INITIAL STUDY FOR

Lateral C-1 of the Wildomar Master Drainage Plan

Lead Agency:

CITY OF WILDOMAR

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Wildomar, CA 92595

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November 2014

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Note to Reader: To save natural resources, the appendices are contained on a CD-ROM included with the printed copy of this Initial Study. The appendices are also available on the Environmental Documents Center of the City of Wildomar Planning Department website (http://www.cityofwildomar.org/planning.asp). Printed copies of the appendices are also available as part of the project file and can be reviewed at the following location:

City of Wildomar City Hall
23873 Clinton Keith Road, Suite 201
Wildomar, CA 92595
Hours: Monday–Thursday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed Fridays)

APPENDICES INCLUDED ON ENCLOSED CD-ROM

A Air Qualiy/Greenhouse Gas Analysis

B.1 Biological Resources Assessment, Focused Survey for Burrowing Owl, and Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conseration Plan Consistency Analysis

B.2 Jurisdictional Delineation Report

B.3 Draft Determination of Biologically Equivalent of Superior Preservation

C Geotechnical Investigation

D Drainage Study

I. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose, Project Overview, and Project Location

This Initial Study evaluates the construction and operation of the Wildomar Master Drainage Plan (MDP) Lateral C-1 project located in the City of Wildomar (City), County of Riverside, CA (the Project).

The Project is generally bounded by the intersection of Palomar St and Refa St on the southwest, the terminus of Billie Ann Road on the northwest and the intersection of Charles Street and Woshka Lane on the northeast. The Project Location and Vicinity are shown on **Figure 1**. The Project site (or Project alignment) encompasses portions of Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 380-040-003, 380-050-002, 380-050-003, 380-050-008, and 380-050-009. The geographic coordinates near the middle of the Project alignment are 33.60091°N latitude and 117.26430° W latitude.

Project Description

The project consists of two backbone drainage facilities (Lateral C-1 and Lateral C-1A) and several ancillary laterals and inlets (hereinafter referred as the Project). Lateral C-1 will connect existing upstream City-owned facilities to the existing downstream Lateral C Channel that is owned and operated by Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (District). Once Lateral C-1 is constructed, it will ultimately be accepted by the District for operation and maintenance. Rights-of-way and construction easements will be acquired as needed.

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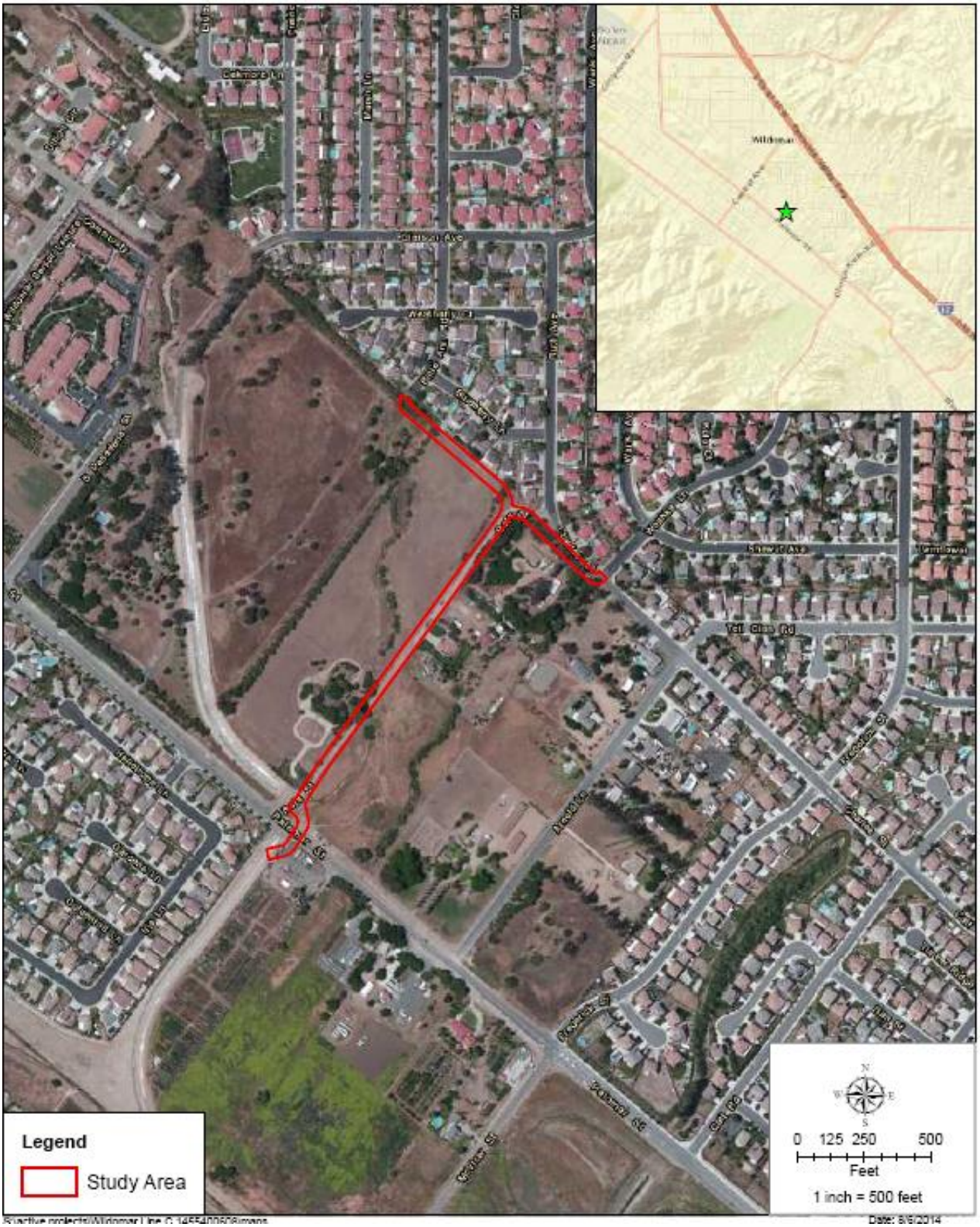

Source: AMEC

Figure 1 – Project Location and Vicinity

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II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

Most of the Project facilities will be constructed within Refa Street between Charles Street and Palomar Street. Refa Street is a graded and unpaved public road. Land uses to the east and west of Refa Street and south of Palomar Street consists of residences on large lots and vacant land, which has been disced for weed control. Established residential neighborhoods are located north of Charles Street and south of Palomar Street west of the existing Lateral C Channel. South of Palomar Street east of the Lateral C Channel is vacant land.

Additional information regarding existing conditions are found under the discussion of impacts to Biological Resources (Impacts 4a through 4f) and in Appendices B.1, B.2, B.3, and C.

III. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This section lists specific environmental review and consultation requirements and identifies permits and approvals that may need to be obtained from local, state, and federal agencies prior to implementation of the proposed project.

Federal

Clean Water Act

Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires any applicant for a federal license or permit conducting any activity that may result in a discharge of a pollutant into waters of the United States to obtain a certification that the discharge will comply with the applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regulates Section 401 requirements.

Section 404 of the CWA prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States" without a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administer the Clean Water Act. In addition to streams with a defined bed and bank, the definition of waters of the United States includes wetland areas "that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions" (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 328.3 7b). The lateral extent of non-tidal waters is determined by delineating the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) [33 CFR Section 328.4(c)(1)].

If adjacent wetlands occur, the limits of jurisdiction extend beyond the ordinary high water mark to the outer edge of the wetlands. The presence and extent of wetland areas are normally determined by examination of the vegetation, soils, and hydrology of a site. The majority of jurisdictional wetlands exhibit three wetland criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils.

Substantial impacts to jurisdictional wetlands may require an individual permit. Small-scale projects may require a nationwide permit, which typically has an expedited process compared to the individual permit process. Mitigation of wetland impacts is required as a condition of the 404 permit and may include on-site preservation, restoration, or enhancement and/or off-site restoration or enhancement. The characteristics of the restored or enhanced wetlands must be equal to or better than those of the affected wetlands to achieve no net loss of wetlands.

Endangered Species Act

The federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects threatened and endangered plants and animals and their critical habitat. Candidate species are those proposed for listing; these species are usually treated by resource agencies as if they were actually listed during the environmental review process. Procedures for addressing impacts to federally listed species follow two principal pathways, both of which require consultation with the USFWS, which administers the Endangered Species Act for all terrestrial species. The first pathway, Section 10(a) incidental take permit, applies to situations where a non-federal government entity must resolve potential adverse impacts to species protected under the ESA. The second pathway, Section 7 consultation, applies to projects directly undertaken by a federal agency or private projects requiring a federal permit or approval.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implements international treaties between the United States and other nations devised to protect migratory birds, their parts, eggs, and nests from activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. The State of California has incorporated the protection of birds of prey in Sections 3800, 3513, and 3503.5 of the Fish and Game Code (FGC).

All raptors and their nests are protected from take or disturbance under the MBTA (16 United States Code [USC] Section 703 et seq.) and California statute (FGC Section 3503.5). The golden eagle and bald eagle are also afforded additional protection under the Eagle Protection Act, amended in 1973 (16 USC Section 669 et seq.).

Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species

Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species directs all federal agencies to refrain from authorizing, funding, or carrying out actions or projects that may spread invasive species. The order further directs federal agencies to prevent the introduction of invasive species, control and monitor existing invasive species populations, restore native species to invaded ecosystems, research and develop prevention and control methods for invasive species, and promote public education on invasive species. As part of the proposed action, the USFWS and the USACE issue permits and are responsible for ensuring that the proposed action complies with Executive Order 13112 and does not contribute to the spread of invasive species.

State

California Endangered Species Act

Under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has the responsibility for maintaining a list of endangered and threatened species (Fish and Game Code Section 2070). Sections 2050 through 2098 of the FGC outline the protection provided to California's rare, endangered, and threatened species. Section 2080 of the Fish and Game Code prohibits the taking of plants and animals listed under the CESA. Section 2081 established an incidental take permit program for state-listed species. The CDFW maintains a list of "candidate species," which are species that the CDFW formally notices as being under review for addition to the list of endangered or threatened species.

Pursuant to the requirements of the CESA, an agency reviewing a proposed project within its jurisdiction must determine whether any state-listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area and determine whether the proposed project will have a potentially significant impact on such species. In addition, the CDFW encourages informal consultation on any proposed project that may impact a candidate species.

Project-related impacts to species on the CESA endangered or threatened list would be considered significant. State-listed species are fully protected under the mandates of the CESA. "Take" of protected species incidental to otherwise lawful management activities may be authorized under FGC Section 206.591. Authorization from the CDFW would be in the form of an incidental take permit.

Native Plant Protection Act

The Native Plant Protection Act of 1977 (FGC Section 1900 et seq.) prohibits the taking, possessing, or sale within the state of any plants with a state designation of rare, threatened, or endangered (as defined by

the CDFW). An exception to this prohibition in the act allows landowners, under specified circumstances, to take listed plant species, provided that the owners first notify the CDFW and give that state agency at least 10 days to come and retrieve (and presumably replant) the plants before they are plowed under or otherwise destroyed (FGC Section 1913 exempts from take prohibition "the removal of endangered or rare native plants from a canal, lateral ditch, building site, or road, or other right of way"). Project impacts to these species are not considered significant unless the species are known to have a high potential to occur within the area of disturbance associated with construction of the proposed project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife also maintains lists of "species of special concern," which serve as species "watch lists." The CDFW has also identified many species of special concern. Species with this status have limited distribution or the extent of their habitats has been reduced substantially, such that their populations may be threatened. Thus, their populations are monitored, and they may receive special attention during environmental review. While they do not have statutory protection, they may be considered rare under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and thereby warrant specific protection measures.

Sensitive species that would qualify for listing but are not currently listed are afforded protection under CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Section 15065 (Mandatory Findings of Significance) requires that a substantial reduction in numbers of a rare or endangered species be considered a significant effect. CEQA Guidelines Section 15380 (Rare or Endangered Species) provides for assessment of unlisted species as rare or endangered under CEQA if the species can be shown to meet the criteria for listing. Unlisted plant species on the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Lists 1A, 1B, and 2 would typically be considered under CEQA.

Sections 3500 to 5500 of the FGC outline protection for fully protected species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Species that are fully protected by these sections may not be taken or possessed at any time. The CDFW cannot issue permits or licenses that authorize the take of any fully protected species, except under certain circumstances such as scientific research and live capture and relocation of such species pursuant to a permit for the protection of livestock.

Under Section 3503.5 of the FGC, it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders of Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

State and local public agencies are subject to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code, which governs construction activities that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow or substantially change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake designated by the CDFW. Under Section 1602, a discretionary Streambed Alteration Agreement permit from the CDFW must be issued by the CDFW to the project developer prior to the initiation of construction activities within lands under CDFW jurisdiction. As a general rule, this requirement applies to any work undertaken within the 100-year floodplain of a stream or river containing fish or wildlife resources.

Local

Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

The Western Riverside County MSHCP is a comprehensive, multijurisdictional habitat conservation plan focusing on conservation of species and their associated habitats in western Riverside County. This plan is one of several large, multijurisdictional habitat-planning efforts in Southern California with the overall

goal of maintaining biological and ecological diversity within a rapidly urbanizing region. The MSHCP will allow Riverside County and its cities to better control local land-use decisions and maintain a strong economic climate in the region while addressing the requirements of the state and federal endangered species acts. The MSHCP serves as a habitat conservation plan pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC Section 1531 et seq.), as well as a natural communities conservation plan (NCCP) under the NCCP Act of 2001 (FGC Section 2800 et seq.). The MSHCP allows the participating jurisdictions to authorize "take" of plant and wildlife species identified within the Plan Area. The USFWS and the CDFW have authority to regulate the take of threatened, endangered, and rare species. Under the MSHCP, the wildlife agencies have granted "take authorization" for otherwise lawful actions, such as public and private development that may incidentally take or harm individual species or their habitat outside of the MSHCP conservation area, in exchange for the assembly and management of a coordinated MSHCP conservation area. The MSHCP is a "criteria-based plan" and does not rely on a hard-line preserve map. Instead, within the MSHCP Plan Area, the MSHCP reserve will be assembled over time from a smaller subset of the Plan Area referred to as the Criteria Area. The Criteria Area consists of Criteria Cells (Cells) or Cell Groupings and flexible guidelines (Criteria) for the assembly of conservation within the Cells or Cell Groupings. Cells and Cell Groupings also may be included within larger units known as Cores, Linkages, or Non-Contiguous Habitat Blocks.

<u>City of Wildomar General Plan</u>

- **Land Use:** The Project is consistent with the policy statements contained in the Land Use Element and with General Plan Land Use Map.

- **2. Circulation:** The Project does not propose the alteration of an existing or constructin of any new circulaiton facilities and is therefore consistent with the policy statements contained in the Circulation Element.

- **3. Multipurpose Open Space:** The Project site is not located within any MSHCP Criteria Cells or within an area identified for conservation or open space purposes. The Project is consistent with the policy statements contained in the Open Space Element.

- **4. Safety:** The proposed Project is located in an area identified as being susceptible to ground subsidence and a moderate potential for liquefaction. The southern portion of the Project site is within a Riverside County Fault Zone and a 100-year flood hazard zone. The Project is not located in a high fire area. The Project does not propose any use intended for human occupancy and is consistent with the policy statements contained in the Sarety Element.

- **5. Noise:** The Project is located approximately one-half mile from Interstate 15 and approximately one mile from Clinton Keith Road, which are the dominant noise sources in the Project vicinity. The Project consists of storm drain facilities, which will not produce noise once construction is complete. The Project is consistent with the policy statements contained in the Noise Element.

- **6. Housing:** The Project does not contain or propose any housing. The Project is consistent with the policy statements contained in the Housing Element.

- **7. Air Quality:** Once construction is complete the Project site will not generate operational air quality emissions. The Project is consistent with the policy statements contained in the Air Quality Element.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

A. BACKGROUND

1. Project Title:

Lateral C-1 of the Wildomar Master Drainage Plan

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

City of Wildomar, 23873 Clinton Keith Road, Suite 201, Wildomar, CA 92595

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Dan York, Public Works Director; (951) 677-7751, ext. 216

4. Project Location:

The Project will be located within Refa Street between Charles Street and Palomar Street **(Figure 1 – Project Location and Vicinity)**; Assessor's Parcel Numbers 380-040-003, 380-050-002, 380-050-003, 380-050-008, 380-050-009; Township 6 south, Range 4 west, Section 35 West of the Murrieta, California, United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map

5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:

City of Wildomar Public Works Department, 23873 Clinton Keith Road, Suite 201, Wildomar, CA 92595

6. General Plan Designation:

Rural Residential

7. Zoning:

Residential R-1 (One Family Dwellings)

8. Description of Project:

The project consists of the construction of two drainage facilities (Lateral C-1 and Lateral C-1A) and several ancillary laterals and inlets. Lateral C-1 will connect existing upstream city-owned facilities to the existing downstream Lateral C Channel that is owned and operated by the District under a Cooperative Agreement that is being finalized between the City and the District. Facilities to be constructed consist of:

- Approximately 1,310 feet of 84-inch diameter and 498 feet of 90-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) storm drain within Charles Street trending northwest to a junction with the 84-inch diameter storm drain in Refa Street then within Refa Street to a culvert crossing in Palomar Street.
- Approximately 544 feet of 72-inch diameter RCP storm drain within Billie Ann Road trending southeast within an easement in Assessor's Parcel Numbers 380-050-002 and 380-050-003 to a junction with the 84-inch diameter storm drain in Refa Street.

- A 7-foot by 7-foot box culvert crossing Palomar Street to the existing Lateral C Channel.

Lateral C-1 will be designed to accept 100-year storm flows from adjacent developments as well as discharge tributary to the channel. These flows will be conveyed to Palomar Street, where the channel will connect to the District's existing Wildomar MDP Lateral C Channel. The flows will continue down Wildomar Channel and into Murrieta Creek.

Rights-of-way and construction easements will be acquired along the Project alignment as needed.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

North - Residential (R-1); developed with single family homes

East - Rural Residential (R-R); one home on a large lot

South – Residential (R-1) and Rural Residential (R-R); developed with single family homes

West - Residential (R-1) and Rural Residential (R-R) two residences on large lots

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required:

Federal Agencies *(not "public agencies" as defined by CEQA or required to take a CEQA action)*

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

  A Clean Water Act Section 404 permit will be required if the construction or maintenance of the proposed facilities involves the discharge of dredged or fill materials within waters of the United States or adjacent wetlands.

State Agencies

- Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Diego Region (RWQCB)

  If a 404 permit is required, then a Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be required.

- California Department of Fish and Game [1]

  A Fish and Game Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required if a jurisdictional streambed or stream banks will be altered.

Regional Agencies

- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation

  Approval of the Project design and acceptance of the completed facilities for ongoing operation and maintenance.

[1] Effective January 1, 2013, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) changed its name to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), although its services and purpose has not changed. This document includes several references to CDFG and the Fish and Game Code, all of which coincide with the services, purpose and mission of the CDFW. Because applicable statues and the CEQA Checklist have not yet been updated, this document and related technical reports refers to the CDFW as the CDFG.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project involving at least one impact that is "Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency):

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

Matthew Bassi
Signature

10/29/2014
Date

Matthew Bassi
Printed Name

City of Wildomar
For

V. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

1. Aesthetics

Issues, would the proposal:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			✓	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				✓
e) Interfere with the nighttime use of the Mount Palomar Observatory, as protected through the Mount Palomar Observatory Lighting Ordinance?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact**. A scenic vista is a distant and picturesque view of a natural landscape. The proposed storm drains, which will be underground, will not permanently alter views of, or from, the Project area. The proposed Project does not entail any vertical facilities or structures. Therefore, Project implementation will not obstruct any scenic views and there will be no impacts to scenic vistas.

b) **No Impact**. There are no designated scenic highways or scenic highway corridors located adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Project. The proposed storm drains, which are underground facilities, will be constructed within road ROWs and disturbed vacant land, does not contain any rock outcroppings or historic buildings. Additionally, once construction of the underground facilities is complete the surface will be returned to its original condition. Any impact will be less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Construction of the Project will temporarily alter views of the site, but not in a manner as to constitute a significant impact. Moreover, as the proposed storm drains are underground facilities, once construction is complete the surface will be returned to its original condition. Therefore, the Project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the Project area. Any impact would be less than significant.

d) **No Impact**. The proposed Project will not entail the installation of lighting or the construction of above ground vertical structures and as such will not result in new or additional light or glare. There would be no impact.

e) The Project site is located within Zone B of the Mt. Palomar Nighttime Lighting Policy Area. Because the Project does not include any light sources, and cannot be constructed at night it is consistent with City 9.48 Noise Regulations of the Wildomar Municipal Code, it has no potential to affect nighttime lighting or interfere with the use of Palomar Observatory. There would be no impact.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

2. Agricultural Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				✓
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?				✓
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?				✓

DISCUSSION

a, e) **No Impact.** The Project site is not located in an area identified as having Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Neither the Project site nor the surrounding properties currently support agricultural uses. In consideration of the current land use designation and zoning of the Project site, as well as the current uses occurring on the land adjacent to the site, the proposed Project will not result in the conversion of agricultural land. There will be no impacts.

b, c, d) **No Impact.** There are no Williamson Act contracted-properties or existing agricultural uses adjacent to or in proximity to the Project site. The site is located in an urbanized area of Wildomar and does not contain forestland. No impacts to currenlt agrcitulrual land use, land under a williamson Act Contract, or forestland or timberland wiil occur.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

3. Air Quality

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				✓
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			✓	
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			✓	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (Basin), which is in the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Basin was established by SCAQMD to set forth a comprehensive program that will lead the Basin into compliance with all federal and state air quality standards. To achieve compliance with these standards, the AQMP establishes control measures and related emission reduction estimates that are based upon emissions projections for a future development scenario derived from land use, population, and employment characteristics defined in consultation with local governments. Accordingly, conformance with the AQMP for any given project is determined by demonstrating that such project is in compliance with local land use plans and/or population projections.

Since the proposed Project consists of infrastructure that in and of itself will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns in the Project area, implementation of the proposed Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP and there will be no impacts in this regard.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Air quality impacts can be described in a short-term and long-term perspective. Short-term impacts will occur during construction and consist of fugitive dust and other particulate matter, as well as exhaust emissions generated by construction-related vehicles. Long-term air quality impacts will occur once a facility is in operation. The only Project-generated operational emissions will result from the occasional maintenance vehicle and are considered negligible; therefore only short-term construction impacts were evaluated.

Short-term emissions from Project construction were evaluated using the CalEEMod version 2011.1.1 program (Appendix A). The default parameters within CalEEMod were used and these

default values reflect a worst-case scenario, which means that Project emissions are expected to be equal to or less than the estimated emissions. Maximum daily emissions from Project construction are summarized below and compared to the SCAQMD daily thresholds:

Table 3-1 – Estimated Daily Construction Emissions

Activity/Year	Peak Daily Emissions (lb/day)					
	VOC	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM-10	PM-2.5
SCAQMD Daily Construction Thresholds	**75**	**100**	**550**	**150**	**150**	**55**
Construction Maximum	16.30	97.71	68.36	0.11	9.20	6.85
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: Table 2, WEBB(a)
ROG = reactive organic gas
NO_X = oxides of nitrogen
CO = carbon monoxide
SO_X = sulfur oxides
PM_{10} = particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter
$PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter

Evaluation of **Table 3-1** indicates that the maximum daily criteria pollutant emissions from Project construction are below the SCAQMD daily regional thresholds. Additionally, the short-term emissions do not exceed SCAQMD's localized significance thresholds (LST), as contained in Appendix A. Therefore, Project-related impacts to air quality will be less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Project will result in an additional increment of air pollution to the South Coast Air Basin. However this additional contribution will be minor and is not expected to result in a cumulatively significant impact to air quality because the Project's emissions do not exceed applicable SCAQMD thresholds. As a result, the Project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** SCAQMD defines sensitive receptors as a land use or facility such as residences, schools, athletic facilities, hospitals, or convalescent facilities. There are residential units adjacent to the Project alignment. Therefore, sensitive receptors will be exposed temporarily to short-term construction emissions. However, as discussed under Impact b), short-term emissions during construction of the Project will not exceed SCAQMD daily regional thresholds or localized thresholds and have been found to be less than significant. Because construction and operation of the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations impacts will be less than significant.

e) **Less than Significant Impact**. The Project presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust during construction in the immediate vicinity of the Project alignment. However, these odors will be of short-term duration and will not result in a long-term odorous impact to the surrounding land uses or sensitive receptors in the Project area. After completion of the proposed storm drains, only infrequent maintenance of these facilities will be required. Recognizing the short-term duration and quantity of emissions in the Project

area, implementation of the Project will result in less than significant impacts with regards to objectionable odors.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS
None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES
None required.

4. Biological Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		✓		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		✓		
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		✓		
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				✓
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan?		✓		

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** A general biological resources assessment, focused survey for burowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a jurisdictional delineation, and a draft determination of of biologically equivalent or superior preservation were conducted for the Project alignment. The results of these sruveys and delineations are documented in the *Wildomar Master Drainage Plan Lateral C-1 Storm Drain Project, Biological Resources Assesment, Focused Surey for Burrowing Owl and Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan Consistency Analysis, Jurisdictional Delineation Report, Lateral C-1 Strom Drain Project*, and the *Draft Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation,* which are respectively included as Appendices B.1, B.2, and B.3 of this document.

Most of the Project alignment is located within existing paved and/or highly compacted dirt surfaces of public roadways (i.e., Refa Street and Charles Street). However, one area of the

alignment, crosses an undeveloped vacant field located west of the intersection of Refa Street/Charles Street. Two narrow, intermittent strips of trees and shrubs (i.e., Peruvian pepper [*Schinus molle*], willows [*Salix* spp.] and mulefat [*Bacharris salicifolia*]) will be crossed by this portion of the alignment. There is a small patch of cattails (*Typha* sp.) and bullrush (*Scirpus* sp.) northwestern terminus of this portion of the alignment.

Vegetation present in the undeveloped areas and along the roadside margins of the Project alignment consists primarily of non-native grassland dominated by ruderal, weedy and invasive exotic plant species resulting from prior weed abatement and fire control practices. Other areas along the alignment are vegetated with ornamental shrubs, trees and ground cover as these areas serve as property boundaries and residential landscaping. Conversely, several areas along the alignment were entirely barren, having been very recently disced or otherwise cleared of all vegetation presumably toserve as firebreaks or weed control.

Dominant plant species along the Project alignment consists of ostly dormant or dead, mustards (*Brassica* ssp.) and bromes (*Bromus* ssp.), slender wild oats (*Avenua barbata*) and vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*). Landscaped, ornamental trees present along the alignment include Peruvian pepper (*Schinus molle*), gum trees (*Eucalyptus* spp.), Australian acacia (*Acacia* sp.), Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), almond (*Prunus dulcis*) and shrubs are also present intermittently throughout the alignment, usually planted along fence lines, as windbreaks or decoratively around residential, industrial, and commercial development.

There are several oak trees that occur intermittently along portions of the Project alignment What appears (from a distance)[2] to be a coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is present on a parcel of inaccessible private property just west of the intersection of Refa Street and Charles Street. This tree appears to be outside, just north of the proposed Project alignment. Several sapling coast live oaks are also present near the western end of the alignment. These oak saplings appear to be south of the proposed alignment and are under the size threshold (2-inch diameter at breast height) to be coverd under the Riverside County Oak Tree Management Guidelines. In addition to the native oaks, at least one non-native oak tree is also present along the alignment. A single southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) is present on a parcel of inaccessible private property but hangs over the property line on to Refa Street. This tree, along with many other ornamental trees and shrubs along the alignment may require trimming and the project disturbance may extend into the drip line of these trees.

There is no suitable habitat (i.e., coastal sage scrub or chaparral) for the listed coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) anywhere along the Project alignment. There is also no suitable habitat (i.e., extensive areas of multi-layered riparian vegetation and surface water or saturated soils for at least a portion of the year) for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) anywhere along the alignment. Two of the drainages traversed by the project contain riparian vegetation that is potentially suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Refer to Impact b) for additional discussion regarding riparian habitat.

[2] Permission to access the property upon which this tree is located was not granted by the property owner; thus, AMEC could not able to view the tree up close and the Project's disturbance area could not be staked to definitively establish whether the tree would be in or outside the disturbance area.

Project construction will require the removal of vegetation having the potential to support nesting birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Project-related impacts to nesting birds will be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures **BIO-1** and **BIO-2**, which requires a preconstruction survey prior to any vegetation removal taking place between February 1st and August 31st 15th and the establishment of buffers and noise monitoring around any active nests.

The Project area contains potentially suitable habitat for burrowing owl with suitable burrows being present. However, because no burrowing owl were detected within or adjacent to the Project alignment during the focused surveys and no diagnostic owl sign was detected near any of the burrows, the burrowing owl was determined to be absent from the site. Since potentially suitable habitat is present, the Project will adhere to Objective 6 of the MSHCP, which recommends pre-construction presence/absence surveys where suitable habitat is present to be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance. Adherence to mitigation measures **BIO-3** and **BIO-4**, which requires a preconstruction survey for burrowing owls and identifies the actions to be taken in the event burrowing owls are detected, will reduce potential impacts to burrowing owl to less than significant.

For the reasons discussed above, impacts to candidtate, threatenend, and endangered species will be reduced to less than significant.

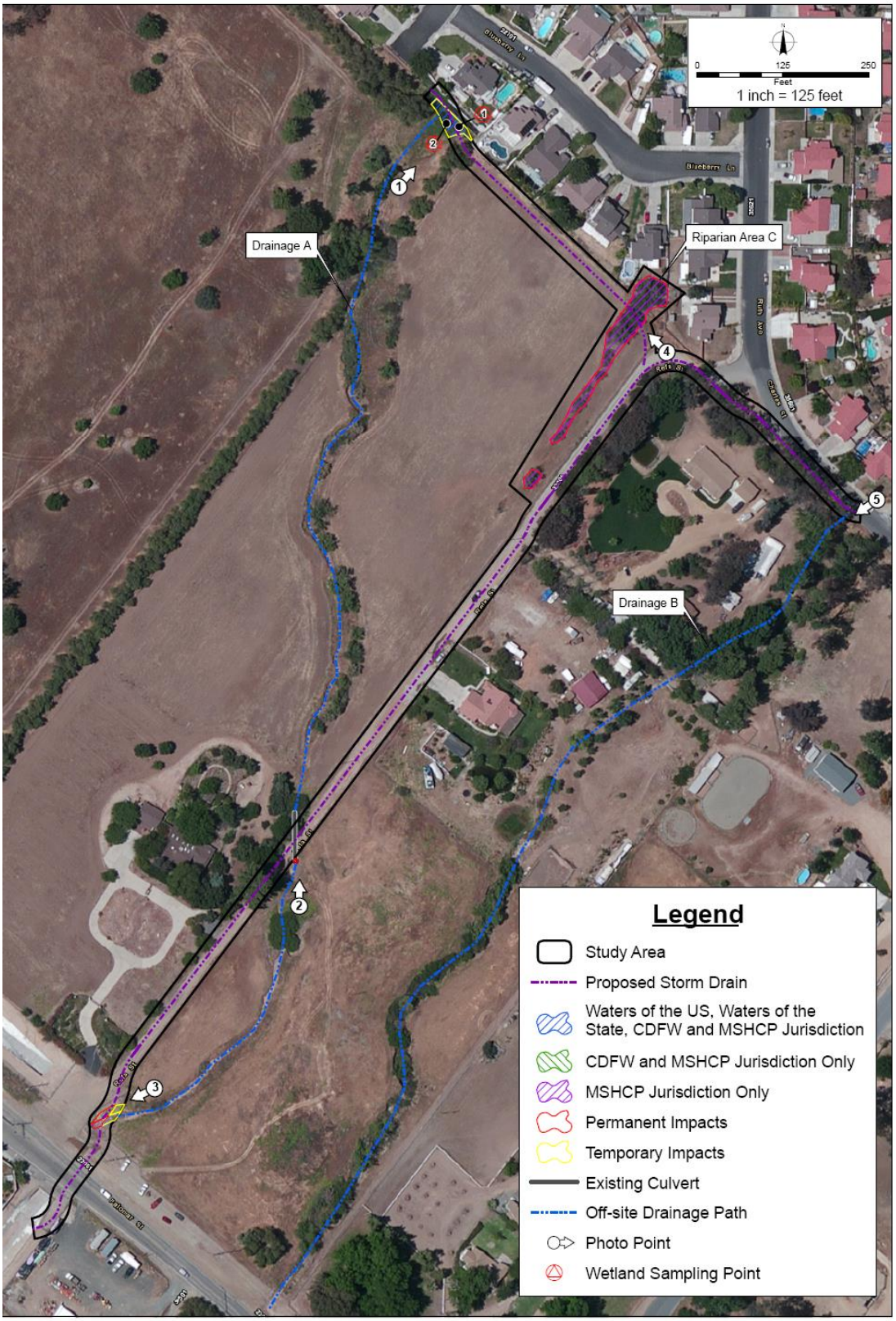
Potential impacts to riparian habitat are disucssed under Impact b).

b-c) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated.** The study area contains two jurisdictional drainages identified as Drainage A and B and a riparian area not associated with a drainage identified as Riparian Area C. **Table 1 – Summary of Impacts to Jurisdictional Areas** summarizes the jurisdictional areas shown on **Figure 2 – Jurisdictional Delineation Map** (on the following page) affected by the Project.

Table 4-1 – Summary of Impacts to Jurisdictional Areas

Jurisdictional Area	WUS, WSC, CDFW and MSHCP Jurisdiction (acres)		CDFW and MSHCP Jurisdiction Only (acres)		MSHCP Jurisdiction Only (acres)		Length (feet)
	Temp. Impacts	Perm. Impacts	Temp. Impacts	Perm. Impacts	Temp. Impacts	Perm. Impacts	
Drainage A	0.033	0.004	0.003	0.006	0	0	77
Drainage B	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Riparian Area C	0	0	0	0	0	0.153	315
Total	0.033	0.004	0.003	0.006	0	0.153	392

Source: AMEC(b)
MSHCP – Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
WUS – Waters of the United States
WSC – Waters of the State
CDFW – California Department of Fish and Wildlife



Source: AMEC

Figure 2 – Jurisdictional Delineation Map

Drainage A supports riparian vegetation, has an earthen bottom, and is traversed by the proposed Project alignment in two places south of Billie Ann Road and west of Refa Steet. Drainage A begins at a storm drain outlet at the south end of Billie Ann Road. The storm drain outlets onto a concrete flow spreading structure Drainage A then continues south outside of the study area for 1,050 feet before traversing the study area again where it crosses under Refa Street in a 3-foot reinforced concrete pipe. Drainage A then continues off-site for 500 feet before entering the study area again at the south end of Refa Street where it flows through un-grouted rip-rap and into a box culvert that conveys it beneath Palomar Avenue. (See Figure 2)

Drainage A is an ephemeral stream that likely flows for less than 3 months per year, and would therefore be classified as a non-relatively permanent wateray (RPW) by the USACE. Drainage A flows into an RPW, Murrieta Creek one-quarter mile downstream of the study area; another RPW, the Santa Margarita River, 12 miles downstream of the study area; and a traditionally navigable waterway (TNW), the Pacific Ocean, approximately 43 river miles downstream of the study area.

Drainage A has a surface water connection to a TNW, and therefore would be considered a jurisdictional WUS based on SWANCC. Due to the proximity of Drainage A to Murrieta Creek and the Santa Margarita River, it is likely that the USACE would consider it to have a “significant nexus” with a TNW, and be considered a jurisdictional WUS based on Rapanos.

Drainage B also supports riparian vegetation, has an earthern bottom and is present and at the northwest terminus of the Project alignment at the intersection of Charles Street and Woshka Lane. Drainage B enters the study area through a concrete storm drain outlet structure on the south side of Charles Street. Directly downstream of the outlet structure. (See Figure 2)

Riparian Area C consists of a strip of willow trees (*Salix sp*.) and a single pepper tree (*Schinus sp*.) near the north end of Refa Street that is not associated with a watercourse. This area meets the definition of riparian/riverine under the MSHCP but is not within USACE, RWQCB, or CDFW jurisdiction due to the lack of an associated watercourse.

The existing storm drain outlets at the north end of Drainages A and B will connect directly to the proposed Lateral C-1 storm drain. High flows will be conveyed through the proposed storm drain and low flows will be conveyed through the existing watercourses. The new storm drain at the north end of Drainage A will connect directly to the existing storm drain outlet causing temporary impacts in that area. Where Drainage A crosses beneath Refa Street, the existing culvert will be removed and then replaced in the same location after the storm drain is installed. A small area (25 square feet) of rip-rap will be added to the downstream end of the culvert in this area causing permanent impacts. At the downstream end of Drainage A, a concrete transition structure will be placed in the rip-rap portion of streambed directly upstream of the existing culvert causing permanent impacts.

The new storm drain at the north end of Drainage B will connect within the existing concrete outlet structure and will not cause any impacts to the streambed downstream of the outlet structure.

Permanent impacts to Riparian Area C will be caused by the storm drain outlet that feeds it being incorporated into the new storm drain. This connection will not allow low flows to continue naturally and all flows will be contained in the new storm drain.

Table 4-2–Total Project Impact by Agency identifies the proposed impacts to jurisdictional waters in the on-site jurisdictional areas.

Table 4-2 – Total Project Impacts by Agency

Impacts	US Army Corps of Engineers (acre)	Regional Water Quality Control Board (acre)	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (acre)	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (acre)
Temporary	0.033	0.033	0.036	0.036
Permanent	0.004	0.004	0.011	0.164

Because the Project will result in temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas, in compliance with Section 404/401 of the Clean Water Act and Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code, necessary authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board, and CDFW would need to be obtained prior to construction as required by mitigation measure **MM BIO-5**.

Because the Project will result in permanent impacts to riparian areas as defined by the MHSCP, a Draft Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation (DBESP) has been prepared and is included as Appendix B.3. The purpose of the DBESP process is to ensure the replacement of any lost functions and values of habitat as it related to MSHCP covered species. The DBESP process will be completed prior to Project coconstruction and impacts mitigated as required by mitigation measure **MM BIO-6.**

Section 6.1.2 of the MSHCP states that a project proponent shall ensure that, through the CEQA process, project alternatives demonstrating efforts that first avoid, and then minimize direct and indirect effects to wetlands are to be developed and an avoidance alternative selected, if feasible. The MSHCP further states that if an avoidance alternative is not feasible, a practicable alternative that minimizes direct and indirect effects to riparian/riverine areas and associated functions and values to the greatest extent possible shall be selected. Those impacts that are unavoidable shall be mitigated such that the lost functions and values as they relate to covered species are replaced as set forth under the DBESP.

A 100-percent avoidance alternative for this project is not feasible due to the inability for the existing drainage and flood control features to convey 100-year storm flows, which is a localized drainage problem. However, various minimization/mitigation measures and Project design features have been incorporated and/or will be implemented to reduce impacts to the greatest extent possible:

- The Project will be constructed primarily in existing city streets (Refa Street), where possible, which will have relatively minimal impacts to undisturbed areas.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to minimize impacts caused by dust, run-off, trash, etc.

- Direct impacts to riverine/riparian habitat will be minimized to the greatest extent feasible.

- Construction in and/or adjacent to areas potentially occupied by actively nesting bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) will be conducted outside of the avian nesting bird season where feasible as required by mitigation measure **BIO-1**.

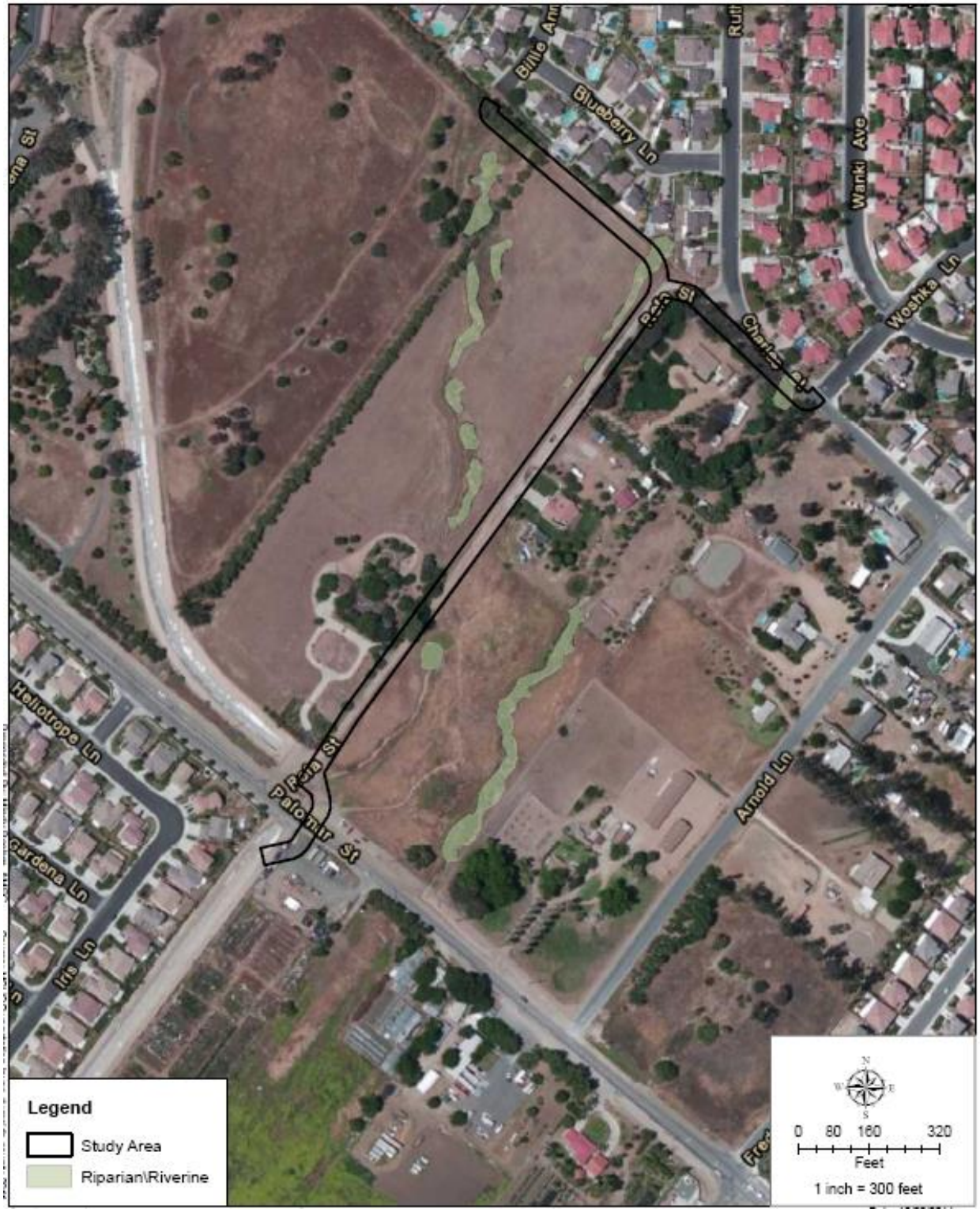
- A focused survey for least Bells' vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus), will be conducted to determine if it occurs onsite or in the riparian habitat in the immediate vicinity (**Figure 3 – Riparian Vegetation, Potential Least Bell's Vireo Habitat**). If Project construction is approved prior to completion of focused surveys for the least Bell's vireo, mitigation measure **BIO-7**, which specifices exlusion areas will be implemented.

- Mitigation for the temporary and permanent impacts to riparian/riverine habitat will be provided through the purchase of mitigation credits at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts and 2:1 for permanent impacts, or some other equivalent means as determined through the DBESP process as set forth in mitigation measure **BIO-6**.

With implementation of mitigation measures **BIO-2**, and **BIO-5** through **BIO-7**, impacts to federally protected wetlands and riparian habitat will be less than significant.

d) **Less than Significant Impact.** According to the MSHCP, the Project alignment is not located within any established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors. There are no wildlife nurseries within or adjacent to the Project alignment. Additionally, implementation of the Project will not preclude such future uses since the proposed facilities are below ground and the ground surface will be restored once construction is complete. However, the Project alignment contains vegetation with the potential to support nesting birds, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code prohibits impacts to nesting birds. Thus, if Project-related construction takes place during the nesting season, there is the potential to interfere with protected birds; however, with implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1, which requires nesting bird surveys prior to construction during the nesting season and avoidance of active nests, potential impacts will be less than significant.

e) **No Impact.** While there are oak trees along the Project Alignment (**Figure 4 – Location of Oak Trees**), Riverside County Ordinance 559, adopted by the City of Wildomar upon incorporation, applies only to native trees located on land above 5,000 feet in elevation. Elevation along the Project alignment ranges from approximately 1,230 to 1,276 above mean sea level; therefore, Ordinance 559 does not apply to the Project. The Wildomar Municipal Code (Chapter 16.44) includes a requirement for street trees; however, these provisions are intended for new trees to be planted along roadways and do not address existing native or non-native trees. The Project is also consistent with the MSHCP and Stephen Kangaroo Rat HCP.



Source: AMEC

Figure 3 – Riparian Vegetation, Least's Bell Vireo Habitat

Source: AMEC

Figure 4 – Oak Trees

f) The Project is located within the Elsinore Area Plan of the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) but not within any of the MSHCP-designated cells, corridors, or Criteria Areas. The Project is also not located immediately adjacent to any MSHCP cells, corridor, or Criteria Areas.

The MSHCP serves as a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional Habitat Conservation Plan, pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, as well as a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the State NCCP Act of 2001. The MSHCP encompasses all unincorporated Riverside County land west of the crest of the San Jacinto Mountains to the Orange County line, as well as the jurisdictional areas of the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Norco, Corona, Riverside, Moreno Valley, Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Perris, Hemet, San Jacinto, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Menifee, and Wildomar. The overall biological goal of the MSHCP is to conserve covered species and their habitats, as well as maintain biological diversity and ecological processes while allowing for future economic growth within a rapidly urbanizing region. Implementation of the MSHCP will result in an MSHCP Conservation Area in excess of 500,000 acres and focuses on the conservation of 146 species. Compliance with the MSHCP provides mitigation for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to biological resources for purposes of CEQA.

The MSHCP was adopted June 17, 2003. On June, 22, 2004, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its findings, biological opinion, and Take Permit for the MSHCP. The District is a signatory to the MSHCP Implementing Agreement (IA), and is required to comply with all applicable policies and requirements of the MSHCP including: (1) MSHCP Reserve assembly requirements (Section 3.2.1); (2) compliance with the policies of the Protection of Species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools as set forth in Section 6.1.2; (3) compliance with the policies for the protection of Narrow Endemic Plant Species as set forth in Section 6.1.3; (4) conduct surveys as set forth in Section 6.3.2; (5) compliance with all requirements of Section 7.3.7; (6) compliance with Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines as set forth in Section 6.1.4; and (7) compliance with the Best Management Practices and the siting requirements and design criteria as set forth in Section 7.0 and Appendix C of the MSHCP. A discussion of the Project's compliance with these provisions is provided in the following paragraphs.

<u>Section 3.2.1 - Reserve Assembly</u>: The Project does not occur within the MSHCP Criteria Area and is not located on any Public/Quasi-Public (P/QP) designated lands. As such, the Project is not subject to the Habitat Evaluation and Acquisition Negotiation Strategy (HANS) or the Joint Project Review (JPR) process.

<u>Section 6.1.2 - Protection of species Associated with Riparian/Riverine Areas and Vernal Pools</u>: The site traverses two natural drainages that qualify as "Waters of the state of California" (WSC) and "Waters of the United States" (WUS)." Project impacts to these areas trigger riparian/riverine protection under the MSHCP. Willows (*Salix* spp.), Freemont cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and cattails are intermittently present along several areas along two drainages traversed by the project alignment. These drainages flow into a concrete-lined channel just north of Palomar Street. (AMEC(a), p. 6) In order to comply with the provisions of the MSHCP, a draft DBESP has been prepared and will be approved as required by mitigation measure **BIO-6**.

No vernal pools, or areas considered to have potential for vernal pooling were observed along

the alignment. Focused surveys for listed fairy shrimp are not recommended for this project. (AMEC(a), p. 6)

Potentially suitable riparian habitat for least Bell's vireo is intermittently present within two drainages traversed by portions of the project alignment. However, the areas of potentially suitable habitat are generally not located at the alignment/drainage crossings. The potentially suitable habitat is primarily located offsite, west, northwest and south of the portions of the Project alignment. (AMEC(a), p. 6) Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-6 will reduce impacts to this species to less than significant.

Habitat suitable for southwestern willow flycatcher is not present anywhere along the Project alignment. (AMEC(a), p. 6)

Section 6.1.3 - Protection of Narrow Endemic Plan Species: requisite Narrow Endemic Plant Species Survey Areas or Criteria Area Plant Survey Areas. Therefore, focused plant surveys are not required pursuant to this section of the MSHCP. (AMEC(a), p. 6)

Section 6.1.4 - Guidelines Pertaining to the Urban/Wildland Interface: The Project alignment does not occur adjacent to sensitive habitats, including MSHCP Criteria Areas. Additionally, because Project implementation will not result in long term adverse edge effects such as drainage, toxics, lighting, noise, invasive species, barriers, or grading, no significant indirect impacts to special-status biological resources will occur. Therefore, the MSHCP Urban/Wildlands Interface Guidelines are not applicable.

Section 6.3.2 - Additional Survey Needs and Procedures: Portions of the Project alignment occur within the burrowing owl survey area, but not within the CAPSSA, amphibian, or mammal survey areas. Focused burrowing owl surveys were conducted following the MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions; however, no burrowing owls were detected on or adjacent to the Project alignment. With implementation of mitigation measure **MM BIO 3**, the Project will comply with the MSHCP's requirement for a pre-construction burrowing owl survey. (AMEC(a), p. 8)

Because riparian vegetation and two drainages, which are blue-line streams, are traversed by several areas of the proposed alignment, Riverside County will require a Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation DBESP analysis in accordance with MSHCP guidelines. (AMEC(a), p. 7)

If Project-related construction takes place between February 1 and August 31 (the nesting season) and either disturbs riparian vegetation and/or results in Project-generated noise greater than 60 decibels (dB), mitigation measures **BIO 1** and **MM BIO 2**, which require monitoring of construction activities shall be implemented.

Section 7.5.3 Construction Guidelines for Facilities within Criteria Areas and P/QP Lands and Standard Best Management Practices identified in Appendix C: The Project is not located within or adjacent to an MSHCP Criteria Area; therefore Section 7.5.3 is not applicable to the Project. The District will implement applicable Standard Best Management Practices per Appendix C of the MSHCP.

In addition to complying with the above identified sections of the MSHCP, the City will contribute to implementation of the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan as set forth in

Section 13.2.C of the MSHCP Implementing Agreement. Based on the previous discussion, the Project is consistent with the MSHCP.

The Project area is located within the boundary of the adopted SKR HCP implemented by the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA); however it is not located within a Core Reserve Area. The SKR HCP mitigates impacts from development on the SKR by establishing a network of preserves and a system for managing and monitoring them. The SKR HCP initially established Core Reserves for the conservation of key SKR populations. Outside of the Core Reserves, the HCP established a fee assessment area by which individual projects are granted coverage under the HCP by payment of SKR fees. The MSHCP, through its goals for SKR, reaffirms the conservation goals of the SKR HCP, while expanding the coverage area outside of the original coverage boundaries of the SKR HCP. Neither the SKR HCP nor MSHCP requires project-specific SKR surveys for sites located outside of the existing Core Reserves. Instead, payments of fees are sufficient to obtain take authorization for SKR, unless specific lands are targeted for conservation by SKR HCP or MSHCP.

For the reasons discussed above, the Project is not anticipated to conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state conservation plan and any impacts are expected to be less than significant.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

BIO-1 Project-related construction and clearing activities will be conducted outside of the avian nesting season (February 1–August 31) where feasible. If clearing and/or construction activities must occur during the nesting season, preconstruction surveys for nesting raptors, migratory birds, and special-status resident birds (e.g., coastal California gnatcatcher and least Bell's vireo) shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, up to 14 days before initiation of clearing and/or construction activities. The qualified biologist shall survey the construction zone and a 300-foot buffer surrounding the construction zone to determine whether the activities taking place have the potential to disturb or otherwise harm nesting birds.

Timing/Implementation: *Up to 14 days prior to initiation of any vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Public Works Department*

BIO-2 For construction activities conducted between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall monitor construction noise levels adjacent to areas where active nests are detected or likely to occur within 500 feet of construction activities. A noise meter will be placed near active nesting areas to determine whether or not noise levels generated by the activities exceed 60 dBA L_{eq}. If noise levels exceed 60 dBA L_{eq}, the biologist will have the authority to stop or redirect construction activities if it is determined that such activities may result in the disruption of nesting. Noise and biological monitoring will occur biweekly, or less frequently, if deemed appropriate by the Project biologist, until Project completion. If

noise levels consistently exceed 60 dBA L_{eq}, then any noise attention measures recommended by the biologist, including the construction of sound walls along portions of the alignment shall be implemented until the biologist determines the nesting will not be disturbed.

Timing/Implementation: *During construction between February 1 and August 31 if active nests are present*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

BIO-3 Per MSHCP Species-Specific Objective 6, preconstruction presence/absence surveys for burrowing owl within the survey area, where suitable habitat is present, will be conducted for all covered activities through the life of the building permit. Surveys will be conducted 30 days prior to disturbance. Take of active nests will be avoided. Passive relocation (use of one-way doors and collapse of burrows) will occur when owls are present outside the nesting season.

The breeding period for burrowing owls is February 1 through August 31, with the peak being April 15 to July 15, the recommended survey window. Winter surveys may be conducted between September 1 and January 31. If construction is delayed or suspended for more than 30 days after the survey, the area shall be resurveyed.

Surveys shall be completed for occupied burrowing owl burrows within all construction areas and within 150 meters (500 feet) of the project work areas (where possible and appropriate based on habitat). All occupied burrows will be mapped on an aerial photo.

Timing/Implementation: *Thirty days prior to any vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Planning and Public Works Departments*

BIO-4 If burrowing owls are identified during the survey period, the City shall take the following actions to offset impacts prior to ground disturbance:

Active nests within the areas scheduled for disturbance or degradation shall be avoided from February 1 through August 31, and a minimum 75-meter (250-foot) buffer shall be provided until fledging has occurred. Following fledging, owls may be passively relocated by a qualified biologist.

If impacts on occupied burrows in the non-nesting period are unavoidable, on-site passive relocation techniques may be used if approved by the CDFW to encourage owls to move to alternative burrows outside of the impact area. However, no occupied burrows shall be disturbed during the nesting season unless a qualified biologist verifies through noninvasive methods that the burrow is no longer occupied. Foraging habitat for relocated pairs shall be provided in accordance with guidelines provided by the CDFG (2012).

If relocation of the owls is approved for the site by the CDFW, the City Public Works Department shall hire a qualified biologist to prepare a plan for relocating the owls to a suitable site. The relocation plan must include all of the following:

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

If paired owls are present within 50 meters (160 feet) of a temporary project disturbance (e.g., parking areas), active burrows shall be protected with fencing/cones/flagging and monitored by a qualified biologist throughout construction to identify losses from nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Planning and Public Works Departments*

BIO-5 The project applicant shall comply with the applicable requirements, if any, of the CDFW, the USACE, and/or the State Water Resources Control Board with respect to both Drainage A and Drainage B, including but not limited to the requirement to obtain Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401 permits from the USACE and RWQCB and a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement/Permit from CDFW, and ensure that the project will result in no net loss of potential waters of the State and waters of the United States.

Evidence of compliance with this mitigation measure shall be provided prior to ground-disturbing or grading activities for the proposed Project.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

BIO 6 Prior to the commencement of any Project-related ground-disturbing activities, a DBESP shall be approved. The approved DBESP shall include appropriate mitigation, i.e., on-site or off-site enhancement, restoration, establishment (creation), preservation, payment into habitat mitigation banks or in lieu fee programs, or a combination of one or more of these options, sufficient to offset the loss of functions and values as they pertain to the MSHCP.

Based on the *Draft Determination of Biologically Equivalent or Superior Preservation,* October 2014 (included as Appendix B.3), mitigation will be provided at a ratio of 1:1 for the 0.036 acres that will be temporarily impacted and at a ratio of 2:1 for the 0.164 acres that will be permanently impacted (0.328 acres of mitigation). To mitigate for temporary and permanent impacts, the City Public Works Department shall purchase mitigation credits totaling 0.364 acres. The purchased mitigation credits are anticipated to apply to the

Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District, but may be purchased from any other entity acceptable to the Regional Conservation Authority and the City of Wildomar.

The DBESP shall be reviewed and approved by the Wildlife Agencies and mitigation credits purchased, before any Project-related construction commences.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to any Project-related ground disturbing activities.*

Enforcement/Monitoring *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

BIO 7 In the event Project construction and clearing activities are approved prior to completion of focused surveys for the least Bell's vireo (LBV), a 500-foot exclusion zone area shall be established and observed surrounding any/all potentially suitable least Bell's vireo habitat present along the Project alignment. No Project-related activities will be permitted within the established exclusion zone during the avian nesting season (February 1–August 31). If construction activities occur during the nesting season, a biological monitor shall be required to be present at the project site until a focused survey for lease Bell's vireo has been completed. If the focused survey results in negative findings, no further monitoring will be required. If least Bell's vireo is observed, then a biological monitor shall be required to be present at the Project site until all construction activities have been completed.

If an active nest is located within 300 feet for songbirds or 500 feet for raptors of construction activities, the construction contractor shall establish an exclusion zone (no ingress of personnel or equipment at a minimum radius of 300 feet or 500 feet, as appropriate, around the nest). Alternative exclusion zones may be established through consultation with the CDFW and the USFWS. The exclusion zones shall remain in force until all young have fledged.

Reference to this requirement and to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act shall be included in the construction specifications.

If clearing and/or construction activities or tree removal are proposed to occur during the non-breeding season (September 1–January 31), a survey is not required, no further studies are necessary, and no mitigation is required.

Timing/Implementation: *The Public Works Department shall incorporate requirements into construction specifications and contracts. The City's construction inspector shall monitor to ensure that measures are implemented during construction.*

Enforcement/Monitoring *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

5. Cultural Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?				✓
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?		✓		
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		✓		
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		✓		

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact**. The Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in California Code of Regulations, Section 15064.5, because no such resources are present within the Project alignment. Therefore, no impacts to historic resources are anticipated.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated**. The project is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse impact to an archaeological resource. However, because archaeological resource sites have been identified in Wildomar, there is a potential for the unanticipated discovery of these resources. Mitigation measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-7** will ensure that any unanticipated discovery will not have a significant impact to archeological resources.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated**. Paleontological resources include fossils of plant and animal remains from prehistoric eras. The Project is in an area with high potential for paleontological resources; however, due to the past development and ground disturbing activities within the Project area they are not anticipated to be discovered. Mitigation measures **CUL-8** through **CUL-12** will be implemented to reduce impacts in the event that paleontological resources are found during grading. Any impact will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Project is not located on or adjacent to a known formal or informal cemetery and human remains are not anticipated to be found during Project Construction. While it is unlikely that human remains will be disturbed during the implementation of the proposed Project, if human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, implementation of mitigation measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-7** will reduce any impacts to a less than significant level.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

CUL-1 The City Public Works Department shall include the following wording in all construction specifications and contract documentation for Lateral C-1:

If during construction activities cultural resources are discovered on the Project site, work shall be halted immediately within 50 feet of the discovery and the resources shall be evaluated by a qualified archeologist and the Pechanga Tribe (Tribe). Any unanticipated cultural resources that are discovered shall be evaluated and a final report prepared by the qualified archeologist. The report shall include a list of the resources discovered, documentation of each site/locality, and interpretation of the resources identified, and the method of preservation and/or recovery for identified resources. In the event the significant resources are recovered and if the qualified archaeologist and the Tribe determines the resources to be historic or unique, avoidance and/or mitigation would be required pursuant to and consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.5 and 15126.4 and Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 and the Cultural Resources Treatment and Monitoring Agreement required by mitigation measure **CUL-2**.

Timing/Implementation: *During preparation of the construction specifications and contract documents and implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

CUL-2 At least 30 days prior to any ground disturbing activities, the City Public Works Department shall contact Pechanga Tribe to notify the Tribe of grading, excavation, and the monitoring program and to develop a Cultural Resources Treatment and Monitoring Agreement. The agreement shall include, but not be limited to, outlining provisions and requirements for addressing the treatment of cultural resources; project grading and development scheduling; terms of compensation for the monitors; and treatment and final disposition of any cultural resources, sacred sites, and human remains discovered on the site; and establishing on-site monitoring provisions and/or requirements for professional Tribal monitors during all ground-disturbing activities.

Timing/Implementation: *Prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

CUL-3 The City Public Works Department shall include the following wording in all construction specifications and contract documentation for Lateral C-1:

If human remains are encountered, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the Riverside County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b), remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Riverside County Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted within a reasonable time frame. Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the “most likely descendant” within 24 hours of receiving

notification from the coroner. The most likely descendant shall then have 48 hours to make recommendations and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

Timing/Implementation: *During preparation of the construction specifications and contract documents and implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

CUL-4 All cultural materials, with the exception of sacred items, burial goods, and human remains, which will be addressed in the Cultural Resources Treatment and Monitoring Agreement required by mitigation measure **CUL-2**, that are collected during the grading monitoring program and from any previous archeological studies or excavations on the project site shall be curated according to the current professional repository standards. The collections and associated records shall be transferred, including title, to the Pechanga Tribe's curation facility, which meets the standards set forth in 36 CFR Part 79 for federal repositories.

Timing/Implementation: *Implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

CUL-5 All sacred sites, should they be encountered within the project site, shall be avoided and preserved as the preferred mitigation, if feasible as determined by a qualified professional in consultation with the Pechanga Tribe. To the extent that a sacred site cannot be feasibly preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state, mitigation measures shall be required pursuant to and consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.5 and 15126.4.

Timing/Implementation: *Implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

CUL-6 The City Public Works Department shall include the following wording in all construction specifications and contract documentation for Lateral C-1:

If inadvertent discoveries of subsurface archaeological resources are discovered during project construction, work shall be halted immediately within 50 feet of the discovery. The City Public Works Department, the project archeologist, and the Tribe shall assess the significance of such resources and shall meet and confer regarding the mitigation for such resources. In the event the significant resources are recovered and if the qualified archaeologist determines the resources to be historic or unique as defined by relevant state and local law, avoidance and mitigation would be required pursuant to and consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 and CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.5 and 15126.4.

Timing/Implementation: *Implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

CUL-7 To address the possibility that cultural resources may be encountered during project construction, a qualified professional archeologist shall monitor all construction activities that could potentially impact archaeological deposits (e.g., grading, excavation, and/or trenching). However, monitoring may be discontinued as soon the qualified professional is satisfied that construction will not disturb cultural resources.

Timing/Implementation: Implemented during project construction

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Wildomar Public Works Department

CUL-8 Prior to any ground disturbing activities, the City of Wildomar shall retain a qualified paleontologist to evaluate the significance of any inadvertently discovery paleontological resources. If paleontological resources are encountered during grading or project construction, all work in the area of the find shall cease and the qualified paleontologist shall investigate the find. The qualified paleontologist shall make recommendations as to the paleontological resource's disposition to the City of Wildomar Planning Director. The City shall pay for all required treatment and storage of the discovered resources.

Timing/Implementation: Prior to the initiating ground disturbing activities and implemented during project construction.

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Wildomar Public Works and Planning Department

CUL-9 A qualified paleontologist or paleontological monitor shall monitor all initial excavation in undisturbed formational sediments of the sandstone member of the Pauba Formation (Qpfs) and the sandstone member of the Sandstone and Conglomerate of Wildomar (QTsw), of late Pliocene to middle Pleistocene age. The paleontological monitor shall be equipped to salvage fossils as they are unearthed to avoid construction delays and to remove samples of sediment that are likely to contain the remains of small fossil invertebrates and vertebrates. The monitor must be empowered to temporarily halt or divert equipment to allow removal of abundant or large specimens in a timely manner. Monitoring may be reduced if the potentially fossiliferous units are not present in the subsurface, or if present, are determined on exposure and examination by qualified paleontological personnel to have low potential to contain fossil resources.

Timing/Implementation: Implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Wildomar Public Works Departments

CUL-10 Any recovered paleontological specimens shall be identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible and prepared for permanent preservation, including screen-washing of sediments to recover small invertebrates and vertebrates shall occur if necessary.

Timing/Implementation: Implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: City of Wildomar Engineering and Planning Departments

CUL-11 Identification and curation of specimens into a professional, accredited public museum repository with a commitment to archival conservation and permanent retrievable storage

shall occur at an institutional repository approved by the City of Wildomar. The paleontological program shall include a written repository agreement prior to the initiation of mitigation activities.

Timing/Implementation: *Implemented during ground-disturbing construction activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

CUL-12 A final monitoring and mitigation report of findings and significance shall be prepared, including lists of all fossils recovered and necessary maps and graphics to accurately record their original location. The report, when submitted to and accepted by the City of Wildomar, shall signify satisfactory completion of the project program to mitigate impacts to any potential nonrenewable paleontological resources (i.e., fossils) that might have been lost or otherwise adversely affected without such a program in place.

Timing/Implementation: *Following ground-disturbing activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

6. Geology and Soils

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?		✓		
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?		✓		
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			✓	
iv) Landslides?				✓
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		✓		
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?				✓
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			✓	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				✓

DISCUSSION

a)

i-ii) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated**. As part of the Project's planning and design process, a geotechnical investigation was conducted by Geocon West, Inc.to determine engineering characteristics of the subsoil conditions and develop recommendations for the design and construction of the proposed storm drainage facilities. These results and recommendations are documented in *Draft Geotechnical Investigation, Wildomar Master*

Drainage Plan Lateral C-1 (aka Billie Ann Road Storm Drain) dated August 15, 2014, (the Geotechnical Investigation) which is included as Appendix C to this initial study.

Portions of the proposed Project are located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and there are three active splays of the Temecula Segment of the Wildomar Fault that cross the Project alignment at approximately 150, 300, and 550 feet northeast of Palomar Street across Refa Street. Because this is an active fault, the risk of surface ground rupture occurring along the Project alignment is possible. However, because the Project does not include structures that will be inhabited by humans it will not expose persons to substantial adverse effects from ground shaking.

If the proposed Project is designed and constructed as recommended by the Geotechnical Investigation, the proposed storm drainage facilities may withstand expected ground shaking levels. Therefore, with implementation of mitigation measure **GEO-1**, which requires the Project be designed and constructed per the recommendations contained in the Geotechnical Investigation or a similar subsequent investigation, potential impacts to people or structures due to seismic hazards will be reduced to less than significant.

iii) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Liquefaction is a phenomenon where soil temporarily loses strength due to cyclic stresses such as those caused by an earthquake. Liquefaction is generally considered a hazard in relatively loose sandy soils with the groundwater table within 50 feet of the ground surface.

According to the Riverside County Land Information System, the proposed Project lies within a very low to moderate liquefaction hazard zone. However, the site is underlain by Pauba Formation Bedrock, which is dense bedrock that is not subject to liquefaction. Impacts will be less than significant.

iv) **No Impact.** The proposed Project is not expected to expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death from landslides. Due to the relatively level terrain in the proposed project area, this site is not subject to landslide, collapse, or rockfall hazards. The project site is located in an area of general seismic activity but does not contain areas subject of unstable geologic units or soil. According to the Wildomar General Plan (2008), the project site has no potential for landslides. Additionally, the Project consists of storm drainage facilities that will be installed at or below the ground surface. No impacts are anticipated.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated**. The proposed Project has the potential to result in the short-term loss of top soil during construction due to runoff and soil erosion. However, erosion will be minimized by the incorporation of applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented by the construction contractor. Furthermore, excavation during construction will be conducted in accordance with the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CAL/OSHA) standards and the recommendations in the Geotechnical Investigation so that unstable soil conditions will not occur. Backfilling will also be conducted in accordance with the applicable recommendations of the Geotechnical Investigation (Geocon West). Further, the facilities to be constructed, maintained, and operated will be located underground and will not entail topographic changes. Once construction is complete, the surface will be restored to its original condition. Following the recommendation

of the Geotechnical Investigation as required by mitigation measure **GEO-1** will avoid the creation of unstable soil conditions and reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated**. See Impact a) iii.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Geotechnical Investigation geologic investigation determined that soils at the Project site are expected to have low to medium expansive potential and would not preclude construction of the proposed storm drain. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

e) **No Impact**. The Project consists of storm drainage facilities and does not propose the use or construction of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impact would occur.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

GEO-1 Design and construction of the Project shall be in conformance with the recommendations contained in the *Draft Geotechnical Investigation, Wildomar Master Drainage Plan Lateral C-1 (aka Billie Ann Road Storm Drain)* prepared by Geocon West, Inc. and dated August 15, 2014, or a similar subsequent geotechnical engineering investigation that updates the recommendations.

Timing/Implementation: *Design and construction phase*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Greenhouse gases (GHG) are not presented in lbs/day like criteria pollutants; they are typically evaluated on an annual basis using the metric system. Additionally, unlike the criteria pollutants, GHG do not have adopted significance thresholds associated with them at this time. Several agencies, at various levels, have proposed draft GHG significance thresholds for use in CEQA documents. SCAQMD has been working on GHG thresholds for development projects. In December 2008, the SCAQMD adopted a threshold of 10,000 metric tonnes per year of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MTCO_2E$/yr) for stationary source projects where SCAQMD is the lead agency. The most recent draft proposal was in September 2010 and included significance thresholds for residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects at 3,500, 1,400, and 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr, respectively. Alternatively, a lead agency has the option to use 3,000 $MTCO_2E$/yr as a threshold for all non-industrial projects. Although both options are recommended by SCAQMD, a lead agency is advised to use only one option and to use it consistently. The SCAQMD significance thresholds also evaluate construction emissions by amortizing them over an expected project life of 30 years.

Evaluation of CalEEMod output (WEBB 2014) indicates that an estimated total of 56.94 $MTCO_2E$ per year will occur from Project construction equipment during the construction period. The proposed Project does not fit into the categories provided (industrial and residential/ commercial) in the draft thresholds from SCAQMD. The Project's emissions were compared to whichever threshold is more conservative. The total amortized GHG emissions from Project construction are below the lowest SCAQMD recommended screening level of 1,400 $MTCO_2E$/yr for residential/commercial projects.

Due to the lack of adopted emissions thresholds, the estimated amount of emissions from Project construction, and negligible operational emissions from infrequent maintenance activities, the proposed Project will not generate GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment and the impact is considered to be less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The City of Wildomar does not have local policies or ordinances with the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. However, the City is subject to compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), codified at Health and Safety Code Sections 38500, 38501, 28510 (repealed), 38530, 38550, 38560, 38561–38565, 38570, 38571, 38574, 38580, 38590, and 38592–38599. The law instructs CARB to develop and enforce regulations for the reporting and verifying of statewide GHG emissions. The act directed CARB to set a GHG emission

limit based on 1990 levels, to be achieved by 2020. The adoption of AB 32 provided a clear mandate that climate change should be included in the environmental review process for development projects. As identified under Impact a) above, the proposed Project would not surpass the SCAQMD's recommended GHG significance thresholds, which were prepared with the purpose of complying with the requirements of AB 32. Additionally, as the proposed Project involves the construction of storm water drainage facilities, it is not considered a significant source of operational GHG emissions. The Project will not result in any changes to the existing land use patterns within the Project area and its construction does not generate significant amounts of GHG; therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with AB 32. This impact is less than significant.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			✓	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			✓	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			✓	
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			✓	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles or a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			✓	
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Riverside County Environmental Health Department issues permits to and conducts inspections of businesses that use, store, or handle quantities of hazardous materials and/or waste greater than or equal to 55 gallons or 500 pounds, or 200 cubic feet of compressed gas, at any time. The Riverside County Environmental Health Department also implements the Hazardous Material Management Plans (Business Emergency Plans) that include an inventory of hazardous materials used, handled, or stored at any business in Wildomar.

The Project consists of storm drain facilities and will not entail the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Construction and subsequent maintenance of the Project facilities will require the short-term use of petroleum-based fuels, lubricants, pesticides, and other similar materials. During construction, petroleum-based fuels may be stored at the Project site for the specific purpose of fueling construction equipment.

Any hazardous materials used for Project construction or maintenance will be used in accordance with standard safety measures and regulations. Such measures and regulations are under the jurisdiction of numerous federal, state, and local agencies. At the federal level, such agencies and legislation include Environmental Protection Agency; Occupational Safety and Health Administration; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; Hazardous Materials Transportation Act; Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act; Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act; Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know; and Code of Federal Regulations titles 10, 29, 40, and 49. At the state level, such agencies and legislations include, but are not necessarily limited to: state Occupational Safety and Health Administration; California Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Fish and Game; Department of Transportation; Department of Toxic Substances Control; Air Resources Board; Regional Water Quality Control Board; Office of Emergency Services; State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment; Hazardous Material Management Act; Hazardous Waste Control Law; Emergency Services Act; Hazardous Materials Storage and Emergency Response; Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986; and the California Code of Regulations. Lastly, at the local level there is the Riverside County Hazardous Waste Management Plan. Therefore, because the use of hazardous materials will be in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, the potential impacts regarding creating a significant hazard to the public or environment will be less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact**. As discussed under Impact 8a), above, Project construction and operation will comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding the use and storage of hazardous materials. Therefore, potential impacts regarding the accidental release of hazardous material will be less than significant.

c) **Less than Significant Impact**. The proposed Project alignment is one-half mile north of the David A. Brown Middle School located on Grand Avenue. Because hazardous materials will be handled in accordance with applicable regulations as discussed under Impact 8b, potential impacts resulting from hazardous emissions, materials, and wastes will be less than significant.

d) **No Impact**. The Project alignment is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and will not result or create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No impacts are anticipated.

e) **No Impact**. The Project alignment is not located within any airport land use plan. The closest public airport is French Valley Airport, which is located approximately 8 miles east of the Project site. Due to the distance from this airport no impact is anticipated.

f) **No Impact**. The Project site is located approximately 2.8 miles northwest of Skylark Field, which is a private airstrip located at the south end of Lake Elsinore. The Project site is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the Inland Valley Regional Medical Center Heliport. Due to

the unmanned nature of the Project, implementation of the Project will not result in a safety hazard for people working or living in the Project area and there will be no impact.

g) **Less than Significant Impact**. Implementation of the proposed Project (construction, operation, and maintenance) is not expected to impair implementation of or physically interfere with the *Riverside County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* (LHMP). The District and City are part of the LHMP. The Project will not reconfigure current roadways that would result in inadequate emergency access. During Project construction temporary closure of a travel lane may be required; however, access will be maintained throughout the construction activities. For these reasons, impacts will be less than significant.

h) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Project is located along Refa Street, an unpaved dirt road, and is positioned between two areas with scattered medium density residential homes and not within or adjacent to a high-fire area. Additionally, the proposed storm drain facilities are unmanned, underground facilities. For these reasons, implementation of the Project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires and impacts will be less than significant in this regard.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

9. Hydrology and Water Quality

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			✓	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			✓	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			✓	
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			✓	
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			✓	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			✓	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				✓
h) Place within 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			✓	
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			✓	
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** During Project construction there is a potential for short-term discharges of sediments, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants associated with stormwater runoff from a construction site. This will be minimized, through compliance with the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity and implementation of construction BMPs that will reduce loss of topsoil, substantial erosion, or discharge of polluted runoff. Coverage under the NPDES permit is required for any action and or construction activity that results in the disturbance of land, which includes clearing, grading, excavating, stockpiling, and reconstruction of existing facilities involving removal and replacement of land. This is completed prior to commencement of construction activities by the City by filing a Notice of Intent (NOI) with the state water resource board. Once construction is complete, the Project will not create new sources of stormwater pollutants; however, it will collect, convey, and discharge stormwater runoff emanating from developed and undeveloped areas that may already produce pollutants. The discharge of stormwater is regulated under the NPDES Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permit issued to the District and the City, by the Santa Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, through compliance with the NPDES permit programs, the Project's potential to contribute urban runoff that could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements will be reduced to less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The proposed project is located in the area subject to the Elsinore Basin Groundwater Management Plan. Adopted on March 24, 2005, under the authority of the Groundwater Management Planning Act (California Water Code Part 2.75, Section 10753), as amended, the Elsinore Basin Groundwater Management Plan addresses the hydrogeologic understanding of the Elsinore Basin, the evaluation of baseline conditions, the identification of management issues and strategies, and the definition and evaluation of alternatives.

The construction, operation, and maintenance of Lateral C-1 will not deplete groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge. The proposed Project does not involve the extraction of groundwater. The Project will not create a substantial additional of impervious surfaces such that existing areas of groundwater recharge are altered. Stormwater runoff from the Project area is ultimately discharged into Murritea Creek.. For these reasons, impacts to groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge will be less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated**. The proposed Project does not entail substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern through the alteration of the course of a stream or river. Lateral C-1 does not include component that will increase the rate or amount of surface runoff because: (1) once construction is complete the surface will be restored to its original condition and (2) the runoff collected will be conveyed to the existing Lince C Channel and ultimately discharge into the Murrieta Creek. The intent of the proposed Project is to collect and convey stormwater to reduce the potential for flooding in the Project area. For these reasons potential impacts regarding on- or off-site flooding will be less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Project does not entail substantial alteration of the existing drainage pattern through the alteration of the course of a stream or river. The Project's storm drainage facilities do not include any component that will increase the rate or amount of surface runoff because: (1) once construction is complete the surface will be restored to its original condition and (2) the runoff collected in the Project's facilities will be conveyed to the existing

Lateral C Channel and ultimately discharge into Murrieta Creek. For these reasons potential impacts regarding on- or off-site flooding will be less than significant.

e) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The purpose of the Project is to implement the Wildomar MDP through the construction, operation, and maintenance of master planned storm drain facilities. Lateral C-1 has been designed and sized such that implementation of the Project will not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. Further, existing downstream facilities are designed to receive the flow from this Project. Because the proposed Project is designed to prevent the overflow of existing and proposed stormwater conveyance facilities, impacts will be less than significant.

f) **Less Than Significant Impact**. During Project construction there is a potential for short-term discharges of sediments, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants associated with stormwater runoff from a construction site. This will be minimized, through compliance with the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity and implementation of construction BMPs that will reduce loss of topsoil, substantial erosion, or discharge of polluted runoff. Once construction is complete, the Project will not create new sources of stormwater pollutants; however, it will collect, convey, and discharge stormwater runoff emanating from developed and undeveloped areas that may already produce pollutants. The discharge of stormwater is regulated under the NPDES Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permit issued to the District and Wildomar, by the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, through compliance with the NPDES permit programs, the Project's potential to contribute urban runoff that could violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements will be reduced to less than significant.

g) **No Impact.** Portions of the Project alignment are within a mapped 100-year flood hazard zone. However, because no housing is proposed as part of the Project there will be no impacts in this regard. Once completed, the proposed Project will contain 100-year storm flows which is a beneficial impact.

h) **Less than Significant Impact**. The Project is located within a mapped 100-year flood hazard area. However, because the proposed storm drain facilities will be located underground the Project will not impede flood flows, and in fact will collect the 100-year flood flows and direct them to existing downstream drainage facilities. The purpose of the Project is to implement a master drainage plan that will collect and convey stormwater to protect lives and property. The Project will collect and convey stormwater to existing underground facilities for ultimate discharge into the Murrieta Creek. For these reasons, impacts regarding the placement of structures within a 100-year flood hazard area are less than significant. Construction of the Project is a benefit, not an impact.

i) **Less than Significant Impact.** See Impact h), above. Additionally, according to Figure 10 of the Wildomar General Plan the Project site is located outside of the inundation area of Lake Elsinore. Impacts will be less than significant.

j) **No Impact**. The project site is not located in an area that is subject to seiches, mudflows, or tsunamis. As a result, no impacts are anticipated.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Compliance with the Clean Water Act and associated federal regulations (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CRF] 123.25(a)(9), 122,26(a), 122.26(b)(14)(x) and 122.26(b)(15).

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

10. Land Use and Planning

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				✓
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				✓
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact**. Underground storm drains by their very nature do not divide communities. As a result, no impact is anticipated.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project's drainage facilities will not conflict with the land use plans, policies, or regulations set forth by the City of Wildomar. The Project does not conflict with existing or planned zoning/uses. The Project is part of a master drainage plan designed to collect and convey runoff from the development planned for and envisioned by the Land Use Element of the Wildomar General Plan.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** See discussion under Biological Resources Impact f.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

11. Mineral Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?			✓	
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project is located in an area designated as MRZ-3 by the Wildomar General Plan. The MRZ-3 zone includes areas where the available geologic information indicates that while mineral deposits are likely to exist, the significance of the deposit is undetermined. Given the relatively small footprint of the Project and the amount of existing development in the Project area, it is highly unlikely that any surface mining or mineral recovery operation could feasibly take. Therefore, with regard to the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, impacts will be less than significant.

b) **No Impact.** There are no known locally important mineral resource recovery sites identified on the project site in the Wildomar General Plan or in a specific plan or other land use plan of value to the region or to the residents of the state. As a result, no impacts are anticipated.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

12. Noise

Issues, would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) The exposure of persons to, or the generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			✓	
b) The exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			✓	
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			✓	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?		✓		
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The City of Wildomar General Plan does not set standards for temporary noise impacts like construction. Chapter 9.48 of the Wildomar Municipal Code contains noise standards in addition to the standards contained in the General Plan, but Section 9.48.010 specifically states that the noise standards contained in that Chapter are not thresholds of significance for the purposes of CEQA review. Additionally, Wildomar Municipal Code Chapter 9.48, Section 9.48.020 exempts capital improvement projects of a governmental agency from the City's noise regulation provisions and standards. Without an adopted construction noise standard, the proposed project cannot generate noise in excess of currently established standards. Therefore, construction and operation of the Project's storm drainage facilities will not expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the Wildomar General Plan or Municipal Code. Impacts will be less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Ground-borne vibration is not a common environmental problem. It is unusual for vibration from sources such as buses and trucks to be perceptible, even in locations close to major roads. Some common sources of ground-borne vibration are trains, buses on rough roads, and construction activities such as blasting, pile-driving, and operating heavy earth-moving equipment.

The Wildomar noise ordinance does not include criteria for ground-borne vibration. However, in order to provide a conservative analysis, the *Transportation and Construction Induced Vibration Guidance Manual* prepared for California Department of Transportation was used to provide methods with which to estimate construction induced ground-borne vibration and establish potential criteria for acceptable levels of ground-borne vibration for human perception and damage to buildings. It should be noted that many types of construction activities fall between a single event (also known as a transient source) and a continuous source. An impact pile driver, for example, continuously generates single transient events. As a practical matter and based on the nature of available criteria, the criteria can only be reasonably separated into two categories: transient and continuous. Potential vibration damage information is summarized in **Table 12-1 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Human Response** and **Table 12-2 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Structures**, which categories the noise by transient sources and continuous sources.

Table 12-1 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Human Response

Human Response	Maximum PPV[a] (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Barely Perceptible/Threshold of Perception	0.04	0.006-0.19
Distinctly Perceptible/ Readily Perceptible	0.24	0.08
Strongly Perceptible/Begins to Annoy	0.90	0.10
Severe/Unpleasant	2.00	0.4-0.6

[a] Peak Particle Velocity
Source: Vibration Guidance, Table 5: Human Response to Continuous Vibration from Traffic and Table 6: Human Response to Transient Vibration

Table 12-2 – Potential Vibration Damage Threshold Criteria for Structures

Structure and Condition	Maximum PPV[a] (in/sec)	
	Transient Sources	Continuous/Frequent Intermittent Sources
Older residential structures	0.50	0.30
New residential structures	1.00	0.50
Modern industrial/commercial buildings	2.00	0.50

[a] Peak Particle Velocity
Transient sources create a single isolated vibration event, such as blasting or drop balls. Continuous/frequent intermittent sources include impact pile drivers, pogo-stick compactors, crack-and-seat equipment, vibratory pile drivers, and vibratory compaction equipment.
Source: Vibration Guidance, Table 19: Guideline Vibration Damage Potential Threshold Criteria

Noise-sensitive receptors are located adjacent to the Project alignment.

Project construction will not require blasting. Project construction will involve the short-term use of construction equipment for various construction and maintenance activities over the life of the Project. **Table 12-3 – Potential Construction Induced Vibration**, presents the peak particle velocity—that is the amount of vibration—associated with the types of construction equipment anticipated to be used to construct the proposed Project.

Table 12-3 – Potential Construction Induced Vibration

Construction Equipment	PPV[a] at 25 ft. (in/sec)	PPV at 50 ft. (in/sec)[b]
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.042
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.035
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.001

[a] Peak Particle Velocity
[b]Where $PPV_{Equipment} = PPV_{Ref} (25/D)^n$ (in/sec) and PPV_{Ref} = reference PPV at 25 ft, "D" = distance from equipment to the receiver in ft. and "n" = 1.1 (the value related to the attenuation rate through the ground).
Source: Vibration Guidance, Table 18: Vibration Source Amplitudes for Construction Equipment

In comparing the estimated vibration shown in **Table 12-3**, with the threshold criteria presented in **Table 12-1** and **Table 12-2**, at a distance of 50 feet estimated vibration is expected to be "Barely Perceptible" to humans and significantly below the vibration damage threshold for older residential structures. At a distance of 25 feet, the estimated vibration is expected to be "Distinctly Perceptible" to humans; however, it is still significantly below the vibration damage threshold for older residential structures. Maintenance activities will be infrequent and will usually involve a utility vehicle operated by District staff; thus, much less equipment than the initial construction of the Project. For these reasons, potential impacts regarding ground-borne vibration and noise will be less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project consists of the construction of master planned storm drain facilities in response to existing and planning land uses within the Project area. The increased noise levels associated with Project construction are temporary. Maintenance activities will be infrequent and short-term in nature. Apart from the periodic maintenance activity, ongoing operation of the Project will not permanently increase noise levels. Thus, operation of the Project will not create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels above existing noise levels. Therefore, potential impacts will be less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated**. Project construction will temporarily increase ambient noise levels. Construction noise levels vary according to the type(s) of equipment utilized and size of the active construction zone. Construction of the Project will likely entail the use of heavy equipment such as backhoes, trencher, dozers, paver, scrapers, and water trucks. In terms of construction noise levels, **Table 12-4 - Typical Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Equipment** shows noises typically associated with construction.

Table 12-4 - Typical Maximum Noise Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	25 Feet	50 Feet	75 Feet	100 Feet
Large Bulldozer	87	81	77	75
Loaded Trucks	86	80	76	74
Jackhammer	79	73	69	67
Small Bulldozer	58	52	48	46

Source: Riverside County General Plan Update Project, General Plan Amendment No. 960, Environmental Impact Report No. 521, Noise Section 4.15, Table 4.15-N.

The Wildomar Municipal Code exempts capital improvement projects and private construction projects greater than one-quarter mile from inhabited residences from the regulations in Chapter 9.48–Noise Regulation. Chapter 9.48 limits private construction projects located within one-quarter mile of inhabited dwelling units to the hours between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm from June through September and between 7:00 and 6:00 pm October through May, unless an exception is granted. Construction and related noise will occur in segments and will be dispersed somewhat sequentially throughout the Project alignment, thereby not affecting any one area for a great duration. Exposure of people to temporary construction-related noise will be reduced by limiting construction, if feasible, to the time periods set forth in Wildomar Municipal Code for private construction projects within one-quarter mile of inhabited residences, which limits the construction-related activities to less sensitive hours of the day; by notifying sensitive receptors of the upcoming construction, by keeping equipment in good working order, limiting idle time and by using propane- or electric-powered equipment as required by mitigation measure **NOI-1**.

e) **No Impact**. The project site is not located within the influence area for any airport. The closest public general aviation airfield is French Valley Airport, approximately eight miles east of the project site. The Project site is outside of the airport noise and safety influence or flight surface control areas. As a result, no impacts are anticipated.

f) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Skylark Field is located approximately 2.8 miles northwest of the Project site in the City of Lake Elsinore. Skylark Airport is used primarily by skydiving aircraft. Given that the Project consists of unmanned drainage facilities and the type of aircraft that routinely use the airfield and the airport's limited use, no impacts are anticipated.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

NOI-1 To reduce the exposure of sensitive receptors to Project-related construction the Project shall implement the following:

- Construction hours shall be limited to between 6:00 am and 6:00 pm from June through September and between 7:00 and 6:00 pm October through May.
- To inform potential sensitive receivers of the pending Project construction, each residence, business, and institutional or public use adjacent to the Project alignment shall be notified in writing at least 3 days prior to the operation of heavy construction

equipment. The notice shall include the expected work schedule and the City's contact information. The City shall alert the construction contractor of any noise complaints and incorporate any feasible and practical techniques which minimize the noise impacts on adjacent residences.

- All construction equipment shall be properly maintained with operating mufflers and air intake silencers as effective as those installed by the original manufacturer.
- To minimize noise from idling engines, all vehicles and construction equipment shall be prohibited from idling in excess of three minutes, when not in use.
- To reduce noise impacts associated with temporary diesel- or gasoline-powered generators, and where a portable diesel- or gas-powered generator is necessary, said generator shall have maximum noise muffling capacity and be located as far as technically feasible from noise-sensitive uses.
- To minimize or eliminate motor-derived noise from construction equipment, contractors shall utilize construction equipment that is either propane- or electric-powered, when technically feasible.
- To minimize or eliminate noise from portable compressors, generators, and other such equipment shall be covered, to the extent that it is technically feasible, with noise-insulating fabric that does not interfere with the manufacturer's guidelines for engine or exhaust operation.
- To the extent feasible allowing for access to adjacent properties, a temporary noise barrier may be erected adjacent to sensitive receptors along the Project's construction footprint when heavy equipment is used within 250 feet of a sensitive receptor.

Timing/Implementation: *During construction activities*

Enforcement/Monitoring: *City of Wildomar Public Works Department*

13. Population and Housing

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			✓	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Project consists of the construction of a master planned storm drain to relieve flooding in an existing urbanized area. The Project does not conflict with the City's General Plan. Because development can occur in the Project area without the proposed facilities, the proposed Project is not considered growth inducing. Additionally, Lateral C-1 will be serving an area that is largely developed. Therefore, impacts relative to population growth resulting from construction and operation of the storm drains are less than significant.

b, c) **No Impact.** Since the project site is vacant, no housing units or people would be affected and the construction of replacement housing is not required. No significant impacts are anticipated.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

14. Public Services

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
a) Fire protection?				✓
b) Police protection?				✓
c) Schools?				✓
d) Parks?				✓
e) Other public facilities?				✓

DISCUSSION

a-e) **No Impact.** The Project is the construction and operation of a master planned storm drain facility, which by its very nature will not require fire or police protection. As discussed under Population and Housing Impact a, the Project will not induce population growth and as such will not result in the need for new or altered schools or parks. There are no other public facilities that will be adversely impacted by implementation of the proposed Project. No impacts are anticipated.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

15. Recreation

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				✓
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✓

DISCUSSION

a-b) **No Impact.** The proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or involve the construction of housing or creation of employment opportunities that would directly or indirectly generate users that could result in a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities. No impacts are expected.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

16. Transportation/Traffic

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			✓	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				✓
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				✓
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			✓	
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?			✓	
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Intersection and roadway functioning is often described by its level of service (LOS). LOS A constitutes light traffic conditions with no interruptions in service or delays at intersections, while LOS F represents congested and unstable conditions with slow moving traffic accompanied by significant delays at many intersections. The City of Wildomar General Plan (2008) establishes a citywide goal for intersection performance during peak traffic periods at level of service D or better.

The Project will be constructed within Refa Street between Palomar Street and Charles Street. Refa Street is a graded unpaved roadway that is not heavily used by the general public. Additionally, at times access along Refa Street is blocked by the placement of tires or other ad hoc barriers. There are two residences that have direct access to/from Refa Street. Refa Street

will be closed during Project construction; however, because it is not a heavily used street and access will be maintained for the two residences, its temporary closure will not affect LOS. Impacts will be less than significant.

b) **No Impact.** Every county in California is required to develop a Congestion Management Program (CMP) that looks at the links between land use, transportation, and air quality. In its role as Riverside County's Congestion Management Agency, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) prepares and periodically updates the county's CMP to meet federal Congestion Management System guidelines as well as state CMP legislation. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is required under federal planning regulations to determine that CMPs within its region are consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan. The RCTC's current Congestion Management Program was adopted in December 2011; of the roadways in Wildomar, only Interstate 15 (I-15) is included in the CMP.

Other than construction-related trips, which wiil cease when construction is complete, and infrequent maintenance trips, the proposed Project is not a traffic generator. Therefore, the Project will not conflict wit the CMP and there will be no impacts in this regard.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed Project would not 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 facilities are at or below grade. Since the location and height of the project would not affect air traffic patterns or aircraft operations from any private or public airport, no impacts are foreseen.

d) **No Impact.** The proposed Project does not entail road improvements. No impacts are anticipated.

e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed Project will require temporary closure of Refa Street to general public use. However, as discussed under Impact a), access will be maintained for the two residences with driveways on Refa Street.. No other road closures are anticipated. For these reasons impacts to emergency access will be less than significant.

f) **No Impact**. The proposed Project will not reconfigure any roadways or alternative transportation services. Riverside Transit Agency (RTA) Routes 7 and 8 provide service on Palomar Road. However, the Project does not propose to close any traffic lanes on Palomar Road. There will be no impact.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

17. Utilities and Service Systems

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				✓
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			✓	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				✓
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			✓	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a, b, e) **No Impact.** The Project will not generate wastewater or require wastewater treatment services; thus, it will not exceed the wastewater treatment requirements of the San Diego Regional Board. [3] The Project will not generate wastewater or require wastewater treatment

[3] The city lies within two different watersheds and therefore is subject to the jurisdiction of two different regional boards: Santa Ana (Lake Elsinore) and San Diego (Santa Margarita River). This would require the City to administer two separate MS4 permits, which would add considerably to the cost and burden of development. The City requested to be governed by one MS4 permit to reduce costs. The City and the Regional Boards agreed that the City would be governed by the MS4 permit issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Santa Margarita River watershed. So, no matter where a project is located within the city, it must comply with the MS4 permit issued by the San Diego Regional Board for the Santa Margarita River watershed. Other regulatory responsibilities, such as compliance with the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification, fall within the jurisdictions as mapped by the State of California. http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml

services; thus no new wastewater facilities are required as a result of the proposed Project. No impacts are anticipated.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The Project is the construction of Lateral C-1, which is one of the facilities identified in the Wildomar MDP. Because this facility can function independently of planned upstream and downstream facilities and there is sufficient capacity in existing downstream facilities to accommodate the Project, the construction of additional new facilities or the expansion of existing facilities is not required. Impacts are less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The proposed Project does not involve activities that will require new or expanded permanent water supplies. Construction of the proposed Project will necessitate short-term water use in order to provide for dust control. Existing water sources and supplies will be adequate for the Project's construction needs. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The main disposal site in the vicinity of the project site is the El Sobrante Landfill in Corona. The El Sobrante Landfill (CalRecycle Solid Waste Information System Number 33-AA-0217) is projected to reach full capacity of 184,930,000 tons in 2045 (CalRecycle 2011). The landfill covers approximately 1,322 acres and receives approximately 16,054 tons of solid waste per day.

The proposed Project will not generate solid waste and will not require landfill service on a long-term basis. Construction waste will be limited to trash generated by construction crews plus debris from any removal of paved surfaces. Local landfills have sufficient capacity to accept construction waste; therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

g) **Less Than Significant Impact**. For City projects, all construction and demolition materials become the property of the contractor for disposal. The District requires that construction waste be disposed in compliance with federal, state, and local statues and regulations regarding solid waste; thus, there will be no impacts in this regard.

STANDARD CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

None required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None required.

VI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues, does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		✓		
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)		✓		
c) Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		✓		

DISCUSSION

The following are Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

a) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.** Nearly all of the Project alignment is heavily disturbed by prior development, grading, and regular discing or mowing. The Project site is not within the NEPSSA or CAPSSA survey areas.

The Project will permanently impact approximately: 0.004 acres under the jurisdiction of the USACE, 0.004 acres under the jurisdiction of the RWQCB, 0.011 acres under the jurisdiction of the CDFW, and 0.164 acres of riparian habitat. However, by obtaining the necessary authorizations from these agencies, and approval of a DBESP and mitigation identified therein as required by mitigation measures **BIO 5** and **BIO 6**, these impacts will be reduced to less than significant.

Although not detected during the focused survey, the burrowing owl has some potential to use portions of the Project alignment for breeding and foraging in the future, based on the presence of suitable habitat. Objective 6 of the MSHCP conservation objectives for the burrowing owl states that pre-construction presence/absence surveys for burrowing owl, within the survey area where suitable habitat is present, will be conducted within 30 days prior to disturbance. Adherence to mitigation measure **MM BIO 2** will comply with Objective 6 and reduce potential impacts to burrowing owls to below the level of significance.

Project construction adjacent to riparian habitat during the nesting season could result in indirect impacts to the nesting LBV. If construction during the nesting season cannot be feasibly avoided,

impacts to LBV will be to less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures **BIO-2** and **BIO-7**.

Project construction will require removal of vegetation with the potential to support nesting birds; however, potential impacts to nesting birds will be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of mitigation **BIO-1** and **BIO-2**.

The Project is not expected to eliminate any important example of the major periods of California history or prehistory. However, in the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during construction, implementation of mitigation measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-7** will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

The Project is in an area with high potential for paleontological resources; however, due to prior development and ground disturbing activities, paleontological resources are not expected to be exposed. However, in the event paleontological resources are exposed during Project construction, implementation of mitigation measure **CUL-8** through **CUL-12** will reduce potential impacts to less than significant. Therefore, with incorporated of mitigation measures **CUL-1** through **CUL-12** Project-related impacts to the state's historic and prehistoric resources will be less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** As demonstrated by the analysis in this Initial Study, most of the Project's impacts are temporary and will cease when construction is complete. The Project is not considered growth inducing. The Project is in conformance with the AQMP, and the Project's short-term and long-term air quality emissions do not exceed the SCAQMD established thresholds of significance; the Project's net increase in criteria pollutant emissions for which the Project region is non-attainment is not cumulatively considerable. The proposed Project is consistent with the 2011 CMP and will not exceed either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established for designated roads or highways. Due to the small area of impact and the limited construction period, the Project impacts will not be cumulatively considerable.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The proposed Project does not have the potential for any significant environmental effects that would cause substantial direct or indirect adverse impacts to human beings. Impacts considered less than significant.

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