

Nacimiento Water Project Final Environmental Impact Report

ADDENDUM #6 (300695/ED25-0092); May 2025



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) evaluated a proposal to provide water delivery from Lake Nacimiento to San Luis Obispo and other San Luis Obispo County communities. The NWP consists of a pipeline to deliver supplemental water to Paso Robles, Templeton, Atascadero, and San Luis Obispo; tanks; pump stations; and a multi-port intake tower. The NWP extends 45 miles from Nacimiento Dam to the City of San Luis Obispo water treatment plant.

The FEIR was completed in 2003 and certified on January 6, 2004. FEIR addendums were completed in 2007, 2008, 2016, 2020 and 2021 for minor modifications to customers, facility locations, construction access and repairs, among other things.

The District's NWP FEIR addresses the impacts of construction and operation of the NWP, including:

- How the water would be used;
- Two water delivery alternatives (raw and treated water)
- The impacts of the NWP compared with other supply alternatives (e.g., the State Water Project, increased groundwater pumping, desalination, reclamation, and conservation);
- The impacts of allocating water to 15 potential participants throughout the County that provided a preliminary estimate of NWP water need; the analyses considered impacts on existing surface water and groundwater quantity and quality; and
- Impacts from construction of the distribution system (pipeline, storage, pumps, etc.).

There are five previous addendums to the FEIR:

- Addendum #1 (2007) revised the District's NWP participant list to five entities, established the current allocations of NWP water as 1,750 AFY for lakeside use and 15,750 AFY for participants, and addressed minor distribution pipeline modifications;
- Addendum #2 (2008) addressed additional minor construction details;
- Addendum #3 (2016) addressed the addition of two new participants and an increased allocation to CSA 10A, resulting in full allocation of the 15,750 AFY allowed for non-lakeside beneficial uses;
- Addendum #4 (2020) addressed repairs to a leaking section of the NWP distribution pipeline.
- Addendum #5 (2021) evaluated the District's proposal to petition the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to modify the District's Point of Use (POU) net area limits so that they are consistent with the gross area limits – the District boundary.

1.1 PROPOSED ACTION

During the large storm events in January and March 2023, a section of the eastern bank of the Salinas River eroded near the southern limits of the City of Atascadero, exposing and washing away approximately 650 feet of the Nacimiento Pipeline. A temporary emergency repair was subsequently conducted to maintain seasonal water delivery to the City of San Luis Obispo, with the understanding that a permanent relocation would be completed at a later date.

This addendum, FEIR Addendum #6, evaluates the District's proposal to reroute this section of pipeline outside of areas susceptible to continued erosion resulting from high stream flows (Figure

1). Work would involve approximately 1,400 feet of horizontal directional drilling crossing under the Salinas River to a new alignment within Salinas Road, where it will be constructed via open trench until it meets up with the original alignment at the intersection of Salinas Road and Santa Clara Road (Figure 2). Although construction techniques are consistent with those evaluated in the FEIR, new Temporary Construction Easements (TCEs) not evaluated in the FEIR will be required for construction, access, and staging areas adjacent to both the original alignment and along the new proposed alignment on Salinas Road.

2.0 CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Guidelines) Section 15162(a), when an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

- (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete, shows any of the following:
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Section 15164 of the Guidelines directs responsible agencies to prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162(a) calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

Section 15164(c) of the Guidelines specifies that an addendum need not be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the FEIR.

2.1 SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES IN THE PROJECT – SECTION 15162(A)(1)

The pipeline rerouting project would not require substantial changes to project construction or operation that would require major revisions of the FEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

Construction Activities. The pipeline rerouting project would use similar equipment and techniques to those used to install the original 30-inch diameter pipeline via directional drilling and open-trench construction. New drilling would be required and therefore there would be possible risk of drilling fluid release (“frac-out”) into the river corridor during construction. Gaining access to the existing pipeline requires temporary excavation and/or fill in construction access areas along the original NWP alignment and along the new alignment within Salinas Road. One in-kind replacement of a cross-drain culvert will also occur to bring the dilapidated structure up to public safety standards. The types of construction vehicles and equipment required for this work would be similar to those evaluated in the FEIR.

Construction Access and Staging Areas. The proposed pipeline materials laydown area would be modified somewhat from the original alignment construction area and requires Temporary Construction Easements (TCEs) on several lots that were not evaluated in the FEIR. Work conducted on the east side of the river will occur within the original NWP alignment and parcels already evaluated by the FEIR. Work conducted on the west side of the river will occur within a developed parcel and the Salinas Road prism, which were not evaluated by the FEIR.

Potential construction impacts to the new TCEs were evaluated using aerial photos, database review, and site inspections. The FEIR staging areas that were evaluated in the FEIR were also inspected for any change in conditions since the FEIR.

The new TCEs would be used as temporary pipeline laydown and staging areas. The pipeline would be supported by temporary roller stands (Figure 3). No permanent project features are proposed in these areas and no permanent excavation or fill would be required. All areas temporarily disturbed by construction would be restored to pre-existing conditions upon completion of the work.

The TCEs were reviewed for presence of environmentally sensitive resource areas and none were identified. This includes but is not limited to surface waters, hardwood forests, geological hazards, and hazardous waste sites. Potential impacts to agricultural lands, biological resources, and cultural resources are described below.

Agricultural Lands

The new TCEs are on parcels in agricultural use that have residential and agricultural buildings and field areas. The agricultural fields are routinely disturbed as part of ongoing agricultural operations. None of the parcels have active Williamson Act contracts. Vegetation communities are mapped as agricultural or urban built environment. Construction impacts would be temporary, all disturbed areas would be restored to pre-existing conditions, and no permanent loss or conversion of agricultural land would occur.

A field survey was conducted on April 15, 2025, to determine the presence or likelihood of noxious weeds in the rerouting project area that were identified as a concern for agricultural lands in the FEIR: purple star thistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and skeleton weed (*Chondrilla juncea*). These species were not observed during field surveys. If they, or any other

noxious species, are encountered prior to or during construction, appropriate efforts will be made, per measure AR-7.

Biological Resources

Special-status species and critical habitat in the vicinity of the project area were described in the FEIR, including a list of special-status species with potential to occur in the project area (FEIR Table 5.7.1). Because the FEIR list pertains to the entire NWP project alignment, the list was revised and updated specifically for the location of the proposed repair activities. This was done using the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; Santa Margarita quadrangle search conducted April 10, 2025). The resulting list of special-status species and potential occurrences at the project site are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Special-Status Species Potentially Occurring in the Project Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present /Absent	Rationale
Insects					
Crotch's bumble bee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	CE	Grasslands, shrublands, chaparral, desert margins and semi-urban settings with a hot, dry environment.	Present	Low potential to occur. None seen during biosurvey, but habitat has potential for Crotch's bumble bee.
Amphibians					
Foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i> pop 6	FE/SE	Occurs near ponds and streams with adequate plant cover. Breeds in permanent or ephemeral slow-moving or ponded aquatic habitats. Requires small mammal burrows or other moist refugia, such as downed logs or boulders for aestivation during the dry season.	Present	Low potential to occur. Outside known range of species.
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT	Occurs near ponds and streams with adequate plant cover. Breeds in permanent or ephemeral slow-moving or ponded aquatic habitats. Requires small mammal burrows or other moist refugia, such as downed logs or boulders for aestivation during the dry season.	Present	Low potential to occur. The adjacent Salinas River may provide suitable breeding and aquatic habitat. Adjacent areas may be used as upland dispersal habitat.
Western spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	FSS	Inhabits vernal pools and ephemeral streams in primarily grassland, but also in valley and foothill hardwood woodlands.	Present	Low potential to occur. Marginal suitable habitat associated with the grasslands and basin areas.
Reptiles					
western pond turtle	<i>Emys marmorata</i>	SSC	Occurs in permanent water with mud or rock bottoms; occurs in Salinas River where there are suitable pools and basking sites. Nest sites can be found away from water.	Present	Low potential to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur at project site.
Mammals					

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present /Absent	Rationale
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	SSC	Occurs in open grassland and oak woodland.	Present	Low potential to occur. Although suitable habitat occurs within and near the project site, no badger dens or other sign was observed. Much of the project areas are routinely plowed and/or mowed.
Plants					
Miles' milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i>	1B.2	Lower desert, open rocky habitats, gravel or sandy soil.	Absent	No potential to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur at or near the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey. Outside known range for this species.
La Panza mariposa-lily	<i>Calochortus simulans</i>	1B.3	Grassland, chaparral, woodland, and low elevation forest ecosystems in sandy and granitic soils.	Present	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat within the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.
Hardham's evening-primrose	<i>Camissoniopsis hardhamiae</i>	1B.2	Disturbed or burned areas within chaparral and oak woodland habitat.	Absent	Very low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat within the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.
San Luis Obispo owl's clover	<i>Castilleja densiflora</i> ssp. <i>obispoensis</i>	1B.2	Annual herb that occurs in valley and foothill grassland between 10–215 meters. Typical blooming period is March to May.	Present	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat within the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present /Absent	Rationale
Brewer's spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe breweri</i>	1B.3	Chaparral and woodland areas of the Central Coast Ranges in San Luis Obispo county.	Present	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat occurs at the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.
Straight-awned spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe rectispina</i>	1B.2	Grassland, coastal scrub, chaparral or oak-pine woodland in granitic or rocky soils.	Present	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat occurs at the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.
Yellow flowered eriastrum	<i>Eriastrum luteum</i>	1B.2	Open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, often in washes, dry floodplains and rocky hillsides.	Present	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat within the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.
Kellogg's horkelia	<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>sericea</i>	1B.1	A perennial herb that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral (maritime), coastal dune, and coastal scrub habitat in sandy or gravelly openings. Found along the coast from Marin County south to Santa Barbara County. Elevation range: 10–200 meters. Typical blooming period is April to September. Blooms February through July.	Absent	No potential to occur. Suitable habitat does not occur at or near the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.
Shining navarretia	<i>Navarretia nigelliformis</i> ssp. <i>radicans</i>	1B.2	Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Apparently in grassland, and not necessarily in vernal pools between 200–1,000 meters. Typical blooming period is March to July.	Present	Low potential to occur. Marginally suitable habitat occurs at the project site. Species not observed during appropriately timed survey.

Status Codes:

FE Federal Endangered

FT Federal Threatened

SE State Endangered

ST State Threatened

SSC State Species of Special
Concern

CFP California Fully Protected species

CE Candidate endangered

Rare Plant Rankings:

1B Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

1B.1 Seriously threatened in California

1B.2 Moderately threatened in California

Other FEIR resources that were reviewed in regard to the new TCEs include the list of sensitive habitats associated with the project area (FEIR Table 5.7.2) and the list of flora and fauna observed at field survey locations associated with the Salinas River crossing (FEIR Table B.1).

Special-status species associated with the Salinas River corridor listed in the FEIR (Table 5.7.2) include six animals with potential to occur in the vicinity of the project area- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei* pop. 6), western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), southwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*), Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*) and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), - and nine plants, Miles' milk-vetch (*Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus*), La Panza mariposa-lily (*Calochortus simulans*), Hardham's evening-primrose (*Camissoniopsis hardhamiae*), San Luis Obispo owl's clover (*Castilleja densiflora* var. *obispoensis*), Brewer's spineflower (*Chorizanthe breweri*), straight-awned spineflower (*Chorizanthe rectispina*), yellow-flowered eriastrum (*Eriastrum luteum*), Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *sericea*), and shining navarretia (*Navarretia nigelliformes* ssp. *radians*).

No CNDDDB records occur on or adjacent to any of the TCE parcels. There are no other mapped occurrences within 1.5 miles of the site. There's a CNDDDB record of straight-awned spineflower (*Chorizanthe rectispina*) approximately 1.7 miles west- southwest of the job site, and a Crotch's bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*) record about 3.0 miles southeast of the job site. There is USFWS designated critical habitat for red-legged frog 900 feet south of Santa Clara Road along Trout Creek and Santa Margarita Creek.

A field survey was conducted by qualified County Environmental Division staff on April 15, 2025, to review the FEIR TCEs and the new TCEs for potential occurrence of special-status species and/or suitable habitat for such species. The project site primarily consists of disturbed vegetation associated with actively worked agriculture fields and cattle grazing pastures. The dominant vegetation includes nonnative grasses (*Bromus* spp.), (*Avena* spp.), mustards (*Brassica* spp.), filaree (*Erodium* spp.), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.), sweet clovers (*Melilotus* sp.), telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), tobacco tree (*Nicotiana glauca*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus ameniacus*), and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

Several emergent coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) shrubs occur near the Salinas River corridor, minor drainages, and along Salinas Road shoulders. Few mature trees exist within the project area on the east side of the Salinas River and will be avoided during construction. Many mature ornamental trees and coast live oak trees line the west side of the project area along Salinas Road. These trees will be avoided when possible. Any native trees removed during project activities will be replaced at a 4:1 ratio, per FEIR mitigation measure BR-10.

Riparian vegetation associated with the Salinas River includes willow (*Salix* spp.), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). The Repair Project would avoid any disturbance to riparian habitat and it will be demarcated as an environmentally sensitive area prior to construction in accordance with FEIR mitigation measure BR-3.

No wetlands or waterways occur within the pipeline rerouting project limits nor do any sensitive habitat types as determined by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). No special-status plant or wildlife species were detected during the survey effort, which focused on special-status species. Additionally, none were observed during the appropriately timed survey where species would have been identifiable if present. Based on the lack of suitable habitat due to the site

being overgrown with nonnative vegetation, special-status wildlife species are unlikely to occur within the project site and are not anticipated to be adversely affected by construction.

There is potential for nesting birds to occur in or adjacent to the TCEs. Construction may commence during the nesting bird season (February 1 through September 1). Therefore, a pre-construction survey for nesting birds would be conducted within two weeks of the proposed construction start date. If nesting birds are discovered at any point during construction in or near the TCEs, construction activities would be restricted and/or appropriately managed to prevent interference with nesting success. These measures are consistent with FEIR mitigation measures BR-16 and BR-26.

Based on these analyses, the pipeline rerouting project is not expected to result in new impacts to biological resources that were not evaluated in the FEIR, and the scale and intensity of the impacts would be comparable to those analyzed in the FEIR. A number of mitigation measures from the FEIR are potentially applicable to the Repair Project and would be implemented as necessary to ensure that impacts to biological resources are reduced to a less than significant level (Attachment A). Potentially appropriate measures pertain to hydrology and water quality (WQ); drainage, erosion, and sedimentation (DE); and biological Resources (BR). They include, but are not limited to, conducting pre-construction surveys for nesting birds and special-status species, and measures to prevent and/or contain soil erosion, to avoid impacts to the Salinas River corridor, and to comply with the County oak tree preservation policies.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources surveys completed for the FEIR did not identify the presence of significant cultural resources or intact archaeological deposits in the vicinity of the project area or TCEs.

The following sources were examined as part of an updated evaluation of the FEIR TCE and the new TCEs: County of San Luis Obispo cultural resource database, National Register of Historic Places, California Historic Landmarks, California Geologic Energy Management Division Well Viewer, and California Points of Historical interest. Historical topographic maps and aerial photographs were also reviewed to assess the potential for historical structural resources and historical archaeological resources within the project area. The archival review determined that four archaeological investigations have been conducted in the vicinity (Gibson 2004, Gibson et al, 1996, Maki et al, 1999, Santoro et al, 1991.). These studies covered portions of the currently proposed TCEs. No significant or intact cultural resources were identified in or near the FEIR TCE or the new TCEs via source papers nor with an in-person archaeological survey. The result of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) check conducted through the Native American Heritage Commission was negative.

An archaeological reconnaissance survey of the new TCEs was conducted by qualified archaeologists on April 15, 2025. Though surface visibility was impeded by emergent vegetation, special attention was paid to areas of bare ground, subsurface exposures, cut banks, exposed soil profiles, and mammal den kickouts. Disturbances noted within the project area were associated with the NWP, existing roadways and driveways, stormwater infrastructure, subsurface utility lines, agricultural activities, and residential and agricultural structures. The survey did not result in direct observation or indirect evidence suggesting potential presence of significant cultural resources or intact archaeological deposits.

Therefore, the Repair Project is not expected to result in new substantial impacts to cultural resources or an increase in the severity of substantial impacts to cultural resources evaluated in the

FEIR. While there is heightened archaeological sensitivity associated with the Salinas River corridor, excavation will be conducted in areas that have already been disturbed for construction of the pipeline in 2009 or have otherwise been developed. FEIR mitigation measure CR-11, which specifies actions to be taken in the event previously unidentified cultural resources are discovered during construction, will reduce potential impacts to any previously unidentified cultural resources to a less than significant level. The County's pre-construction training of field crews regarding biological resource issues will also be used to raise awareness of the requirements of mitigation measure CR-11.

Operations. Upon completion of construction of the proposed repairs, there would be no changes to operation of the pipeline as evaluated in the FEIR.

Cumulative Impacts. The proposed pipeline repairs would not change the conclusion of the FEIR with respect to cumulative impacts. The proposed repairs are compatible with all land use designations and there would be no cumulatively considerable impacts to agricultural lands, biological or cultural resources, or any other environmental resource evaluated in the FEIR.

Conclusions. Based on the evaluations above, the County concludes that the proposed pipeline rerouting project does not include substantial changes that would require major revisions to the FEIR, and that there is no new information of substantial importance such as potential for significant effects not discussed in the FEIR.

The mitigation measures in the FEIR include appropriate measures to ensure that temporary construction impacts to agricultural lands, biological resources, and cultural resources from the proposed pipeline rerouting project are reduced to a less than significant level. The potentially applicable mitigation measures from the FEIR are attached in Exhibit A.

2.2 SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN CIRCUMSTANCES – SECTION 15162(A)(2)

In the time since the FEIR was certified, new CEQA Guidelines (2025) have been implemented that change how some environmental resources are considered. These include adding separate sections of the CEQA document for consideration of mineral resources (formerly addressed under geology and soils), greenhouse gas emissions (formerly addressed under air quality), tribal cultural resources (formerly addressed under cultural resources), and utilities (formerly addressed under public services).

These changes affect the organization, not the substance, of the evaluation of these resources in CEQA documents and are therefore not considered a substantial change in circumstances since the FEIR was certified.

The new Guidelines also add consideration of three new resources to CEQA documents: forest lands and timberlands (included in the agricultural resource section), energy, and wildfire.

Forest Lands and Timberlands. The new TCEs are in developed urban and agricultural areas with no designated or managed forest lands or timberland. Forested land bordering the Salinas River would not be impacted by the repair project. In compliance with the mitigation measures in the FEIR, the Salinas River forested floodplain would be delineated as an environmentally sensitive area and no construction activities would occur in that area.

The FEIR addressed potential effects from tree clearing in the Biological Resources section, and recommended mitigation measures such as avoiding removal of trees and replacing any oak trees removed for the project. The same mitigation measures would apply to the pipeline rerouting

project. Accordingly, the project is not expected to have a significant effect on forest lands or timberland, and the pipeline rerouting project would not introduce any new forest or timberland effects or increase the severity of effects from the project as determined in the FEIR.

Energy. Energy impacts from the pipeline rerouting project would be limited to construction energy use, which was evaluated from the perspective of air quality considerations in the FEIR. These included the potential for adverse impacts associated with construction emissions. The FEIR identified typical mitigation measures applicable to construction projects to minimize significant air quality effects. There are no applicable local or state renewable energy plans that are relevant to smaller scale construction projects. Accordingly, the pipeline rerouting project would not have a significant effect on energy resources as evaluated in the FEIR and would not introduce any new energy effects or increase the severity of energy effects from the project.

Wildfire. In regard to wildfire effects, the FEIR evaluated potential fire hazards from the project, including fire risk from hazardous materials and vehicles. The pipeline rerouting project would not have a significant effect on wildfire risk. In compliance with the FEIR mitigation measures, construction activities would be coordinated with emergency responders to ensure no adverse effects in the event of any need for emergency access or implementation of evacuation plans during construction.

Based on consideration of changes to the CEQA Guidelines implemented after the certification of the FEIR for the project and the evaluations above, the pipeline rerouting project would not involve new significant effects or a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified significant effects on forestry and timberlands, energy, or wildfire.

Therefore, a subsequent EIR is not required pursuant to Section 15162(a)(2).

2.3 NEW INFORMATION OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPORTANCE – SECTION 15162(A)(3)

No new information of substantial importance has been identified since the time the FEIR was certified that shows that the proposed pipeline rerouting project would have one or more significant effects not discussed in the FEIR or would have significant effects that would be more severe than shown in the FEIR. As attached in Exhibit A below, the FEIR mitigation measures provide all potentially relevant measures for the pipeline rerouting project. There are no new mitigation measures or alternatives previously considered infeasible or that are substantially different from those analyzed in the FEIR that are necessary.

2.4 OTHER ISSUE AREAS

The pipeline rerouting project would not result in any impacts not previously disclosed in the FEIR. Potential construction related impacts from the proposed pipeline repair activities would be minor when considered alongside the initial project construction impacts that were disclosed in the FEIR. In addition to potential project-related effects on agricultural lands, biological resources, and cultural resources discussed above, several other issue areas may require implementation of mitigation measures identified in the FEIR to ensure that potential project-related effects are reduced to a less than significant level. These include the following, for which the FEIR mitigation measures are provided below:

Air Quality: The County or its contractor will implement standard dust control measures, such as using reduced vehicle speeds and watering or covering exposed soils, as necessary to reduce

construction-related dust in close proximity to sensitive receptors, as described in FEIR mitigation measure AQ-1.

Hazardous Materials: The County or its contractor will prepare and implement a spill response plan to prevent potential adverse impacts to water quality, as described in FEIR mitigation measure HM-3.

Noise: The County or its contractor will implement appropriate measures, such as use of appropriate vehicle and equipment mufflers and restrictions on construction hours, as necessary to avoid adverse effects on nearby residences, as described in FEIR mitigation measures N-1, 2, and 4.

Traffic: The County or its contractor will implement appropriate traffic control management measures, such as notifying adjoining landowners of construction activities that could interfere with access and keeping at least one lane of traffic open whenever feasible, to avoid adverse effects on local traffic and emergency response, as described in FEIR mitigation measures T-2, 4, 5, 7-10, and 13.

2.5 CONCLUSION

The pipeline rerouting project would involve similar construction techniques, equipment, and impacts to those evaluated in the FEIR. The addition of portions of several new parcels for access and staging has been evaluated and it has been determined that there are no new potential significant impacts associated with temporary use of those areas during construction. The changes in the CEQA guidelines that have been implemented since the FEIR was certified in 2003 do not raise substantive physical impacts that have the potential for significant effects.

Therefore, the pipeline rerouting project, including the new construction access TCEs and staging areas at the east side of the project area, represent a minor change to the project evaluated in the FEIR. The pipeline rerouting project would not result in new significant impacts not previously disclosed in the FEIR or result in more severe impacts than previously disclosed in the FEIR, provided appropriate mitigation measures originally developed in the FEIR are implemented as needed to prevent potential adverse effects related to agricultural lands, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, water quality, noise, and traffic. An EIR addendum is the appropriate document to address the improvements.

2.6 REFERENCES

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Maki, Mary and B. Bertrando. 1999. *El Pomar/Estrella Planning Area Cultural Resources Constraints Analysis San Luis Obispo County, California*. Prepared for Crawford, Multari & Clark Associates. Prepared by Conejo Archaeological Consultants in Thousand Oaks, California.

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FIGURES

Figure 1. Vicinity Map

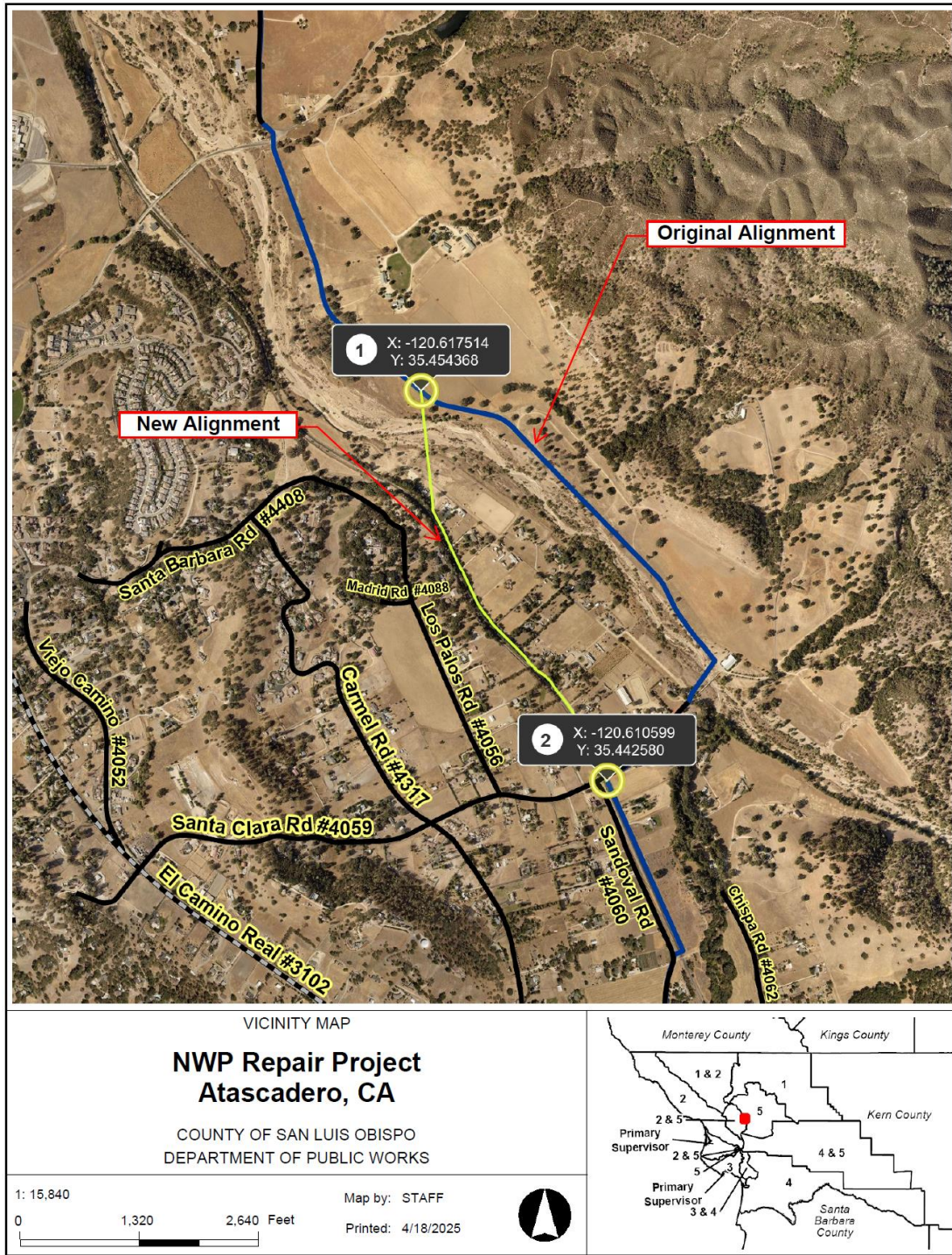


Figure 2. Project Area

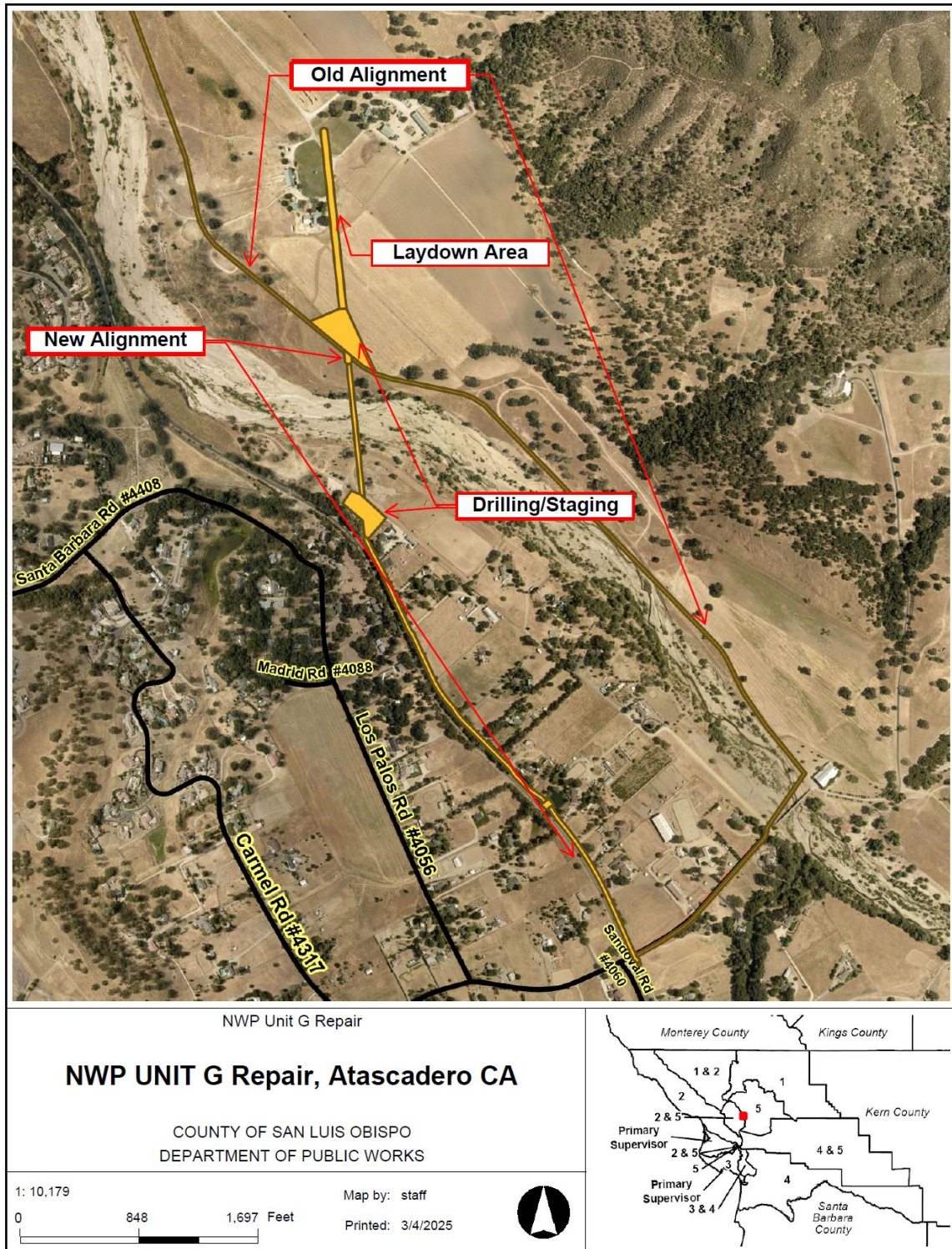


Figure 3. Example of a Pipeline Roller Stand



Exhibit A. FEIR Mitigation Measures that are Potentially Applicable to the Pipeline Rerouting Project.

WQ-1	"No fueling" zones shall be designated wherein fueling of vehicles or equipment is prohibited within 25-feet of all drainages. All equipment used in or near drainages shall be clean and free of leaks and/or grease. Emergency provisions should be in place at all drainage crossings prior to onset of construction to deal with unintentional spills.
DE-1	An Erosion Control Plan shall be prepared in conjunction with the required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to devise specific soil erosion control measures. The plan would include but not be limited to the following measures: - Construction activities through areas of concern (i.e., rivers, streams, large drainages) shall be scheduled during the dry season (April 15 to October 15) to reduce erosion, or shall implement measure DE-2 to minimize potential impacts. - Revegetation of areas disturbed or cleared during construction shall occur after construction is completed and before the rainy season.
DE-2	Direct any diverted flows to in-channel sedimentation basins that will trap fine soil materials before diverted flows are released downstream. If the cross-section of the channel is narrowed by the diversion, provide erosion protection measures at the downstream outlet point. Plan diversion structures to be in service for the shortest possible time and remove them as soon as construction is completed. Have all diversion facilities designed by a qualified civil engineer and base the design on the best available streamflow information. Before designing in-channel sedimentation basins, consult with a qualified biologist to identify, and avoid to the degree feasible, sensitive biological resources such as wetlands and sensitive wildlife habitat (i.e., steelhead trout, California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtle, and breeding riparian bird habitat). If wetland areas are impacted by these erosion control measures.
BR-2	A Biology Education Program for Contractors shall be implemented to ensure that all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological sensitivities associated with this project. The program shall be conducted by a qualified biologist and shall be a requirement for all construction personnel. This program shall focus on: - the purpose for resource protection; - identification of sensitive resources areas in the field (e.g., areas delineated on plans and by flags or fencing); - sensitive construction practices;

	(d) protocol to resolve conflicts that may arise during the construction process; (e) ramifications of noncompliance.
BR-3	The project biologist and the project engineer shall clearly designate “sensitive resource zones” on the project maps and construction plans. Sensitive resource zones are defined as areas where construction would be limited to a 15- to 30-foot corridor, depending on the particular construction requirements, to avoid impacts to special status biological resources. The project biologist shall demark the limits of sensitive populations on the project plans, including as feasible, an adequate buffer area to avoid direct and indirect impacts. If determined necessary by the County Environmental Coordinator, survey work to demark sensitive resource zones shall be conducted during the appropriate survey window to confirm sensitive species (the exact survey timing would be determined appropriately for each specific species, and depending on the rain conditions). During construction, temporary fencing shall be erected under supervision of the project biologist to provide protection within the sensitive resource zones.
BR-8	For all the sensitive species listed in Table 5.7.1, preconstruction surveys shall be conducted to verify their presence at known sites and at potential sites where the project could impact these species. If present, impacts are to be avoided or minimized by narrowing the alignment adjacent to potential dens, nests or aquatic areas. If avoidance is not feasible, specific mitigation measures for these species will be determined through consultation with USFWS and CDFG through CESA and FESA. Formal consultation and obtaining of Incidental Take Permits would be required if the federally listed species could be encountered and affected.
BR-10	Construction techniques to be implemented to protect oak trees and oak woodlands (i.e., blue oak woodland, valley oak woodland, coast live oak woodland, and digger pine oak woodland): - In accordance with the County’s guidance on oaks and Assembly Bill No. 242 to add Article 3.5 to Chapter 4 of Division 2 of the CDFG Code relating to oak woodland conservation, and with all local related policies and ordinances (e.g., City of Paso de Robles Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance, Camp Roberts Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan) the final project design shall target maximum avoidance of oak trees. If avoidance is not feasible the Applicant shall prepare an Oak Tree and Woodland Mitigation Plan, which shall be prepared by a certified arborist and shall contain but not be limited to the following measures:

	(a) The construction ROW easement shall be narrowed to a maximum of 30 feet in width through oak woodland habitat (i.e., areas suitable for the establishment of oak woodlands). During final design, the project biologist and project engineer shall identify the most appropriate location for the narrowed corridor, taking into account the preservation of as many individual oak trees as possible with the engineering requirements of the proposed project. All areas requiring this sensitive resource zone shall be clearly shown on all construction plans, and prior to the onset of construction, flagged by the project biologist/construction monitor. If determined necessary by the County Environmental Coordinator, a preconstruction survey shall be conducted by the project biologist to accurately map oak woodlands that would be unavoidably impacted. (b) Construction machinery ingress, egress, and staging areas shall be placed away from woodlands and individual oak trees, and shall not be driven under the canopies of oak trees. (c) Disposal or storage of fill or excavated soil is prohibited within the dripline of all oak trees. (d) During construction near oak trees, no fasteners may be used on the trees. (e) All reasonable measures shall be taken to avoid moving dead and downed oak logs. (f) All oak trees immediately adjacent to construction areas shall be protected by erecting temporary fencing at the drip line of the woodland canopy or around individual trees. (g) Any necessary oak tree pruning shall conform to the standards of the International Society of Arboriculture and done under supervision of a certified arborist. Pruning shall be carried out in such a manner as to maintain a natural looking tree form upon completion of pruning; practices such as stub cuts, topping, flush cuts, and random branch removal shall be avoided. All pruning cuts shall correspond with the branch collar using natural target pruning, and no tree seal shall be used. Pruning or cutting of roots etc. of individual trees shall be quantified during construction and up to one year after construction. (h) Oak monitoring shall be done for one year after construction completion. If any oak trees die either during construction or within one year after construction completion, the trees shall be replaced at a 3:1 ratio. (i) Individual oak trees that cannot be avoided and must be removed within habitat types other than oak woodlands shall be replaced at a 4:1 replacement ratio in accordance with the County's mitigation policy for loss of individual oak trees. (j) For every area of oak woodland habitat that is removed, oak woodland habitat shall be restored onsite or replaced offsite at an agreed upon
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	offsite location with an equal area (3:1 replacement ratio). (k) Offsite replacement for oak woodlands shall be at locations that currently support disturbed or nonnative habitats. Each of the four oak woodland habitat types that would be disturbed shall be replaced or restored with a similar density of oak trees by species as found in the impacted habitats. The Flood Control and Water Conservation District (FCWCD) shall prepare a detailed oak woodland restoration plan for this project. The VRRP shall contain detailed information on oak woodland replacement and address any issues of concern. Areas suitable for creation of oak conservation areas for replacement offsite shall be evaluated. Feasibility of purchasing land for oak conservation areas shall be evaluated.
BR-15	To protect Shinning Navarretia, Straicreek; conifer/serpentinegght-Awned Spineflower, Dwarf Calycadenia, Prostrate Navarretia, San Benito spineflower, and Lemmon's Jewelflower, direct impacts shall be avoided by narrowing the construction ROW in those segments of the proposed alignment where they occur. The location of all plants in or adjacent to the alignment shall be clearly shown on construction maps and labeled as sensitive areas that shall be avoided. The limits of the population in or adjacent to the alignment shall be flagged by a qualified biologist prior to construction. If avoidance is not possible, impacts to these sensitive plant species would be adverse because of the relatively high sensitivity of the species (CNPS List 1B). A mitigation plan would be required for propagation and reintroduction of the species into appropriate habitat.
BR-16	Potential impacts to special status bird species (in particular the Bald eagle, California condor, Yellow Warbler, Least Bell's Vireo, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher) may be mitigated by implementing the general mitigation measures - BR-1 through BR-6. Impacts to avian species shall be avoided by not allowing construction during the breeding season in habitats special status birds are known to be breeding. Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted to assess the presence or absence of special status bird species in their breeding habitats, and areas that are in use will be flagged and avoided until the end of the breeding season. To protect bald eagle during November through March avoid construction at locations in Camp Roberts where bald eagles have been spotted.. Prior to beginning any construction activities, a survey for nesting bald eagles shall be performed by a qualified biologist. If a nest is discovered, construction activity shall not occur within 800 meters (2,400 feet) of the nest from 1 January to 31 August, or as stipulated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
BR-26	Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in riparian areas for presence

	of sensitive bird species no earlier than March 15 and at least three visits shall occur between this date and June 15. If no sensitive breeding birds are detected by June 15, it can be assumed that they will not nest in that location for that year and construction can proceed. If sensitive breeding birds are detected, construction activities shall be limited to those which will not produce significant noise impacts during the breeding season of the particular bird species (e.g., March 15 to September 15). Exact breeding time interval shall be determined by the qualified biologist. Preconstruction surveys shall be conducted in San Joaquin kit fox habitats for presence of kit fox dens. No construction shall be conducted near the kit fox dens during pupping season (December – April).
T-2	A Traffic Control Plan shall be prepared to detail specific roadway construction information, road surface maintenance, pedestrian/bicycle circulation and traffic safety, parking limitations, road use restrictions, emergency response procedures, signing for closures, and public notification identifying location, scheduling, and duration of construction spread. This management plan shall be finalized and approved by the appropriate agencies as designated by the lead agencies.
T-4	Detours shall be planned around temporary street closures through coordination with local traffic agencies, and signs shall be provided to direct motorists to alternate routes
T-5	The Applicant shall ensure at least one lane remain open during construction along roadways subject to partial closure when feasible.
T-7	The Applicant shall ensure all driveways blocked by construction are provided with suitable means of vehicular access and egress.
T-8	All affected parties in the vicinity of construction activities shall be notified a minimum of 30 days in advance of potential obstructions and alternative access provisions prior to the commencement of project activities.
T-9	The Applicant shall coordinate in advance with emergency service providers to avoid restricting movements of emergency vehicles. The County Sheriff Department, fire departments, ambulance services, and paramedic services shall be notified in advance by the Applicant of the proposed locations, nature, timing, and duration of any construction activities and consulted regarding potential access restrictions that could impact their effectiveness.
AR-7	Prior to construction, the Applicant shall coordinate with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to conduct a pre-construction site evaluation for purple star thistle, yellow star thistle and skeleton weed.

	- Based on the pre-construction survey, the Applicant shall prepare a map showing areas of noxious weed infestation on lands both within and adjacent to the proposed project corridor, corridor access routes, and staging areas.
DE-8	Erosion and sedimentation impacts shall be mitigated by employing standard erosion control procedures such as use of silt fencing, sandbagging, straw bales, waddles, water bars, diversion ditches, and stream bank stabilization procedures. In addition, drainages shall be spanned to the maximum degree feasible, subject to engineering or other concerns, in an attempt to avoid direct and indirect impacts.
DE-11	Store excavated soil and stockpiles of imported fill outside of the channel and setback at least 20 feet from the active channel banks. Protect stockpiles of loose material with secured tarps and provide silt fencing or straw bales down gradient of the stockpiles.
AQ-1	In coordination with the SLOAPCD, the Applicant shall implement the following APCD standard dust reduction measures during construction. All PM10 mitigation measures required shall be shown on the contractor's grading and building plans and specifications. (a) Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible. (b) Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible. (c) All dirt stockpile areas shall be sprayed daily as needed. (d) Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities. (e) Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast-germinating native grass seed and watered until vegetation is established. (f) All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the SLOAPCD. (g) All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used. (h) Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site. (i) All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114. This measure has the potential to reduce PM10 emissions by 7-14%.

	(j) Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site. This measure has the potential to reduce PM10 emissions by 40–70%. (k) Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible. This measure has the potential to reduce PM10 emissions by 25–60%. (l) 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 offsite. Their duties shall include holidays 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 any site disturbance.
N-1	Equipment enclosures/noise barriers shall be used in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (per station numbers in Table 5.5.7) to reduce the noise generated by stationary equipment (i.e., generators, pumps, and other stationary construction equipment) during daytime hours.
N-2	Construction activities shall be limited to 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays and between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays except when local governments want pipeline construction through nonresidential commercial areas to occur at night to avoid disrupting daytime commerce and traffic. Construction equipment maintenance shall be limited to the same hours. Non-noise generating construction activities such as interior painting are not subject to these restrictions. Signs stating these restrictions shall be provided by the Applicant and posted onsite. Signs shall be in place prior to issuance of Land Use Permit and throughout grading and construction activities. Directional drilling shall be exempt from this mitigation measure only if a drilling event is predicted to take more than 12 hours and is begun promptly at the beginning of the work day.
N-4	Maintain proper mufflers on all internal combustion and vehicle engines to reduce noise to the maximum extent feasible.
HM-3	In the event of an accidental release of a hazardous material (including fuel spills) during construction, the lead or design agency shall determine whether the release is reportable pursuant to any local, State, or Federal law, and if so would notify the regulatory agency to which the report should be submitted. The lead or design agency shall adhere to procedures listed below, which describe additional procedures to be followed in the event of an accidental release of a hazardous material. The purpose of the response procedures is to minimize exposure and risk to public health and safety. - The lead or design agency would implement and coordinate with local

	jurisdiction on procedures for immediate evacuation of persons from the vicinity of the spill; - promptly notify appropriate personnel and responsible agencies of the incident, such as the local fire department; - terminate NWP operations and shut-off power, if necessary; and - cooperate with responding agencies. Releases may not be of a “hazardous waste” and accordingly may not have to be managed as such. However, substances not classified as hazardous wastes may still be subject to restrictive handling requirements and would be managed in accordance with such requirements.
BR-1	The Lead or Responsible Agency shall retain a qualified biologist(s) (project biologist) to conduct and oversee construction monitoring that pertain to biological resource protection, act as the liaison between the Lead or Responsible Agency and the construction contractor(s), and to ensure compliance with the mitigation program, such as monitoring all construction activities in biologically sensitive areas and scheduling and/or implementing preconstruction surveys, if determined to be necessary by the County Environmental Coordinator. The project biologist shall be selected based on demonstrated knowledge and experience with the species potentially occurring in the project area. The project biologist shall inform the County monitoring representative as soon as possible, and the County representative shall have the authority to stop construction activities if there is eminent threat to the listed species, or to delay construction activities until appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented.
CR-11	In the event unknown archaeological resources are discovered, the following standards shall apply: 1. Construction activities shall cease, and the project archaeologist shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified professional archaeologist and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law. The project archaeological monitor (professional archaeologist or their representative) shall be responsible to notify the local jurisdiction. 2. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County or City Coroner shall be notified in addition to the appropriate jurisdictions so proper disposition may be accomplished.
T-10	At locations where access to nearby property is blocked, provision shall be ready at all times to accommodate emergency vehicles, such as plating over trenches, short detours, and alternate routes.

DE-19	Areas disturbed during construction should be revegetated, as soon as is practical, prior to the beginning of the rainy season.
T-13	The Applicant shall properly restore all roads disturbed by construction activities to ensure the long term protection of road surfaces and safety of roadway users.

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