercial structure in Valley Center at the time of recording. It had previously held a general store, gas station, and post office.



During the field survey, the site could not be relocated. Further research shows the building was destroyed by a fire in 2003 and a modern structure now occupies the lot. An updated DPR form was completed and submitted to the SCIC to document the destruction.

Based on the previous destruction of this site and its original location outside the project APE, it will not be impacted by any project-related work.

**CA-SDI-13755**

Site SDI-13755 was recorded by the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works in 1992. It was described as stone and cement bridge abutments. The bridge itself is no longer present, but the abutments likely predate a 1912 road survey.

During the field survey the site could not be relocated. The bridge abutments appear to have been destroyed by the construction of the current overpass. An updated DPR form was completed and submitted to the SCIC to document the destruction.

Based on the previous destruction of this site and its original location outside the project APE, it will not be impacted by any project-related work.

**CA-SDI-13756**

Site SDI-13756 was recorded by the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works in 1992. It was described as stone and mortar well. The site form indicates the well may be in the area mapped as the “Old Valley Center Town Hall” or the “Old Store.”

During the field survey the site could not be relocated. It is likely within a fenced and walled off private residence with “No Trespassing” and “24 hour video surveillance” signs.

Based on the location of this site outside the project APE, it will not be impacted by any project-related work.

**Conclusion**

A project is considered to have a significant effect on historic properties if it directly or indirectly alters the characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the ~~National~~ California Register of Historic Places Resources. According to the Cultural Resources Technical Report (see Appendix C of this Initial Study), Sites CA-SDI-13728, CA-SDI-13729, CA-SDI-13755, and CA-SDI-13756 are located outside of the APE. Therefore, no historic properties would be affected with development of the North Village Lift Station, Orchard Run Lift Station, and pipelines. No impact is identified for this issue area.

- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?

As described above, a request was submitted to the SCIC for a records search of all archaeological and historical resources within one-half mile of the project APE. Within or adjacent to the project APE there are eight known cultural resources; four of which are archaeological sites. These sites are described in detail below.

### **CA-SDI-10556**

Site SDI-10556 was first recorded by Paul G. Chase and Associates in 1986. It was described as a single bedrock outcrop with six milling basins and three slicks. No artifacts were observed. The site was revisited by RMW Paleo Associates in 1993 and updated to include the original six basins as well as 14 slicks and one additional outcrop containing one slick.

As mapped by the SCIC, the site appeared to be in the middle of the project access road. Upon field inspection, the site was relocated and found to be mapped incorrectly. The site is located off the road and 25 m south of the project APE, in the front yard of private property. A search outside of the property found no artifacts. An updated DPR form and map was completed and submitted to the SCIC to correct this error.

Based on the corrected location of this site outside of the APE, it will be avoided and will not be impacted by any project-related work.

### **CA-SDI-12636**

Site SDI-12636 was first recorded by Gallegos and Associates in 1992. It was described as a series of low bedrock outcrops with at least five milling slicks. No artifacts were observed. The site was revisited and tested by RMW Paleo Associates in 1993. They observed a total of eight slicks. A total of 20 shovel test pits were excavated. Two pieces of historic amethyst glass were recovered from 0 to 20 cm and 20 to 40 cm, and a fragment of wire was recovered from 40 to 45 cm. This shows soil disturbance from either farming related activities or rodent activity. They determined the site to be insignificant under CEQA.

As mapped by the SCIC, the site appears to be partially within the project APE. Upon field inspection, the site was relocated and found to be mapped incorrectly. The site is located approximately 40 meters northwest of the mapped location and outside the project APE, 18 m to the west. A reconnaissance of the site showed it to be as listed in the updated site record and no artifacts observed on the surface. An updated DPR form and map was completed and submitted to the SCIC to correct this error.

Based on the corrected location of this site outside of the APE, it will be avoided and will not be impacted by any project-related work.

### **CA-SDI-13590**

Site SDI-13590 was recorded by RMW Paleo Associates in 1993. It was described as two bedrock outcrops with at a total of four milling slicks. No artifacts were observed.

As originally mapped, the site is partially within the project APE; however the milling features are all located off the road and outside of the APE, 10 m to the west. A reconnaissance of the site showed it to be as listed in the original site record and no artifacts observed on the surface.

Based on the location of the bedrock milling features outside of the APE, the site will be avoided and will not be impacted by any project-related work.

### **CA-SDI-13598**

Site SDI-13598 was recorded by RMW Paleo Associates in 1993. It was described as one bedrock outcrop with two mortars. No artifacts were observed.

As mapped, the site is partially within the project APE: however, the milling features are all located 10 m off the access road APE to the west. A reconnaissance of the site showed it to be as listed in the original site record and no artifacts observed on the surface.

Based on the location the bedrock milling features outside of the APE, the site will be avoided and will not be impacted by any project-related work.

### **Native American Heritage Commission and Response from Tribes**

On September 9, 2014, a request was submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for a search of their records of sacred sites. The results of the NAHC Sacred Land Files indicated no areas of concern within the one-half mile radius. The search also included a contact list of Native American individuals or organizations who may have additional information regarding sacred resources in the area and who should be contacted regarding the proposed scope of the project. On September 16, 2014, letters were mailed to all 19 individuals/groups on the list. On September 26, 2014, follow-up phone calls were placed to the 18 individuals/group that had not responded. A total of three responses were received which included the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, and the Kumeyaay. See Appendix B of the Cultural Resources Technical Report (Appendix C of this Initial Study) for copies of these letters and any responses received.

Two comment letters were received from Native American individuals or organizations on the Draft IS/MND. The Pala Band of Mission Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office submitted a comment letter on November 19, 2014 and the Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians submitted a comment letter on November 26, 2014. These letters are provided as Comment Letters C and D in the Response to Comments Section of this MND. Revisions to the IS/MND were made in response to these comments.

### **Conclusion**

According to the Cultural Resources Technical Report (see Appendix C of this Initial Study), Sites CA-SDI-10556, CA-SDI-12636, CA-SDI-13590, and CA-SDI-13598 are located outside of the APE. Therefore, these previously recorded archaeological sites would not be affected with development of the North Village Lift Station, Orchard Run Lift Station, and pipelines. However, there is a potential to impact unknown or not previously recorded archaeological resources during construction activities. Based on the deep ground excavation (approximately 20 feet) required for construction of the lift stations, unknown archaeological resources could be unearthed. Disturbances to these resources, if present, would be considered a potentially significant impact. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

**Mitigation Measure CR-1:** Cultural resources monitoring shall be conducted by a qualified archaeologist for all phases of construction that involve ground disturbing activities. A Native American monitor shall be present during ground disturbance at the lift station sites, and as deemed necessary by the archaeologist during the pipeline construction. In the event of a discovery, work will be stopped within the immediate area of the find until a professional archaeologist, in consultation with the Native American monitor, can determine the nature of the resources discovered. The Native American monitor shall be requested from a group identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as having affiliation with the project vicinity. On agreement between the qualified archaeologist and the Native American monitor, the archaeological monitor may notify the Native American monitor in the event of an archaeological discovery for the pipeline portion of the project. As appropriate, the archaeologist and/or Native American monitor will assist Project personnel in avoiding the newly discovered resources or in implementing management measures to evaluate the significance and potential eligibility of the resources for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or any local registers, as appropriate.



~~If the archeologist determines that the find is significant or may qualify as significant, the archaeologist shall prepare a treatment plan. Preservation in place shall be implemented as treatment, where feasible. Results of monitoring and any archaeological treatment shall be reported in an appropriate technical report to be filed with Valley Center Municipal Water District and the California Historical Resources Information System. Any artifacts recovered during monitoring or treatments shall be curated at an appropriate facility. discovery is determined to be a site, after securing the work area from additional disturbance, in concert with the Construction Foreman or Field Supervisor, the archaeological monitor will notify the Principal Investigator (PI). The PI will determine what additional fieldwork is necessary, such as a limited test excavation, to determine the site's potential eligibility for the CRHR or the NRHP. It may be determined that a site visit by the PI is necessary to make that determination. If test excavation is required to evaluate a discovery, this will be discussed in consultation with the lead agency.~~

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

The geology of the region consists of Jurassic marine sedimentary and metasedimentary rocks and Mesozoic granitics. There is potential for fossils to exist in these rock formations. Ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed project would have the potential to impact undiscovered paleontological resources. This represents a potentially significant impact and mitigation is required. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CR-2 through CR-7 would reduce the impact to paleontological resources to a less than significant level.

**Mitigation Measure CR-2:** A qualified paleontologist shall monitor all grading that includes initial cutting that may affect Jurassic marine sedimentary and metasedimentary rocks and Mesozoic granitics. If any paleontological resources are identified during these activities, the paleontologist shall temporarily divert construction until the significance of the resources is ascertained.

**Mitigation Measure CR-3:** Paleontological monitoring shall occur only for those undisturbed sediments wherein fossil plant or animal remains are found with no associated evidence of human activity or any archaeological context.

**Mitigation Measure CR-4:** Paleontological monitors shall be equipped to salvage fossils as they are unearthed to avoid construction delays, and to remove samples of sediments which are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. Monitors shall be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow removal of abundant or large specimens. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present or if the fossiliferous units present are determined by a qualified paleontological monitor to have low potential to contain fossil resources.

**Mitigation Measure CR-5:** All recovered paleontological specimens shall be prepared to a point of identification and permanent preservation, including washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates.

**Mitigation Measure CR-6:** Paleontological Sspecimens shall be identified and curated into an established, accredited, professional museum repository with permanent retrievable storage. The paleontologist shall have a written repository agreement in hand prior to the initiation of mitigation activities.

**Mitigation Measure CR-7:** A report of findings with an appended itemized inventory of identified paleontological specimens shall be prepared and submitted to Valley Center Municipal Water District. The report will address ~~archaeological and~~ paleontological items. The report and inventory, when submitted to Valley Center Municipal Water District, will signify completion of the program to mitigate impacts on paleontological resources. ~~This report shall incorporate the full results of the literature review,~~



~~as well as the full results of the recommended review of the records of the South Coastal Information Center, San Diego, California. The report shall be submitted prior to issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.~~

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

It is unlikely that any human remains would be found or disturbed on the project site. However, California law recognizes the need to protect historic-era and Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American interments from vandalism and inadvertent destruction. The procedures for the treatment of Native American human remains are contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and 7052 and California PRC Section 5097. In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, the contractor and/or the project proponent are required to immediately halt potentially damaging excavation in the area of the burial and notify the San Diego County Coroner and a professional archaeologist to determine the nature of the remains. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). Following the coroner's findings, the property owner, contractor or project proponent, an archaeologist, and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendent (MLD) shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments are not disturbed. The responsibilities for acting on notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in California PRC Section 5097.9. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

### CEQA-Plus Evaluation

#### Natural Historic Preservation Act, Section 106:

**Identify the APE, including construction, staging areas, and depth of any excavation. (Note that the APE is three-dimensional and includes all areas that may be affected by the project, including the surface area and extending belowground to the depth of any project excavations.)**

The APE includes consideration of the direct and indirect effects of the proposed project. The direct APE has four components: North Village Lift Station, Orchard Run Lift Station, Pipeline Improvements, and access roads.

The North Village Lift Station will be located on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 18826050. This parcel is 123 x 217 m. Within this parcel, VCMWD will construct a lift station that extends ~~10060~~ 100 feet (ft) by ~~460-60~~ 460 feet (ft) with an excavation depth of no more than 20 feet deep. This APE includes a 10 ft temporary impact buffer on all sides of the lift station.

The Orchard Run Lift Station will be located on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 18867306. This parcel is 180 x 120 m. Within this parcel, VCMWD will construct a lift station that extends ~~10060~~ 100 feet (ft) by ~~460-60~~ 460 feet (ft) with an excavation depth of no more than 20 feet deep. This APE includes a 10 ft temporary impact buffer on all sides of the lift station.

Pipeline improvements which include a force main pipeline, a gravity main, and a low pressure system pipeline will occur within the paved Valley Center Road, Cole Grade Road, and Juba Road. Pipeline improvements will also occur within Old Road. The length of the APE is 1.2 linear miles. The width of the



APE includes the paved road and a five foot buffer on each side, but within the right-of-way (ROW) for a total width of 95 ft. This direct APE also extends six feet deep.

Refer to Appendix C for the records search with maps showing all sites and surveys drawn in relation to the project area, and records of Native American consultation.

According to the Cultural Resources Technical Report (see Appendix C of this Initial Study), no historic properties or previously recorded archaeological sites would be affected with development of the North Village Lift Station, Orchard Run Lift Station, and pipelines. However, there is a potential to impact unknown or not previously recorded archaeological resources during construction activities. Based on the deep ground excavation (approximately 20 feet) required for construction of the lift stations, unknown archaeological resources could be unearthed. Disturbances to these resources, if present, would be considered a potentially significant impact. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1 would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.** Would the project:

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

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

The project is located in a seismically active area, but there are no known active faults crossing the project site. In addition, the project site is not located in or immediately adjacent to an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. All structures shall be constructed in accordance with the California Building Code (CBC) standards, which address seismic issues. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not expose people or structures to potentially substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault and a less than significant impact has been identified.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

As identified in Response VI.a)i), the project is not located along a known active fault or within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone. Seismic activity along nearby faults, which is common throughout the State of California, could result in ground shaking conditions and therefore all construction and design features would be required to meet or exceed the standard design parameters set forth in the CBC. However, there are no known existing seismic conditions that would expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

- iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

According to the Draft – Liquefaction County of San Diego Hazard Mitigation Planning Map, the project is located in a low liquefaction risk area (SanGIS, 2009). Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

- iv) Landslides?

Landslides are mass movements of the ground that include rock falls, relatively shallow slumping and sliding of soil, and deeper rotational or transitional movement of soil or rock. Because the project is located in an area with gently rolling hills and no history of landslides, the risk of landslides is considered low. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in the exposure of people or structures to a substantially adverse risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

According to the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Survey for San Diego, California, the project area consists of soils with erosion potential ranging from moderate to severe (USDA, 1973). Refer to Appendix B for a detailed discussion of soils on the project site. The proposed project would not result in a significant impact to soil erosion because BMPs including erosion control practices (i.e., mulching, preservation of existing vegetation) would be implemented throughout construction. The proposed project will also be required to comply with NPDES permit requirements, including preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which would include BMPs to address soil erosion. Adherence to these BMPs would minimize the amount of erosion and loss of topsoil resulting from construction activities associated with the proposed project. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Refer to responses VI. a) iii) and iv) above. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

The project area consists of clayey alluvial land, Visalia Sandy Loam, Placencia sandy loam, and Vista rocky coarse sandy loam. Soils that exhibit moderate to high shrink/swell potential may cause damage to pipelines, foundations, and infrastructure. However, the proposed project would be required to adhere to standard geotechnical considerations and design features to ensure that there would not be substantial risks to life or property resulting from expansive soils. Construction standards have been developed to ensure structures can withstand changes in the integrity of the soil. Structural engineering standards have been incorporated into the California Building Code (CBC). If the area is located within a zone that has high shrink-swell soils, compliance with the structural and engineering standards set forth within the CBC are required as project design considerations. The provisions of the CBC require that a geotechnical investigation be performed to provide data for the engineer to responsibly design the project. Therefore, assuming adherence to standard geotechnical considerations and design features, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems in areas where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

The proposed project would expand the wastewater conveyance system in Valley Center. The proposed project would not construct septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

Would the project:

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

The County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance, Climate Change document was prepared to identify the emissions level for which a project would have significant GHG impacts, in accordance with CEQA. It also determined the emissions level that would not be expected to substantially conflict with existing California legislation adopted to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. If a project generates GHG emissions above the threshold level, the project would contribute substantially to cumulative climate change effects, and it would have a significant climate change impact.

Proposed projects would have a less-than-cumulatively considerable contribution to the significant cumulative impact of climate change if the GHG emissions for that project would not exceed 2,500 metric tons (MT) or 5,511,556.55 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>e (the Bright Line Threshold). Projects of this type would be considered less than significant under CEQA.

**Construction**

Construction of the proposed project would result in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which are primarily associated with use of off-road construction equipment and vehicles on-road construction worker vehicles. CalEEMod was used to calculate the annual GHG emissions, expressed in units of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), based on the project’s construction scenario (see Appendix A). The estimated total GHG emissions during construction would be 102 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is well below the County’s allowable 2,500 MT threshold. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

**Operation**

Electricity would be required to power the proposed lift station pumps. Operational greenhouse gas emissions will result from the electricity demand from the lift stations, which is estimated to be 35 kW continuous demand. Using the emission factors published by U.S. EPA in the eGRID system<sup>2</sup>, this electrical demand would result in incremental GHG emissions of 85 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e. This is well below the County’s allowable 2,500 MT threshold. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/eGRIDzips/eGRID\\_9th\\_edition\\_V1-0\\_year\\_2010\\_Summary\\_Tables.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/documents/eGRIDzips/eGRID_9th_edition_V1-0_year_2010_Summary_Tables.pdf)



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The California Global Warming Solutions Act establishes regulatory, reporting, and market mechanisms to achieve quantifiable reductions in GHG emissions and establishes a cap on statewide GHG emissions. CARB's Scoping Plan includes measures to achieve the GHG reductions in California required by the California Global Warming Solutions Act. Measures included in the Scoping Plan would indirectly address GHG emission levels associated with construction activities, including the phasing-in of cleaner technology for diesel engine fleets (including construction equipment) and the development of a low-carbon fuel standard. Policies formulated under the mandate of the California Global Warming Solutions Act that are applicable to construction-relatively activity, either directly or indirectly, are assumed to be implemented statewide and would affect the proposed project if those are policies are implemented before construction begins. The proposed project's construction emissions would comply with any mandate or standards set forth by the Scoping Plan. Therefore, it is assumed that project construction would not conflict with the Scoping Plan.

As discussed in response VII.a) above, the project's GHG emissions are below the County's allowable 2,500 MT threshold. Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

**VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.** Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Construction activities typically involve the transport of fuels, lubricants, and various other liquids needed for operation of construction equipment at the site. Workers would commute to the project site via private vehicles. Materials hazardous to humans, wildlife, and sensitive environments would be present during construction activities associated with the proposed project. These materials may include diesel fuel, gasoline, equipment fluids, concrete, cleaning solutions and solvents, and lubricant oils. However, federal and state standards for the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials have been established and compliance with these standards is required. Therefore, a less than significant impact related to the transport and/or use of these materials is anticipated.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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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?

The potential exists for direct impacts to human health and the environment from accidental spills of small amounts of hazardous materials during construction activities associated with the proposed project. However, existing federal and state standards are in place for the handling, storage, and transport of these materials. Because compliance with these standards is required through federal, state, and local regulations, no significant impacts are anticipated due to the accidental spill and release of hazardous materials. A less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

The closest school to the project is Valley Center Elementary School, located approximately 0.30 miles north of the project. Because the nearest school is over one-quarter mile away, the proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials near an existing or proposed school. A less than significant impact has been identified.

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

Based on a review of the Cortese List data resources (DTSC EnviroStor database; DTSC corrective action sites; Leaking underground storage tank sites from State Water Resources Control Board [SWRCB] GeoTracker database; Solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit; and "Active" cease and desist orders and cleanup abatement orders from SWRCB), the project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Code Section 65962.5 (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2012). Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impact has been identified for this issue area.</p>				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>The nearest private airstrip is the Lake Wohlford Resort Airport, which is located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the project area. Give the project area's distance to the airstrip, the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area. No impacts are anticipated.</p>				
g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The County of San Diego currently has an Operational Area Recovery Plan (OARP) and an Operational Area Evacuation Plan (OAEP). These plans have been established to outline the appropriate actions to respond to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and nuclear defense operations. During installation of the pipelines, emergency access will be provided at all times during construction and no extensive changes to the existing circulation system are anticipated. The proposed project would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.</p>				
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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According to the United States Department of Agriculture's Wildland Fire Potential Map<sup>3</sup>, the project is located in an area with moderate potential for wildland fires. Pipeline improvements would be installed underground primarily within existing paved right-of-way. The proposed lift stations would be placed underground, but would include some above ground components such as a back up generator, electrical control panels, and block wall enclosure. However, no habitable structures are proposed, and the risk of loss, injury, or death is considered less than significant.

**IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.**

Would the project:

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

Construction activities associated with the proposed project can introduce hydrocarbons, fluids, lubricants, and other toxic substances from construction equipment into the surrounding environment. To ensure that water quality standards and discharge requirements would not be violated, a Notice of Intent (NOI) from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board would be required for the proposed project, in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. NPDES compliance requires the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be required during construction to prevent stormwater contamination, control sedimentation and erosion, and comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. Implementation of a SWPPP would satisfy NPDES requirements, which in turn would ensure that significant water quality impacts would not result from construction activities associated with the proposed project. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

- b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

The proposed project does not involve tapping groundwater supplies and would not convey potable water. No impact has been identified for this issue area.

<sup>3</sup> [http://maps1.arcgisonline.com/ArcGIS/rest/services/RMRS\\_Wildland\\_Fire\\_Potential/MapServer](http://maps1.arcgisonline.com/ArcGIS/rest/services/RMRS_Wildland_Fire_Potential/MapServer)



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on site or off site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>After construction of the lift stations, the existing ground surface elevations would be restored to pre-construction conditions and existing drainage patterns would not be permanently modified. Installation of pipelines would primarily consist of trench and backfill (i.e., below ground) activities. The associated above ground impacts would be temporary, minimal, and would not substantially alter existing drainage patterns in the project area. In addition, no component of the proposed project would alter the course for a stream or river. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.</p>				
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on site or off site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>See Response IX. c) above. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.</p>				
e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>The proposed project is not anticipated to generate a significant increase in the amount of runoff water. Water will continue to percolate through the ground, as a majority of the surfaces on the project site will remain pervious. The proposed pipelines would not require additional stormwater facilities because they would be installed underground. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.</p>				
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>See Response IX. a) above. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.</p>				
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal flood hazard boundary or flood insurance rate map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed project does not include the development of housing. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.

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

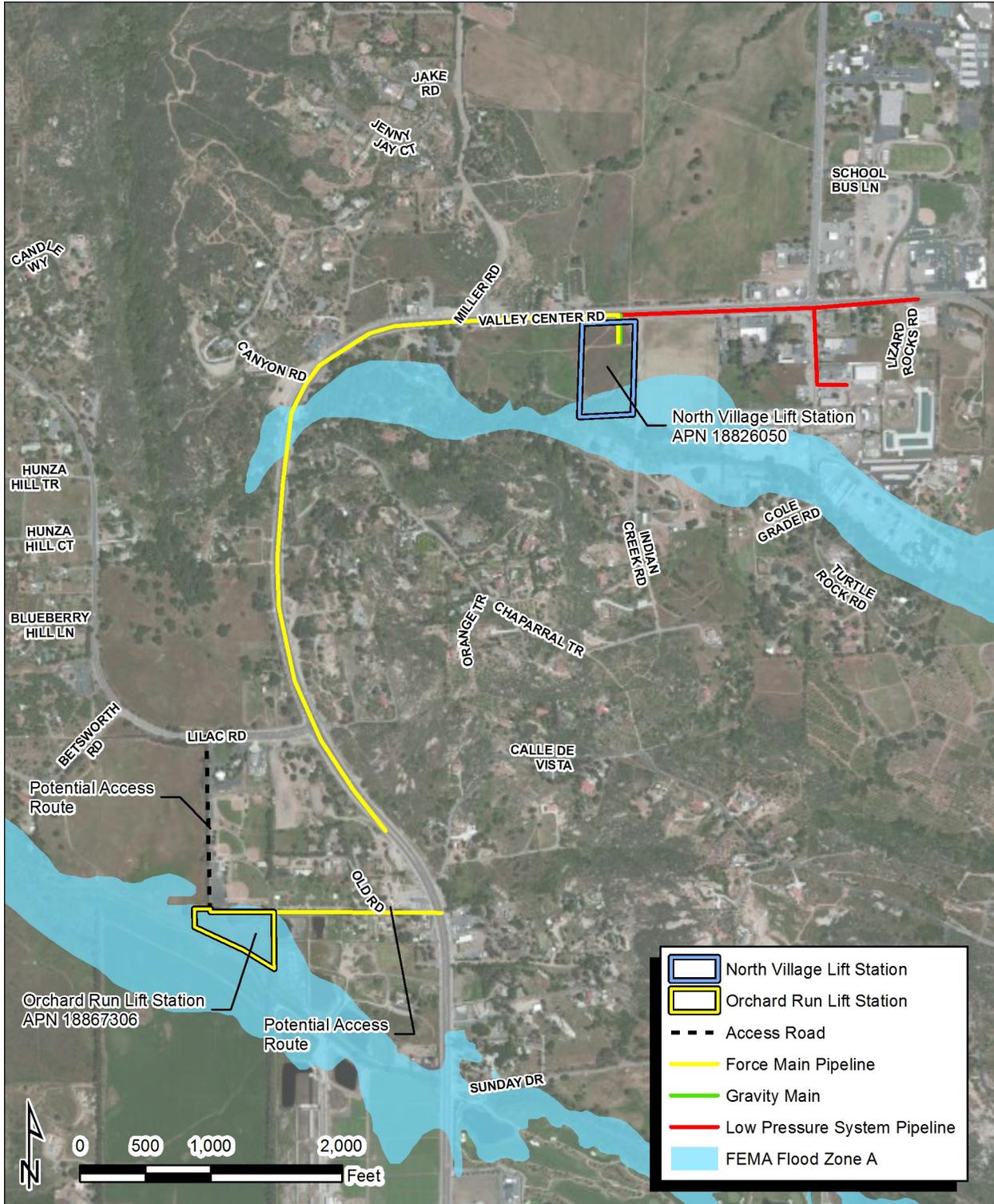
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps identify flood zones and areas that are susceptible to 100-year and 500-year floods. As shown in Figure 4, the Orchard Run Lift Station site, southern portion of the North Village Lift Station site, and a portion of the proposed pipeline alignment within Valley Center Road are within FEMA Flood Zone A. Zone A is identified as areas subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood event. The proposed project would place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area; however, these structures would be limited to above ground components (block wall enclosure, back up generator and electrical control panels) associated with the lift station which would not impede or redirect flood flows. All other project components would be installed underground. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

The closest dam to the project area is located at Turner Lake. The dam is approximately two miles west of the nearest portion of the project area and is approximately 250 feet lower in elevation. As such, the project is not located within the dam's inundation zone and would not be subject to flooding as a result of a failure at the dam. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

- j) Contribute to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Seiches are periodic oscillations of water in confined basins, typically caused by earthquakes. The closest confined body of water to the project is Turner Lake, located approximately two miles west of the project and approximately 250 feet lower in elevation. Based on this consideration, seiches are not anticipated to represent a significant risk to the project area. No impacts are anticipated.



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**Figure 4. FEMA Floodplain Map**



## CEQA-Plus Evaluation

### Floodplain Management – Executive Order Number 11988:

Is any portion of the project site located within a 100-year floodplain as depicted on a floodplain map or otherwise designated by FEMA?

- No. Provide a description of the project location with respect to streams and potential floodplains:
- Yes. Describe the floodplain, and include a floodplain map and a floodplains/wetlands assessment. Describe any measures and/or project design modifications that would minimize or avoid flood damage by the project.

The project site is included on Federal Insurance Rate Map Panel No. 06073C0810G. The wetlands assessment is discussed in Section IV., Biological Resources of this Initial Study.

As shown in Figure 4, the Orchard Run Lift Station site, southern portion of the North Village Lift Station site, and a portion of the proposed pipeline alignment within Valley Center Road are within FEMA Flood Zone A. The proposed project would place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area; however, these structures would be limited to above ground components (block wall enclosure, back up generator and electrical control panels) associated with the lift station which would not impede or redirect flood flows. All other project components would be installed underground. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

### Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

Identify watershed where the project is located: **San Luis Rey Watershed**

Is any portion of the project located within a wild and scenic river?

- No. The project will not impact a wild and scenic river.
- Yes. Identify the wild and scenic river watershed and project location relative to the affected wild and scenic river.

### Source Water Protection:

Is the project located in an area designated by the U.S. EPA, Region 9, as a Sole Source Aquifer? (For more information, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/ssa.html>.)

- No. The project is not within the boundaries of a sole source aquifer.
- Yes. Identify the aquifer (e.g., Santa Margarita Aquifer, Scott's Valley, the Fresno County Aquifer, the Campo/Cottonwood Creek Aquifer or the Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer).



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**X. LAND USE AND PLANNING.** Would the project:

- a) Physically divide an established community?

Pipeline improvements would be installed underground primarily within existing paved right-of-way. The proposed lift stations would be placed underground, but would include some above ground components such as a back up generator and electrical control panels. Because the proposed project would primarily be installed underground, it is not expected to physically divide an established community. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

Pipeline improvements would be installed underground primarily within existing paved right-of-way. The North Village Lift Station site is currently zoned C-36 General Commercial under the County of San Diego Zoning Ordinance. -Minor impact utilities are permitted under the C-36 zoning designation. The Orchard Run Lift Station site is zoned S-88 Specific Planning Area. According to the Orchard Run Specific Plan, the Orchard Run Lift Station site is designated for a wastewater treatment plant. ~~A Major Use Permit is required for development and operation of the wastewater treatment plant. The Major Use Permit may also allow the site to be used for other sewage treatment facilities, such as a pump station.~~ Because the pipelines and lift stations are generally allowed within these zoning designations, the proposed project would not result in a conflict with any applicable land use plan. Even so, pursuant to California Government Code Section 53091(e), zoning ordinances shall not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, generation, storage, treatment, or transmission of water by a local agency. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a conflict with any applicable land use plan. Therefore, a less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

At this time, the North County Multiple Species Conservation Program (NCMSCP) Plan has not been adopted. Once adopted, the plan will serve as a multiple species HCP pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the federal ESA, as well as a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California NCCP Act of 1991. Because this plan has not yet been adopted, no impact has been identified for this issue area.



**CEQA-Plus Evaluation**

**Coastal Zone Management Act:**

**Is any portion of the project site located within the coastal zone?**

- No. The project is not within the coastal zone.**
- Yes. Describe the project location with respect to coastal areas, and the status of the coastal zone permit, and provide a copy of the coastal zone permit or coastal exemption.**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**XI. MINERAL RESOURCES.** Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

According to Figure C-4 of the County of San Diego General Plan, Conservation and Open Space Element, the project is not located within a Mineral Resource Zone. The project area does not have existing or planned aggregate operations. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of mineral resources and no impact has been identified for this issue area.

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Refer to Response XI. a) above. No mineral resources have been identified in the project area. Therefore, there would be no impact on a locally important mineral resource recovery site.

**XII. NOISE.** Would the project result in:

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Exposure of persons to, or generate, noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Pursuant to Section 36.408 of the San Diego County Noise Ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate construction equipment between the hours of 7:00 p.m. of any day and 7:00 a.m. of the following day. In addition, pursuant to Section 36.409 of the San Diego County Noise Ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate construction equipment or cause construction equipment to be operated, that exceeds an average sound level of 75 decibels for an eight-hour period, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., when measured at the boundary line of the property where the noise source is located or on any occupied property where the noise is being received.

Equipment operation is the primary source of noise associated with construction activities. Construction activities associated with the proposed project includes the installation of pipelines



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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and the construction of two lift stations. The proposed project would create short-term noise associated with construction activities. Although construction noise would be audible to residents in the project area, the resulting noise levels would be temporary and phased over approximately 10 months. ~~However~~ Furthermore, construction at the project site would occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, in accordance with ~~the~~ Section 36.408 of the San Diego County Noise Ordinance ~~County of San Diego Municipal Code Section 59.5.0404.~~ Therefore, construction activities associated with the proposed project would not result in the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the San Diego Noise Ordinance.

The operation of the lift stations would not involve machinery, equipment or activities that would result in noise levels in exceedance of County thresholds. Specifically, mechanical equipment associated with the operation of the lift stations (e.g. pumps and generators) would incorporate standard project design features for noise control to ensure compliance with the County's Noise Ordinance. The pipelines would not generate any operational noise. Operation of the proposed project would not result in the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the San Diego County Noise Ordinance. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

No component of the proposed project would result in perceivable, long-term groundborne vibration or groundborne noise during operation. However, ground vibration from construction equipment could be perceptible to receptors in the vicinity of the construction activity. For example, the tamping of ground surfaces, the passing of heavy trucks on uneven surfaces, and the excavation of trenches would each create perceptible vibration in the immediate vicinity of the activity. The level of groundborne vibration that could reach sensitive receptors depends on the distance to the receptor, the type of equipment creating vibration, and the soil conditions surrounding the construction site. However, the impact from construction-related groundborne vibration would be short-term and confined to the immediate area around the activity ~~(within approximately 25 feet).~~ ~~Because all proposed construction activities would be more than 25 feet from any occupied structure, construction of the proposed project would not result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise level~~ Furthermore, construction at the project site would occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, in accordance with the County of San Diego Municipal Code Section 59.5.0404. Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. A less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Noise impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed project are anticipated during construction only, and are therefore temporary. No significant long-term (operational) noise impacts are anticipated with any component of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

See Response XII. a. Construction of the proposed project would not result in any significant temporary or periodic noise impacts. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. No impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

The nearest private airstrip is the Lake Wohlford Resort Airport, which is located approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the project area. Give the project area's distance to the airstrip, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels. No impacts are anticipated.

**XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.** Would the project:

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



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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The proposed project would construct facilities that will ultimately be required to provide wastewater service to the North Village Area. Although the proposed project would construct additional infrastructure, wastewater capacity requirements for the North Village Area are based on the approved County General Plan land use designation. The proposed project would enable VCMWD to ~~The project would~~ provide wastewater service only to existing and new development that is allowed under the zoning densities outlined in the current General Plan. Because the General Plan incorporates population growth in its zoning densities, the proposed project would not result in unanticipated or substantial population growth in the area. A less than significant impact is identified for this issue area.

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

No housing exists within the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impact is identified for this issue area.

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

No people reside within the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

**CEQA-Plus Evaluation**

**Environmental Justice:**

**Does the project involve an activity that is likely to be of particular interest to or have particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, or tribes?**

- No. Selecting “No” means that this action is not likely to be of any particular interest to or have an impact on these populations or tribes. Explain.**

Most frequently, adverse environmental effects have been associated with environmental insults thrust upon communities involving the siting or continued existing of operations involving the use, manufacture, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials. Another common form of insult is the development of environmentally beneficial benevolent projects that impose aesthetic or use limitation burdens upon selected communities or neighborhoods. However, the proposed project does not involve any of the above issues. The proposed project would construct facilities that will ultimately be required to provide wastewater service to the North Village Area. The proposed project is not likely to be of particular interest to or have particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, or tribes.

- Yes. If you answer yes, please check at least one of the boxes and provide a brief explanation below:**

- The project is likely to impact the health of these populations.**



- The project is likely to impact the environmental conditions of these populations.
- The project is likely to present an opportunity to address an existing disproportionate impact of these populations.
- The project is likely to result in the collection of information or data that could be used to assess potential impacts on the health or environmental conditions of these populations.
- The project is likely to affect the availability of information to these populations.
- Other reasons, describe:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES.** 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 to other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i) Fire protection?

The proposed project would not include the addition of housing, schools, or other community facilities that might require fire protection. Due to the limited number of construction workers and the duration of the construction schedule (10 months), no impact to fire protection services is anticipated.

ii) Police protection?

The proposed project would not include the addition of housing, schools, or other community facilities that might require police protection. Construction of the lift stations and pipelines would not change local police protection response times or affect demand for police protection services in the project area. Therefore, there would be no impact to police protection.

iii) Schools?

The proposed project does not include the development of residential land uses that would result in an increase in population or student generation. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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iv) Parks?





The proposed project would not increase population, generating an increase in demand on existing public or private parks or other recreational facilities that would either result in or increase physical deterioration of the facility. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.

v) Other public facilities?





The proposed project does not include the development of residential land uses that would result in an increase in population. Thus, the proposed project is not anticipated to adversely affect other public facilities (such as post offices). Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.

**XV. RECREATION.** Would the project:

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





Development of housing is not proposed as part of the project. The proposed project would not increase population, generating an increase in demand on existing public or private parks or other recreational facilities that would either result in or increase physical deterioration of the facility. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?





The proposed project consists of infrastructure improvements consisting of two lift stations and collection system pipelines is a solar facility and would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impact is identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**XVI. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC.**

Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance,, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

An estimated 20 truck trips per day would be necessary during construction activities associated with the proposed project. Trucks would be required to use designated truck routes when arriving to and departing from the project site. Truck deliveries would typically occur during off-peak hours and phased over the construction schedule to alleviate traffic impacts to local area roadways. The project has a potential to create temporary lane closures on Valley Center Road during construction of the pipelines, which may increase congestion during peak travel times. However, the addition of temporary construction-related traffic would not cause a substantial increase in traffic in relation to existing traffic. These trips would be temporary and short-term during project construction.—A Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will be implemented to minimize impacts to area roadways. Implementation of a TCP would ensure an adequate flow of traffic in both directions by: providing sufficient signage to alert drivers of construction zones, notifying emergency responders prior to construction, and conducting community outreach. Submittal of a Traffic Control Permit Application and preparation of a Traffic Control Plan are required as part of the application package for a County of San Diego Excavation Permit. The Traffic Control Plan will be submitted to and must be approved by the County of San Diego prior to any excavation work and must comply with County requirements such as identifying the work being performed and the exact location of work being performed. Upon approval of an Excavation Permit, the project contractor will be responsible for implementing the Traffic Control Plan during construction of the proposed project. Therefore, with implementation of a TCP, impacts would be less than significant.

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Refer to Response XVI.a) above. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Furthermore, the project is not located within the vicinity of a private or private use airport. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns that could result in substantial safety risks. No impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

The project does not proposed changes to the project area's circulation system that could substantially increase traffic hazards. Therefore, no impact has been identified for this issue area.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

A Traffic Control Plan would be required, which would include traffic control measures to limit potential impacts to emergency services and ensure safe ingress and egress for local users. Specifically, these measures would ensure an adequate flow of traffic in both directions by providing sufficient signage to alert drivers of construction zones, and notifying emergency responders prior to construction. The implementation of the Traffic Control Plan would result in adequate emergency access during construction activities associated with the proposed project. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

The existing surrounding circulation network would not change with the implementation of the proposed project. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with any adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities. Therefore, no impact is identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.**

Would the project:

- a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable regional water quality control board?

The project has been proposed to increase Valley Center's ability to sufficiently collect and convey wastewater generated by development contemplated in the County's General Plan. Although the proposed project would result in additional infrastructure to accommodate the treatment of additional flows from the North Village Area, wastewater capacity requirements for the North Village Area are based on the approved County General Plan land use designation.—The proposed project is not anticipated to exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable regional water quality control board. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

~~The project has been proposed to increase Valley Center's ability to sufficiently collect and convey wastewater generated by development contemplated in the County's General Plan. The proposed project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. No impact is identified for this issue area. Although the proposed project would result in additional infrastructure to accommodate the treatment of additional flows from the North Village Area, wastewater capacity requirements for the North Village Area are based on the approved County General Plan land use designation. The proposed project would not generate population growth and would increase the Valley Center's ability to sufficiently collect and convey wastewater generated by development contemplated in the County's General Plan. The construction of additional infrastructure would be beneficial and the impact would be less than significant. The proposed project would not require the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. No impact is identified for this issue area.~~



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed project is not anticipated to generate a significant increase in the amount of runoff water. The proposed North Village and Orchard Run Lift Station would have a minimal footprint of 90 feet by 50 feet (approximately 4,500 square feet each). The proposed project would not develop the remainder of the lift station parcels. Water will continue to percolate through the ground, as a majority of the surfaces on the project site will remain pervious. The proposed pipelines would not require additional stormwater facilities because they would be installed underground. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

The proposed project would require minimal water during construction. During operations, irrigation water would be used for minor landscaping. However, drought-tolerant species would be planted. The required water would not be substantial because the plants would not be watered on a daily basis. Therefore, no new or expanded entitlement would be needed. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?

Refer to Response XVII. a) above. A less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

The proposed project, once complete, would not require solid waste disposal. No demolition is proposed as part of the project; therefore, the project is not anticipated to generate a substantial amount of solid waste. In addition, any waste generated during construction would be disposed off site in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

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

Refer to Response XVII. f) above. Construction of the proposed project would require minimal solid waste material disposal and all waste generated during construction would be disposed off site in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, a less than significant impact has been identified for this issue area.

**XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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

As discussed in Response IV. a), potential impacts to biological resources, including endangered species or habitat, would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measures ~~BR-1~~ through BR-4. Additionally, as discussed in Response V. b), potential impacts to archaeological resources would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measure CR-1. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.



	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

Based on the analysis contained in this Initial Study, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources air quality, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems. Mitigation measures recommended for biological resources and cultural resources would reduce impacts to below a level of significance. The proposed project would incrementally contribute to cumulative impacts for projects occurring within the VCMWD service area. However, with mitigation, no residually significant impacts would result with implementation of the project. In the absence of residually significant impacts, the incremental accumulation of effects would not be cumulatively considerable.

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

Based on the analysis contained in this Initial Study, all impacts related to the proposed project can be mitigated to a level below significance. Therefore, substantial adverse impacts on human beings would not occur as a result of the proposed project.

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