

Attachment B

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Laguna County Sanitation District**

**Proposed Final
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**Wastewater Reclamation Plant Facilities
Master Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan**

17NGD-00000-00015

April 4, 2018



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1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

The Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) is a dependent special district of the County of Santa Barbara, formed in 1958 to provide municipal wastewater collection, treatment and disposal for the unincorporated Santa Maria area, the unincorporated community of Orcutt, and a portion of the southern part of the City of Santa Maria. The LCSD wastewater treatment service area is shown in Attachment 1, and the location of major facilities is shown in Attachment 2. The LCSD currently owns, operates and maintains a Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WWRP), 125 miles of collection system piping, one lift station and force main. Wastewater is generated primarily from domestic sources with minor contributions from commercial establishments.

The WWRP currently treats an average flow of 1.6 million gallons per day (mgd), and its operation is regulated by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) and Master Recycling Permit Order R3-2011-0217, adopted December 2, 2011. The existing WWRP consists of two parallel plants: a Low Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) plant where the bulk of the flow (~1.25 mgd) is treated and a High TDS plant where up to 375,000 gallons per day of the influent flow is treated and desalinated.

In an effort to address future needs, LCSD commissioned a series of studies that indicate upgrades to the WWRP are needed and should be constructed in two phases. Phase 1 is intended to address the replacement of aging infrastructure while Phase 2 would expand the WWRP capacity to meet the needs of anticipated/planned population growth in the LCSD service area, consistent with the approved Orcutt Community Plan. Because Phase 1 would only replace facilities, it would not affect the wastewater treatment capacity. The Phase 2 WWRP expansion would generally consist of expansion of the Phase I facilities such as the addition of primary clarifiers, or additional activated sludge tank, addition of sludge drying beds, additional solids handling equipment, and additional or replaced disinfection equipment. The Phase 2 WWRP expansion would add a new sludge thickening processor that may send sludge from the new activated sludge process directly to the drying beds. The Phase 2 WWRP expansion is proposed to occur within the 11.63-acre footprint of Phase 1. Detailed design has not been conducted for Phase 2 and the additional treatment capacity is not anticipated to be needed for at least 10 years. Therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15145, due to the lack of specific information regarding the Phase 2 expansion project the analysis of impacts associated with Phase 2 is considered speculative and is not addressed in this Initial Study.

An important component of this Facilities Management Plan (FMP) is the implementation of a project-specific Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to address potential take of two species (California tiger salamander [CTS] and California red-legged frog [CRLF]) protected under the ESA.¹ The HCP is available for review at the LCSD offices at 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, California.

Project Objectives

The purpose of the FMP is to provide direction for design and implementation of the upgrades of the LCSD WWRP and related infrastructure to meet regulatory compliance requirements. The purpose of the HCP is to provide a mitigation plan to offset habitat loss and/or incidental take of federally and state listed species that could result from implementation of the FMP as well as operation and maintenance of these and other LCSD facilities.

¹ The CTS is also protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and the HCP and Federal incidental take permit issued under Section 10 of the ESA will be used in the State consistency determination.

The specific objectives are to:

- Replace/upgrade aging equipment at the WWRP to continue to reliably provide wastewater treatment within the LCSD service area in compliance with the WWRP's Waste Discharge Requirements.
- Continue to provide tertiary-treated recycled water for beneficial uses including irrigation of crops, grazing land and landscaping.
- Develop facilities (pipelines, storage tanks, pump stations) as needed to serve tertiary-treated recycled water to new users as supplies become available.
- Continue to protect public health and safety through the cost-effective treatment and reclamation of the community's wastewater while minimizing environmental impacts including impacts to federal and state listed species.

FMP Components

Components of the proposed FMP are described below, and maps of component locations are attached to this Initial Study.

Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade (see Attachments 3 and 6.a)

Headworks. The existing headworks system, comprised of an influent structure and separate aerated grit chamber, would be abandoned. However, the newer step screen equipment would be salvaged and reused side by side with a second similar unit in a new headworks facility, consisting of two parallel influent screens each with dedicated washer/compactors, two wet wells with two submersible 30 horsepower influent pumps in each well (total of three pumps on-duty, one standby). The new headworks would be sized to accommodate both Phase 1 and future expansion peak hourly wet weather flows. The two existing gravity influent sewers (24-inch and 27-inch) would be combined into a single influent line (36-inch) and feed into the new headworks. The new headworks facility would be located below grade, with only the step screens located above grade.

Grit Chamber/Primary Clarifier Splitter Box. Wastewater flowing from the headworks would be processed by a vortex grit chamber, with two 7.5 horsepower grit pumps (one on-duty, one standby), grit washing and dewatering equipment. A primary clarifier splitter box would be integrated into the grit chamber structure. This component would include motor-operated valves that would allow operators to split the flow and direct it to either the proposed Aeration Basin/Mixed Liquor Splitter Box or the High TDS/Low TDS Ponds. During periods of high TDS influent (about 5 hours/day), influent would be diverted to the High TDS Pond. During the remaining ~19 hours/day, a portion of the influent flow would be diverted to the Low TDS Pond to be stored and used to supplement influent flows during high TDS periods, with the balance directed to the proposed Aeration Basin/Mixed Liquor Splitter Box. The grit chamber structure would be constructed of reinforced concrete and extend approximately 20 feet above grade.

Aeration Basin/Mixed Liquor Splitter Box. This component would provide overflow launders to equally split flow to each of the three proposed Aeration Basins. During the ~5 hour high TDS diversion period, wastewater from the Low TDS Pond would be pumped into this Splitter Box to supplement flows. The splitter box structure would be constructed of reinforced concrete, approximately 28 feet by 18 feet, with 12.5 feet of the structure extending above grade.

Aeration Basins. Three new aeration basins (approximately 180 feet by 50 feet) would be constructed, each with one 7.5 horsepower electric surface mixer. Aeration of the three basins would be provided by three 150 horsepower blowers (two on-duty, one standby) housed in a stand-alone blower building (approximately 110 feet by 37 feet). The blower building would be approximately 25 feet-tall and constructed of masonry.

Secondary Clarifiers. The two existing primary clarifiers, single trickling filter, and single secondary clarifier would be abandoned in place. Two new 115 foot inside diameter (130 feet total outside diameter) secondary clarifiers would be constructed, with a minimum of one in service at all times. A water spray system would be provided for each secondary clarifier. The clarifiers would be provided with a common secondary scum pit that houses two scum pumps (one on-duty, one standby). Accumulated scum would be pumped to the digester or the sludge drying beds. The secondary clarifiers would be constructed of reinforced concrete, and extend approximately 12 feet above grade.

Return Activated Sludge/Waste Activated Sludge (RAS/WAS) Pump Station. A RAS/WAS Pump Station would be constructed to maintain the proper suspended solids concentration in the aeration basins. The RAS/WAS Pump Station would consist of an open subterranean concrete structure approximately 50 feet by 60 feet. The RAS/WAS Pump Station would include three 20 horsepower RAS pumps (two on-duty, one standby) and two 15 horsepower WAS pumps (one on-duty, one standby). The RAS pumps would pump sludge to the Aeration Basin/Mixed Liquor Splitting Box, while the WAS pumps would pump sludge to the digester or the sludge drying beds.

Ultra-Violet (UV) Break Tank and Pump Station. The existing southern primary clarifier would be repurposed as a 65 foot-diameter break tank with pump station to provide consistent flow rates to the existing UV disinfection system. Three 10 horsepower pumps (two on-duty, one standby) would be provided and housed in an existing control building.

Low TDS Pump Station. The two existing pumps would be replaced with larger 15 horsepower pumps, and would be used to pump wastewater from the Low TDS Pond to the proposed Aeration Basin/Mixed Liquor Splitter Box.

Electrical Power. Power is currently supplied to the WWRP by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and a LCSD-owned one megawatt photo-voltaic solar energy facility located immediately north of the WWRP (0.5 MW to each meter). Electricity used by the WWRP is currently supplied through two meters. The existing west side meter primarily supplies power to portions of the existing WWRP that would be abandoned, and portions of the recycled water distribution system. The east meter primarily supplies power to the membrane bioreactor/reverse osmosis processes. The Phase 1 Upgrade includes expanding the size of the east meter to supply most of the new facilities, with some of the new facilities supplied by the west meter. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade also includes adding a new 1,000 kW emergency generator to supply power to supplement existing emergency generators (500 kW at west meter and 1,000 kW at east meter) connected to the east meter.

New Laboratory/Operations Building. A new laboratory/operations building would be constructed immediately west of the existing operations building. It would be approximately 30 feet by 50 feet, 10 feet-tall, and constructed of masonry, similar to the existing operations building. In addition, the existing operations building would be modified, likely including re-location of interior walls.

Flood Protection. Based on a revised flood analysis conducted by Penfield & Smith Engineers (2014), portions of the existing WWRP and Phase 1 Upgrade area could be inundated by overflow from Orcutt-Solomon Creek during a 100-year flood event. Flood protection would be provided through the construction of a flood wall along the southern WWRP boundary (south of Dutard Road) and flood berm along the northern and eastern WWRP boundaries. The 1,200 foot-long flood wall would be approximately 6 feet above finished grade, constructed of reinforced concrete, and designed to provide a minimum of three feet of freeboard relative to the predicted 100-year water surface elevation.

The 2,300 foot-long flood berm would be constructed of compacted soil with a two foot-wide concrete slurry core. It would be approximately 7 feet tall, 47 feet wide at the base and 5 feet wide at the top, with 2:1 slopes on the WWRP side, and 4:1 slopes on the exterior (flood) side. The flood berm would also provide three feet of freeboard relative to the predicted 100-year water surface elevation. An automatic flood gate would be provided at the Dutard Road entrance to the WWRP, where the proposed flood wall and berm would connect. The flood gate would be approximately 22.5 feet wide and 4 feet tall and raise/close automatically during a flood event, and operates in the absence of electrical power.

Storm Water Management. A new storm water pump station and storm water pond would be constructed north of the proposed secondary clarifiers to meet the non-applicability requirements of the Industrial Storm Water General Permit (Order 2014-0057-DWQ). Storm water collected in the northeastern portion of the WWRP would be directed to the new pond. The pump station would include a wet well with two submersible pumps, with one pump re-used from the existing pump station (to be demolished). The new pump station would pump collected storm water from the proposed storm water pond (225 feet by 90 feet and 6 feet deep, with 2:1 side slopes) to Pond A for storage, then to the Low TDS Pond for introduction to the wastewater treatment processes.

Trunk Sewer Replacement Along Foster Road (see Attachment 4)

The LCSD operates and maintains a wastewater collection system, including a 12-inch diameter vitrified clay trunk sewer located approximately 150 feet south of and parallel to Foster Road. A 4,750-foot segment of this trunk sewer between Blosser Road and Foxenwood Lane has been subject to obstruction by penetration of tree roots, causing backup and occasional discharge of wastewater. The LCSD proposes to replace this trunk sewer segment with a 12-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. Several existing manholes along the trunk sewer may be replaced with pre-cast manholes at the same location. The sewer line would be replaced in segments as funding becomes available. The impact analysis is based on full replacement in five years, an average of 950 feet/year.

Waller County Park Recycled Water Storage Tank, Booster Station and Pipeline (see Attachment 4)

Currently, groundwater from an on-site well (installed in the 1940's) is used for irrigation of turf grass and landscaping at Waller County Park. The Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division plans to replace this well to improve groundwater yield, and would be located approximately 150 feet west-northwest of the existing well. LCSD proposes to install a one-million-gallon storage tank at Waller County Park to provide sufficient disinfected tertiary recycled water to meet peak day irrigation demands (800,000 gallons). The proposed above-ground storage tank would be approximately 80 feet in diameter and 35 feet-tall, constructed of steel. Two booster pumps would be installed to provide needed water pressure to introduce the recycled water into the existing irrigation system, and would be located in a fenced area adjacent to the tank. The storage tank would be located near the proposed new well, and approximately 100 feet south of a one lane access road. This tank location is consistent with the Waller Park Master Plan prepared by the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division.

A 12 inch-diameter, approximately 8,250 foot-long PVC recycled water pipeline would be provided to connect the proposed storage tank to the Phase 3 Recycled Water Pipeline (approved but not constructed), approximately 2,000 feet north of the Blosser Road/Foster Road intersection. The proposed buried pipeline would traverse the Santa Maria Airport, adjacent to an existing sewer pipeline. The portion of pipeline within the Airport property would be located within a modified LCSD easement to be consistent with development plans. The ground surface over the buried pipeline would be restored, including undeveloped areas, roadways and landscaping within Waller County Park.

Improvements to the Existing Storage Reservoir Supply Pipeline (see Attachments 2 and 5.b)

An existing above-ground 12-inch diameter PVC pipeline transports recycled water from the recycled water holding tanks at the WWRP to the 300 million gallon storage reservoir north of the WWRP for temporary storage. The north/south segment of the pipeline alignment traverses the soil stockpile that was created when the reservoir was constructed from 1991 to 1993. LCSD plans to replace and bury the existing above-ground segment of the supply pipeline north of Orcutt-Solomon Creek to avoid risk of damage and effects of UV deterioration, and install a buried segment along the south berm of the existing storage reservoir to both fill the reservoir and connect to an existing buried pipeline that supplies recycled water for pasture irrigation.

Storage Reservoir Soil Stockpile Removal (see Attachments 2, 5.b and 6.c)

The storage reservoir is an earth-lined structure located on a bluff about 1/2-mile north of the WWRP and about 40 feet higher in elevation than the WWRP site. The reservoir was constructed in 1991 in an initial phase to store approximately 100 million gallons. A second phase in 1993 expanded the reservoir capacity to 300 million gallons. In total, about 1,000,000 cubic yards of soil were excavated. Excavated soils for both phases of work were stored directly south of the reservoir (“reservoir soil stockpile”).

Since the reservoir soil stockpile was initially formed, approximately 200,000 cubic yards have been removed. The current soil stockpile is approximately 1,700 feet by 800 feet, about 80 feet above natural grade, and encompasses about 800,000 cubic yards of material. This FMP component involves the removal of the remainder of the soil stockpile. The material would be excavated and hauled away based on the demand for the clean native soil by third parties. It is anticipated that all the soil would be removed over a five to 10-year period and would most likely be used within the Santa Maria Valley area and vicinity depending upon the need for fill material. Third parties purchasing the soil would provide heavy equipment, trucks, and personnel; however, soil removal would be done in compliance with the requirements of the LCSD.

Following the stockpile removal, at some time in the future, the LCSD may construct an engineered expansion of the reservoir that meets seismic stability and slope stability design criteria on the 157-acre LCSD owned parcel (APN 113-240-013). The storage reservoir expansion would be constructed to meet the demand for additional wastewater treatment, disposal, and storage capacity from build-out of the adopted Orcutt Community Plan (Santa Barbara County, 1995 amended 2001 and 2004). The existing reservoir occupies approximately 30 acres while the expansion area currently encompassed by the stockpile would occupy an adjacent area of approximately 26 acres. Soil excavated for the reservoir expansion would be placed within the 26-acres occupied by the existing reservoir stockpile. Excavation and removal (offsite transport) would occur in relation to the demand for fill material, as described for the existing stockpile. Similar to the proposed Phase 2 WWRP upgrades, this project has not been subject to detailed engineering design and is not anticipated to be needed for at least 10 years. Therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15145, the analysis of impacts associated with storage reservoir expansion is considered speculative, and is not addressed in this Initial Study.

Soil stockpile removal was analyzed in 03-EIR-01 but was never completed because of issues associated with impacts to listed species. Because the EIR was prepared in 2003 and the project now includes other components, the impact analysis has been updated as a part of this Initial Study. In addition, biological impacts (which were previously identified as significant) are now being re-analyzed in consideration of the fact that the LCSD has prepared an HCP and has been issued an Incidental Take Permit for impacts (potential take) of listed species associated with the soil stockpile removal and other FMP components.

Habitat Conservation Plan and Incidental Take Permit

The LCSD's existing and proposed facilities are within areas known to contain breeding, dispersal and upland habitat for the Federally endangered and State threatened CTS (*Ambystoma californiense*), and the Federally threatened CRLF (*Rana draytonii*). To mitigate and compensate for potential impacts to these species associated with implementation of this FMP, the LCSD has prepared a Final HCP². The HCP is required as part of an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The HCP and Federal Incidental Take Permit will be used in support of obtaining a Consistency Determination from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under the California Endangered Species Act (Section 2081[b] of the California Fish and Game Code).

The HCP is included as an essential component of the FMP to provide mitigation and compensation for potential impacts to listed species. The HCP identifies the activities and components to be covered under the Federal Incidental Take Permit and identifies the responsibilities of the USFWS, the LCSD, and their successors and assigns. It describes measures that will be implemented by the LCSD to minimize and mitigate the impacts on CTS and CRLF and their habitats including:

- USFWS and CDFW approval of all biological monitors used for construction and maintenance activities;
- Pre-construction CTS and CRLF surveys and environmental training for contractor personnel;
- Monitoring by approved biologists for compliance with minimization and avoidance measures during construction;
- Protection of aquatic habitat during implementation of construction projects and operation and maintenance activities;
- Protection of upland habitat during implementation of construction projects and operation and maintenance activities by implementing minimization and avoidance measures (including work hours limitations, trash removal, equipment maintenance and fueling restrictions, and erosion control);
- Protection of aquatic and upland habitat through acquisition, establishment, and management of a conservation easement that supports aquatic and upland habitat for CTS and CRLF.

Avoidance and minimization measures would be implemented for all construction, operations, maintenance, and repair activities with potential to impact CTS or CRLF or their habitat. As a part of the HCP, the LCSD will record a conservation easement pursuant to California Civil Code 815.3 on APN 113-240-015 (126.7-acre property owned by the LCSD and managed as irrigated cattle pasture) and 7.0 acres on APN 113-240-013 (owned by LCSD, near the reservoir soil stockpile) (see Attachments 2 and 6.b). The conservation easement includes a portion of a seasonal pool (known as the Reservoir Pool, or GUAD 3) which affords known breeding habitat for CTS and CRLF, and would provide compensatory mitigation for LCSD's impacts to CTS and CRLF. The proposed conservation easement area provides occupied habitat for small mammals that may excavate burrows suitable for CTS, and presents minimal impediment for seasonal, overland dispersal and migration by CTS, particularly if managed with controlled livestock grazing.

² In addition to addressing the FMP, the HCP includes compensatory mitigation for the following LCSD projects and activities: Phase 2 Plant Upgrade, Storage Reservoir Construction, Rancho Maria Recycled Water Pipeline and Operation, Maintenance, Replacement, and Repair of Existing and Future Utilities.

The current land use of the proposed conservation easement would not change, such that existing cattle grazing would continue at current stocking rates and land discharge of recycled water by spray irrigation would continue at irrigation rates not exceeding post-2000 documented rates. Fencing would be maintained and trash removed, with rodent control and recreational use prohibited. Other proposed management actions within the conservation easement area that would benefit CTS include creation of a second breeding pool if deemed necessary.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

WWRP and Storage Reservoir Site Information (APNs 113-240-005 and 113-240-013)	
Comprehensive Plan Designation	<i>A-II-100 (rural)</i>
Orcutt Community Plan	<i>Serves the Orcutt community, but the site is located outside the Plan boundaries</i>
Zoning District, Ordinance	<i>AG-II-100 (agriculture, 100 acres minimum parcel size, LUDC)</i>
Site Size (both parcels)	<i>177.57 acres</i>
Present Use & Development	<i>Wastewater treatment and land discharge</i>
Surrounding Uses/Zoning	<i>North: LCSD Solar Facility/AG-II-100 South: LCSD recycled water ponds/AG-II-100 East: LCSD spray disposal area/AG-II-100 West: LCSD sludge drying beds/AG-II-100</i>
Access	<i>Dutard Road, via Black Road</i>
Public Services	<i>Water Supply: WWRP provides recycled water, project does not require water Sewage: Proposed facilities would not generate wastewater Fire: Santa Barbara County Fire Department (Station 21)</i>

Waller County Park Recycled Water Storage Tank Site Information (APN 111-100-013)	
Comprehensive Plan Designation	<i>REC</i>
Orcutt Community Plan	<i>REC</i>
Zoning District, Ordinance	<i>REC, LUDC</i>
Site Size	<i>70.26 acres</i>
Present Use & Development	<i>Community park (Waller County Park)</i>
Surrounding Uses/Zoning	<i>North: Residential, City of Santa Maria South: Residential, City of Santa Maria, Waller County Park/REC East: Residential/8-R-1 West: Santa Maria Airport</i>
Access	<i>Skyway Drive (from the west), Orcutt Road (from the east)</i>
Public Services	<i>Water Supply: On-site well Sewage: LCSD Fire: Santa Barbara County Fire Department</i>

Waller County Park Pipeline Alignment	
Affected Parcel Number	Zoning
111-231-010	<i>City of Santa Maria, Light Manufacturing, Planned Development Overlay</i>
111-231-011	<i>City of Santa Maria, Light Manufacturing, Planned Development Overlay, Clear Zone</i>
111-231-019	<i>City of Santa Maria, Airport Service II</i>
111-100-015	<i>REC, LUDC</i>
111-100-013	<i>REC, LUDC</i>

Foster Road Trunk Sewer Alignment	
Affected Parcel Number	Zoning
111-231-009	<i>City of Santa Maria, Open Space, Commercial & Professional Office with Planned Development Overlay</i>
111-231-004	<i>City of Santa Maria, Public Facilities</i>

HCP Conservation Easement Areas Information (APNs 113-240-015 and 113-240-013)	
Comprehensive Plan Designation	<i>A-II-100 (rural)</i>
Zoning District, Ordinance	<i>AG-II-100 (agriculture, 100 acres minimum parcel size, LUDCI)</i>
Site Size	<i>126.70 acres on APN 113-240-015; 7.0 acres on APN 113-240-013</i>
Present Use & Development	<i>Treated wastewater disposal, livestock grazing</i>
Surrounding Uses/Zoning	<i>North: Agriculture/AG-II-100 South: Agriculture/AG-II-100 East: LCSD storage reservoir/AG-II-100 West: Agriculture/AG-II-100</i>
Access	<i>Dutard Road, via Black Road</i>
Public Services	<i>Water Supply: WWRP provides recycled water, site does not require water Sewage: Site would not generate wastewater Fire: Santa Barbara County Fire Department (Station 21)</i>

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 PHYSICAL SETTING

Existing and Surrounding Uses

WWRP Phase 1 Upgrade Site. Existing uses include the WWRP and recycled water land discharge. To the south and west is Orcutt-Solomon Creek, with the reservoir soil stockpile and the storage reservoir to the north. The HCP conservation easement areas are located to the north and northwest. Agricultural lands (row crops) are located to the southwest, south and east.

Foster Road Trunk Sewer Alignment. The alignment (existing easement) is located along an access road parallel to, and south of, Foster Road, primarily serving County office buildings. Undeveloped areas are located to the north and west. Pioneer Park (leased by the City of Santa Maria) and County office buildings are located to the south. To the east is State Route 135, with residential development further east.

Waller County Park Tank Site and Pipeline Alignment. The northern portion of the pipeline alignment and the tank site are located within Waller County Park, and surrounded by recreational areas and landscaping. The southern portion of the pipeline alignment is located within Santa Maria Airport District property and traverses a runway approach area. Agricultural areas (row crops) lie to the east, airport facilities to the north and west, and undeveloped areas to the south.

LCSD Storage Reservoir Supply Pipeline and Soil Stockpile Area. The storage reservoir supply line improvement area is located immediate south of the storage reservoir, and north and east of the reservoir soil stockpile. Surrounding uses include agricultural lands, with the HCP conservation easement areas to the south and west.

Slope/Topography

The FMP sites are relatively level, excluding the southern portion of the storage reservoir soil stockpile which slopes down to the south. Elevation ranges from approximately 135 feet above mean sea level (msl) in the western portion of the HCP conservation easement area to approximately 310 feet above msl at the eastern end of the Foster Road trunk sewer alignment.

Fauna and Flora

See Section 4.4.

Archaeological Sites

The Phase I field survey resulted in the identification of four prehistoric sites and three prehistoric isolated artifacts within the proposed HCP conservation easement area (see Section 4.5).

Soils

LCSD service area and adjacent areas support primarily Betteravia loamy sand, Botella loam, Chamise channery loam, Corallitos loamy sand, Dune land, Elder sandy loam, Gullied land, Oceano sand, Marina sand, Narlon sand, Terrace escarpments and Tierra loam. The site of the proposed Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade Project supports Corallitos loamy sand (0-2 percent slopes) and sandy alluvial land (wet). The HCP conservation easement areas supports Betteravia loamy sand (both 0-2 and 2-9 percent slopes), Oceano sand (2-15 percent slopes, severely eroded), Terrace escarpments and Tierra loam (5-30 percent slopes, severely eroded).

Surface Water Bodies

The WWRP and western HCP conservation easement area are located adjacent to Orcutt-Solomon Creek. The storage reservoir supply pipeline and reservoir soil stockpile are located near a tributary of Orcutt-Solomon Creek. The Orcutt-Solomon Creek watershed encompasses approximately 18.5 square miles. The WWRP site is within the 100-year floodplain of Orcutt-Solomon Creek.

3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

The environmental baseline from which the project's impacts are measured consists of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, including the operation of the existing WWRP and associated infrastructure. The WWRP currently treats an average flow of 1.6 million gallons/day. Its operation is regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) under specific WDRs and Master Recycling Permit Order R3-2011-0217, adopted December 2, 2011, which allows treatment of up to 3.7 million gallons/day.

3.3 APPROVED LCSD PROJECTS (NOT YET BUILT)

The following projects have approved/certified CEQA documents and have been approved by the LCSD's Board of Directors. However, the projects have not yet been built pending the acquisition of regulatory permits (e.g., federal and state incidental take permits for listed species).

Rancho Maria Golf Course Recycled Water Pipeline

The project entails construction of approximately 10,500 feet of buried 12-inch diameter PVC recycled water pipeline from a planned connection point on the existing recycled water distribution pipeline located at the intersection of Dutard Road and Black Road to the Rancho Maria Golf Course on SR 1. The pipeline alignment follows existing county and state road rights-of-way, extending south on Black Road for a distance of 4,200 feet, turning east along SR 1 for about 4,800 feet before turning into the entrance road to the Rancho Maria Golf Course. The private portion travels another 1,500 feet before terminating at an existing storage pond. The project includes a new storage pond and connecting pipeline. The project is considered a beneficial use, as it replaces the use of groundwater for landscaping and serves as a means of discharge for the LCSD. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (09NGD-00000-00021) has been prepared for this project. The project would result in approximately 3.62 acres of temporary disturbance for pipeline installation, the majority of which is within existing paved roadways or road shoulders. The new storage reservoir would cover approximately 0.27 acre, which is currently landscaped with grass as part of the playing surface.

Both CTS and CRLF are known to occur in the vicinity. CTS are known to occur in Black Road Pond (SAMA- 3) which lies adjacent to Black Road and has been recorded along State Route 1 near the entrance to the golf course. CRLF have been recorded in the existing irrigation ponds at the Rancho Maria Golf Course and in Black Road Pond. Both CTS and CRLF could be encountered during trench excavation, pipeline installation, and reservoir construction. This project is included in the HCP and Federal Incidental Take Permit.

Sludge Drying Beds Upgrade

The existing earth lined drying beds occupy approximately 6 acres and are planned for replacement with concrete lined beds equipped with under drain and surface draining systems. The impermeable sludge drying beds would be constructed within the footprint of the existing unlined structures. The existing unlined central sludge drying beds would be replaced with 20 concrete lined beds at the same location. The project footprint would be approximately 4.0 acres, within the existing 24 acre plant site. Additional beds would be added with the Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects. Each new sludge bed would be 32 feet wide and 162 feet long. A 2.5 foot-tall concrete wall would be located parallel to each sludge bed to contain the sludge. A 12 foot-wide ramp would be located on the ends of each sludge bed, and would contain the sludge inlets. A below grade, concrete-lined channel would be provided in the center of each sludge bed to capture decanted wastewater draining from the wet sludge. A 6 inch diameter perforated polyvinyl chloride pipe would be placed in the drain channel of each sludge bed and backfilled with pea gravel.

Drained and decanted wastewater from the sludge drying beds would be collected in a common manifold and drained by gravity to a small lift station to be constructed near the northwest corner of Pond A. The lift station would be equipped with submersible pumps to transport the wastewater to the plant headworks for retreatment through a buried pipeline (approximately 930 feet-long) to be constructed along the east side of the existing storage basin to connect the lift station to the plant headworks. Each sludge bed would be filled and allowed to drain for approximately two months, and then the dried sludge would be removed from the site. It is anticipated that 20 sludge drying beds would be required for current wastewater flows (approximately 2.1 million gallons per day), and 25 sludge drying beds would be required when wastewater flows increase to approximately 3.7 MGD gallons per day (current plant capacity). A Mitigated Negative Declaration (13NGD-00000-00001) has been prepared for the project. This project is included in the HCP and Federal Incidental Take Permit.

Phase 3 Recycled Water Pipeline

An 8-mile extension of the recycled water distribution system by a third party has been approved for construction. The construction is pending funding by the third party. At the completion of construction and upon acceptance from the LCSD, the pipeline would be owned by the LCSD. This pipeline extends from the eastern terminus of the existing pipeline partway through the Santa Maria Public Airport to Blosser Road and then southerly to the Orcutt Hills where the water would be used for industrial processes. Future connections along the way may occur. An EIR (12EIR-00000-00003) has been prepared for the project. This project is not included in the LCSD's HCP as a separate incidental take permit under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act has been obtained for the project.

4.0 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS CHECKLIST

The following checklist indicates the potential level of impact and is defined as follows:

Potentially Significant Impact: A fair argument can be made, based on the substantial evidence in the file, that an effect may be significant.

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from a Potentially Significant Impact to a Less Than Significant Impact.

Less Than Significant Impact: An impact is considered adverse but does not trigger a significance threshold.

No Impact: There is adequate support that the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the subject project.

Reviewed Under Previous Document: The analysis contained in a previously adopted/certified environmental document addresses this issue adequately for use in the current case and is summarized in the discussion below. The discussion should include reference to the previous documents, a citation of the page(s) where the information is found, and identification of mitigation measures incorporated from the previous documents.

4.1 AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public or the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?		X			
b. Change to the visual character of an area?		X			
c. Glare or night lighting which may affect adjoining areas?			X		
d. Visually incompatible structures?		X			

Setting:

The proposed FMP components are located in the Santa Maria Valley. Only the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade and Waller County Park storage tank FMP components include above-ground structures which may be visible to the public. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade encompasses the existing WWRP and an 8.5 acre area to the east of the WWRP. The WWRP is industrial in character and is developed with two recycled water tanks, ponds, sludge beds, clarifiers, a trickling filter, four reverse osmosis units, various other treatment equipment and a small single-story operations building (see Attachments 3 and 5.a). With the exception of the two recycled water tanks (35 feet-tall) and the two sludge digesters (about 25 feet tall), existing WWRP components are located at grade (ponds) or approximately 10 feet or less in height. The 8.5 acre Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade site includes areas with existing facilities, as well as a tilled field used to discharge recycled water. The WWRP is located in a rural area surrounded by agricultural lands. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade site is located in an area designated as “moderate” scenic value by the Open Space Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan. The reservoir soil stockpile is composed of an irregular mound vegetated primarily with grasses and scattered shrubs, which provides a rural character with relatively low visual quality.

The nearest scenic highway is State Highway 1, which has been designated a Category 6 scenic corridor by the Comprehensive Plan, meaning “moderately scenic, major capacity, secondary distribution route”.

The recycled water storage tank site is located in Waller County Park, within an area landscaped with Aleppo pine trees adjacent to a one lane access road (see Attachment 5.c). Baseball fields (Hagerman Sports Complex) are located to the west and a grassy field and picnic area is located to the south. The visual character of the tank site and northern portion of the pipeline alignment is that of an urban park, with abundant landscaping trees, areas of turfgrass and user facilities (restrooms, gazebo, picnic tables).

Significance Thresholds:

The County’s Visual Aesthetics Impact Guidelines classify coastal and mountainous areas, the urban fringe, and travel corridors as “especially important” visual resources. A project may have the potential to create a significantly adverse aesthetic impact if (among other potential effects) it would impact important visual resources, obstruct public views, remove significant amounts of vegetation, substantially alter the natural character of the landscape, or involve extensive grading visible from public areas. The guidelines address public, not private views.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade and Reservoir Soil Stockpile: Under the County's Guidelines, the proposed Phase 1 Upgrade site and reservoir soil stockpile would not be classified as an important visual resource. New or replacement structures associated with the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would be located within or adjacent to the existing WWRP and would be consistent with the existing industrial character of the site. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade site is not visible from State Highway 1, Black Road or the Tanglewood community located approximate 0.8 miles to the east, due to intervening topography. The reservoir soil stockpile site is also not visible from any public viewing locations due to intervening topography. Therefore, project-related changes to these sites would result in a less than significant visual impact. Waller County Park Recycled Water Storage Tank, Booster Station and Pipeline: The County CEQA Guidelines identify parks and recreational areas as areas of scenic value. The recycled water storage tank construction in Waller County Park would involve removal of approximately 0.5 acres of landscaping including three mature pine trees, temporary placement of soil stockpiles, and establishment of construction materials and equipment staging/storage areas for approximately one year. These features would be visible to park users and may be temporarily visually incompatible with the surrounding park facilities, resulting in a significant visual impact.
- b. Due to rolling topography and landscaping trees, the tank site is not visible from any public viewing areas outside Waller County Park. U.S. Highway 101 is an eligible State scenic highway located approximately 0.7 miles to the east of the tank site. The tank site is not visible from U.S Highway 101 due to sound walls and intervening structures. Although necessary to provide water for the park landscaping and facilities, the proposed recycled water storage tank would be a large (80 feet in diameter, 35 feet-tall, see example tank in Attachment 5.d) incongruous feature which would be visible to park users and may be visually incompatible with the visual character of surrounding portions of the park resulting in a potentially significant visual impact.

Approximately nine mature non-native landscaping trees (Aleppo pine, blue gum eucalyptus, poplar) would be removed by installation of the Waller County Park pipeline and storage tank, including six trees along the pipeline alignment (one on the Airport property and five in Waller County Park) and three Aleppo pine trees at the tank site. The pipeline alignment was developed to avoid trees, and only a small proportion of trees would be removed along the alignment. Therefore, a significant change in the visual character along the pipeline alignment would not occur. Tree removal at the tank site would exacerbate the potentially significant visual impact of the tank discussed above.
- c. Low intensity security lighting would be provided at the recycled water storage tank and booster pump station. This lighting would be shielded and directed downwards, similar to other security lighting at Waller County Park, and would not affect any residences or adversely impact the night sky. Therefore, visual impacts associated with project-related changes in night lighting would be less than significant.
- d. See discussion under b. above.

Cumulative Impacts:

The other cumulative LCSD projects listed in Section 3.3 are not within the same viewshed as the Waller County Park recycled water storage tank and would not contribute to cumulative visual impacts. Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade facilities would not be visible from public viewing locations and the visibility of the Waller County Park tank is limited to park users. Therefore, the incremental contribution of the FMP to cumulative aesthetics impacts would not be considerable.

Mitigation:

MM A-1 Construction Area Screening and Clean Up. To minimize potentially significant short-term impacts to visual resources associated with storage tank construction at Waller County Park, the following measures shall be implemented during construction:

- The construction footprint shall be minimized.
- Storage of construction materials, excess soil and construction equipment shall be sited to avoid high public use areas of the park or conducted in existing disturbed areas outside the Park which are not visually sensitive, to the extent feasible.
- The construction work area shall be encircled by 10 foot-tall chain link fencing covered with dark green polyethylene fabric with a minimum 85 percent opacity and shall be kept clear of graffiti.
- Following completion of construction, the project site shall be cleared of all project-related construction debris.

Plan Requirements/Timing: The Construction Screening and Clean Up Plan shall be approved by the County Community Services Department, Parks Division prior to the initiation of tank construction.

MONITORING: The LCSD-appointed inspector shall ensure Construction Screening and Clean Up Plan is fully implemented.

MM A-2 Tank Color and Screening. To minimize potentially significant long-term impacts to visual resources associated with the storage tank at Waller County Park, the following measures shall be implemented:

- The storage tank shall be painted earth tone colors to blend into the surrounding landscaping. The paint color shall be selected in coordination with the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division.
- Pending approval by the Parks Division, non-invasive landscaping trees and shrubs compatible with the existing park plant palette shall be planted around the tank to screen public views of the tank, focusing on views from the access road. A Tank Landscaping Plan shall be developed for approval by the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division.

Plan Requirements/Timing: The Tank Landscaping Plan shall be approved by the County Community Services Department, Parks Division prior to the initiation of tank construction.

MONITORING: The LCSD-appointed inspector shall ensure the Tank Landscaping Plan is fully implemented.

Residual Impacts:

With the incorporation of measures **MM A-1** and **MM A-2**, residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use, impair agricultural land productivity (whether prime or non-prime) or conflict with agricultural preserve programs?			X		
b. An effect upon any unique or other farmland of State or Local Importance?			X		

Setting:

Agricultural lands play a critical economic and environmental role in Santa Barbara County. Agriculture continues to be Santa Barbara County's major producing industry with a gross production value of over \$1.4 billion (Santa Barbara County 2016 Agricultural Production Report). In addition to the creation of food, jobs, and economic value, farmland provides valuable open space and maintains the County's rural character. The proposed FMP components are located in the Santa Maria Valley, one of the County's most active and productive agricultural regions, generating more than half of the County's agricultural revenue. The region's intensive irrigated croplands produce the bulk of the County's strawberries, broccoli, lettuce and other fresh vegetables. In addition, Santa Maria Valley agricultural lands provide a significant amount of dry farming and cattle grazing.

Soils. Based on the Soil Survey of Northern Santa Barbara Area, California (Soil Conservation Service, 1972), the LCSD service area and adjacent areas support primarily Betteravia loamy sand, Botella loam, Chamise channery loam, Corallitos loamy sand, Dune land, Elder sandy loam, Gullied land, Oceano sand, Marina sand, Naron sand, Terrace escarpments and Tierra loam. The site of the proposed Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade supports Corallitos loamy sand (0-2 percent slopes) and sandy alluvial land (wet). The HCP conservation easement areas supports Betteravia loamy sand (both 0-2 and 2-9 percent slopes), Oceano sand (2-15 percent slopes, severely eroded), Terrace escarpments and Tierra loam (5-30 percent slopes, severely eroded).

Important Farmland. The California Department of Conservation Important Farmland maps designate the existing WWRP as "Disturbed". This project includes expansion of the WWRP to the east and north to provide space for new facilities, primarily aeration basins, secondary clarifiers, a storm water pond and flood berm. This land expansion includes 8.5 acres of area used for disposal of treated wastewater through spray irrigation. The 8.5 acre affected area includes 4.8 acres of farmland classified as Prime and 3.3 acres of farmland classified as Local Importance.

The Important Farmland maps designate the Foster Road trunk sewer alignment as "Grazing Land", although it supports a tree windrow adjacent to County administration buildings and Pioneer Park.

The California Department of Conservation Important Farmland maps designate the Waller County Park recycled water pipeline alignment as "Grazing Land" (south of the Santa Maria Airport), "Disturbed" and "Other Lands". The booster station and storage tank would be located in areas designated as "Disturbed".

The California Department of Conservation Important Farmland maps designate the existing storage reservoir supply pipeline alignment and reservoir soil stockpile as "Grazing Land".

Land Conservation Act (LCA) Contracts. Lands enrolled in LCA contracts (prime agricultural land) include parcels located to the north, east and west of the WWRP. Excluding a portion of the HCP conservation easement (APN 113-240-015), LCSD-owned parcels are not enrolled in LCA contracts. However, the LCSD has requested non-renewal of the LCA contract and the contract will lapse at the end of the contract term.

Significance Thresholds:

The County's Agricultural Resources Guidelines (approved by the Board of Supervisors, August 1993) provide a methodology for evaluating agricultural resources. These guidelines utilize a weighted point system to serve as a preliminary screening tool for determining significance. The tool assists planners in identifying whether a previously viable agricultural parcel could potentially be subdivided into parcels that are not considered viable after division. A project which would result in the loss or impairment of agricultural resources would create a potentially significant impact. The Point System is intended to measure the productive ability of an existing parcel as compared to proposed parcels. The tool compares availability of resources and prevalent uses that benefit agricultural potential but does not quantifiably measure a parcel's actual agricultural production.

Initial Studies are to use this Point System in conjunction with any additional information regarding agricultural resources. The Point System assigns values to nine particular characteristics of agricultural productivity of a site. These factors include parcel size, soil classification, water availability, agricultural suitability, existing and historic land use, comprehensive plan designation, adjacent land uses, agricultural preserve potential, and combined farming operations. If the tabulated points total 60 or more, that parcel is considered viable for the purposes of analysis. The project would be considered to have a potentially significant impact if the division of land of a viable parcel would result in parcels that did not either score over 60 in themselves or resulted in a score with a significantly lower score than the existing parcel. Any loss or impairment of agricultural resources identified using the Point System could constitute a potentially significant impact and warrants additional site specific analysis.

Impact Discussion:

(a, b) The proposed WWRP Phase 1 Upgrade would convert 4.8 acres of land classified as Prime farmland and 3.3 acres of land classified as Local Importance farmland to wastewater treatment land uses. This area is currently used for upland discharge of recycled water through spray irrigation. According to the points analysis (Table 1), the affected lands do not reach the required threshold value of 60 or more points. Therefore, agricultural conversion impacts would be less than significant.

Improvements to the existing storage reservoir supply pipeline would be located adjacent to the existing storage reservoir and soil stockpile in an area zoned for agriculture (AG-II-100). The pipeline alignment is not suitable for agricultural cultivation due to its location, and has not been used for agriculture since at least 1991 when storage reservoir construction was initiated. In any case, the supply pipeline would be buried and not result in any additional farmland conversion. The reservoir soil stockpile is also located in an area zoned for agriculture, but is not suitable for cultivation due to its irregular topography and has not been used for agriculture since before 1991 when storage reservoir construction was initiated.

Dust generated by implementation of improvements to the storage reservoir supply pipeline and removal of the reservoir soil stockpile may adversely affect agricultural crops on adjacent parcels; however, standard dust control measures developed by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District would be implemented. Therefore, indirect impacts to adjacent agricultural operations would be less than significant.

Table 1. Agricultural Suitability and Productivity Analysis

Agricultural Suitability and Productivity	Prime Farmland portion of the WWRP Parcel	Local Importance Farmland portion of the WWRP Parcel
Parcel size Less than 5 acres: (0-3 pts) 5-<10 acres: (4-6 pts) 10-<40 acres: (7-8 pts) 40-<100 acres: (9-10 pts) 100-<500 acres: (11-12 pts)	11 (WWRP parcels: 177.57 acres)	11 (WWRP parcels: 177.57 acres)
Soil classification Class I : (14-15 pts) Class II: (11-13 pts) Class III: (8-10 pts) Class VII: (1-5 pts)	9 (Capability Class III)	2 (Capability Class VII)
Water availability Adequate supply: (12-14 pts) May be marginal: (8-11 pts)	8 (irrigated with treated wastewater, not suitable for food crops)	8 (irrigated with treated wastewater, not suitable for food crops)

Agricultural Suitability and Productivity	Prime Farmland portion of the WWRP Parcel	Local Importance Farmland portion of the WWRP Parcel
Agricultural Suitability (crops) Highly suitable for irrigated crops: (8-10 pts) Highly suitable for irrigated ornamentals, pasture, dry farming: (6-8 pts) Moderately suitable for irrigated crops: (4-5 pts) Low suitability for any crops: (1-3 pts)	4 (moderately suitable)	2 (low suitability)
Existing and Historic Land Use Active agricultural production: (5 pts) Maintained range: (5 pts) Unmaintained, productive in last 10 years: (3-5 pts) Vacant: (1-3 pts)	1 (fallow since 1990's when wastewater disposal began)	1 (fallow since 1990's when wastewater disposal began)
Comprehensive Plan Designation A-II: (5 pts) A-I: (4 pts)	5 (A-II-100)	5 (A-II-100)
Adjacent Land Uses Surrounded by ag. operations, adequate support uses: (9-10 pts) Surrounded by ag. operations w/o adequate support uses: (7-8 pts)	7 (WWRP and solar energy facility to west and north, agriculture to the south)	7 (WWRP and solar energy facility to west and north, agriculture to the south)
Agricultural Preserve Potential Can qualify for prime agricultural preserve by itself, or is in a preserve: (5-7 pts) Can qualify for non-prime agricultural preserve by itself: (2-4 pts) Can qualify for prime agricultural preserve with adjacent parcels: (3-4 pts) Can qualify for non-prime agricultural preserve with adjacent parcels: (1-3 pts) Cannot qualify: (0 pts)	2 (could qualify for non-prime agricultural preserve with adjacent parcels)	1 (could qualify for non-prime agricultural preserve with adjacent parcels)
Combined Farming Operations Provides a significant component of a combined farming operation: (5 pts) Provides an important component of a combined farming operation: (3 pts) Provides a small component of a combined farming operation: (3 pts) No combined operation: (0 pts)	0 (no combined farming operation)	0 (no combined farming operation)
TOTAL	47	37

Implementation of the Final HCP would involve placing 133.7 acres of land into a conservation easement (see Attachment 2), which is zoned for agriculture (AG-II-100). The California Department of Conservation Important Farmland maps designate the conservation easement areas as “Grazing Land”. The western conservation easement area has not been used for agricultural cultivation since at least the 1940’s. The eastern conservation easement area is located on a slope and not suitable for agricultural cultivation. The FMP and HCP do not propose any change in land use; the western conservation easement area (126.7 acres) would continue to be used for upland discharge (irrigation) of recycled water and grazing beef cattle. No temporary or permanent impacts to agricultural resources would occur at this parcel. The trunk sewer replacement along Foster Road and the Waller County Park recycled water storage tank, booster station and pipeline would not affect designated Prime farmland or areas zoned for agriculture.

Cumulative Impacts:

The County’s Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project’s contribution to a regionally significant issue constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project would not exceed the threshold of significance for agricultural resources. Other LCSD projects would not adversely impact agricultural resources. The project’s incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to agricultural resources (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

Mitigation is not required as significant impacts were not identified.

References:

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office. 2017. *2016 Agricultural Production Report*.
Soil Conservation Service. 1972. *Soil Survey of Northern Santa Barbara County*.
Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Department. 1997 (amended 2004). *Orcutt Community Plan*.

4.3a AIR QUALITY

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The violation of any ambient air quality standard, a substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation, or exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (emissions from direct, indirect, mobile and stationary sources)?			X		
b. The creation of objectionable smoke, ash or odors?			X		
c. Extensive dust generation?			X		

Setting:

Attainment Status. Santa Barbara County was designated unclassifiable/attainment for the 2008 Federal 8-hour ozone standard on April 30, 2012. A revised Federal 8-hour ozone standard was adopted on October 1, 2015; however, no changes to area attainment designations are expected until late 2017. The 1-hour Federal ozone standard was revoked for Santa Barbara County. The County is also considered in attainment for the State 1-hour standard for ozone as of June 2007. The California 8-hour ozone standard was implemented in May 2006. The County violates the California 8-hour ozone standard and the California standard for PM₁₀. The County is unclassifiable/attainment for the Federal PM_{2.5} standard and unclassified for the California PM_{2.5} standard (based on monitored data from 2007 to 2009).

Local Ambient Air Quality. The nearest air quality monitoring station is the Santa Maria station (906 South Broadway), located approximately 5.1 miles northeast of the WWRP. Ozone and nitrogen dioxide concentrations monitored at the Santa Maria station from 2014 through 2016 did not exceed the State or Federal standards. The concentrations of PM₁₀ monitored at the Santa Maria station exceeded the State 24-hour standard an average of 10.3 sampling periods per year during 2014 through 2016.

Significance Thresholds:

Chapter 5 of the Santa Barbara County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (as revised in July 2015) addresses the subject of air quality. The thresholds provide that a proposed project will not have a significant impact on air quality if operation of the project will:

- Emit (from all project sources, mobile and stationary), less than the daily trigger for offsets for any pollutant (currently 55 pounds per day for NO_x and ROC, and 80 pounds per day for PM₁₀);
- Emit less than 25 pounds per day of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) or reactive organic compounds (ROC) from motor vehicle trips only;
- Not cause or contribute to a violation of any California or National Ambient Air Quality Standard (except ozone);
- Not exceed the APCD health risk public notification thresholds adopted by the APCD Board; and be consistent with the adopted federal and state Air Quality Plans.

No thresholds have been established for short-term impacts associated with construction activities. However, the County's Grading Ordinance requires standard dust control conditions for all projects involving grading activities. Long-term/operational emissions thresholds have been established to address mobile emissions (i.e., motor vehicle emissions) and stationary source emissions (i.e., stationary boilers, engines, and chemical or industrial processing operations that release pollutants).

Impact Discussion:

a-c. Potential Air Quality Impacts

Short-Term Impacts. Demolition of WWRP facilities, construction of new FMP components and removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would generate air pollutant emissions, including exhaust emissions and wind-blown (fugitive) dust. Activities at the WWRP site would include abandonment and/or demolition of the existing headworks, primary clarifiers, trickling filter and secondary clarifiers, and construction of new treatment facilities and flood protection (flood berm and flood wall). Construction and/or demolition activity at the FMP sites (including removal of the reservoir soil stockpile) would not have the potential to result in significant project-specific short-term emissions of fugitive dust and PM₁₀, with the implementation of standard dust control measures that are required for all new development in the County.

Emissions of ozone precursors (NO_x and ROC) during project construction and removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would result primarily from the on-site use of heavy equipment. Due to the relatively small amount of heavy equipment use at the FMP sites (typically an excavator and wheeled loader), short-term emissions of NO_x and ROC would not be significant on a project-specific or cumulative basis. However, due to the non-attainment status of the air basin for ozone, the project would implement measures recommended by the APCD to reduce construction-related emissions of ozone precursors to the extent feasible. Compliance with these measures is routinely required for all new development in the County. The following standard emissions reduction measures recommended by the APCD would be implemented during project construction.

- During construction, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this should include wetting down such areas in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Increased watering frequency should be required whenever the wind speed exceeds 15 mph. Recycled water should be used whenever possible.
- Minimize the amount of disturbed area and reduce on-site vehicle speed to 15 mph or less.
- If importation, exportation and stockpiling of fill material is involved, soil stockpiled for more than two days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Trucks transporting fill material to and from the site shall be tarped from the point of origin.
- Gravel pads shall be installed at all access points to prevent tracking of mud onto public roads.
- After clearing, grading, earthmoving or excavation is completed, treat the disturbed area by watering, or revegetating, or by spreading soil binders until the area is paved or otherwise developed so that dust generation does not occur.
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering as necessary, to prevent transport of dust off-site. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD prior to the initiation of construction.
- All portable diesel-powered construction equipment shall be registered with the State's portable equipment registration program or shall obtain an APCD permit.
- Fleet owners of mobile construction equipment are subject to the ARB Regulation for In-use Off-Road Diesel Vehicles, which regulates diesel particulate matter and criteria pollutant emissions from existing off-road diesel-fueled vehicles.
- All commercial diesel vehicles are subject to State regulations limiting engine idling time. Idling of heavy-duty diesel construction equipment and trucks during loading and unloading shall be limited to five minutes; electric auxiliary power units should be used whenever possible.
- Diesel construction equipment meeting ARB ~~Tier 1~~ Tier 2 emission standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines shall be used. Equipment meeting ARB ~~Tier 2~~ Tier 3 or higher emission standards should be used to the maximum extent feasible.
- Diesel-powered equipment should be replaced by electric equipment whenever feasible.
- If feasible, diesel construction equipment shall be equipped with selective catalytic reduction systems, diesel oxidation catalysts and diesel particulate filters certified and/or verified by USEPA or ARB.
- Catalytic convertors shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment, if feasible.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications.
- The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum practical size.
- The number of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure the smallest practical number are operating at any one time.
- Construction worker trips should be minimized by requiring carpooling and by providing lunch on-site. The selected Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade construction contractor would develop and implement a LCSD-approved plan to reduce worker trips.

Long-Term Operation Emissions. Proposed FMP components would not increase operational air pollutant emissions. The proposed Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would increase electrical demand, which could increase electricity production emissions at power plants. However, much of the electrical demand of the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would be met by the existing solar energy facility located adjacent to the WWRP. In any case, electricity provided by the grid could be generated anywhere in the western U.S. and would not degrade local air quality. Maintenance of new facilities would be conducted by existing LCSD staff, with very few new vehicle trips generated. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a significant long-term impact on air quality.

Cumulative Impacts:

The County’s Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project’s contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the significance criteria for air quality. Therefore, the project’s contribution to regionally significant air pollutant emissions is not cumulatively considerable, and its cumulative effect is less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

Impacts would be less than significant; therefore, mitigation measures are not required.

4.3b AIR QUALITY - GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Will the project:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X (soil stockpile removal)		X
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X	

Setting:

The County of Santa Barbara’s Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Energy and Climate Action Plan (PMC, 2015) contains a detailed description of the proposed project’s existing regional setting as it pertains to greenhouse gas emissions.

Significance Thresholds:

Energy and Climate Action Plan. CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(a) states,

Lead agencies may analyze and mitigate the significant effects of greenhouse gas emissions at a programmatic level, such as in...a separate plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Later project-specific environmental documents may tier from...that existing programmatic review...a lead agency may determine that a project’s incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project complies with the requirements in a previously adopted plan...

On May 19, 2015, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors adopted the Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) (County of Santa Barbara Long Range Planning Division, 2015) and certified the accompanying EIR (SCH# 20144021021) (PMC, 2015). The ECAP includes a greenhouse gas emissions forecast for unincorporated Santa Barbara County to 2035 and otherwise meets the criteria in CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b) for a “plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” The ECAP commits the County to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020 consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and the related Climate Change Scoping Plan (California Air Resources Board, 2008).

The ECAP concludes that the County can meet this emission reduction target by implementing 53 existing and new County projects, policies, and programs (“emission reduction measures”), such as an energy checklist for residential building permits (BE 2), energy efficiency education and outreach programs (BE 4), and additional opportunities to recycle cardboard, glass, paper, and plastic products (WR 2). As a result, specific projects included in the ECAP’s emission forecast are not currently required to incorporate emission reduction measures listed in the ECAP or any other mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Concurrent with the ECAP, the Board of Supervisors also adopted an amendment to the Energy Element of the Comprehensive Plan that requires the County to monitor progress meeting the emission reduction target and, as necessary, update the ECAP.

The growth estimates used in the ECAP’s greenhouse gas emissions forecast were based on the Santa Barbara County Regional Growth Forecast 2005-2040 (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, 2007) and the 2010 U.S. Census. The growth estimates were based on factors such as population projections, vehicle trends, and planned land uses. The sources of greenhouse gas emissions included various sectors, such as transportation, residential energy, commercial energy, off-road, solid waste, agriculture, water and wastewater, industrial energy, and aircraft. As a result, most residential and commercial projects that are consistent with the County’s zoning (in 2007) were included in the forecast. However, certain projects were not included in the emissions forecast, such as stationary source projects, Comprehensive Plan amendments, and community plans that exceed the County’s projected population and job growth.

Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual. The County’s Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual provides a numeric bright-line threshold for industrial stationary sources of 1,000 metric tons per year carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO₂E) for industrial projects not included in the ECAP. As noted in Section 1.0, in addition to the WWRP upgrades (which are included in the ECAP), the FMP includes removal of a large soil stockpile (approximately 800,000 cubic yards) located north of the WWRP. The County’s Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual does not specifically include a threshold for construction emissions.

Based on a review of CEQA thresholds developed by other air districts in California, only the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District has adopted a CEQA GHG threshold for construction activities (1,100 MT CO₂E). The San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District has not adopted a construction threshold but has applied its adopted 10,000 MT CO₂E CEQA GHG threshold for industrial activities in three EIRs prepared for projects focused on earthwork (Las Pilitas Quarry, Santa Margarita Quarry Expansion, Chevron Tank Farm Remediation) similar to the proposed removal of the reservoir soil stockpile. As the adjacent jurisdiction (San Luis Obispo County) has applied an industrial stationary source threshold to construction projects and because the County’s industrial threshold is very similar to that adopted by Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District specifically for construction projects, the County’s 1,000 MT CO₂E annual threshold for industrial stationary has been used to determine the significance of GHG emissions associated with removal of the reservoir soil stockpile.

Impact Discussion:

- a. The County included the LCS D wastewater reclamation facilities (construction and operation) in its ECAP emissions inventory and forecast. The Baseline and Forecasted Community GHG Emissions Inventory (PMC, 2012) shows the analysis for wastewater treatment facilities. As long as improvements to the LCS D facilities do not expand capacity beyond the planned growth that was projected, the GHG emissions generated from construction and operations of the LCS D improvements were analyzed programmatically in the Final EIR for the ECAP. As such, the proposed project may tier from the ECAP's EIR for its CEQA analysis of greenhouse gas emissions. A project that tiers from the ECAP's EIR is considered to be in compliance with the requirements in the ECAP and, therefore, its incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable (Class III). Moreover, the existing WWRP and proposed Phase 1 Upgrade would be powered (in part) by the solar energy facility located adjacent to the WWRP. In general, the FMP would supplement the measures outlined in the ECAP and assist the County in reaching its overall emission reduction goals.

Removal of the reservoir soil stockpile is not specifically related to providing wastewater treatment and GHG emissions from this component of the FMP were not included in the ECAP. Therefore, GHG emissions generated by removal of the reservoir soil stockpile have been calculated and treated separately from other FMP components. The rate of removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would be dependent on the demand for clean fill material and may be variable from year to year. For the purposes of a reasonable worst-case analysis, a maximum of 200,000 cubic yards is assumed to be removed in peak year, which is based (in part) on the size of the available staging area near the reservoir soil stockpile and on a maximum prior request for soil from a developer/contractor. GHG emissions were estimated as 791.6 MT CO₂E for a peak year using the OFFROAD and EMFAC2014 models. The peak year emissions calculations are based on 40 heavy-duty truck round trips per day (20 cubic yards per trip) for 250 days. These construction GHG emissions are less than the industrial significance threshold and are considered less than significant.

- b. The ECAP includes a greenhouse gas emissions forecast for unincorporated Santa Barbara County to 2035 and otherwise meets the criteria in CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b) for a "plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." The ECAP commits the County to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020 consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and the related Climate Change Scoping Plan (California Air Resources Board, 2008). The proposed project would not conflict with the ECAP. The improvements proposed for LCS D facilities would not expand capacity or induce unplanned growth. As described above under (a), the proposed project may tier from the ECAP's EIR for its CEQA analysis of greenhouse gas emissions. A project that tiers from the ECAP's EIR is considered to be in compliance with the requirements in the ECAP.

As part of the 2010 Santa Barbara County Sustainability Action Plan, LCS D constructed a solar energy facility to provide electricity for wastewater treatment at the WWRP. Both fugitive and electricity generation GHG emissions associated with wastewater treatment at the WWRP have been included in the Santa Barbara County Local Government 2008 Baseline Year GHG Emissions Inventory and the ECAP 2020 GHG Emissions Inventory. Thus, the project will have no impact related to conflicts with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Cumulative Impacts:

The ECAP quantifies and forecasts greenhouse gas emissions for certain non-stationary sectors within unincorporated Santa Barbara County through 2020. As discussed under “Impact Discussion” above, the proposed project was included in the ECAP’s greenhouse gas emissions forecast. As a result, the project tiers from the ECAP’s certified EIR for its cumulative impact analysis of greenhouse gas emissions. The EIR contains a programmatic analysis of greenhouse gas emissions for unincorporated Santa Barbara County.

The ECAP contains 53 County and community-wide programmatic emission reduction measures to achieve the 15 percent greenhouse gas emissions reduction target by 2020. The County recently created the Energy and Sustainability Initiatives Division and is taking other steps to implement and monitor the effectiveness of these measures throughout the unincorporated county. The ECAP does not require the proposed project to incorporate any project-specific emission reduction measures or any mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the project complies with the requirements of the ECAP and, as provided in CEQA Guidelines 15183.5(b), its incremental contribution to the cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable and would not have a significant impact on the environment.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

No significant impacts are identified. Therefore, no mitigation is necessary.

References:

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 County of Santa Barbara Long Range Planning Division. 2015. *Energy and Climate Action Plan*.
 County of Santa Barbara Long Range Planning Division. 2016. *Planner’s Step-by-Step Guide for Evaluating Greenhouse Gas Emissions*.
 County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development. 2008 (revised 2015). *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual*.
 PMC. 2015. *Final Environmental Impact Report for the Energy and Climate Action Plan*.
 Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. 2007. *Santa Barbara County Regional Growth Forecast 2005-2040*.
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2013. *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gasses and Sinks: 1990-2011*.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
Flora					
a. A loss or disturbance to a unique, rare or threatened plant community?				X	
b. A reduction in the numbers or restriction in the range of any unique, rare or threatened species of plants?				X	
c. A reduction in the extent, diversity, or quality of native vegetation (including brush removal for fire prevention and flood control improvements)?			X		
d. An impact on non-native vegetation whether naturalized or horticultural if of habitat value?		X			
e. The loss of healthy native specimen trees?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
f. Introduction of herbicides, pesticides, animal life, human habitation, non-native plants or other factors that would change or hamper the existing habitat?				X	
Fauna					
g. A reduction in the numbers, a restriction in the range, or an impact to the critical habitat of any unique, rare, threatened or endangered species of animals?		X			
h. A reduction in the diversity or numbers of animals onsite (including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish or invertebrates)?			X		
i. A deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat (for foraging, breeding, roosting, nesting, etc.)?			X		
j. Introduction of barriers to movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?				X	
k. Introduction of any factors (light, fencing, noise, human presence and/or domestic animals) which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?				X	

Setting:

Santa Barbara County has a wide diversity of habitat types, including chaparral, oak woodlands, wetlands and beach dunes. Vegetation communities present at the FMP project sites are described below.

WWRP Phase 1 Upgrade Site. This site includes the existing WWRP and an adjacent area to the east where upland discharge of recycled water is conducted. The site is entirely disturbed and does not support any native vegetation. Dominant plant species are non-native weedy herbaceous species.

Foster Road Trunk Sewer Alignment. The alignment is located along an access road parallel to Foster Road, primarily serving County office buildings, and does not support native vegetation. Blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) windrows occur on both sides of this road, excluding the segment ending at Foxenwood Lane, where the windrow is on the north side only.

Waller County Park Storage Tank Site and Pipeline Alignment. The tank site is located within an area landscaped with Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), with an understory of non-native annual grassland, approximately 100 feet south of a single lane access road. The southern portion of the pipeline alignment (within the Santa Maria Airport property) is vegetated with non-native annual grassland. The northern portion (within Waller County Park) is vegetated with turfgrass and scattered landscaping trees including Aleppo pine, sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*) and poplar (*Populus* sp.).

Storage Reservoir Soil Stockpile. This area is composed of the material excavated to construct the storage reservoir between 1991 and 1993, and has been entirely colonized by mostly non-native plant species with some common pioneer native species. Dominant species include rat-tail fescue (*Festuca myuros*), storks-bill, rye-grass, and scattered coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*).

LCSD Storage Reservoir Supply Pipeline Area. The storage reservoir supply line improvement area is located adjacent to the reservoir and soil stockpile. This area does not support native vegetation and is dominated by weedy plant species including mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), hare barley (*Hordeum murinum*), rye-grass (*Festuca perennis*) and tarplant (*Deinandra fasciculata*).

HCP Conservation Easement Area. This area mostly supports non-native annual grassland dominated by rip-gut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), soft chess (*Bromus hordaceus*), storks-bill (*Erodium brachycarpum*), rye-grass, and fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*). However, native wetland vegetation occurs at the CTS breeding pool (GUAD-3) and three small depressions. Dominant species in these depressions (and GUAD-3) include yellow-cress (*Rorippa palustris*), marsh cudweed (*Gnaphalium palustre*), popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys undulata*), swine cress (*Lepidium didymum*), loose-strife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*) and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). GUAD-3 and the three depressions meet the County's definition of wetlands provided in the Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual. Overall, the proposed HCP conservation easement supports approximately 2.9 acres of County-defined wetlands (including the existing GUAD-3 CTS breeding pool).

Special-Status Species. Based on review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base, the Orcutt Community Plan Technical Appendices and environmental documents prepared for other projects in the area, the following special-status animal species have the potential to occur at one or more of the FMP sites:

- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*); CDFW Special Animal: reported from 0.2 miles west of the Waller County Park tank site and 800 feet south of the Foster Road trunk sewer alignment.
- Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*); Federal Threatened: reported in 2006 approximately 0.4 miles south of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment.
- California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*); Federal Endangered, State Threatened: reported breeding from near the storage reservoir (GUAD-3 pool), and 0.2 miles southeast of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment and 0.3 miles north of the Foster Road trunk sewer alignment (SAMA-10 pool). One dispersing CTS individual was captured near the WWRP during drift fence surveys conducted in February 2014. All FMP components (except the northern portion of the Waller County Park pipeline and storage tank site) are located within designated critical habitat for this species.
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*); Federal Threatened, California Species of Special Concern: reported from Orcutt-Solomon Creek near the WWRP, GUAD-3 pool, in the storage reservoir, 0.3 miles south of the Foster Road trunk sewer alignment (SAMA-20 pool), and 0.2 miles southeast of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment (SAMA-10 pool).
- Western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*); California Species of Special Concern: reported from near Orcutt-Solomon Creek (0.4 miles southeast of the WWRP), Santa Maria Airport property (1.7 miles west of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment and Foster Road trunk sewer) and SAMA-10 pool (0.2 miles southeast of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment and 0.3 miles north of the Foster Road trunk sewer).
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*); California Species of Special Concern: reported from Orcutt-Solomon Creek (0.6 miles southwest of the WWRP), SAMA-20 pool (0.3 miles south of the Foster Road trunk sewer, Betteravia area (0.8 miles north of the storage reservoir supply line).
- Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*); California Species of Special Concern: reported from sandy hills (near the HCP conservation easement, 0.9 miles northwest of the WWRP) and reservoir supply line, near Union Valley Parkway (0.2 miles south of the Foster Road trunk sewer).
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*); California Species of Special Concern: reported from Key Site 30 (0.8 miles east of the Foster Road trunk sewer and 1.4 miles southeast of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment).

- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*); California Species of Special Concern: reported from near Betteravia Road (2.5 miles northeast of the WWRP).
- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*); CDFW Watch List: reported from near the Rancho Maria Golf Course (1.5 miles southeast of the WWRP, 1.7 miles southwest of the Foster Road trunk sewer).
- White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*); CDFW fully protected: reported from near the Rancho Maria Golf Course (1.5 miles southeast of the WWRP, 1.7 miles southwest of the Foster Road trunk sewer).
- California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*); CDFW Watch List: reported from the FMP HCP conservation easement and Key Site 22 (1.4 miles east of the WWRP).
- Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*); California Species of Special Concern: reported from Key Site 22 (1.4 miles east of the WWRP).
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*); California Species of Special Concern: reported from Black Road (0.9 miles northeast of the WWRP), Santa Maria Airport Business Park site (near the Foster Road trunk sewer and Waller County Park pipeline alignment).

Significance Thresholds:

CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. Implementation of the proposed project may have potentially significant adverse impacts on biological resources if it would result in any of the following:

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

Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual. The County's Manual includes guidelines for the assessment of biological resource impacts. The following thresholds are applicable to this project:

Wetland Impact Assessment Guidelines: the following types of project-created impacts may be considered significant:

- (1) Projects which result in a net loss of important wetland area or wetland habitat value, either through direct or indirect impacts to wetland vegetation, degradation of water quality, or would threaten the continuity of wetland-dependent animal or plant species are considered to have a potentially significant effect on the environment.

(2) Wildlife access, use, and dispersal in wetland habitats are key components of their ecosystem value. For example, many upland species of wildlife could not persist without access to water. Movement between contiguous habitats through riparian areas (e.g.: from mountainous chaparral to valley grassland or coastal mesa) allows for many species to continue to persist and prevents genetic isolation. Projects which substantially interrupt wildlife access, use and dispersal in wetland areas would typically be considered to have potentially significant impacts.

(3) The hydrology of wetlands systems must be maintained if their function and values are to be preserved. Therefore, maintenance of hydrological conditions, such as the quantity and quality of run-off, etc., must be assessed in project review.

Impact Discussion:

The following analysis is based on a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) developed as part of the FMP, and site-specific biological surveys conducted by Padre Associates biologists.

- a. The project would not result in the loss of any rare or imperiled plant communities as defined by CDFW (Sawyer et al., 2008) or Santa Barbara County.
- b. Based on review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base and the Orcutt Community Plan Technical Appendices, no unique, rare, endangered or threatened plant species (as defined by the California Native Plant Society, CDFW, USFWS) have been reported within 1.4 miles of any FMP component. Therefore, a reduction in numbers or a restriction of the range of these species would not occur.
- c. All FMP components are located in areas where native vegetation has been removed by agriculture or development, and are periodically disturbed by mowing, cultivation or fuel management activities. However, patches of native vegetation occur with the western HCP conservation easement area. The HCP includes the construction of a second CTS breeding pool within the conservation easement. Although the design and location of this pool has not been finalized, it is anticipated that one of the three depressions supporting mostly native wetland vegetation would be expanded to create this pool. This would result in the temporary loss of up to 0.52 acres of wetland vegetation (northeastern depression). This short-term loss would be offset by the long-term increase in wetland vegetation associated with enlarging the depression and proposed fencing to exclude cattle grazing (see Section 2.5.1 of the HCP). Therefore, impacts to wetland vegetation are considered less than significant.
- d. The project would result in the loss of approximately 15.84 acres of non-native annual grassland, including 2.72 acres along the Waller County Park pipeline alignment and tank site, 0.62 acres along the reservoir supply line improvements and 12.5 acres at the storage reservoir soil stockpile. All but 0.36 acres (tank site and access driveway) of the loss of non-native annual grassland would be temporary as dominant species in non-native annual grassland are weedy species and would rapidly recolonize areas over the buried pipeline, and the reservoir soil stockpile area (between soil removal events). In addition, approximately 1.29 acres of maintained turfgrass (at Waller County Park) would be temporarily removed during installation of the proposed Waller County Park pipeline. Affected turfgrass would be replaced following pipeline installation. This non-native vegetation does not provide significant habitat value because it is periodically mowed for fuel management purposes (non-native annual grassland) or park maintenance reasons (turfgrass).

Installation of the proposed Waller County Park pipeline and storage tank would also require the removal of approximately nine mature non-native landscaping trees (primarily blue gum and Aleppo pine), including six trees along the Waller County Park pipeline alignment and three trees at the tank site. As these trees may be used for nesting by common raptors (such as red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk) protected under the California Fish and Game Code and migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code, landscaping tree removal is considered a potentially significant impact.

- e. Removal of landscaping trees would be required to accommodate installation of the Waller County Park recycled water pipeline and storage tank. However, native trees would not be adversely affected by installation and operation of FMP components.
- f. The project would not involve application of herbicides or pesticides, introduction of animal species or non-native plants or provide housing. Therefore, indirect impacts to habitats would not occur.
- g. Impacts to vernal pool fairy shrimp, western pond turtle, coast horned lizard, burrowing owl, Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kite and loggerhead shrike would not occur as suitable habitat for these species would not be disturbed or displaced by FMP components.

Monarch Butterfly

Two Monarch butterfly autumnal/transitory roost sites (Pioneer Park, California Boulevard) are located at least 800 feet south of the Foster Road trunk sewer alignment (Meade, 1999). Trunk sewer replacement activities are not anticipated to significantly affect the behavior or survival of Monarch butterflies using these roost sites due to the distance between the roost sites and proposed construction activities.

California Tiger Salamander

The California tiger salamander (CTS) is a large, stocky, terrestrial salamander with a broad, rounded snout. Although CTS spend most of their lives in upland habitats (typically small mammal burrows), their reproduction is dependent on aquatic habitats. Migrations to and from breeding pools occur during the rainy season (November to May). Breeding migrations are strongly associated with rainfall events. Based on a maximum CTS dispersal distance of 1.37 miles (Orloff, 2011), the following known breeding pools are located within dispersal distance of FMP components:

- Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade: GUAD-1, GUAD-2, GUAD-3, GUAD-4, GUAD-6, SAMA-2, SAMA-3.
- Foster Road trunk sewer replacement: SAMA-4, SAMA-6, SAMA-7, SAMA-10.
- Waller County Park pipeline and storage tank: SAMA-4, SAMA-6, SAMA-7, SAMA-10.
- Storage reservoir supply pipeline improvements and reservoir soil stockpile: GUAD-1, GUAD-2, GUAD-3, GUAD-4, GUAD-6, SAMA-3.
- HCP proposed Conservation Easement: GUAD-1, GUAD-2, GUAD-3, GUAD-4, GUAD-6, SAMA-3.

Based on the CTS habitat area map developed by USFWS, the project would result in 8.5 acres of permanent CTS upland dispersal habitat loss associated with the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade, and 23.4 acres of temporary CTS upland dispersal habitat disturbance associated with the Foster Road trunk sewer replacement, Waller County Park pipeline installation, storage reservoir supply pipeline improvements and storage reservoir soil stockpile removal. In addition to habitat loss, direct CTS mortality could occur if occupied burrows are present in the construction areas. However, the project incorporates implementation of a HCP which includes impact avoidance and minimization measures, and compensatory mitigation by permanent protection and enhancement of 133.7 acres which includes an existing breeding pool (GUAD-3) and surrounding upland habitat in a conservation easement. A Federal Incidental Take Permit under Section 10 has been issued for the project which includes implementation of the HCP. Therefore, with compliance with the Incidental Take Permit and HCP, the project would not result in a significant reduction in the numbers, a restriction in the range, or an impact to the critical habitat of CTS.

California Red-legged Frog

The California red-legged frog (CRLF) is a relatively large frog that uses a variety of habitat types, which include streams, ponds and surrounding upland habitats. CRLF typically breed from November through March. Juvenile and adult CRLF may disperse long distances from breeding sites throughout the year. During periods of wet weather, starting with the first rains of fall, some individuals may make overland excursions through upland habitats. Most of these overland movements occur at night. Suitable habitat is potentially all aquatic and riparian areas within the range of the species and includes any landscape features that provide cover and moisture.

The project would result in construction activities near potentially occupied CRLF breeding habitat (Orcutt-Solomon Creek, SAMA-20 pool, SAMA-10 pool, GUAD-3 pool), which may result in mortality of CRLF in adjacent upland habitats. In addition, disturbance of dispersal habitat would occur. However, the project incorporates implementation of a HCP which includes impact avoidance and minimization measures, and compensatory mitigation by permanent protection and enhancement of 133.7 acres which includes an existing breeding pool (GUAD-3) and surrounding upland habitat in a conservation easement. A Federal Incidental Take Permit under Section 10 has been issued for the project which includes implementation of the HCP. Therefore, with compliance with the Incidental Take Permit and HCP, the project would not result in a significant reduction in the numbers, a restriction in the range of CRLF.

Western Spadefoot Toad

The western spadefoot toad breeds in shallow temporary pools produced by rainfall, and disperses into upland habitats, spending much of the year in self-constructed burrows. Installation of the Waller County Park pipeline would result in construction activities in proximity to known breeding sites (Santa Maria Airport property and SAMA-10 pool). Disturbance of upland habitat and potential mortality may occur, and is considered a potentially significant impact to western spadefoot toad.

Silvery Legless Lizard and California Horned Lark

Silvery legless lizard and California horned lark have been reported from the western HCP conservation easement area. However, proposed enhancement and maintenance activities to benefit CTS and CRLF (new CTS breeding pool, fencing, signage, rodent control, trash removal) are not anticipated to significantly affect these species.

American Badger

Suitable habitat for American badger occurs along the southern portion of the Waller County Park pipeline installation and the storage reservoir soil stockpile, and this species may be adversely affected by pipeline installation and soil stockpile removal activities. Therefore, impacts to American badger are considered potentially significant.

- h. All FMP components would be located in previously disturbed areas and construction would not involve permanent removal of any native vegetation. Excluding impacts to special-status species addressed under g., the project would not result in a significant reduction in local wildlife populations or species diversity.
- i. The HCP includes the construction of a second CTS breeding pool within the western conservation easement area (if deemed necessary by the USFWS), which would result in the temporary loss of up to 0.52 acres of County-defined wetlands (northeastern depression). Construction of the second CTS breeding pool would involve enlarging the existing depression, which would increase the area of saturated soils suitable for wetland plant species and increase the area of County-defined wetlands. However, excavation to enlarge the depression would result in the short-term loss of County-defined wetlands. This short-term loss would be offset by the long-term increase in County-defined wetlands associated with enlarging the depression and proposed fencing to exclude cattle grazing (see Section 2.5.1 of the HCP Conservation Easement Management Plan) which would encourage natural colonization of the enlarged depression by wetland plant species. Implementation of the FMP would not result in a net loss of wetland area or habitat value, or adversely affect the local hydrology sustaining these wetlands. Therefore, wetland impacts are considered less than significant.
- j. The FMP components are limited to buried pipelines, minor expansion of an existing wastewater treatment plant and a new tank in a public park. No barriers to wildlife movement are proposed. The proposed facilities would not result in removal of vegetation or encroachment into areas that may focus wildlife movement such as riparian corridors. Therefore, impacts to wildlife movement would not occur.
- k. Lighting, fencing and human presence would be limited to Phase 1 WRRP Upgrade, located within and immediately adjacent to the existing WWRP, and fencing at the Waller County Park storage tank and booster station. These factors would be located within existing developed areas and would not hinder wildlife activities.

Cumulative Impacts:

The project (with mitigation) would not significantly impact biological resources. Other LCSD projects would be mitigated as required by CEQA documents prepared for each project and implementation of the HCP. The incremental contribution of the proposed project to cumulative impacts to CTS and CRLF would be minimized through implementation of the HCP. Therefore, the project would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on the County's biological resources.

Mitigation:

The following mitigation measure would reduce the project's biological resources impacts to a less than significant level:

- MM BIO-1 Breeding Bird Survey and Avoidance.** If tree removal is proposed during the bird nesting period (February 15 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall survey all trees to be removed within 7 days of planned removal to identify any active bird nests. Trees supporting active native bird nests shall be avoided through project modifications, or tree removal postponed until subsequent surveys demonstrate the nest has been abandoned. Trees supporting active raptor nests shall not be removed until the nest has been demonstrated to be abandoned for at least one year.
- MM BIO-2 Western Spadefoot Toad Survey and Relocation.** Within 7 days prior to any ground disturbance within the Santa Maria Airport District property, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey for western spadefoot toad along the entire alignment, including suitable burrow habitat. If this species is found in areas of planned ground disturbance or construction staging, it shall be relocated to suitable habitat at least 200 feet from any planned disturbance.
- MM BIO-3 American Badger Survey and Avoidance.** Within 7 days prior to any ground disturbance within the Santa Maria Airport District property and soil removal at the storage reservoir stockpile, a qualified biologist shall survey for active badger dens. Project-related construction activity shall be postponed within 500 feet of the active den until the den becomes inactive.

Plan Requirements/Timing: These conditions shall be included in the project specifications.
MONITORING: The LCSD-appointed inspector shall ensure these measures are fully implemented.

Residual Impacts:

With the incorporation of measures **MM BIO-1**, **MM BIO-2** and **MM BIO-3**, residual impacts would be less than significant. Implementation of the proposed HCP as discussed above would minimize and offset impacts to CTS and CRLF, such that residual impacts to these species would be less than significant.

References:

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4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
Archaeological Resources					
a. Disruption, alteration, destruction, or adverse effect on a recorded prehistoric or historic archaeological site?		X			
b. Disruption or removal of human remains?		X			
c. Increased potential for trespassing, vandalizing, or sabotaging archaeological resources?				X	
d. Ground disturbances in an area with potential cultural resource sensitivity based on the location of known historic or prehistoric sites?		X			
Ethnic Resources					
e. Disruption of or adverse effects upon a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic group?				X	
f. Increased potential for trespassing, vandalizing, or sabotaging ethnic, sacred, or ceremonial places?				X	
g. The potential to conflict with or restrict existing religious, sacred, or educational use of the area?				X	

Setting:

Background. The FMP sites are located within the ethnographic territory of the Chumash that inhabited the Coast Ranges between San Simeon and Malibu. The Chumash have been divided into several geographic groups, each associated with a distinct language dialect (Hoover, 1986). The Chumash living in northern Santa Barbara County formed the *Purisimeño* dialect group of the Chumash language family (Golla, 2007). This group was named for their association with the Spanish mission of *La Purísima Concepción*, founded in 1787 (Greenwood, 1978).

The *Purisimeño* occupied the region extending from the western Santa Barbara Channel northward to Lompoc and Vandenberg Air Force Base, with a north boundary near the Santa Maria River (Glassow, 1996). Their territory contained 22 villages, the largest of which were home to about 200 individuals (King, 1984). Archaeological sites directly linked to the *Purisimeño* Chumash include *Nocto* near Point Arguello, and *Lompoc* established west of modern-day Lompoc (Glassow, 1996).

The coastal Chumash practiced a regular seasonal round of population dispersal and aggregation in response to the location and seasonal availability of different food resources (Landberg, 1965). In this way, large coastal villages would have been fully populated only in the late summer when pelagic fishing was at its peak. Through winter, the Chumash depended largely on stored food resources. During the spring and summer, the population dispersed through inland valleys in order to harvest wild plant resources (Landberg, 1965).

The Chumash lived in large, hemispherical houses constructed by planting willows or other poles in a circle and bending and tying them together at the top. These structures were then covered with tule mats or thatch. Structures such as this housed 40 to 50 individuals, or three-to-four-member family groups. Dance houses and sweathouses are also reported for the Chumash (Kroeber, 1925). Archaeological evidence supports observations that twin or split villages existed on opposite sides of streams or other natural features, possibly reflecting the moiety system of native California (Greenwood, 1978).

Chumash political organization was typified by small-scale chiefdoms (Hoover, 1986). Chiefs were associated with villages or segments of larger villages. Higher status chiefs controlled entire regions containing several villages. The chiefly offices were normally inherited through the male line with a primogeniture rule, i.e., the custom of the firstborn inheriting the office, in effect (Hoover, 1986). Chiefs had several bureaucratic assistants to help in political affairs and serve as messengers, orators, and ceremonial assistants. A number of status positions were associated with specialized knowledge and rituals such as weather prophet, ritual poisoner, herbalist, etc. (Bean, 1974).

The protohistoric culture of the Chumash, defined as the time when intermittent trade and contact was experienced between Native Americans and Spanish trading vessels en route to Asia, was disrupted by the arrival of the Spanish expedition led by Gaspar de Portolá in 1769. Historical accounts from the Portolá expedition and subsequent Juan Bautista de Anza expedition in 1774, as well as archaeological evidence, indicate that both expeditions passed through Santa Barbara County, south of the proposed conservation easement, and stopped at principal *Purisimeño* Chumash settlements along the way (Bolton, 1926; Browning, 1992; Priestley, 1937).

The establishment of the Spanish missions of *La Purísima Concepción* and *Santa Inés* further disrupted Chumash culture in Santa Barbara County. Archaeological evidence verifies not only that the native population was rapidly decimated by missionization, but also that the culture itself disintegrated rapidly (Greenwood, 1978). Chartkoff and Chartkoff (1984) note that Spanish settlement barred many Native Americans from traditionally important resources including clamshell beads, abalone shells, Catalina steatite, shellfish, and asphaltum.

Record Search. On January 24, 2017, Padre Associates Senior Archeologist (Ms. Rachael Letter) received the results of an archaeological records search from the Central Coast Information Center located at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The records search included a review of all recorded historic-era and prehistoric archaeological sites within a 0.25-mile radius of each FMP site as well as a review of known cultural resource surveys and technical reports. The State Historic Property Data Files, National Register of Historic Places, National Register of Determined Eligible Properties, California Points of Historic Interest, and the California Office of Historic Preservation Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility also were analyzed.

The records search identified two previously recorded archeological resources within a 0.25-mile radius of the FMP sites; however, none of these resources are within any of the FMP sites.

- CA-SBA-2711: White Cloud Site - Prehistoric lithic scatter with habitation debris.
- CA-SBA-2714: Orcutt Creek Site - Prehistoric lithic scatter with habitation debris; California Register of Historic Resources eligible.

Tribal Consultation. On July 13, 2017, LCSD formally notified Ms. Julie Tumamait-Stenslie of the Barbareno/Ventureno Band of Mission Indians of the decision to undertake the proposed project to allow the tribe to request consultation under Section 21080.3.1(d) of the Public Resources Code. This tribal representative is the only traditionally and culturally affiliated contact that has requested consultation from Santa Barbara County. A request for consultation was not received by Ms. Julie Tumamait-Stenslie.

Field Survey. The records search revealed that the WWRP Phase 1 Upgrade site, Foster Road trunk sewer replacement alignment and the Waller County Park pipeline alignment and tank site have been included in previous archaeological studies. Therefore, these FMP sites were not included in the field survey. Padre Senior Archaeologist Rachael J. Letter, M.S., RPA and Staff Archaeologists Val K. Kirstine and Christopher Letter conducted a Phase I field survey of the proposed HCP conservation easement area, storage reservoir supply pipeline alignment and storage reservoir soil stockpile on May 25, 26, 31, and June 1, 2017. Archaeologists examined these areas by walking parallel linear transects spaced at 15-meter intervals. The survey areas were documented with color digital photographs. No cultural materials were collected or removed. No cultural materials were observed at the storage reservoir supply pipeline alignment and storage reservoir soil stockpile.

The Phase I field survey resulted in the identification of four prehistoric sites and three prehistoric isolated artifacts within the proposed HCP conservation easement.

- Site 1: large, prehistoric habitation site.
- Site 2: small prehistoric lithic scatter.
- Site 3: small, prehistoric lithic scatter.
- Site 4: moderately-sized prehistoric lithic scatter.
- Isolate 1: Monterey chert graver (or burin) measuring 5 centimeters long and 3.6 centimeters wide.
- Isolate 2: Monterey chert shatter observed west of Site 3.
- Isolate 3: Monterey chert secondary flake observed north of Site 2.

Sites 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Isolates 1, 2 and 3 may all be part of one large low density prehistoric habitation site along the north bank of Orcutt-Solomon Creek. Although no artifacts were noted between sites and the isolated artifacts, vegetation was dense and visibility was poor. Therefore, there is a possibility that undetected portions of Sites 1, 2, 3 and 4 may extend well outside the mapped boundaries.

Archaeological sites, such as Site 1, 2, 3 and 4 have a potential to contribute information to our understanding of human prehistory or history; therefore, they are California Register of Historic Resources-eligible under Criterion 4. Determining the significance of an archaeological site requires subsurface testing and evaluating the information collected.

FMP Site Conditions. All FMP sites have been previously disturbed by agricultural cultivation or intensive livestock grazing (Phase 1 WRRP Upgrade, HCP conservation easement), reservoir construction (storage reservoir pipeline improvements, storage reservoir soil stockpile) airport development (Waller County Park pipeline alignment), County park construction (Waller County Park storage tank site and pipeline alignment) and sewer installation (Foster Road trunk sewer).

Significance Thresholds:

The County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual contains guidelines for identification, significance determination, and mitigation of impacts to important cultural resources. Chapter 8 of the Manual (Archaeological Resources Guidelines: Archaeological, Historic and Ethnic Element) specifies that if a resource cannot be avoided, it must be evaluated for importance under CEQA. CEQA Section 15064.5 contains the criteria for evaluating the importance of archaeological and historical resources. For archaeological resources, the criterion usually applied is: (D), "Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history".

If an archaeological site does not meet any of the four CEQA criteria in Section 15064.5, additional criteria for a “unique archaeological resource” are contained in Section 21083.2 of the Public Resource Code, which states that a “unique archaeological resource is an archaeological artifact, object, or site that: 1) contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information; 2) has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or 3) is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person. A project that may cause a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource may have a significant effect on the environment.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Proposed earth disturbance within the proposed HCP conservation easement is limited to construction of a second CTS breeding pool (if required by the USFWS), and a small increase in the use of the existing access road along the northern boundary (inside the fence-line) associated with proposed maintenance and monitoring activities (see Appendix D of the HCP). These activities have the potential to substantially disturb archeological resources within the HCP conservation easement, and considered a potentially significant impact.
- b. Although the cultural resources record search and Phase I field survey did not identify any evidence of human remains at the FMP sites, the potential exists to disrupt human remains during construction of FMP components. This impact is considered potentially significant.
- c. Implementation of the FMP would not indirectly increase the human population or increase access to archeological resources. Therefore, no increase in the potential for trespassing, vandalism or sabotage of archeological resources would occur.
- d. See a. above.
- e. The record search did not identify any sacred sites, ceremonial sites or other tribal resources in the vicinity of FMP sites. Therefore, disturbance or other adverse effects to such ethnic resources would not occur.
- f. Implementation of the FMP would not indirectly increase the human population or increase access to ethnic, sacred or ceremonial sites. Therefore, no increase in the potential for trespassing, vandalism or sabotage of ethnic, sacred or ceremonial sites would occur.
- g. Implementation of the FMP would not conflict with any known religious, sacred or educational use of the project area.

Cumulative Impacts:

The proposed project (with mitigation) would not significantly impact archeological resources. Other LCSD projects would be mitigated as required by CEQA documents prepared for each project. The incremental contribution of the proposed project to cumulative impacts to cultural resources (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation:

The following mitigation measures would reduce the project’s cultural resource impacts to a less than significant level:

MM CR-1 Extended Phase I and Phase II Testing. If construction of the second CTS breeding pool is planned outside the mapped boundaries of Sites 1, 2, 3 and 4, Extended Phase I testing shall be conducted within the proposed pool footprint. Extended Phase I testing shall consist of a series of Shovel Test Pits (STPs) and auger probes to determine the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and both the horizontal and vertical extents of any such deposits. A County-qualified archaeologist shall oversee the Extended Phase I testing and a Chumash representative shall monitor all excavation. If archaeological deposits are encountered during Extended Phase I testing, the pool site shall be re-located and additional Extended Phase I testing conducted to verify the absence of cultural resources. Alternatively, Phase II testing and evaluation shall be conducted and follow the procedures outlined in the County archaeological guidelines and consist of a variety of subsurface testing methods including Test Excavation Units (TEUs) and STPs to determine the vertical and horizontal extent and composition of prehistoric deposits. A County-qualified archaeologist shall oversee the Phase II testing and a Chumash representative shall monitor all excavation.

If ground distance is proposed within the mapped boundaries of Sites 1, 2, 3 or 4, Phase II subsurface testing and evaluation of Sites 1, 2, 3 or 4 shall be conducted. If Sites 1, 2, 3 or 4 is determined significant after Phase II testing, project redesign or Phase III Data Recovery mitigation shall be required. If Site 1, 2, 3 or 4 are determined not significant after Phase II testing, the Project may proceed as planned with a County-qualified archaeologist and Chumash representative monitoring all ground-disturbing activities.

To avoid further disturbance associated with continued use of the access road along the northern boundary of the proposed HCP conservation easement, the road shall be covered with aggregate base to encapsulate the current surface and prevent further exposure of cultural materials.

MM CR-2 Stop Work at Encounter. In the event archaeological resources are encountered during ground disturbance, work shall be stopped immediately or redirected until a qualified archaeologist and Native American representative are retained by the applicant to evaluate the significance of the find pursuant to Phase II investigations of the County Archaeological Guidelines. If remains are found to be significant, they shall be subject to a Phase III mitigation program consistent with County Archaeological Guidelines and funded by the applicant.

If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.

Plan Requirements/Timing: These conditions shall be printed on all grading plans. A plan for Extended Phase I testing (and Phase II or III testing as appropriate) shall be developed and approved by LCSD. **MONITORING:** LCSD shall check plans prior to the initiation of construction and shall spot check in the field. The LCSD-appointed inspector shall ensure archeological testing is conducted according to the approved plan.

Residual Impacts:

With the incorporation of measures **MM CR-1** and **MM CR-2**, residual impacts would be less than significant.

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4.6 ENERGY

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Substantial increase in demand, especially during peak periods, upon existing sources of energy?			X		
b. Requirement for the development or extension of new sources of energy?				X	

Setting:

Power is currently supplied to the WWRP by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and a LCSD-owned one megawatt photo-voltaic solar energy facility located immediately north of the WWRP. Electricity used by the WWRP is currently supplied through two meters. The existing west side meter primarily supplies power to portions of the existing WWRP that would be abandoned, and portions of the recycled water distribution system. The east meter primarily supplies power to the membrane bioreactor/reverse osmosis processes.

Significance Thresholds:

The County has not identified significance thresholds for electrical and/or natural gas service impacts. Appendix F of the State CEQA Guidelines for the preparation of EIRs indicates environmental impacts may include the effects of the project on local and regional energy supplies and requirements for additional capacity, effects on peak and base demand for electricity, the degree to which the project complies with existing energy standards, effects on energy resources, transportation energy use requirements and use of efficient transportation alternatives.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Removal of outdated equipment and installation of new electrical equipment associated with the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would result in a net increase in electrical demand of 2,104.6 megawatt-hours/year. This increase in electrical demand would be met by the regional power grid (via Pacific Gas & Electric), as the solar energy facility located adjacent to the WWRP is fully utilized. The increased electrical demand associated with the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would not be substantial because it would not adversely affect local energy supplies or require any additional capacity (including new generation or distribution facilities) and the demand would be relatively consistent throughout the year. Therefore, energy impacts are considered less than significant. The proposed booster pump station at Waller County Park would be used to provide recycled water for landscape irrigation, supplementing potable water provided by the well pumps. However, the overall irrigation demand would not change, such that electrical demand would not increase.
- b. No new electrical service lines would be required, as existing lines serve the WWRP and Waller County Park well.

Cumulative Impacts:

The energy impacts of the proposed project would be less than significant. Other LCSD projects (recycled water pipelines) would consume relatively small amounts of electricity for intermittent recycled water pumping purposes. The incremental contribution of the proposed project to cumulative local and regional energy demand (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

No mitigation is required. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.7 FIRE PROTECTION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Introduction of development into an existing high fire hazard area?				X	
b. Project-caused high fire hazard?		X			

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
c. Introduction of development into an area without adequate water pressure, fire hydrants or adequate access for firefighting?				X	
d. Introduction of development that will hamper fire prevention techniques such as controlled burns or backfiring in high fire hazard areas?				X	
e. Development of structures beyond safe Fire Dept. response time?				X	

Setting:

Fire protection service to the WWRP and vicinity is provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. The closest fire station is Station 21 located at 335 Union Avenue in Orcutt (3.7 miles southeast of the WWRP). City of Santa Maria Fire Station 4 (2637 S. College Drive) is closest to Waller County Park and the Foster Road trunk sewer alignment. City of Santa Maria Fire Station 6 (3339 Terminal Drive) serves the Santa Maria Airport, including the southern portion of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment.

The WWRP is surrounded by irrigated agricultural crops and/or treated wastewater spray disposal areas, and not in a high fire hazard area. Portions of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment traverse annual grasslands that may be flammable. The Waller County Park storage tank site is surrounded by pine trees that are flammable. The Foster Road trunk sewer is located adjacent to a eucalyptus windrow where flammable debris collects on the ground.

Impact Discussion:

- a. The project would not involve new development that would require fire protection.
- b. Although construction of FMP components would occur in areas with an adequate response time from fire protection services, construction equipment has the potential to start fires at the Waller County Park storage tank site and pipeline alignment, and the Foster Road trunk sewer.
- c. The project would not involve new development that would require fire protection, and would not require new fire water supplies, fire hydrants or other firefighting facilities.
- d. The proposed facilities would not be located in high fire hazard areas where controlled burns and backfires would be needed.
- e. FMP components would be located in areas with an adequate response time from fire protection services.

Cumulative Impacts:

The proposed project (with mitigation) would not create significant fire hazards. Potentially significant fire hazard impacts associated with installation of LCSD's Phase 3 recycled water pipeline would be mitigated. The incremental contribution of the proposed project to cumulative fire hazard impacts (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation:

MM FP-1 Construction Fire Hazard. To minimize potential fire hazards, a Fire Awareness and Avoidance Plan shall be implemented during construction. The Plan shall include the following:

- Fire prevention measures addressing cutting, grinding and welding;
- Maintaining fire extinguishers in every vehicle on-site;
- Providing a water truck;
- Minimizing activity during red flag alerts; and
- Communication with emergency response agencies.

Plan Requirements/Timing: The Fire Awareness and Avoidance Plan shall be submitted prior to the initiation of construction of the Waller County Park pipeline and storage tank, and replacement of the Foster Road trunk sewer. **MONITORING:** The LCSD-appointed inspector shall ensure the Plan is fully implemented.

Residual Impacts:

Full implementation of mitigation measure **MM FP-1** would reduce project-specific and cumulative fire hazard impacts to a level of less than significant.

4.8 GEOLOGIC PROCESSES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, soil creep, mudslides, ground failure (including expansive, compressible, collapsible soils), or similar hazards?				X	
b. Disruption, displacement, compaction or overcovering of the soil by cuts, fills or extensive grading?			X		
c. Exposure to or production of permanent changes in topography, such as bluff retreat or sea level rise?				X	
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic, paleontologic or physical features?				X	
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?				X	
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands or dunes, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river, or stream, or the bed of the ocean, or any bay, inlet or lake?				X	
g. The placement of septic disposal systems in impermeable soils with severe constraints to disposal of liquid effluent?				X	
h. Extraction of mineral or ore?				X	
i. Excessive grading on slopes of over 20%?			X		
j. Sand or gravel removal or loss of topsoil?			X		
k. Vibrations, from short-term construction or long-term operation, which may affect adjoining areas?			X		
l. Excessive spoils, tailings or over-burden?				X	

Setting:

The FMP sites are located in the Santa Maria basin, a transitional area between the Coast Ranges geomorphic province to the north and the Transverse Ranges to the south. The onshore Santa Maria basin is a northwest oriented structural basin that could have been formed by a large tectonic depression originating during the Miocene as a result of extension related to the San Andreas Fault System. The WWRP site is likely at the easterly end of a lacustrine plain formed within the former bed of the Guadalupe Lake. The Lake formed over the axis of the Santa Maria syncline and was subsequently drained as part of agricultural operations.

The surface geology of the WWRP and surrounding area consists of sediments of alluvium, stabilized dune sand deposits, and the Orcutt Formation. The near surface soil encountered within alluvium likely contains units of sediment and organic material that were deposited within the former limits of Guadalupe Lake. Based on site explorations, data review, and the mapped surficial geology, it appears that the WWRP site is underlain by a relatively thin layer of artificial fill that overlies alluvium. The Orcutt Formation likely underlies the alluvium, and has been encountered in other explorations near the project site at depths of approximately 40 feet below the ground surface and is exposed along the hillsides north of the WWRP (Fugro, 2012).

The largest earthquake recorded in the vicinity of the WWRP occurred in 1927, had a magnitude of 7.5 with an epicenter located on the Hosgri Fault approximately 12 miles southwest of the WWRP (Earth Systems, 2016).

Significance Thresholds:

Pursuant to the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, impacts related to geological resources may have the potential to be significant if the proposed project involves any of the following characteristics:

- The project site or any part of the project is located on land having substantial geologic constraints, as determined by the Planning and Development Department or the Public Works Department. Areas constrained by geology include parcels located near active or potentially active faults and property underlain by rock types associated with compressible/collapsible soils or susceptible to landslides or severe erosion. "Special Problems" areas designated by the Board of Supervisors have been established based on geologic constraints, flood hazards and other physical limitations to development.
- The project results in potentially hazardous geologic conditions such as the construction of cut slopes exceeding a grade of 1.5 horizontal to 1 vertical.
- The project proposes construction of a cut slope over 15 feet in height as measured from the lowest finished grade.
- The project is located on slopes exceeding 20% grade.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Based on the Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, both the WWRP site and Waller County Park storage tank site are located in areas assigned low problem ratings for liquefaction, slope stability, tsunami, expansive soils, soil creep, and compressible-collapsible soils and a moderate problem rating (lowest rating) for seismic-tectonic. Other FMP components are small buried pipelines that would not result in geologic hazards to adjacent land uses. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would be located in an area with a medium soil expansion index which could result in damage to slabs and foundations at the site. However, recommendations of the geotechnical report (Earth Systems, 2016) would be implemented, including over-excavation, moisture-conditioning, compaction, use of crushed rock and installation of a stabilization fabric.

- The Waller County Park storage tank would be located at grade and installed in compliance with a site-specific geotechnical report to be prepared prior to construction.
- b. Earthwork (excavation, trenching, backfill) would be required to install pipelines, and provide a foundation for the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade and Waller County Park storage tank. Removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would also involve excavation and grading. Earthwork operations that would occur at the FMP sites would remove vegetative cover and disturb the ground surface, thereby increasing the potential for erosion and sedimentation impacts. However, the potential for implementation of the FMP to cause substantial erosion and sediment transport would be adequately mitigated by compliance with the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. In addition, grading would be minimized by locating the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade in level areas and constructing the Waller County Park storage tank at grade. Cut and fill would be minimized and balanced on-site to the extent feasible.
 - c. In general, the ground surface would be generally restored following earthwork, with no substantial permanent change in topography. Removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would result in a permanent change in topography, which would return the site to pre-disturbance conditions including reduced slope gradient and the potential for erosion. The FMP sites are not subject to bluff retreat or sea level rise.
 - d. Based on the Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, no Areas of Special Geologic Interest occur in the project area. A search of the University of California Museum of Paleontology data base indicates vertebrate fossils (mako shark, tiger shark, great white shark, baleen whales) have been found in the Careaga Formation in the Orcutt area. Project-related earthwork would not affect the Careaga Formation. Overall, no impacts to unique geologic, paleontological, or physical features would occur.
 - e. Soils affected by construction activities would be replaced and compacted where feasible. Vegetation would quickly recolonize exposed soils produced by construction and reduce soil erosion by wind or storm run-off. Erosion would be minimized through implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan as required by the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities.
 - f. The project would not directly affect beach sands, dunes, Orcutt-Solomon Creek or other nearby drainages, or cause increased erosion or siltation that may adversely affect these geologic features.
 - g. The project does not involve installation of septic sewer systems.
 - h. The project does not involve extraction of any minerals or ore.
 - i. Removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would involve grading of localized areas with slopes exceeding 20 percent. However, these areas are very small (less than 3 acres), and the project would result in reducing slopes to below 20 percent. Overall, the potential for erosion would be reduced.
 - j. The project does not involve sand or gravel removal. Topsoil may be removed as part of construction of the Phase 1 WRRP Upgrade and Waller County Park storage tank. However, these areas have been previously disturbed and well-developed topsoil is unlikely to be present.

- k. Construction equipment used to install FMP components and to remove the reservoir soil stockpile would generate soil-borne vibration. The nearest occupied structures are single-family residences along the Waller County Park pipeline alignment (near Blosser Road, about 50 feet away) and County buildings along the Foster Road trunk sewer (about 175 feet way). Due to the small size of pipelines to be installed (12-inch diameter), short duration that work would occur in any one location, the small size and numbers of equipment to be used, it is not anticipated that vibration would be produced that would result in human annoyance or structural damage. The nearest structures to the reservoir soil stockpile are residences located approximately 3700 feet to the east, such that soil-borne vibration would not result in human annoyance or structural damage.
- l. Preparation of the storage tank foundation in Waller County Park may generate excess earth material. However, this material would be free of contaminants and made available for fill at local construction sites.

Cumulative Impacts:

The proposed project would not result in significant geologic impacts. Other LCSD projects are located in relatively level areas without any geologic constraints. The project’s incremental contribution to cumulative geologic hazards (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

No significant impacts are identified. No mitigation measures are necessary.

References:

Earth Systems Pacific. 2016. *Geotechnical Engineering and Engineering Geology Report Laguna Sanitation District Phase 1 Plant Upgrades, Dutard Road 0.67 miles west of Black Road Santa Maria Area, Santa Barbara County, California.*

Fugro Consultants, Inc. 2012. *Geotechnical Report; Laguna County Sanitation District Sludge Drying Beds, Dutard Road, Orcutt, California.* Prepared for Santa Barbara County.

4.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/RISK OF UPSET

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. In the known history of this property, have there been any past uses, storage or discharge of hazardous materials (e.g., fuel or oil stored in underground tanks, pesticides, solvents or other chemicals)?			X		
b. The use, storage or distribution of hazardous or toxic materials?			X		
c. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (e.g., oil, gas, biocides, bacteria, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?				X	
d. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?				X	
e. The creation of a potential public health hazard?				X	
f. Public safety hazards (e.g., due to development near chemical or industrial activity, producing oil wells, toxic disposal sites, etc.)?				X	
g. Exposure to hazards from oil or gas pipelines or oil well facilities?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
h. The contamination of a public water supply?				X	

Setting:

The FMP components are located in areas that are currently or have historically been used for agriculture. However, the Waller County Park pipeline alignment is located near the Santa Maria Airport which supports commercial and industrial land uses. Due to the long history of agriculture in the project area, some accumulation of historic pesticides may have occurred. Based on review of the GeoTracker (State Water Resources Control Board) and ENVIROSTOR (California Department of Toxic Substances Control) data bases, hazardous materials sites are located at the Santa Maria Airport, but none are located within 1,000 feet of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment or other FMP components.

Significance Threshold:

The County’s safety threshold addresses involuntary public exposure from projects involving significant quantities of hazardous materials. The threshold addresses the likelihood and severity of potential accidents to determine whether the safety risks of a project exceed significant levels.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Project-related earthwork may expose agricultural soils with potential historic pesticide (primarily DDT and breakdown products) contamination. However, changes in land use (including earthwork), irrigation, tilling, disking and soil erosion over the past >40 years since DDT was banned is expected to have virtually removed this pesticide (if originally present) from the FMP sites. Due to the low potential for public exposure to hazardous pesticides, this impact is considered less than significant.
- b. The WWRP currently uses chemicals used for wastewater treatment (sodium hypochlorite, citric acid, sodium bisulfite, sulfuric acid, aqueous ammonia) which could be considered hazardous if released to the environment. However, these chemicals are used and stored in compliance with an Accidental Release Prevention and Risk Management Plan dated September 24, 2016, which includes storage in appropriate containers/tanks provided with spill containment to prevent any discharge of these chemicals. The Phase I WWRP Upgrade would not involve a substantial increase in chemical use. Excluding fuels used by construction equipment and vehicles, the project does not involve increased use, storage or distribution of hazardous or toxic materials. Equipment and vehicles associated with construction of FMP components would be fueled (if needed) from a maintenance vehicle located away from drainages and residences (see Section 4.6 of the HCP). No storage of fuel is proposed at or near the FMP sites.
- c. No risk of explosion is expected as a result of project-related activities because potentially explosive materials would be limited to vehicle fuels, which would be used and stored according to standard practices to avoid ignition and explosion.
- d. The Waller County Park pipeline alignment would cross Skyway Drive and pipeline installation activities could cause minor short-term traffic congestion that could impact emergency access. However, this work would be completed in compliance with a City-issued encroachment permit and would not interfere with any emergency response or evacuation plan.
- e. The proposed project would not involve the use of any materials or cause any condition that may result in a public health hazard.
- f. The proposed project does not include any new development near hazardous materials sites.
- g. The FMP sites do not include any oil or gas pipelines or well facilities.

h. The FMP does not include any activities that would affect public water supplies.

Cumulative Impacts:

Since the project would not create significant impacts with respect to hazardous materials and/or risk of upset, the incremental contribution to cumulative impacts (including other LCSD projects) on safety within the County would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

No significant impacts are identified. No mitigations are necessary.

4.10 HISTORIC RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Adverse physical or aesthetic impacts on a structure or property at least 50 years old and/or of historic or cultural significance to the community, state or nation?				X	
b. Beneficial impacts to an historic resource by providing rehabilitation, protection in a conservation/open easement, etc.?				X	

Setting:

The written historic period for the Santa Maria Valley can be divided into three main periods: the Spanish Legacy (1769-1821), the Mexican Period (1821-1848), and the American Period (1848-present). Land grants first appeared in the project region after the end of the Mexican War in 1821. The FMP sites are located within the historic boundaries of the Rancho Punta de La Laguna, which encompassed 26,646 acres and was granted to Luis Arellanes and Emilio Miguel Ortega in 1844 (Cowan, 1977).

Starting in 1848, the Californio (Mexican resident) economy and prevalence in the area gradually declined due to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Lands Act of 1851, which required verification of all Spanish-Mexican claims by the U.S. government. During the early American Period, cattle ranching and agricultural production continued to be the primary economic focus in the project region.

At the turn of the century, oil exploration and production became another important economic component in the Santa Maria Valley and resulted in growth of Santa Maria and the founding of Orcutt. Agriculture and oil remained the basis for the region's economy throughout the first half of the Twentieth Century.

In the early 1940's, during World War II, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed what was then known as Santa Maria Army Base to provide training facilities for crews of B-25 aircraft. A few years later the B-25 groups left and the facility became a training field for P-38 pilots and ground crews. In 1946, following the war's end, the County of Santa Barbara acquired the airfield property by means of an interim permit issued by the War Assets Administration. The County retained control of the facility until 1949, at which time the City of Santa Maria obtained an undivided one-half interest. This dual ownership/management proved cumbersome to administer, and in March of 1964 transfer of the airport to the newly formed Santa Maria Public Airport District was accomplished.

In the late fifties with the building of Camp Cooke (Vandenberg Air Force Base), many people moved to the area bringing a new boom to the economy. Many subdivision projects were undertaken in Santa Maria and Orcutt in the 1950s and 1960s to meet housing needs for the base population. Based on the 2010 census, the estimated population of the area is 145,373, which includes the City of Santa Maria, the City of Guadalupe, and the communities of Orcutt, Vandenberg Village and Vandenberg Air Force Base. Vandenberg Air Force Base, agriculture and oil production continue to be the three primary components of the Santa Maria Valley's economy.

Two historic sites (CA-SBA-2730H and -2743H) were identified within a one-half mile radius of the WWRP site and one historic site (P-42-040932) has been recorded within 0.25 miles of the Foster Road trunk sewer and Waller County Park pipeline alignment. P-42-040932 is comprised of three features (two round concrete pads and one concrete foundation) related to the Hancock College of Aeronautics and the Santa Maria Airfield.

No historic resources have been recorded at any of the FMP sites.

Significance Thresholds:

The significance of historic resource impacts is determined through use of the County's Cultural Resources Guidelines. A significant resource a) possesses integrity of location, design, workmanship, material, and/or setting; b) is at least fifty years old, and c) is associated with an important contribution, was designed or built by a person who made an important contribution, is associated with an important and particular architectural style, or embodies elements demonstrating outstanding attention to detail, craftsmanship, use of materials, or construction methods.

Impact Discussion:

- a. The cultural resources record search did not identify any historic resources in close proximity to the FMP sites. No structure or property greater than 50 years old or of historic significance would be affected by the proposed project.
- b. No rehabilitation or protection of historic resources is proposed.

Cumulative Impacts:

Since the project would not result in any substantial change in the historic character of the FMP sites, the incremental contribution to cumulative effects (including other LCSD projects) on the region's historic resources would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

No impacts are identified. No mitigation measures are necessary.

References:

Cowan, R.G. 1977. *Ranchos of California, A List of Spanish Concession 1775-1822 and Mexican Grants 1822-1846.*

4.11 LAND USE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Structures and/or land use incompatible with existing land use?				X	
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?				X	
c. The induction of substantial growth or concentration of population?				X	
d. The extension of sewer trunk lines or access roads with capacity to serve new development beyond this proposed project?				X	
e. Loss of existing affordable dwellings through demolition, conversion or removal?				X	
f. Displacement of substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	
g. Displacement of substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	
h. The loss of a substantial amount of open space?				X	
i. An economic or social effect that would result in a physical change? (i.e. Closure of a freeway ramp results in isolation of an area, businesses located in the vicinity close, neighborhood degenerates, and buildings deteriorate. Or, if construction of new freeway divides an existing community, the construction would be the physical change, but the economic/social effect on the community would be the basis for determining that the physical change would be significant.)				X	
j. Conflicts with adopted airport safety zones?			X		

Setting:

Land use information concerning the FMP sites is provided in Section 2.0 (Project Location). The proposed facilities would be located on LCSD or County-owned lands zoned AG-II-100 or REC and designated A-II-100 or REC in the Comprehensive Plan, except the southern portion of the Waller County Park pipeline alignment, which would be located on Santa Maria Airport District property (City zoned as Open Space [OS] and Airport Service [AS]). The Foster Road trunk sewer is located within the City of Santa Maria and would be replaced within the existing easement on City-owned Pioneer Park (APN 111-231-009, zoned as OS) and County-owned property (APN 111-231-004, zoned as Public Facilities).

Significance Thresholds:

The Thresholds and Guidelines Manual contains no specific thresholds for land use. Generally, a potentially significant impact can occur if a project would result in substantial growth inducing effects.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Proposed above-ground structures or changes in land use would be limited to the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade and the Waller County Park storage tank. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would be located within and immediately adjacent to the existing WWRP and would be compatible with existing land use. Based on the County Land Use & Development Code, the Waller County Park storage tank is an allowed use within the REC zoning. The storage tank would serve to irrigate existing baseball fields, turfgrass and associated landscaping. The storage tank location is consistent with that proposed in the Waller Park Master Plan prepared by the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division. The storage tank would be partially screened by existing landscaping trees and would not interfere with public use of this Park. Other FMP components are buried pipelines that would avoid existing structures and utilities, and would be compatible with existing land use.
- b. All FMP components would be consistent with existing zoning and land use designations, and would not conflict with the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, the Orcutt Community Plan, the County Land Use & Development Code or the City's General Plan.
- c. The project includes extension of recycled water infrastructure to Waller County Park. The recycled water would replace irrigation water currently provided by an on-site well. Water made available by substituting recycled water for potable water for landscape irrigation could not be made available for off-site development as the well is owned and controlled by Santa Barbara County. In addition, the proposed Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would not increase the wastewater treatment capacity of the WWRP. Therefore, population growth inducement would not occur.
- d. The project does not include any new sewer lines or access roads, only replacement of an aging trunk sewer along Foster Road with no substantial increase in capacity.
- e. The project does not involve any demolition or removal of habitable structures, including affordable dwellings.
- f. The project would not displace housing.
- g. The project would not displace persons.
- h. The Waller County Park pipeline alignment traverses City-designated open space. However, the pipeline would be fully buried and not result in the loss of open space.
- i. The project would facilitate the continuing treatment of municipal wastewater through the upgrade of treatment facilities and increased options for beneficial use of recycled water. No economic or social changes would occur, including those that could result in a physical change to the environment.
- j. The Waller County Park pipeline alignment traverses a runway protection zone as designated in the Airport Master Plan for the Santa Maria Public Airport. Pipeline installation in proximity to the runway protection zone would be conducted using directional drilling methods and coordinated with airport operations to avoid any conflicts with aircraft. No above-ground structures are proposed in this area, such that long-term airport conflicts would not occur.

Cumulative Impacts:

The implementation of the project is not anticipated to result in any substantial change to any of the FMP site's conformance with environmentally protective policies and standards. Thus, the project would not cause a cumulatively considerable effect on land use.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

No impacts are identified. No mitigation measures are necessary.

4.12 NOISE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Long-term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds (e.g. locating noise sensitive uses next to an airport)?			X		
b. Short-term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds?		X			
c. Project-generated substantial increase in the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas (either day or night)?			X		

Setting:

Noise is generally defined as unwanted or objectionable sound which is measured on a logarithmic scale and typically expressed in A-weighted decibels (dB(A)). The duration of noise and the time period at which it occurs are important values in determining impacts on noise-sensitive land uses. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and Day-Night Average Level (L_{dn}) are 24-hour noise indices which account for differences in intrusiveness between day- and night-time uses.

Dominant noise sources in the vicinity of the FMP sites include existing WRRP-related noise, roadway traffic (primarily Black Road, Betteravia Road, Skyway Drive, State Route 135 and Foster Road), aircraft traffic at the Santa Maria Public Airport and occasional agricultural equipment use.

Significance Thresholds:

County long-term 24-hour noise thresholds are: 1) 65 dB(A) CNEL maximum for exterior exposure, and 2) 45 dB(A) CNEL maximum for interior exposure of noise-sensitive uses. Noise-sensitive land uses include: residential dwellings; transient lodging; hospitals and other long-term care facilities; public or private educational facilities; libraries, churches; and places of public assembly.

Construction activity conducted within 1,600 feet of noise-sensitive land uses is generally considered to result in a significant short-term noise impact.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Additional water treatment equipment associated with the Phase 1 WRRP Upgrade may result in a small increase in noise levels. However, this increase would not be detectable at the nearest noise-sensitive land use (Tanglewood community, 0.8 miles to the east). The proposed booster station at Waller County Park would generate a noise level of approximately 54.9 dB(A) at the nearest noise-sensitive land use (residence on Stubbs Lane). Assuming operation from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., the 24-hour exterior noise level at the nearest noise-sensitive land use would be 53.9 dB(A) CNEL, which is less than the significance threshold. The booster pumps would be operated instead of the existing well pumps, such that well pump noise would be replaced with booster pump noise with virtually no increase in landscape irrigation-related pump noise.
- b. Short-term demolition or construction activities proposed to be located near occupied land uses are limited to the Waller County Park pipeline and storage tank. Installation of the Waller County Park pipeline would occur as close as 65 feet from residences located along Blosser Road. Storage tank construction in Waller County Park would occur as close as 675 feet from noise-sensitive land uses, including residences on Stubbs Lane, Goodwin Road, Moondance Lane, Maggie Lane, Prescott Lane, Lancaster Lane and Lorencita Drive, but would be partially shielded by intervening topography. As construction would occur within 1,600 feet of residences, short-term construction noise impacts are considered potentially significant.
- c. See a. above.

Cumulative Impacts:

The implementation of the project (with mitigation) is not anticipated to result in any substantial noise effects. Other LCSD projects would also implement construction noise mitigation, but would not affect the same noise receptors as the proposed project, such that impacts would not be additive. The project's incremental contribution to cumulative noise impacts would not be considerable.

Mitigation:

MM N-1 Construction Noise. To minimize potentially significant construction-related noise impacts to adjacent residences, the following measure shall be implemented:

Construction activities involving heavy equipment or heavy-duty truck traffic within 1,600 feet of residences shall be limited to 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., with no work on weekends or holidays.

Plan Requirements/Timing: This condition shall be included in the project specifications.

MONITORING: The LCSD-appointed inspector shall ensure the measure is fully implemented.

Residual Impacts:

With the incorporation of measure **MM N-1**, residual noise impacts would be less than significant. Due to the distance to noise-sensitive uses and partial topographic attenuation, tank construction noise would be less than 65 dB(A) CNEL, and less than significant.

4.13 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. A need for new or altered police protection and/or health care services?				X	
b. Student generation exceeding school capacity?				X	
c. Significant amounts of solid waste or breach any national, state, or local standards or thresholds relating to solid waste disposal and generation (including recycling facilities and existing landfill capacity)?			X		
d. A need for new or altered sewer system facilities (sewer lines, lift-stations, etc.)?				X	
e. The construction of new storm water drainage or water quality control facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	

Significance Thresholds

Schools. A significant level of school impacts is generally considered to occur when a project would generate sufficient students to require an additional classroom.

Solid Waste. A project is considered to result in significant impacts to landfill capacity if it would generate 196 tons per year of solid waste. This volume represents 5% of the expected average annual increase in waste generation, and is therefore considered a significant portion of the remaining landfill capacity. In addition, construction and demolition waste from remodels and rebuilds is considered significant if it exceeds 350 tons. A project which generates 40 tons per year of solid waste is considered to have an adverse effect on solid waste generation, and mitigation via a Solid Waste Management Plan is recommended.

Impact Discussion:

- a. FMP components would be either buried or provided with fencing and security lighting. The FMP does not include any habitable structures that would require police protection or health care services.
- b. The FMP does not include any residential land uses, and would not generate demand for school capacity.
- c. Implementation of the FMP (pipeline and tank installation, earthwork for the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade) may generate excess earth material. To the extent feasible, this material would be offered for use as clean fill for local construction projects or provided to local farmers. Demolition of the WWRP to provide space for the Phase 1 Upgrade would generate solid waste such as concrete, asphalt, electrical conduit, piping and surplus equipment. Demolition debris and surplus equipment would re-used and/or recycled when feasible. The amount of material deposited in landfills is not anticipated to exceed the County's 350-ton significance threshold for construction and demolition. The proposed Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would not result in any long-term increase in operational solid waste generation that would be disposed in landfills.
- d. The FMP does not include any residential or commercial development, and would not generate demand for sewage collection or related facilities. The project is required to continue to reliably provide wastewater treatment within the LCSD service area in compliance with the WWRP's Waste Discharge Requirements, provide for the storage and distribution of recycled water and protect public health and safety through the cost-effective treatment and reclamation of the community's wastewater.
- e. The FMP would not require the construction of any storm drains or water quality control facilities outside of the WWRP boundaries. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade includes a storm water pond to capture run-off from the existing and proposed WWRP facilities and prevent discharge to Orcutt-Solomon Creek. The pond would be constructed in an existing disturbed area of the WWRP and would not cause significant environmental effects.

Cumulative Impacts:

The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for public facilities. The incremental contribution of the proposed project to the cumulative demand for public facilities (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

Significant impacts were not identified. No mitigation measures are necessary.

4.14 RECREATION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Conflict with established recreational uses of the area?		X			
b. Conflict with biking, equestrian and hiking trails?				X	
c. Substantial impact on the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities (e.g., overuse of an area with constraints on numbers of people, vehicles, animals, etc. which might safely use the area)?				X	

Setting:

Recreational facilities in proximity to FMP sites include:

- Waller County Park: a recycled water pipeline and storage tank would be located within the Park.
- Pioneer Park (City of Santa Maria): the Foster Road trunk sewer traverses the Park.
- Santa Maria YMCA (private): the Waller County Park pipeline alignment is located approximately 200 feet to the east.
- Santa Maria Country Club (private): the Waller County Park storage tank would be located approximately 1,000 feet south of this golf course.

Significance Threshold:

The Thresholds and Guidelines Manual contains no threshold for park and recreation impacts. However, the Board of Supervisors has established a minimum standard ratio of 4.7 acres of recreation/open space per 1,000 people to meet the needs of a community. The Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division maintains more than 900 acres of parks and open spaces, as well as 84 miles of trails and coastal access easements.

Impact Discussion:

- a. The proposed Waller County Park pipeline alignment traverses a disk golf field and a grassy area at the Park used for informal recreation (e.g., ball throwing, picnicking, Frisbee, dog walking, etc.). Pipeline installation activities would preclude public use of this area for several weeks. However, there are similar grassy areas in the Park (to the south, north, northwest, northeast) that could be used by the public during the construction period. Construction of the storage tank would require about 12 months to complete and may require periodic closure of the West Waller Lane entrance at Orcutt Road to allow access by heavy-duty trucks. Providing a safe work area for storage tank construction (including heavy-duty truck access and materials staging) would result in loss of recreational use of portions of Waller County Park for up to one year. This impact is considered potentially significant.
- b. The FMP sites are not located near any biking, equestrian or hiking trails, such that conflicts with construction or operation of FMP components would not occur.
- c. The proposed project would not result in any development that would increase the demand for or the use of recreational facilities. Therefore, no impacts on the quality and quantity of existing recreational opportunities would occur.

Cumulative Impacts:

The proposed project (with mitigation) would not significantly affect recreational resources. Other LCSD projects would not significant affect recreational facilities or opportunities. The project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to recreational resources (including other LCSD projects) within the County would not be considerable.

Mitigation:

MM R-1 Public Access Plan. To minimize potentially significant conflicts with recreational use of Waller County Park, the following measure shall be implemented:

LCSD shall develop a Public Access Plan in coordination with the County Community Services Department, Parks Division and the selected construction contractor to minimize the size of the storage tank construction work area, use non-recreational areas of the site for construction laydown areas where feasible, and minimize the duration of time the public is excluded from the work area. The Plan shall include fencing around the work area as needed to protect public safety, and signage and noticing to make the public aware of the affected areas and work schedule for closures of recreational areas in Waller County Park.

Plan Requirements/Timing: The Public Access Plan shall be approved by the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division prior to the start of tank construction.
MONITORING: The LCSD-appointed inspector and the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division shall ensure the Public Access Plan is fully implemented.

Residual Impacts:

With the incorporation of measure **MM R-1**, residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.15 TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement (daily, peak-hour, etc.) in relation to existing traffic load and capacity of the street system?			X		
b. A need for private or public road maintenance, or need for new road(s)?				X	
c. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?				X	
d. Substantial impact upon existing transit systems (e.g. bus service) or alteration of present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?			X		
e. Alteration to waterborne, rail or air traffic?				X	
f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians (including short-term construction and long-term operational)?			X		
g. Inadequate sight distance?				X	
ingress/egress?				X	
general road capacity?				X	
emergency access?				X	
h. Impacts to Congestion Management Plan system?			X		

Setting:

The quality of traffic service provided by a roadway system can be described through the Level of Service (LOS) concept. LOS is a standardized means of describing traffic conditions by comparing traffic volumes in a roadway system with the system's capacity. An LOS rating of A, B or C indicates that the roadway is operating efficiently. Minor delays are possible on an arterial with a LOS of D. Level E represents traffic volumes at or near the capacity of the roadway, resulting in possible delays and unstable flow. The LOS for signalized intersections is determined by comparing the calculated intersection capacity to the projected peak hour volume.

The roadway network serving the FMP sites includes U.S. Highway 101 (divided four-lane facility), State Route (SR) 135 (4 to 6-lane arterial), SR 1 (2-lane rural highway) and Betteravia Road (east-west 4-lane arterial within the City of Santa Maria, and 2-lane rural highway west of the City).

Table 2 lists LOS values for local intersections, taken from the 2016 Congestion Management Program prepared by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). However, LOS data for roadways closer to the WWRP was not provided in the Congestion Management Program and was taken from traffic counts conducted for the Rancho Santa Maria Estates EIR in 2007. Table 3 provides LOS data for local roadway segments. Note that LOS data for intersections should be used for roadways with controlled intersections.

Table 2. Local Intersection Levels of Service

Intersection	Location	PM Peak Hour LOS
SR 1/Black Road*	Santa Barbara County	B
SR 1/Clark Ave*	Santa Barbara County	A
SR 135/Clark Ave*	Santa Barbara County	A
SR 135/Union Valley Parkway	City of Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County	A
SR 135/Foster Road	City of Santa Maria	B
SR 135/Lakeview Rd-Skyway Drive	City of Santa Maria	A
SR 135/ Betteravia Road	City of Santa Maria	B
SR 135/Miller Street	City of Santa Maria	A
SR 135/ Santa Maria Way	City of Santa Maria	A
Santa Maria Way/Bradley Road	City of Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County	B
Bradley Road/Lakeview Road	Santa Barbara County	A
US 101/Betteravia Road	City of Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County	C
Betteravia Road/Blosser Road	City of Santa Maria	B

*LOS data taken from 2007 traffic counts by Associated Transportation Engineers for Rincon Consultants (2007)

Table 3. Local Roadway Levels of Service

Roadway Segment	PM Peak Hour LOS*	Total Number of Lanes	Roadway Classification	LOS C Threshold Volume	2014 Average Weekday Volume
US 101: Clark Ave to Santa Maria Way	A	4	P-1	68,000	40,600
US 101: Santa Maria Way to Betteravia Road	A	6	P-1	102,000	47,800
SR 1: SR 135 to Clark Avenue	B	2	P-1	15,900	2,750
SR 1: Clark Avenue to Black Road	B	2	P-1	15,900	3,030
SR 1: Black Road to SR 166	B	2	P-1	15,900	2,300
SR 135: SR 1 to Clark Avenue	A	4	P-1	38,200	14,700

*LOS data from 2016 Congestion Management Program

Significance Thresholds:

Santa Barbara County. According to the County’s Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, a significant traffic impact would occur when:

1. The addition of project traffic to an intersection increases the volume to capacity (V/C) ratio by the value provided below, or sends at least 15, 10 or 5 trips to an intersection operating at LOS D, E or F.

LEVEL OF SERVICE (including project)	INCREASE IN VOLUME/CAPACITY GREATER THAN
A	0.20
B	0.15
C	0.10
	Or the addition of:
D	15 trips
E	10 trips
F	5 trips

2. Project access to a major road or arterial road would require a driveway that would create an unsafe situation, or would require a new traffic signal or major revisions to an existing traffic signal.
3. Project adds traffic to a roadway that has design features (e.g., narrow width, road side ditches, sharp curves, poor sight distance, inadequate pavement structure) or receives use which would be incompatible with substantial increases in traffic (e.g. rural roads with use by farm equipment, livestock, horseback riding, or residential roads with heavy pedestrian or recreational use, etc.) that will become potential safety problems with the addition of project or cumulative traffic. Exceeding the roadway capacity designated in the Circulation Element may indicate the potential for the occurrence of the above impacts.

4. Project traffic would utilize a substantial portion of an intersection(s) capacity where the intersection is currently operating at acceptable levels of service (A-C) but with cumulative traffic would degrade to or approach LOS D (V/C 0.81) or lower. Substantial is defined as a minimum change of 0.03 for intersections which would operate from 0.80 to 0.85 and a change of 0.02 for intersections which would operate from 0.86 to 0.90, and 0.01 for intersections operating at anything lower.

2016 Congestion Management Program (CMP). Santa Barbara County's CMP LOS standard is LOS D. SBCAG has developed a set of traffic impact thresholds to assess the impacts of land use decisions made by local jurisdictions on regional transportation facilities located within the CMP roadway system, including State highways. According to CMP criteria, projects that generate less than 500 average daily trips and less than 50 peak hour trips do not require detailed traffic analyses to identify impacts to the CMP system and are considered compliant with CMP criteria. As part of the 2016 CMP annual conformance assessment and deficiency plan, SBCAG developed the following guidelines to identify a significant impact to the CMP roadway network:

- Project added traffic causing a decrease of two levels of service (e.g., LOS A decreased to C) for roadways or intersections operating at LOS A or B.
- Project added traffic causing a decrease in LOS to D or below for roadways or intersections operating at LOS C.
- A project increase of 20 peak hour trips at intersections operating at LOS D, and 10 peak hour trips at intersection operating at LOS E or F.
- A project increase of 100 peak hour trips on freeway or highway segments operating at LOS D, and 50 peak hour trips on freeway or highway segments operating at LOS E or F.

City of Santa Maria Thresholds. Policy C.1.a of the City's General Plan Circulation Element requires a minimum LOS of D on arterials, collectors and signalized intersections.

Impact Discussion:

- a. Traffic volume increases associated with the FMP components would primarily be limited to construction-related trip generation. Increases in maintenance-related vehicle trips by LCSD staff may occur as the number of pipelines to be inspected and maintained would increase and a new recycled water tank would be added. However, the increase (if any) in maintenance vehicle trips would be limited to a few trips per week, which would not affect traffic congestion on the local roadway network. It is possible that construction of the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade, Foster Road trunk sewer improvements and removal of a portion of the storage reservoir soil stockpile may occur simultaneously. Table 4 provides a summary of p.m. peak hour traffic volume increases associated with peak day construction of these three components, assuming peak hour volumes are 10 percent of average daily trips.

The analysis is based on peak hour construction traffic (19 trips) for the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade approximately evenly distributed from the south (10 trips via SR 135 from Los Alamos) and north (9 trips via U.S. Highway 101). The analysis is based on peak hour construction traffic (5 trips) for the Foster Road trunk sewer replacement project approximately evenly distributed from the south (3 trips via SR 135 from Los Alamos) and north (2 trips via U.S. Highway 101). The analysis is based on peak hour construction traffic (9 trips) for the storage reservoir soil stockpile removal project approximately evenly distributed from the south (5 trips via SR 135 from Los Alamos) and north (4 trips via U.S. Highway 101). As the increase in peak hour trips would be 15 or less and affected intersections currently operate at LOS C or better, project-related traffic congestion associated with construction vehicle trips is considered a less than significant impact.

- b. Traffic generated by the project would primarily be limited to short-term construction trips and would not result in significant impacts to public streets that would require new roads or a significant amount of increased roadway maintenance.
- c. The FMP components would not generate parking demand. Construction-related parking would be provided within the construction sites and/or approved construction staging areas, and would not use on-street parking or parking lots assigned to local businesses.
- d. The FMP would not generate long-term employment opportunities and would not significantly increase the demand for transit systems.
- e. The FMP would not generate long-term employment opportunities and would not increase the demand for waterborne, rail or air traffic.
- f. The Waller County Park pipeline alignment would cross Skyway Drive and could cause minor short-term traffic congestion, and possibly traffic safety concerns. However, this work would be completed in compliance with a City-issued encroachment permit and would not result in significant traffic safety impacts.

Table 4. Peak Hour Intersection Impact Summary

Affected Intersection	p.m. Peak Hour LOS	Peak Hour Trips Added			
		Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade	Foster Road Trunk Sewer Replacement	Reservoir Soil Stockpile Removal	Total
Northbound Route via SR 135 from Los Alamos (~50% of peak hour volume)					
SR 1/Clark Avenue	A	10	0	5	15
SR 1/Black Road	B	10	0	5	15
SR 135/Clark Avenue	A	0	3	0	3
SR 135/Union Valley Parkway	A	0	3	0	3
SR 135/Foster Road	B	0	3	0	3
Southbound Route via U.S. Highway 101 (~50% of peak hour volume)					
US 101/Betteravia Road	C	9	0	4	13
SR 135/Betteravia Road	B	9	0	4	13
Betteravia Road/Blosser Road	B	9	0	4	13
Santa Maria Way/Bradley Road	B	0	2	0	2
Bradley Road/Lakeview Road	A	0	2	0	2
SR 135/Lakeview Road-Skyway Drive	A	0	2	0	2
SR 135/Foster Road	B	0	2	0	2

- g. The FMP does not involve any development that would result in inadequate sight distance on local roadways, adversely affect ingress/egress, affect roadway capacity or conflict with emergency access. Adequate sight distance is available on Black Road to allow safe ingress/egress of heavy-duty trucks to the reservoir soil stockpile.

- h. As discussed under a. above, FMP-related traffic would be primarily construction-related, with an estimated maximum of 15 peak hour trips, and on roadways and intersections operating at LOS C or better (see Tables 3 and 4). Therefore, the FMP would not significantly impact the CMP roadway network.

Cumulative Impacts:

The County’s Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project’s contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for traffic. Other LCSD projects may contribute trips to the regional roadway network at the same time as the FMP, but are not anticipated to result in a cumulative reduction in LOS below the standard. The incremental contribution of the proposed project to cumulative traffic impacts (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

Significant impacts were not identified. No mitigation measures are necessary.

References:

Rincon Consultants. 2007. *Rancho Maria Estates Specific Plan Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report*. Prepared for Santa Barbara County.
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments. 2016. *Congestion Management Program*.

4.16 WATER RESOURCES/FLOODING

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?				X	
b. Changes in percolation rates, drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?			X		
c. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?				X	
d. Discharge, directly or through a storm drain system, into surface waters (including but not limited to wetlands, riparian areas, ponds, springs, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, tidal areas, bays, ocean, etc.) or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, or thermal water pollution?				X	
e. Alterations to the course or flow of flood water or need for private or public flood control projects?				X	
f. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding (placement of project in 100-year flood plain), accelerated runoff or tsunamis, sea level rise, or seawater intrusion?			X		
g. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater?				X	
h. Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or recharge interference?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
i. Overdraft or over-commitment of any groundwater basin? Or, a significant increase in the existing overdraft or over-commitment of any groundwater basin?				X	
j. The substantial degradation of groundwater quality including saltwater intrusion?				X	
k. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?				X	
l. Introduction of storm water pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, etc.) into groundwater or surface water?			X		

Setting:

Surface Waters. The WWRP, storage reservoir supply pipeline, reservoir soil stockpile and HCP conservation easement areas are located adjacent to Orcutt-Solomon Creek or its tributary. The Orcutt-Solomon Creek watershed encompasses approximately 18.5 square miles. A stream gauge is located immediately upstream of the Black Road bridge, and indicates Orcutt-Solomon Creek is perennial with a monthly mean flow rate of 3.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) in January (highest month) and 0.14 cfs in September (lowest month) over the period of 1983 through 2016. The highest peak storm flow recorded at this location was 2,100 cfs on March 5, 2001, which was nearly reached again on March 20, 2011 (1,930 cfs).

Regional Groundwater. The project site lies within the Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin, which comprises 288 square miles in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. In 2010, groundwater supplied 98,650 acre-feet of the region’s water demand of 109,100 acre-feet. Imported water from the State Water Project supplied the balance. Usable groundwater in storage is estimated as 1,100,000 acre-feet (Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, 2014).

Groundwater levels declined from historically high to historically low levels from the 1920’s to the late 1960’s. Since then, groundwater levels have fluctuated over alternating 5 to 15-year periods. From 2002 through 2008, groundwater levels in both shallow and deep zones have gradually declined (Luhdorff and Scalmanini, 2009). Water quality concerns in the Basin are elevated total dissolved solids and nitrate concentrations. Assessment of hydrogeologic conditions in 2010 showed groundwater levels and general mineral quality in the shallow and deep aquifer zones to be within historic levels (Luhdorff and Scalmanini, 2011). In the Lower Orcutt Creek Subarea of the groundwater basin (WWRP area), groundwater elevations have declined from 2012 to 2014, from 68 to 53 feet above sea level. The Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin is managed and not believed to be in a state of overdraft (Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, 2014).

Floodplain. The WWRP site is located within Zone A of the 100-year floodplain generated by Orcutt-Solomon Creek as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map no. 06083C0170F, effective September 30, 2005. Zone A is an unstudied floodplain where floodway and floodplain elevations have not been established. Based a flood analysis conducted by Penfield & Smith Engineers (2014) the existing WWRP and Phase 1 Upgrade area would be inundated by overflow from Orcutt-Solomon Creek during a 100-year flood event. Discharge prohibition 9 of the WWRP Waste Discharge Requirements (Order R3-2011-0217) requires all wastewater ponds to be protected from erosion, washout and flooding from a rainfall event having a predicated frequency of once in 100 years.

Water Quality Regulation. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has developed a Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coast Region (Basin Plan) (2011) to protect the water quality of surface and groundwaters of the region. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, sets narrative and numerical objectives to protect beneficial uses and describes implementation programs. Beneficial uses are processes, habitats, organisms or features that require water and are considered worthy of protection. Beneficial uses identified for Orcutt-Solomon Creek in the Water Quality Control Plan include municipal water supply, agricultural supply, groundwater recharge, water contact recreation, non-water contact recreation, wildlife habitat, cold freshwater habitat, rare species habitat, estuarine habitat, freshwater replenishment and commercial/sport fishing.

Orcutt-Solomon Creek has been designated as impaired under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act because it fails to support beneficial uses due to elevated levels of ammonia, boron, chlopyrifos, chloride, DDT, diazinon, dieldrin, fecal coliform, nitrate, sediment toxicity, sodium, turbidity, water temperature and unknown toxicity.

Groundwater Conditions near the WWRP. Groundwater was found at depths ranging from 20 to 34 feet during borings at the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade site. However, a localized area of perched groundwater was observed at a depth of 6 to 8 feet (Earth Systems, 2016). The perched water is likely related to infiltration of effluent from the existing unlined sludge drying beds and adjacent wastewater storage and treatment ponds, infiltration from Orcutt-Solomon Creek, local irrigation, rainfall and storm runoff. Groundwater conditions appear to vary seasonally, with rainfall, and with storage levels in the unlined ponds and drying beds at the WWRP (Fugro, 2012).

Significance Thresholds:

A project is determined to have a significant effect on water resources if it would exceed established threshold values which have been set for each overdrafted groundwater basin. These values were determined based on an estimation of a basin's remaining life of available water storage. If the project's net new consumptive water use [total consumptive demand adjusted for recharge less discontinued historic use] exceeds the threshold adopted for the basin, the project's impacts on water resources are considered significant.

A project is also deemed to have a significant effect on water resources if a net increase in pumpage from a well would substantially affect production or quality from a nearby well.

A significant water quality impact is presumed to occur if the project:

- Is located within an urbanized area of the county and the project construction or redevelopment individually or as a part of a larger common plan of development or sale would disturb one (1) or more acres of land;
- Increases the amount of impervious surfaces on a site by 25% or more;
- Results in channelization or relocation of a natural drainage channel;
- Results in removal or reduction of riparian vegetation or other vegetation (excluding non-native vegetation removed for restoration projects) from the buffer zone of any streams, creeks or wetlands;
- Is an industrial facility that falls under one or more of categories of industrial activity regulated under the NPDES Phase 1 industrial storm water regulations (facilities with effluent limitation; manufacturing; mineral, metal, oil and gas, hazardous waste, treatment or disposal facilities; landfills; recycling facilities; steam electric plants; transportation facilities; treatment works; and light industrial activity);

- Discharges pollutants that exceed the water quality standards set forth in the applicable NPDES permit, the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) Basin Plan or otherwise impairs the beneficial uses of a receiving water body;
- Results in a discharge of pollutants into an "impaired" water body that has been designated as such by the State Water Resources Control Board or the RWQCB under Section 303 (d) of the Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act (i.e., the Clean Water Act); or
- Results in a discharge of pollutants of concern to a receiving water body, as identified by the RWQCB.

Impact Discussion:

- a. The FMP does not involve any physical changes to Orcutt-Solomon Creek or other waterbodies, or any discharges. Treated wastewater produced by the WRRP would continue to be used for irrigation without discharge to any waterbody.
- b. The FMP would create minor amounts of additional storm water runoff as a result of construction of the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade, as it includes additional impervious surfaces (asphalt paving and concrete). Currently, storm water at the WWRP site is contained within the facility, collected in sumps and discharged to a wastewater pond for treatment. A new storm water pump station and storm water pond would be constructed north of the proposed secondary clarifiers (see Attachment 3) to store storm water run-off from the WWRP (as modified by the FMP) to meet the non-applicability requirements of the Industrial Storm Water General Permit (Order 2014-0057-DWQ). Storm water collected in the northeastern portion of the WWRP would be directed to the new pond, then pumped to Pond A for storage, then to the Low TDS Pond for treatment. Storm water generated by increases in impervious surfaces would be collected and treated at the WWRP and used for irrigation. Discharge of storm water to storm drains or Orcutt-Solomon Creek would not occur. The recycled water storage tank at Waller County Park would create approximately 0.18 acres of impervious surfaces, and would increase storm water run-off at the site. The incremental increase in storm water from Waller County Park would be minimal and considered less than significant.
- c. The WWRP does not discharge treated wastewater or storm water to surface water bodies, therefore, no changes in surface water would occur in Orcutt-Solomon Creek or any other waterbody. Storm water associated with the storage tank would discharge to the local storm drain at Waller County Park and eventually flow into the Santa Maria River. Due to the small increase in impervious surfaces as compared to the 1.2 million-acre Santa Maria River watershed, no change in surface water is anticipated.
- d. Discharges to surface water would be limited to the potential for indirect storm water discharge from the storage tank site to the Santa Maria River via local storm drains. Due to the very small incremental increase in storm water run-off to the Santa Maria River, changes in temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity or thermal water pollution are not anticipated.
- e. Storm water at the WWRP would be stored and treated on-site with no need for off-site flood control improvements. The need for any flood control improvements at Waller County Park to handle the small incremental increase in storm water and provide for tank overflow would be assessed as part of the tank design and any improvements included in the tank construction.
- f. The Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade would occur within a floodplain. However, the FMP includes flood protection (berm and wall) to ensure the WWRP is not flooded by a 100-year event. Therefore, implementation of the FMP would not expose persons or property to flood hazards.
- g. The FMP does not include withdrawal of groundwater and could not affect the rate or direction of groundwater flow.

- h. The FMP includes facilities to provide recycled water to Waller County Park to irrigate landscaping, which would reduce the use of groundwater from the on-site well currently used to irrigate landscaping. Therefore, the FMP would have a beneficial impact on groundwater quantity.
- i. See g. and h. above.
- j. As the FMP does not involve the withdrawal of groundwater, it would contribute to seawater intrusion into the aquifer.
- k. The FMP would not result in a demand for public water supplies.
- l. Construction storm water from the Phase 1 Upgrade would be contained on-site and treated as wastewater in the WWRP, with no discharge. Construction storm water run-off from the storage tank site at Waller County Park, pipeline installation sites and the reservoir soil stockpile site may introduce pollutants into Orcutt-Solomon Creek or the Santa Maria River. However, construction would be conducted in compliance with best management practices as required by the Statewide General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts:

The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for water resources. Construction of other LCSD projects may result in discharge of sediment-laden storm water to surface waters; however, such discharges would be minimized by best management practices as required by the Statewide General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities. The project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to water resources (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

Significant impacts were not identified. No mitigation measures are necessary.

References:

- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region. 2011. *Water Quality Control Plan*.
- Earth Systems Pacific. 2016. *Geotechnical Engineering and Engineering Geology Report Laguna Sanitation District Phase 1 Plant Upgrades, Dutard Road 0.67 miles west of Black Road Santa Maria Area, Santa Barbara County, California*.
- Fugro Consultants, Inc. 2012. *Geotechnical Report; Laguna County Sanitation District Sludge Drying Beds, Dutard Road, Orcutt, California*. Prepared for Santa Barbara County.
- Luhdorff and Scalamanini Consulting Engineers. 2009. *2008 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition, Santa Maria Valley Management Area*.
- Luhdorff and Scalamanini Consulting Engineers. 2011. *2010 Annual Report of Hydrogeologic Conditions, Water Requirements, Supplies and Disposition, Santa Maria Valley Management Area*.
- Penfield & Smith Engineers. 2010 (revised 2014). *Flood Analysis of Orcutt Creek Below Black Road, Orcutt, California*. Prepared for the Laguna County Sanitation District.
- Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Water Agency. 2014. *County of Santa Barbara Groundwater Basins Status Report*.

5.0 INFORMATION SOURCES

5.1 County Departments Consulted

Laguna County Sanitation District, Public Works, Parks Division, Planning & Development.

5.2 Comprehensive Plan

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seismic Safety/Safety Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Element
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Space Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise Element
<input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Plan and Maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circulation Element
<input type="checkbox"/> ERME	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Element

5.3 Other Sources

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field work	<input type="checkbox"/> Ag Preserve maps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calculations	<input type="checkbox"/> Flood Control maps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Other technical references (reports, survey, etc.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic studies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning files, maps, reports
<input type="checkbox"/> Records	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning maps
<input type="checkbox"/> Grading plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soils maps/reports
<input type="checkbox"/> Elevation, architectural renderings	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant maps
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published geological map/reports	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological maps and reports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topographical maps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FEMA floodplain maps
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy and Climate Action Plan

6.0 PROJECT SPECIFIC (*short- and long-term*) AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT SUMMARY

6.1 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts (Class I)

None identified.

6.2 Significant but Mitigable Impacts (Class II)

Potentially significant but mitigable impacts identified are limited to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, fire protection, noise and recreation.

Aesthetics. The proposed recycled water storage tank in Waller County Park would result in potentially significant aesthetics impacts, including short-term construction-related impacts and long-term impacts. Implementation of mitigation measures **MM A-1** and **MM A-2** would reduce significant impacts to aesthetics to a less than significant level.

Biological Resources. Impacts to listed species known from the project area (California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog) would be minimized and offset through implementation of the HCP and compliance with the Incidental Take Permit issued pursuant to Section 10 of the ESA such that impacts would be less than significant. However, impacts to other special-status species may occur during project-related construction including breeding birds, western spadefoot toad and American badger. Implementation of mitigation measures **MM BIO-1**, **MM BIO-2** and **MM BIO-3** would avoid significant impacts to these species.

Cultural Resources. Construction of a second California tiger salamander breeding pool in the western HCP conservation easement area may adversely affect a previously unreported archeological site. In addition, project-related excavation may result in discovery of unreported archeological resources and/or human remains. Implementation of mitigation measures **MM CR-1** and **MM CR-2** would reduce significant impacts to these resources to a less than significant level.

Fire Protection. Pipeline installation conducted in areas with flammable vegetation may result in wildfire. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM FP-1** would avoid significant fire hazard impacts.

Noise. Construction of FMP components near residences (limited to the Waller County Park pipeline and storage tank) may result in significant short-term noise impacts. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM N-1** would avoid significant construction-related noise impacts.

Recreation. Construction of the recycled water storage tank at Waller County Park would result in loss of recreational use of portions of the Park for up to one year. Implementation of mitigation measure **MM R-1** would avoid significant loss of recreational use of the Park.

6.3 Cumulative Impacts

With the incorporation of mitigation measures provided, the proposed project's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts would not be considerable.

7.0 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
1. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions or significantly increase energy consumption, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X			X
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?				X	
3. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects and the effects of probable future projects.)			X		
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X			
5. Is there disagreement supported by facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts and/or expert opinion supported by facts over the significance of an effect which would warrant investigation in an EIR?				X	

1. **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** With implementation of the HCP (included in the project description) and compliance with the Incidental Take Permit, impacts to CTS and CRLF would not be significant. Impacts to western spadefoot toad, silvery legless lizard, California horned lark and American badger would be potentially significant but reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measures MM BIO-1, MM BIO-2 and MM BIO-3. The project would not result in substantial increases of greenhouse gas emissions or energy consumption. Archaeological sites have been identified at the HCP conservation easement area which may be impacted by construction of an additional CTS pool; however, mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce potentially significant impact to a less than significant level. Overall, mitigation has been provided to prevent significant impacts.

2. **No Impact.** The purpose of the project is to achieve long-term environmental goals, including:
- Replace/upgrade aging equipment at the WWRP to continue to reliably provide wastewater treatment within the LCSD service area in compliance with the WWRP’s Waste Discharge Requirements.
 - Continue to provide tertiary-treated wastewater for beneficial uses including irrigation of crops, grazing land and landscaping.

- Develop facilities (pipelines, storage tanks, pump stations) as needed to serve tertiary-treated wastewater to new users as supplies become available.
- Continue to protect public health and safety through the cost-effective treatment and reclamation of the community's wastewater while minimizing environmental impacts including impacts to federal and state listed species.

No short-term goals would be achieved at the expense of long-term goals; therefore, there would be no impact.

3. **Less than Significant.** The project may contribute to cumulative impacts, but its incremental contribution to cumulative impacts (including other LCSD projects) would not be considerable.
4. **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** The proposed project may create environmental effects which would cause adverse effects on human beings, including aesthetics, fire hazards, construction noise and recreation opportunities. However, mitigation measures (**MM A-1, MM A-2, MM FP-1, MM N-1, MM R-1**) have been identified to reduce significant impacts to a less than significant level.
5. **No Impact.** There is no evidence of disagreement, supported by facts, that the project requires analysis in an EIR.

8.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

No significant, adverse unmitigable impacts were identified; therefore, project alternatives were not considered.

9.0 INITIAL REVIEW OF PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH APPLICABLE SUBDIVISION, ZONING AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Potentially applicable policies of the Comprehensive Plan and Orcutt Community Plan are summarized below. The proposed project, with mitigation, would be consistent with all existing land use and development policies.

Land Use Development Code

Pursuant to the County Land Use Development Code Section 35.10-G.1.b, within the unincorporated Inland areas of the County, the provisions of the County Development Code do not apply to development by the County or any district of which the Board is the governing body. The Laguna County Sanitation District is a dependent special district created pursuant to Section 4700 et. seq. of the California Health and Safety Code and addressed in Chapter 29 of the Santa Barbara County Code. The County Board of Supervisors acts as the ex-officio Board of Directors. Therefore, the project is exempt from the provision of the Land Use Development Code.

Land Use Element

Hillside and Watershed Protection Policies

1. Plans for development shall minimize cut and fill operations. Plans requiring excessive cutting and filling may be denied if it is determined that the development could be carried out with less alteration of the natural terrain.
2. All developments shall be designed to fit the site topography, soils, geology, hydrology, and any other existing conditions and be oriented so that grading and other site preparation is kept to an absolute minimum. Natural features, landforms, and native vegetation, such as trees, shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible. Areas of the site which are not suited to development because of known soil, geologic, flood, erosion or other hazards shall remain in open space.
4. Sediment basins (including debris basins, desilting basins, or silt traps) shall be installed on the project site in conjunction with the initial grading operations and maintained through the development process to remove sediment from runoff waters. All sediment shall be retained on-site unless removed to an appropriate dumping location.
7. Degradation of the water quality of groundwater basins, nearby streams, or wetlands shall not result from development of the site. Pollutants, such as chemicals, fuels, lubricants, raw sewage, and other harmful waste, shall not be discharged into or alongside coastal streams or wetlands either during or after construction.

Streams & Creeks Policies

All permitted construction and grading within stream corridors shall be carried out in such a manner as to minimize impacts from increased run-off, sedimentation, biochemical degradation or thermal pollution.

Flood Hazard Policies

1. All development, including construction, excavation, and grading, except for flood control projects and non-structural agricultural uses, shall be prohibited in the floodway unless offsetting improvements in accordance with federal regulations are provided. If the proposed development falls within the floodway fringe, development may be permitted, provided creek setback requirements are met and finished floor elevations are two feet above the projected 100-year flood elevation, and the other requirements regarding materials and utilities as specified in the Flood Plain Management Ordinance are in compliance.
2. Permitted development shall not cause or contribute to flood hazards or lead to expenditure of public funds for flood control works, i.e., dams, stream channelizations, etc.

Historical and Archeological Sites Policies

2. When developments are proposed for parcels where archeological or other cultural sites are located, project design shall be required which avoids impacts to cultural sites if possible.

Visual Resource Policies

2. In areas designated as rural on the land use plan maps, the height, scale, and design of structures shall be compatible with the character of the surrounding natural environment, except where technical requirements dictate otherwise. Structures shall be subordinate in appearance to natural landforms; shall be designed to follow the natural contours of the landscape; and shall be sited so as not to intrude into the skyline as seen from public viewing places.
3. In areas designated as urban on the land use plan maps and in designated rural neighborhoods, new structures shall be in conformance with the scale and character of the existing community. Clustered development, varied circulation patterns, and diverse housing types shall be encouraged.

Public Facilities Policies

- 1.a. The development of public facilities necessary to provide public services is appropriate within the defined Rural and Inner-Rural Areas.

Agricultural Element

Policy II.D. Conversion of highly productive agricultural lands whether urban or rural, shall be discouraged. The County shall support programs which encourage the retention of highly productive agricultural lands.

Policy III.A. Expansion of urban development into active agricultural areas outside of urban limits is to be discouraged, as long as infill development is available.

Orcutt Community Plan

OCP WW-O-4: The County shall encourage the LCSD to use all feasible methods of water conservation and reclamation.

Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP)

As part of the 2010 Santa Barbara County Sustainability Action Plan, LCSD constructed a solar energy facility to provide electricity for wastewater treatment at the WWRP. Both fugitive and electricity generation GHG emissions associated with wastewater treatment at the WWRP have been included in the Santa Barbara County Local Government 2008 Baseline Year GHG Emissions Inventory and the ECAP 2020 GHG Emissions Inventory.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION BY P&D STAFF

On the basis of the Initial Study, the staff of Planning and Development:

- Finds that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, recommends that a Negative Declaration (ND) be prepared.
- Finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures incorporated into the REVISED PROJECT DESCRIPTION would successfully mitigate the potentially significant impacts. Staff recommends the preparation of an ND. The ND finding is based on the assumption that mitigation measures will be acceptable to the applicant; if not acceptable a revised Initial Study finding for the preparation of an EIR may result.
- Finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and recommends that an EIR be prepared.
- Finds that from existing documents (previous EIRs, etc.) that a subsequent document (containing updated and site-specific information, etc.) pursuant to CEQA Sections 15162/15163/15164 should be prepared.

Potentially significant unavoidable adverse impact areas: None

With Public Hearing Without Public Hearing


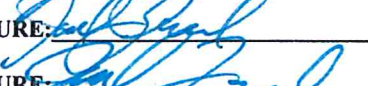

PREVIOUS DOCUMENT: None

PROJECT EVALUATOR: Matt Ingamells, Padre Associates

DATE: January 5, 2018

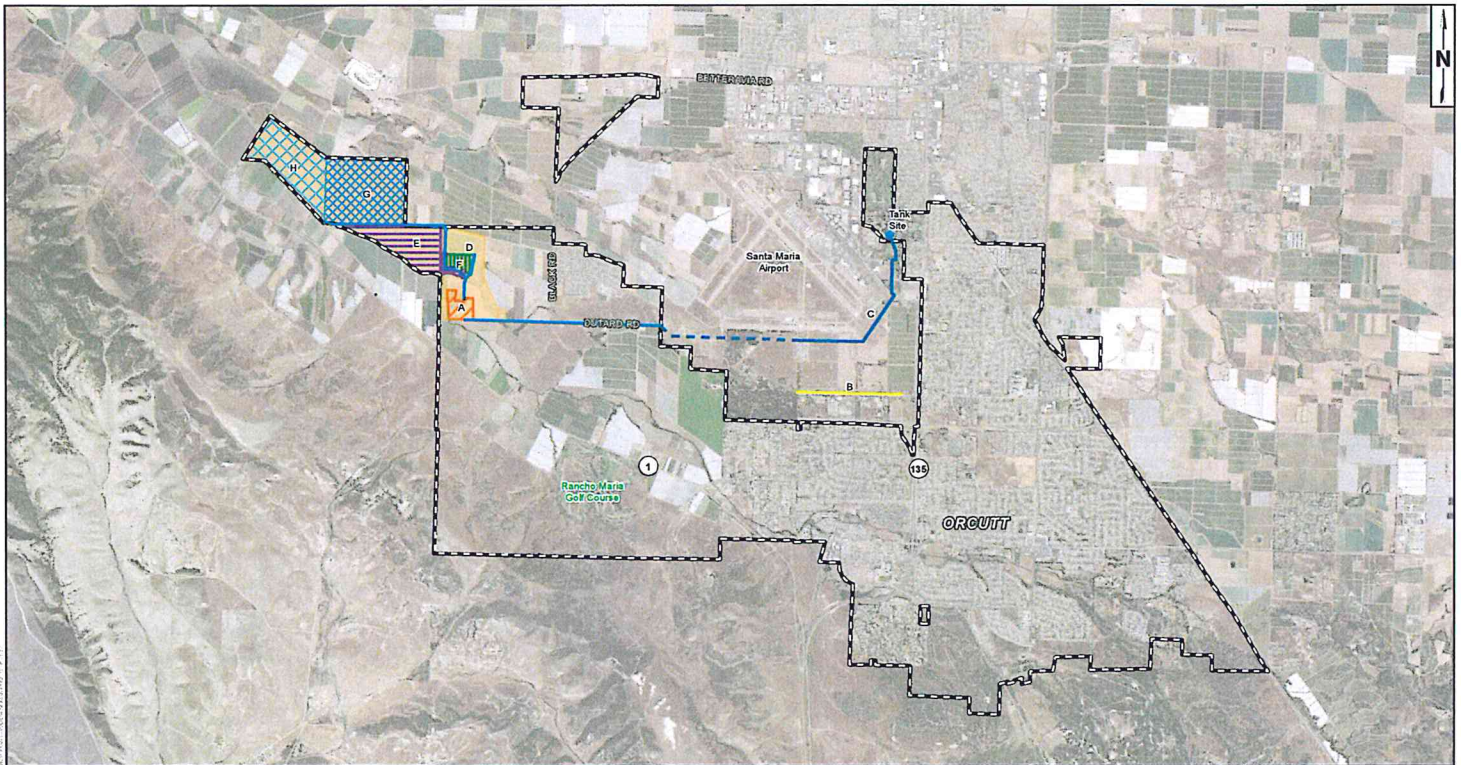
11.0 DETERMINATION BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING OFFICER

- I agree with staff conclusions. Preparation of the appropriate document may proceed.
- I DO NOT agree with staff conclusions. The following actions will be taken:
- I require consultation and further information prior to making my determination.

SIGNATURE: <u></u>	INITIAL STUDY DATE: <u>1-5-18</u>
SIGNATURE: <u></u>	NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: <u>1-8-18</u>
SIGNATURE: <u></u>	REVISION DATE: <u>4-20-18</u>
SIGNATURE: _____	FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: _____

12.0 ATTACHMENTS

1. Facilities Master Plan Component Map
2. Wastewater Reclamation Plant Location Map
3. Wastewater Reclamation Plant Phase I Upgrade Component Map
4. Foster Road Sewer Replacement and Waller County Park Pipeline Alignments
5. Site Photographs (1 of 2)
6. Site Photographs (2 of 2)



LEGEND:

A - Wastewater Reclamation Plant and Phase 1 Upgrade	D - Reservoir Supply Pipeline Improvement	G - Existing Spray Irrigation Area	Phase 3 Recycled Water Pipeline	LCS D Owned Parcel
B - Foster Road Trunk Sewer Replacement	E - HCP Conservation Easement	H - Existing Spray Irrigation Area and Lower Storage Ponds	LCS D Service Area Boundary	Recycled Water Storage Tank Site
C - Waller County Park Pipeline	F - Reservoir Soil Stockpile	Existing Recycled Water Pipeline		



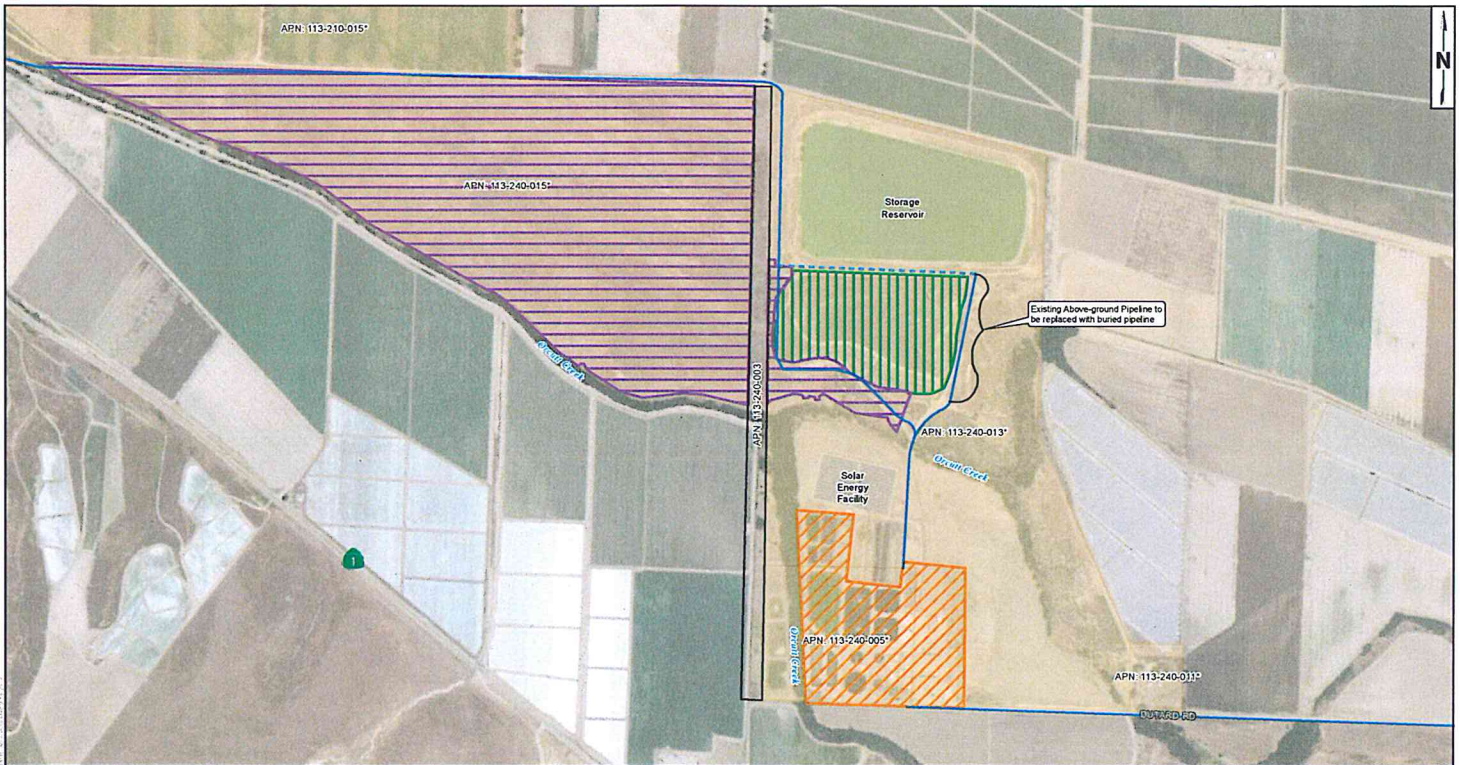
Source: Esri Online Imagery Basemap
 Coordinates System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California V FIPS 5003 Feet
 Data: LCS D's Laguna County Sanitation District (LCS D) - Habitat
 Conservation Plan
 This map was created for informational and display purposes only.



PROJECT NAME: FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN	
PROJECT NUMBER: 1607-0771	DATE: September 2017

**FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
 COMPONENT MAP**

ATTACHMENT
1

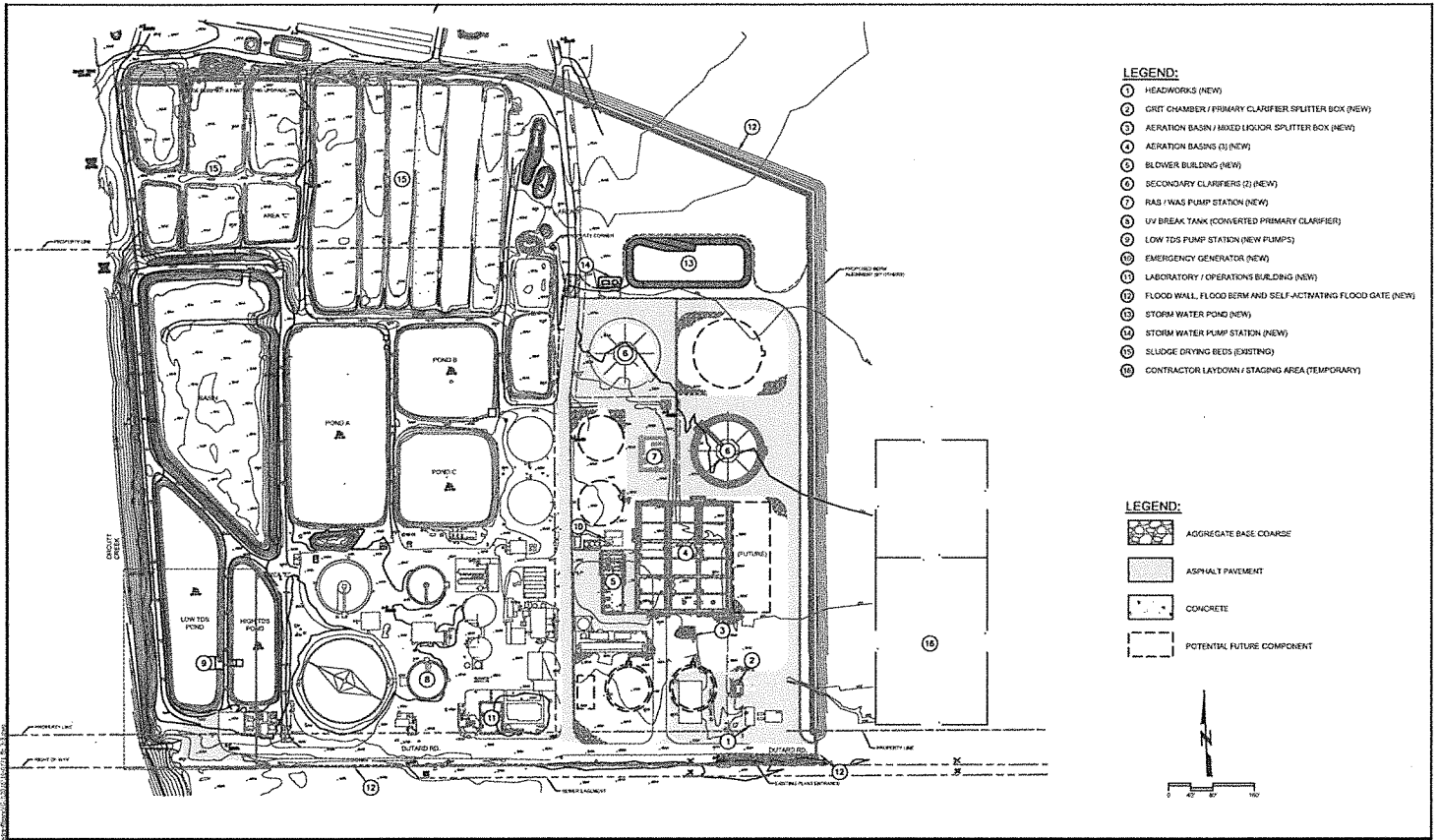


LEGEND:

- Existing Recycled Water Pipeline
- HCP Conservation Easement
- Wastewater Reclamation Plant and Phase 1 Upgrade
- Assessor Parcel Boundary
- Proposed Buried Pipeline
- Reservoir Soil Stockpile
- District Owned Parcel*

MAP EXTENT:





<p>0 300 600 FEET</p> <p><small>Source: East Delta Imagery Systems, Inc. Metadata Copyright Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane California IV FIPS 5001 Feet Units: Feet HCP* Habitat Conservation Plan, APN* Assessor's Parcel Number This map was created for informational and display purposes only.</small></p>	<p>padre P A D R E S O U T H E A S T E R N E N V I R O N M E N T A L S C I E N T I S T S</p>	<p>PROJECT NAME: FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN</p> <p>PROJECT NUMBER: 1602-0771</p> <p>DATE: September 2017</p>	<p>WASTEWATER RECLAMATION PLANT LOCATION MAP</p>	<p>ATTACHMENT 2</p>
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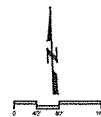


LEGEND:

- ① HEADWORKS (NEW)
- ② GRIT CHAMBER / PRIMARY CLARIFIER SPLITTER BOX (NEW)
- ③ AERATION BASIN / MIXED LIQUOR SPLITTER BOX (NEW)
- ④ AERATION BASINS (1) (NEW)
- ⑤ BLOWER BUILDING (NEW)
- ⑥ SECONDARY CLARIFIERS (2) (NEW)
- ⑦ RAS / WAS PUMP STATION (NEW)
- ⑧ UV BREAK TANK (CONVERTED PRIMARY CLARIFIER)
- ⑨ LOW TDS PUMP STATION (NEW PUMPS)
- ⑩ EMERGENCY GENERATOR (NEW)
- ⑪ LABORATORY / OPERATIONS BUILDING (NEW)
- ⑫ FLOOD WALL, FLOOD BERM AND SELF-ACTUATING FLOOD GATE (NEW)
- ⑬ STORM WATER POND (NEW)
- ⑭ STORM WATER PUMP STATION (NEW)
- ⑮ SLUDGE DRYING BEDS (EXISTING)
- ⑯ CONTRACTOR LAYDOWN / STAGING AREA (TEMPORARY)

LEGEND:

-  AGGREGATE BASE COARSE
-  ASPHALT PAVEMENT
-  CONCRETE
-  POTENTIAL FUTURE COMPONENT



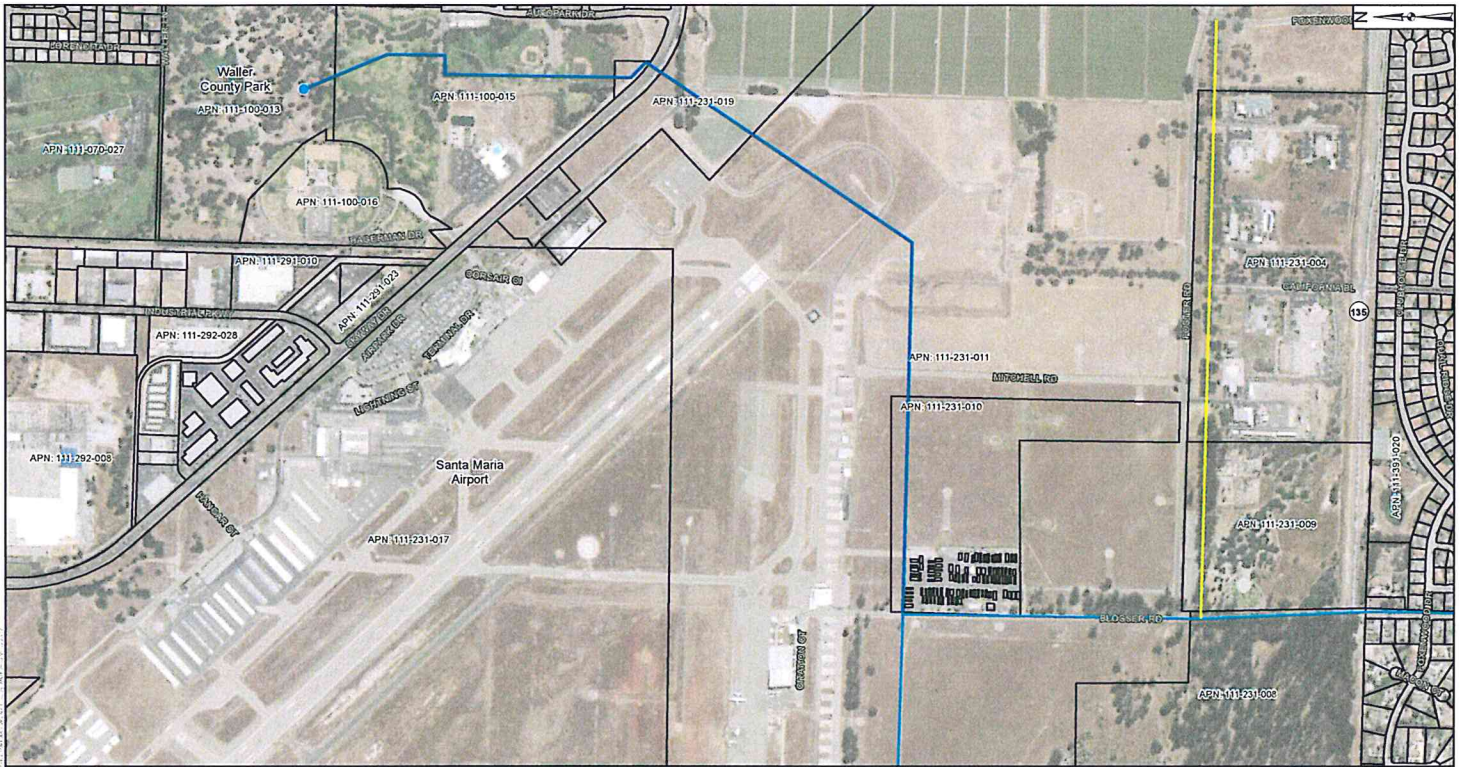
Source: Cande Engineers Drawing 01008



PROJECT TITLE: FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN
 PROJECT NUMBER: 1602-0771 DATE: September 2017

WASTEWATER RECLAMATION PLANT
 PHASE I UPGRADE COMPONENT MAP

ATTACHMENT
 3



LEGEND:
■ Recycled Water Storage Tank Location — Phase 3 Pipeline (not a part of this project) □ Assessor Parcel Boundary
— Foster Road Trunk Sewer Replacement — Waller County Park Pipeline

MAP EXTENT:



Source: Esri Online Imagery BaseMap, County of Santa Barbara, Courthouse System, 1843 1853 San-Pedro California 1972 ©2017 Esri
 Note: This map was created for informational and display purposes only.



PROJECT NAME: FACILITIES MASTER PLAN AND HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN
 PROJECT NUMBER: 1607-0771 DATE: September 2017

FOSTER ROAD TRUNK SEWER REPLACEMENT AND WALLER COUNTY PARK PIPELINE AND TANK

ATTACHMENT 4

September 2017
Project no. 1602-0771



a. Wastewater Reclamation Plant from near the reservoir soil stockpile



b. Soil stockpile (left), new supply line alignment (center) and reservoir (right)



c. Recycled water storage tank site at Waller County Park



d. Example of the tank to be constructed at Waller County Park

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS (1 of 2)
ATTACHMENT 5**

September 2017
Project no. 1602-0771



a. Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade site (center) adjacent to existing WWRP



b. HCP conservation easement area, with CTS breeding pond (center)



c. Reservoir soil stockpile

**SITE PHOTOGRAPHS (2 of 2)
ATTACHMENT 6**

ATTACHMENT 7

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

ATTACHMENT 7

**COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

In compliance with Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, the Laguna County Sanitation District accepted written comments on the adequacy of the information contained in the Draft MND during the public review period ending February 23, 2018. A comment letter was received from the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District during the public comment period.

Section 15074(b) of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, requires the decision-making body to consider comments received on the MND when approving the project. Copies of the comment letters and full responses are provided below. Changes to the Draft MND are provided in underline and strike-out mode.

Party

Date

Carly Barham, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

February 15, 2018



**Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District**

Our Vision  Clean Air

February 15, 2018

Martin Wilder
Santa Barbara County
Public Works Department
620 West Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Re: APCD Comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for Wastewater Reclamation Plant Facilities Master Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan, 17NGD-00000-00015

Dear Mr. Wilder:

The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the referenced project. The Laguna County Sanitation District proposes to upgrade the existing Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WWRP), replace a trunk sewer along Foster Road, install and operation a new recycled water storage tank and pump station in Waller County Park with a connecting pipeline from the WWRP, improve the existing storage reservoir supply pipeline, remove the existing storage reservoir soil stockpile, and implement a Habitat Conservation Plan. The project also includes adding a new 1,000 kW emergency generator to supply power to supplement existing emergency generators (500 kW at west meter and 1,000 kW at east meter) connected to the east meter. The subject property, a 177.57-acre parcel zoned AG-II-100 and identified in the Assessor Parcel Map Book as APN 113-240-005 and -013, is located at the western terminus of Dutard Road and west of Black Road, in the unincorporated Santa Maria area.

Air Pollution Control District staff has the following comments on the Draft MND:

1.

- Section 4.3a Air Quality, Impact Discussion, Page 19:** As the document states, the demolition of WWRP facilities, construction of new FMP components and removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would generate air pollutant emissions, including exhaust emissions and wind-blown (fugitive) dust. Emissions of ozone precursors (NO_x and ROC) during project construction and removal of the reservoir soil stockpile would result primarily from the on-site use of heavy equipment. Although quantitative thresholds of significance are not currently in place for short-term emissions, CEQA requires that short-term impacts, such as exhaust emissions from construction equipment and fugitive dust generation during grading, be discussed in the environmental document. In the interest of public disclosure, the APCD recommends that construction-related NO_x, ROC, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} emissions, from diesel and gasoline powered equipment, paving, and other activities, be quantified. Under APCD Rule 202 D.16, if the combined emissions from all construction equipment used to construct a stationary source which requires an Authority to Construct permit have the potential to exceed 25 tons of any pollutant, except carbon monoxide, in a 12-month period, the owner of the stationary source shall provide offsets under the provisions of Rule 804 and shall demonstrate that no ambient air quality standard will be violated.

2. **Section 4.3a Air Quality, Impact Discussion, Page 20:** This section lists standard emission reduction measures during project construction that will be applied to the project and includes the following measure: *"Diesel construction equipment meeting ARB Tier 1 emission standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines shall be used. Equipment meeting ARB Tier 2 or higher emission standards should be used to the maximum extent feasible."* APCD recommends that diesel equipment meeting the CARB Tier 3 or higher emission standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines should be used to the maximum extent feasible.

The applicant is advised of the following APCD permitting requirements and prohibitory rules that may be applicable to the proposed project:

3. 1. A new APCD **Authority to Construct (ATC) permit** will be required for proposed 1,000 kW emergency generator. An equipment-specific Health Risk Assessment may be required as part of APCD permit issuance. The applicant should refer to APCD's website at www.ourair.org/dice-atcm/ for more information on diesel engine permitting. The APCD permit process can take several months. To avoid delay, the applicant is encouraged to submit their Authority to Construct permit application to the APCD as soon as possible, see www.ourair.org/permit-applications/ to download the necessary permit application(s).
4. 2. The applicant is required to complete and submit an **Asbestos Demolition/Renovation Notification or an EXEMPTION** from Notification for Renovation and Demolition (APCD Form ENF-28 or APCD Form ENF-28e), which can be downloaded at www.ourair.org/compliance-forms/ for each regulated structure to be demolished or renovated. Demolition notifications are required regardless of whether asbestos is present or not. The completed exemption or notification should be presented, mailed, or emailed to the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District with a minimum of 10 working days advance notice prior to disturbing asbestos in a renovation or starting work on a demolition. The applicant should visit www.ourair.org/asbestos/ to determine whether the project triggers asbestos notification requirements or whether the project qualifies for an exemption.
5. 3. APCD Authority to Construct permits are required for diesel engines rated at 50 bhp and greater (e.g., firewater pumps and emergency standby generators) and boilers/large water heaters whose combined heat input rating exceeds 2.0 million BTUs per hour.
6. 4. Spark ignition piston-type internal combustion engines (e.g., gasoline or propane-fired) used exclusively for emergency electrical power generation or emergency pumping of water for flood control or firefighting are exempt from permit requirements pursuant to APCD Rule 202, Section F.1.d., provided the engine operates no more than 200 hours per calendar year and a record is maintained and is available to the District upon request. The record shall list the identification number of the equipment, the number of operating hours on each day the engine is operated and the cumulative total hours.
7. 5. If the drilling or operation of the water well has the potential to emit hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), the applicant should have a process in place to prevent causing a nuisance from these odors. Nuisance requirements are specified in APCD Rule 303, www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/rule303.pdf. The applicant should contact the APCD to determine the permitting requirements for any method used to control H₂S emissions.

8. 6. If contaminated soils are found at the project site, the APCD must be contacted to determine if Authority to Construct and/or Permit to Operate permits will be required. APCD permits are required for all soil vapor extraction activities. APCD permits are also required for the excavation ("dig-and-haul") of more than 1,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil.
9. 7. APCD Rule 345, *Control of Fugitive Dust from Construction and Demolition Activities* establishes limits on the generation of visible fugitive dust emissions at demolition and construction sites. The rule includes measures for minimizing fugitive dust from on-site activities and from trucks moving on- and off-site.
10. 8. Asphalt paving activities shall comply with APCD Rule 329, *Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials*.
11. 9. The application of architectural coatings, such as paints, primers, and sealers that are applied to buildings or stationary structures, shall comply with APCD Rule 323.1, *Architectural Coatings* that places limits on the VOC-content of coating products.

If you or the project applicant have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at (805) 961-8890 or via email at BarhamC@sbcapcd.org.

Sincerely,



Carly Barham
Technology and Environmental Assessment Division

cc: David Harris, Supervisor, APCD Engineering Division
TEA Chron File

Commenter: Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

Date: February 15, 2018

Response:

1. The following Table provides estimates of construction-related air pollutant emissions (NO_x, ROC, PM₁₀) for a peak year consisting of removal of the soil stockpile (200,000 cubic yards/peak year), second year of the Wastewater Reclamation Plant (WWRP) Phase I Upgrade construction, and peak year installation of the Waller County Park recycled water tank and pipeline for comparison to the APCD's Rule 202.D.16 emissions offsets threshold. These emissions estimates indicate the 25 tons per 12-month period threshold would not be exceeded, such that emissions offsets are not required and construction emissions would result in a less than significant impact to air quality.

Project Component	Emissions Sources	NO _x Emissions (tons/peak year)	ROC Emissions (tons/peak year)	PM ₁₀ Emissions (tons/peak year)
Soil stockpile removal	Off-road mobile equipment	3.02	0.36	0.11
	On-road motor vehicles	1.31	0.14	0.09
WWRP Phase I Upgrade (year 2 construction)	Off-road mobile equipment	1.98	0.28	0.11
	On-road motor vehicles	0.14	0.02	0.02
Installation of the Waller County Park tank and pipeline	Off-road mobile equipment	3.57	0.47	0.18
	On-road motor vehicles	0.32	0.04	0.03
Peak Year Total		10.34	1.31	0.54

2. The standard emissions reduction measures to be incorporated into the project have been updated to be consistent with this comment.
3. The Laguna County Sanitation District (LCSD) plans to submit an authority to construct permit application for the proposed emergency generator when the specifications of this equipment have been fully determined.
4. The proposed project does not involve the demolition of any structures, but would include re-purposing and/or modification of wastewater treatment equipment/structures. The LCSD would inspect these structures and submit required asbestos demolition/renovation notification to the APCD as appropriate.
5. See response to Comment 3.
6. The proposed project would not involve the use of any stationary spark ignition engines.
7. Drilling and operation of a new water well at Waller County Park is the responsibility of the County Parks Division and is not a part of the proposed project.

8. If contaminated soils are found during construction of the Phase 1 WWRP Upgrade or other project components, the APCD would be notified and permit applications submitted as appropriate.
9. Comment noted. Standard emissions reduction measures would be implemented to minimize fugitive dust generation (see page 20 of the MND).
10. Comment noted.
11. Comment noted.