Subsequent Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Phase III A-2 Transmission Main

East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project

Valley View Mobile Home Park Water Consolidation Project

State Clearinghouse # 2019079095

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Figures

Table of Tables

Acronym List

AB	Assembly Bill
ACBCI	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
BMPs	Best Management Practices
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CDP	Census Designated Place
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHRIS	California Historic Resources Information System
CRHR	California Register of Historic Resources
CVAG	Coachella Valley Association of Governments
CVMSHCP	Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
CWA	Clean Water Act
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DIP	Ductile Iron Pipe
DEH	Riverside County Department of Environmental Health
DDW	Division of Drinking Water
DWSRF	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
ECVWSP	East Coachella Valley Water Supply Project
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
gpm	gallons per minute
Hp	Horsepower
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCL	Maximum contaminant level

MHP	Mobile Home Park
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
RAA	Running annual average
RO	Reverse Osmosis
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SRA	Source Receptor Area
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWS	Small Water System
USDA	US Department of Agriculture
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is an Initial Study (IS) and Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Phase III A-2 segment of the Valley View Mobile Home Park (MHP) Water Consolidation Project (the "proposed project" or "proposed action"). An IS/MND for the proposed project was adopted in September 2019 (State Clearinghouse # 2019079095), which is referred to hereafter as the "2019 IS/MND" or "original approved project". This Subsequent IS/MND has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 15162.

1.1 Project Background

On September 24, 2019, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) Board of Directors approved the 2019 IS/MND for the Valley View MHP Water Consolidation Project. In May 2021, CVWD identified the need to include additional facilities, referred to as the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main, in the project analyzed under the 2019 IS/MND. A Subsequent IS/MND has been identified as the appropriate CEQA documentation to address the proposed changes (see discussion in *Section 1.3* regarding CEQA Guidelines for a Subsequent MND).

1.1.1 Original Approved Project

The 2019 IS/MND evaluated the environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of consolidation of nine, independent small water systems (SWSs) into CVWD's potable water system over several phases. The SWSs are located in disadvantaged communities (DACs) in the Eastern Coachella Valley. The original project proposed to construct approximately 19,500 linear feet of pipeline that would be placed within the public right-of-way along Avenue 66, Fillmore Street, Desert Cactus Drive and Avenue 55 in unincorporated Riverside County, as shown in **Figure 1-1**. As shown in **Figure 1-1**, the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main was identified in the 2019 IS/MND (although the alignment has since been revised). However, environmental analysis of the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main was not included in the 2019 IS/MND because at the time of the drafting of the 2019 IS/MND the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main had been analyzed previously under a separate environmental document that had not yet completed environmental review. The Phase III A-2 Transmission Main is necessary to connect the nine, independent SWSs to the existing CVWD system via an existing 30-inch CVWD dry (i.e., currently unused) pipeline that runs along Airport Boulevard from the east bank of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel to Fillmore Street.

Infrastructure for the original approved project consisted of the following:

- 30-inch diameter water main along Airport Boulevard that would connect to the existing 18-inch diameter water main on Pierce Street.
- 12-inch diameter water mains in Soto Street, Fillmore Street, 55th Avenue, and Desert Cactus Drive connecting to the 30-inch water main along Airport Boulevard.
- 1-inch and 2-inch diameter service laterals. These would connect to the proposed 30-inch and 12-inch diameter water mains in Airport Boulevard, Soto Street, Avenue 55, and Desert Cactus Drive and would extend to the property boundaries of each SWS.
- On-property pipelines to complete service to the existing SWSs. These pipelines would connect the 1-inch and 2-inch diameter laterals to the existing potable distribution system at each SWS.
- 6-inch diameter piping connecting from the proposed water mains to fire hydrants or backflow preventors to provide fire service to each SWS. Fire hydrants would be located in accordance with CVWD and Riverside County Fire Department standards.

The domestic water pipeline would deliver 118 acre-feet per year (AFY) of potable water to meet a maximum day demand of 72.9 gallons per minute (gpm). The original approved project is described in further detail in the 2019 IS/MND on file with CVWD and available on the CVWD website at: https://www.cvwd.org/440/East-Coachella-Valley-Water-Supply-Proje.

1.1.2 Proposed Phase III A-2 Transmission Main

CVWD identified the need to add a new segment of approximately 3,500 linear feet to the approved project that would connect to the existing CVWD water main on Palm Street and continue east under Highway 111 and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel to Airport Boulevard (referred to as the "Phase III A-2 Transmission Main"). The 30-inch pipeline diameter would increase to 32-inches for the portion of the pipe crossing under the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. The Phase III A-2 Transmission Main was included in the Valley View MHP Consolidation Project Preliminary Engineering Report (PER; CVWD 2020). A detailed description can be found in *Section 2.2* of this Subsequent IS/MND.

Although the general location of the proposed pipeline has been determined, and northernmost and southernmost potential pipeline alignment options have been identified, the precise alignment would depend on what easements CVWD can obtain from landowners. As such, the project area for the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main shown in **Figure 1-2** encompasses a buffer area around the northern and southernmost options for the proposed pipeline alignment to provide flexibility for the final alignment.

1.2 Purpose of Subsequent Document

This Subsequent IS/MND addresses potential environmental effects of construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main segment of the Valley View MHP Water Consolidation Project. The 2019 IS/MND and the Subsequent IS/MND, together with other project-related documents, incorporated by reference herein, serve as the environmental review of the proposed project, pursuant to the provisions of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15162 et seq. CVWD's review of the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main Subsequent IS/MND is limited to the scope of the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main and does not address reconsideration of the findings of the 2019 IS/MND.

Figure 1-1: Original Approved Project Evaluated in 2019 IS/MND

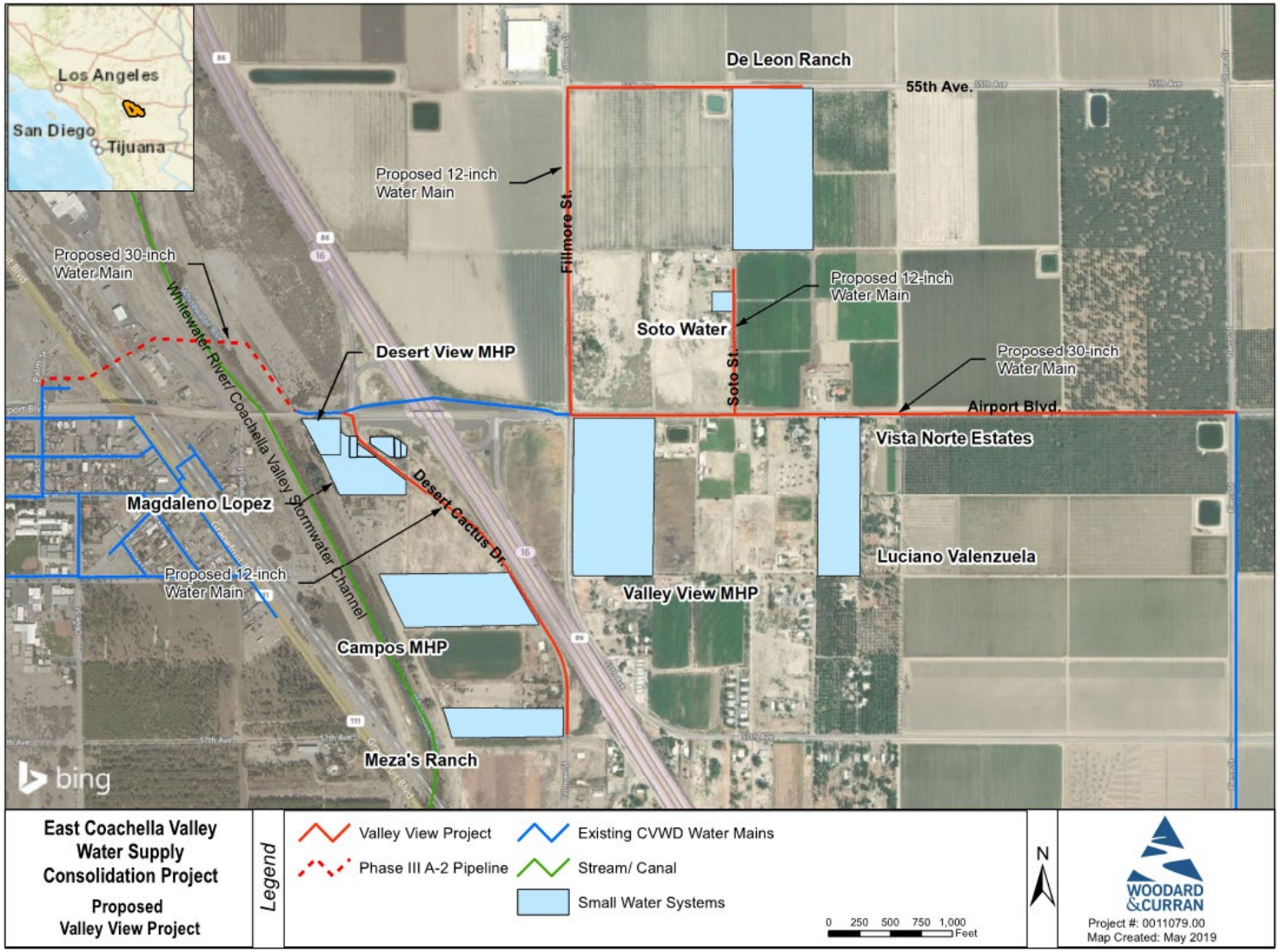
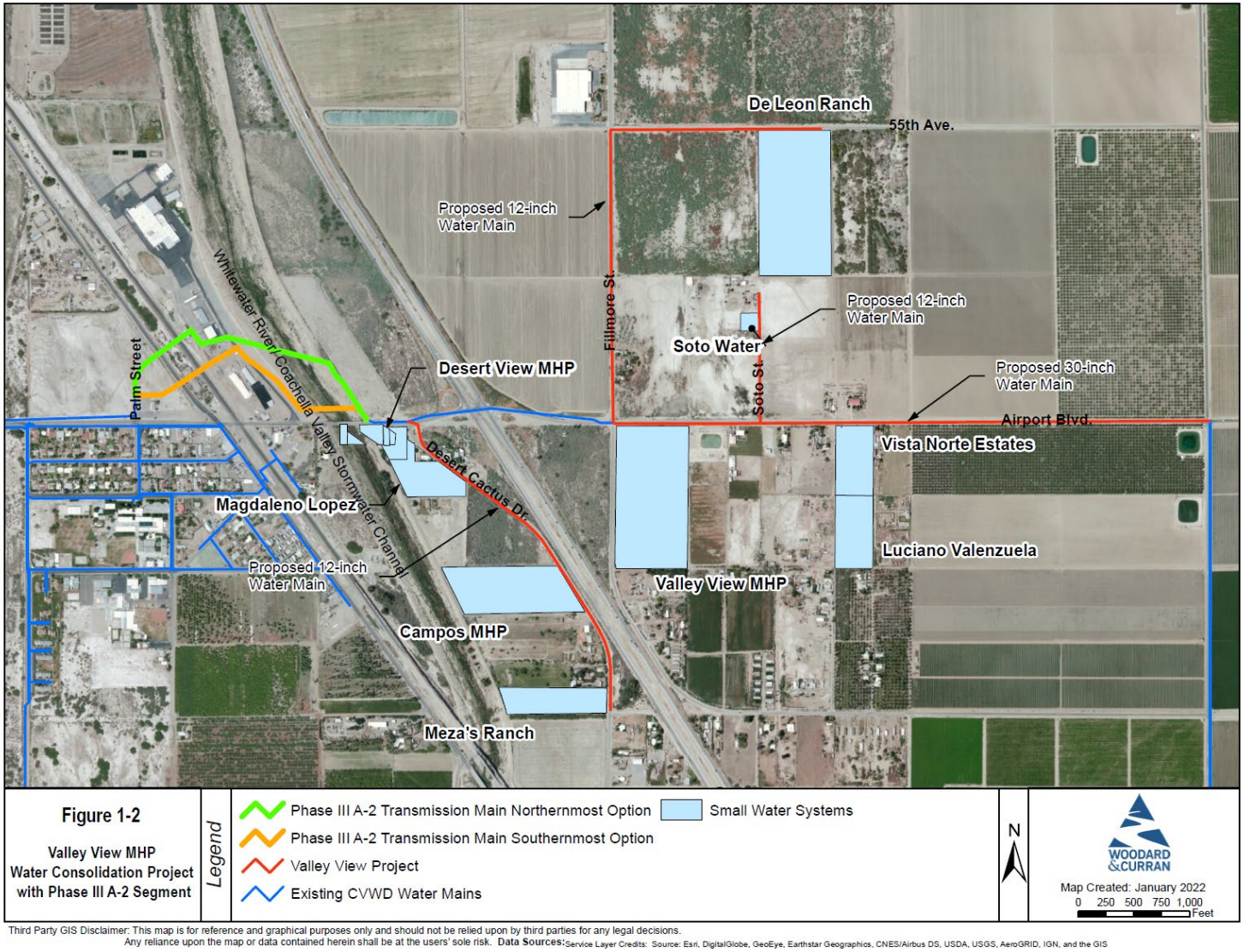


Figure 1-2: Valley View MHP Water Consolidation Project with Phase III A-2 Segment



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1.3 Rationale for Subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration

The basis for preparation of the Subsequent document is based on the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15162. Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines states:

(a) When…a negative declaration [has been] adopted for a project, no subsequent [negative declaration] may be required for the project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

(1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which would require major revisions of the previous…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 would require major revisions of the previous…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…negative declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:

(A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous…negative declaration;

(B) Significant effects previously examined would 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.

(b) If changes to a project or its circumstances occur or new information becomes available after adoption of a negative declaration, the lead agency shall prepare a subsequent EIR if required under subdivision (a). Otherwise, the lead agency shall determine whether to prepare a subsequent negative declaration, an addendum, or no further documentation.

(c) Once a project has been approved, the lead agency's role in project approval is completed, unless further discretionary approval on that project is required. Information appearing after an approval does not require reopening of that approval. If after the project is approved, any of the conditions described in subdivision (a) occurs, a subsequent EIR or negative declaration shall only be prepared by the public agency which grants the next discretionary approval for the project, if any. In this situation no other responsible agency shall grant an approval for the project until the subsequent EIR has been certified or subsequent negative declaration adopted.

CVWD has assessed the proposed project in light of the requirements defined under Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines and determined that the addition of up to approximately 3,500 linear feet of new pipeline including a crossing under Highway 111 and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, constitutes a "*substantial change to the proposed*

project which would require major revisions of the MND due to the involvement of new potentially significant environmental effects" per Section 15162(a)(1). As a result, a Subsequent IS/MND is the appropriate CEQA document for analysis and consideration of the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main.

1.4 Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

This Subsequent IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with CEQA (as amended) (Public Resources Code §§21000 et. seq.), the 2021 State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, §§15000 et. seq.), and CVWD's Local CEQA Guidelines (2020). Where appropriate, this document makes reference to either the CEQA Statute or State CEQA Guidelines.

This Subsequent IS/MND for the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main contains all of the contents required by CEQA, which includes a project description, a description of the environmental setting, potential environmental impacts, mitigation measures for any significant effects, consistency with plans and policies, and names of preparers.

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

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

The proposed project may receive funding under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) via funds from US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). Project grant funding may also come from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Program. Therefore, to support compliance with the federal environmental review requirements of the funding programs, this Subsequent IS/MND includes analysis pertinent to several federal regulations (also referred to as federal cross-cutters or CEQA-Plus). Guidelines for complying with cross-cutting federal authorities can be found in the USDA Environmental Policies and Procedures at 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1970. The federal cross-cutters analyzed in this document include:

- Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA)
- Floodplain Management: Executive Orders 11988, 12148, and 13690
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Environmental Justice
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Executive Order 13168
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Protection of Wetlands: Executive Order 11990
- Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10

- Safe Drinking Water Act, Sole Source Aquifer Protection
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Clean Air Act
- Invasive Species: Executive Order 13112
- Indian Sacred Sites: Executive Order 13007
- Trails for America in the 21st Century: Executive Order 13195
- Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Wilderness Act

1.4.1 Impact Terminology

The scope of the environmental resource areas is listed above in *Section 1.4*. The level of significance for each resources area uses CEQA terminology as specified below:

- **No Impact.** No adverse environmental consequences have been identified for the resource or the consequences are negligible or undetectable.
- **Less than Significant Impact.** Potential adverse environmental consequences have been identified. However, they are not adverse enough to meet the significance threshold criteria for that resource. No mitigation measures are required.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.** Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant but can be reduced to less than significant levels through the application of identified mitigation strategies that have not already been incorporated into the proposed project.
- **Potentially Significant.** Adverse environmental consequences that have the potential to be significant according to the threshold criteria identified for the resource, even after mitigation strategies are applied and/or an adverse effect that could be significant and for which no mitigation has been identified. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared to meet the requirements of CEQA.

1.5 Summary of Findings

Original Approved Project

The 2019 IS/MND analyzed all resource topics in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines and found the original approved project would result in no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated. Consequently, the original approved project was found to not result in any environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects, directly or indirectly. The majority of the original approved project would be located within roadway rights-of-way and previously developed or disturbed areas. The 2019 IS/MND concluded that with implementation of mitigation measures, the original approved project would not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, reduce wildlife habitat, result in adverse impacts to wildlife populations or communities, eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory, or cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. The 2019 IS/MND also analyzed pertinent federal cross-cutting regulations required by the USDA and SWRCB to meet grant funding requirements and found that the original approved project would be in compliance with all applicable federal cross-cutting regulations.

Phase III A-2 Transmission Main Project Segment

The environmental analysis in this Subsequent IS/MND has concluded that, although the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main segment constitutes a substantial change to the original approved project which would require major revisions of the 2019 IS/MND due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects, those effects would be less than

significant with mitigation incorporated. All mitigation measures identified in the 2019 IS/MND plus new mitigation measures in this Subsequent IS/MND would be required to minimize or reduce potential environmental impacts to less than significant levels. New mitigation measures would be required to minimize potential impacts on protected wetlands and on wildlife movement.

1.6 Comments and Responses

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15073, the Draft Subsequent IS/MND was circulated for public review from February 28 to March 21, 2022, to local and state agencies, and to interested organizations and individuals. CVWD circulated the Draft Subsequent IS/MND to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to State agencies. In addition, CVWD circulated a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration to the Riverside County Clerk, responsible agencies, and interested entities. A copy of the Draft Subsequent IS/MND was available for review at: www.cvwd.org. Copies of the letters received during the public comment period have been included in **Appendix D**.

On March 17, 2022, the City of Coachella submitted a comment letter to CVWD. The City noted that the Initial Study correctly describes a portion of the project as occurring within the City of Coachella (see **Figure 2-2**). However, the City noted that the portion of the project north of Airport Boulevard and west of Highway 86 is within the boundaries of the City's water service area. Further, the City noted it intends to install a future potable water pipeline north of Airport Boulevard, east of Highway 111, and west of Highway 86, in order to extend the City's service capabilities. In response to this comment letter, this document has added **Figure 2-3** to show the boundary of the City water service area. This document also been revised to add a description of the City's future water pipeline in *Section 2.3* regarding other projects planned in the vicinity.

On March 21, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), as a responsible agency under CEQA, submitted a comment letter to CVWD. First, the State Water Board DDW questioned whether CVWD's existing wells would be sufficient to meet future drinking water demands, and whether some of the existing SWS wells may need to remain in use to meet demand. It noted that the 2019 IS/MND included demolition of existing SWS wells. It also noted that if well facilities are needed to meet future drinking water demand, needed wells would require compliance with CEQA. Second, DDW commented that water mains may require disinfecting and/or flushing, and requested an explanation regarding discharge location, procedures, and permits. Finally, DDW requested the following items be provided following completion of the CEQA process: draft and final MND and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), comment letters received and responses, copy of Board Minutes adopting the MND and MMRP, and copy of the Notice of Determination filed at the County Clerk and State Clearinghouse.

The proposed project area is served by wells W6805-1, W6808-1, W7802-1, and W7803-1 in CVWD's Middleton Production Zone. CVWD does not intend to add additional wells to its potable water system, nor does it foresee the need for the current SWS wells to remain in use to meet drinking water demands. Such activities are not currently part of the proposed project. While CVWD acknowledges CEQA would apply to well facilities, no such CEQA analysis is being conducted at this time because CVWD is not currently proposing drinking water wells as a project under CEQA. Regarding the discharge of disinfection/ flushing water, as noted in *Section 2.4.5*, the Phase IIIA-2 Transmission Main would be operated along with the rest of CVWD's domestic water system with no modifications to current operations practices. *Section 2.4.6* acknowledges that construction of the Phase IIIA-2 Transmission Main would involve approval of permits for construction dewatering and testing. CVWD acknowledges that new water mains may require disinfection and may require flushing throughout their operational life. CVWD would comply with its Standard Operating Procedures for water main disinfection and flushing. CVWD would comply with General Order WQ 2014-0194 Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Drinking Water System Discharges to Waters of the United States, as appropriate.

Following the public review period, CVWD prepared this Final Subsequent IS/MND and prepared a MMRP. The MMRP specifies the conditions of project approval that are necessary to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. In preparation of the MMRP, CVWD revised **Mitigation Measure BIO-2** to describe CVWD's burrowing owl incidental take permit and compliance with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). CVWD finds that the revised measure is equivalent or more effective than the original mitigation measure in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects on burrowing owl and that the revised mitigation measure will not in itself cause any potentially significant effect on the environment.

Prior to approving the project, CVWD's Board of Directors will consider the Subsequent IS/MND along with any comments, the findings on revised **Mitigation Measure BIO-2**, and other relevant project information, at a publicly noticed hearing. CVWD's Board of Directors shall adopt the Subsequent IS/MND only if it finds on the basis of the whole record before it (including the IS and any comments received), that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment; and that the MND reflects the lead agency's independent judgment and analysis (State CEQA Guidelines §15074). CVWD's Board of Directors meeting and public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

1.7 Subsequent Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

CEQA requires that when a lead agency adopts an MND, it shall prepare a monitoring or reporting program for all required mitigation measures (CEQA Guidelines Section 15097). The MMRP describes the monitoring and reporting program for mitigation measures adopted by CVWD to avoid or substantially reduce impacts related to the proposed project to less than significant levels. CVWD and its contractors are required to implement the adopted mitigation measures for the proposed project in accordance with the MND. The MMRP contains a checklist and description of all adopted mitigation measures, including the responsible parties, timing, and completion criteria.

The MMRP shall be administered by CVWD. Mitigation measures shall be incorporated into design and construction contracts, as appropriate, to ensure full implementation. The MMRP shall be maintained by the designated CVWD Project Manager and be available for inspection upon request at CVWD offices.

A mitigation monitoring checklist was developed for the proposed project and is intended for use by CVWD, as lead agency and designated monitoring entity for the proposed project. The checklist includes the mitigation measures, anticipates timing, and identifies responsible parties for ensuring implementation of each mitigation measure. A subset of the checklist, presented as **Table 1-1,** summarizes the mitigation requirements that pertain to the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main. The entire Valley View MHP Water Consolidation Project MMRP will be considered for adoption by the CVWD Board of Directors at a publicly noticed hearing scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2022.

Table 1-1: Phase III A-2 Transmission Main Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program Summary

Mitigation Measure	*Monitoring and Reporting Actions*	*Implementation Schedule*	*Monitoring Frequency*	*Responsible Party*	*Review and Approval by:*	*Verification: Status/ Date Completed/ Initials*
Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Surveys To avoid potential impacts to burrowing owl, a pre-construction clearance survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted no more than fourteen (14) days prior to initiation of construction activities during nesting seas (Feb. 1st – August 31st). The burrowing owl pre-construction survey shall be conducted on-foot within the proposed disturbance area including a 500-foot buffer. The survey methods will be consistent with the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012) and shall consist of walking parallel transects spaced adequately to obtain 100% visual coverage of the site. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of burrowing owl and their habitat. If burrowing owls are found within the study area during the pre-construction surveys, active nesting burrows will be avoided. If possible, the timing and location of construction activities will be adjusted to avoid the occupied burrow by the appropriate distance, where possible. If necessary, buffer zones for occupied nesting burrows will be set by a qualified Biologist during the breeding season. The buffer zone will be clearly marked with flagging and/or construction fencing. CVWD has been authorized an incidental take permit by the Wildlife agencies under the CVMSHCP, and will maintain compliance with the CVMSHCP requirements for this covered species to ensure protection of the species.	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Confirm qualified biologist conducted pre-construction survey for nesting burrowing owls and established buffer zone, as appropriate. 3. Avoid construction within the buffer zone of active nesting burrows.	1. Contracting 2. Pre-Construction 3. Construction	1. Once 2. Once, prior to construction, or if construction re-starts 3. Continuously throughout construction, if applicable	1. CVWD 2. CVWD, Construction Contractor 3. Construction Contractor	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Nesting Birds To avoid disturbance of nesting birds, including raptor species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) 3503 and 3503.5, activities related to the proposed project including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction shall occur outside of the bird breeding season (typically January 1 to September 15) to the extent practicable. If construction must occur within the bird breeding season (January 1 through September 15), CVWD shall, no more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal, contract with a qualified biologist to conduct a nesting bird and raptor pre-construction survey within the disturbance footprint plus a 100-foot buffer (500-foot for raptors), where feasible. If the proposed project is phased or construction activities stop for more than one week, a subsequent pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey will be required prior to each phase of construction within the project site. Pre-construction nesting bird and raptor surveys shall be conducted during the time of day when birds are active and shall factor in sufficient time to perform this survey adequately and completely. A report of the nesting bird and raptor survey results, if applicable, shall be submitted to the lead agency for review and approval prior to ground and/or vegetation disturbance activities. If nests are found, their locations shall be flagged. An appropriate avoidance buffer ranging in size from 25 to 50 feet for passerines birds and up to 500 feet for raptors depending upon the species and the proposed work activity shall be determined and demarcated by a qualified biologist with bright orange construction fencing or other suitable flagging. Buffers will be determined in conjunction with CDFW through the development of a nesting bird management plan. Active nests shall be monitored at a minimum of once per week until it has been determined that the nest is no longer being used by either the young or adults. No ground disturbance shall occur within this buffer until the qualified biologist confirms that the breeding/nesting is completed, and all the young have fledged. If project activities must occur within the buffer, they shall be conducted at the discretion of the qualified biologist. If no nesting birds are observed during pre-construction surveys, no further actions would be necessary.	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Avoid construction activities between January 1 and September 15. OR 3. Confirm a qualified biologist conducted pre-construction nesting bird and raptor surveys and established a no-work buffer zone, as appropriate. 4. Confirm construction is avoided in the no-work buffer zone until biologist determines that the nest is inactive.	1. Contracting 2. Construction OR 3. Pre-construction 4. Construction	1. Once 2. Once OR 3. Once, prior to construction, or if construction re-starts 4. Continuously throughout construction, if applicable	1. CVWD 2. Construction Contractor 3. CVWD, Construction Contractor 4. Construction Contractor	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ OR 3. _____ 4. _____
Mitigation Measure BIO-4 Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan (Supplemental Measure) If the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) method of trenchless crossing of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is determined to be required, CVWD will require its construction contractor to prepare a Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Confirm construction contractor has prepared a	1. Contracting 2. Pre-Construction	1. Once 2. Once	1. CVWD	CVWD	1. _____

Mitigation Measure	*Monitoring and Reporting Actions*	*Implementation Schedule*	*Monitoring Frequency*	*Responsible Party*	*Review and Approval by:*	*Verification: Status/ Date Completed/ Initials*
Plan prior to construction. At a minimum, the Plan will prescribe the following measures to ensure protection of jurisdictional resources: • Verify recommended depth of the pipeline under the channel based on soil properties and risk for potential frac-out during HDD operation • Procedures to minimize the potential for frac-out associated with HDD • Procedures for timely detection of frac-outs • Procedures for timely response and remediation in the event of a frac-out, and • Monitoring of drilling and frac-out response activities in jurisdictional areas by a qualified biologist.	Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan, if applicable. 3. Confirm construction contractor follows measures in the Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan, if applicable.	 3. Construction	 3. Continuously throughout construction	2. Construction Contractor 3. Construction Contractor		2. _____ 3. _____
Mitigation Measure BIO-5 Light Abatement (Supplemental Measure) To prevent indirect impacts to sensitive habitat areas (Goodding's willow-red willow riparian woodland) that facilitate wildlife movement, all safety and security lighting at construction work areas and staging areas will be directed downward and shielded to avoid light spilling into sensitive habitat areas.	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Confirm all safety and security lighting is directed downward and shielded	1. Contracting 2. Construction	1. Once 2. Continuously throughout construction	1. CVWD 2. Construction Contractor	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____
Mitigation Measure BIO-6 Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Mitigation Site Avoidance (Supplemental Measure) Prior to project construction, the boundaries of the CVSC Improvement Project – Avenue 54 to Thermal Drop Structure Project mitigation site within 100 feet of project work areas shall be flagged for avoidance by qualified personnel in coordination with CVWD. All work shall avoid the mitigation site. In the event of unforeseen impacts to the mitigation site (i.e., frac out), CDFW shall be notified immediately and the site shall be restored in accordance with the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for On-site Mitigation (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0235-R6) to ensure existing mitigation obligations at the site are fulfilled.	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Confirm qualified personnel established a mitigation site avoidance zone, as appropriate. 3. Confirm construction is avoided in the mitigation site avoidance zone. 4. Confirm site is restored in accordance with Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for On-site Mitigation, if applicable.	1. Contracting 2. Pre-construction 3. Construction 4. Construction	1. Once 2. Once 3. Continuously throughout construction 4. Throughout construction, if applicable	1. CVWD 2. Construction Contractor 3. CVWD, Construction Contractor 4. Construction Contractor	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Initial Monitoring of Archaeological Resources CVWD shall ensure that initial project-related ground-disturbing activities in undisturbed soils shall be observed by an archaeological or Native American monitor. The archaeological monitor shall be under the direction of a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for prehistoric archaeology (National Park Service 1983). If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area shall halt and the find shall be evaluated for CRHR and/or NRHP eligibility. Archaeological monitoring may be reduced or halted at the discretion of the qualified archaeologist as warranted by conditions such as encountering bedrock, sediments being excavated are fill materials, or negative findings during initial ground-disturbing activities. If monitoring is reduced, spot-checking shall occur when ground-disturbance moves to a new undisturbed location or when ground disturbance will extend to depths not previously reached (unless those depths are within bedrock). Both the project archeologist and Native American monitor will be invited to attend the pre-construction meeting. The project archeologist and Native American monitor will provide a brief orientation to construction crews on the first day of construction.	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Confirm project archaeologist and Native American monitor provide brief orientation to construction crews on first day of construction. 3. Confirm archaeological and Native American monitor observe initial ground-disturbing activities.	1. Contracting 2. Construction 3. Construction	1. Once 2. Once 3. Continuously throughout initial ground-disturbing activities.	1. CVWD 2. CVWD, Construction Contractor, 3 CVWD, Construction Contractor	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Mitigation Measure	*Monitoring and Reporting Actions*	*Implementation Schedule*	*Monitoring Frequency*	*Responsible Party*	*Review and Approval by:*	*Verification: Status/ Date Completed/ Initials*
	4. If resources are encountered during construction, confirm work halted and qualified archaeologist was consulted on eligibility, if applicable.	4. Construction	4. Throughout construction, if applicable.	4. Construction Contractor		4. _____
Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during project construction, the project archeologist, in coordination with CVWD's construction inspector shall temporarily suspend all earth disturbing work within a 100 foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find: • If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required. • If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify CVWD. CVWD shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures if the find is determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until CVWD, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the site either: 1) is not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.	1. Include measures in contract documents. 2. If resources are unearthed during construction, confirm work halted, qualified archaeologist was consulted on eligibility, and appropriate treatment measures and no-work buffers were implemented. 3. Consult on finding and implement treatment measures, if applicable.	1. Contracting 2. Construction 3. Construction	1. Once 2. Throughout construction, if applicable. 3. Once	1. CVWD 2. CVWD, Construction Contractor 3. CVWD	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground-disturbing activities. In the event that human remains are found, CVWD shall temporarily suspend all earth disturbing work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. The project archaeologist would evaluate the significance of the find and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find. If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, the professional archaeologist shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner (as per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate information center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Suspend all earth disturbing work within 100 feet of discovery, if applicable. 3. Confirm appropriate notifications have occurred, if applicable. 4. Verify adequate consultation with MLD has occurred, if applicable. 5. Verify reburial site has been appropriately recorded and human remains treated appropriately, if applicable.	1. Contracting 2. Construction 3. Construction 4. Construction 5. Construction	1. Once 2. Throughout construction 3. Once 4. Once 5. Once	1. CVWD 2. Construction Contractor 3. CVWD 4. CVWD 5. CVWD	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Mitigation Measure	*Monitoring and Reporting Actions*	*Implementation Schedule*	*Monitoring Frequency*	*Responsible Party*	*Review and Approval by:*	*Verification: Status/ Date Completed/ Initials*
Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan Prior to construction, the construction contractor is required to submit to CVWD a Hazardous Materials Management Spill Control Plan that includes a project-specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations. The Plan will be applicable to construction activities and will establish policies and procedures according to applicable codes and regulations, including but not limited to the California Building and Fire Codes, and federal and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Elements of the Plan will include, but not be limited to the following: • A discussion of hazardous materials management, including delineation of hazardous material storage areas, access and egress routes, waterways, emergency assembly areas, and temporary hazardous waste storage areas; • Notification and documentation of procedures; and • Spill control and countermeasures, including employee spill prevention/response training.	1. Include measure in contract documents. 2. Confirm construction contractor has prepared a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan. 3. Confirm construction contractor follows procedures in the Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan.	1. Contracting 2. Pre-Construction 3. Construction	1. Once 2. Once. 3. Periodically throughout construction	1. CVWD 2. Construction Contractor 3. Construction Contractor	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Mitigation Measure NOI-1: Noise and Vibration Control During Construction CVWD shall incorporate into the construction contract specifications the following noise and vibration control measures to be implemented by the construction contractor: • Prior to construction, the Construction Contractor shall provide [CVWD-approved] written notification to residents within 500 feet of the proposed facilities undergoing construction shall be provided, identifying the type, duration, and frequency of construction activities. Notification materials shall be provided in English/Spanish translation and identify a mechanism for residents to contact CVWD's Project manager related to noise or vibration concerns. • During construction, the Construction Contractor shall use equipment (e.g., jack hammers, pavement breakers, and rock drills) which is hydraulically or electrically powered to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools. Where use of pneumatically powered tools is unavoidable, an exhaust muffler on the compressed air exhaust would be used. This muffler can lower noise levels from the exhaust by up to 10 dBA. External jackets on the tools themselves would be used where feasible, and this could achieve a reduction of 5 dBA. Quieter procedures will be used such as drilling rather than impact equipment whenever feasible. • During construction, the Construction Contractor shall comply with compaction standards for backfill. Vibration generated during soil compaction may be minimized by using a small compactor. • During sheetpile driving for trench excavation, the Construction Contractor shall use the following measures: pushing the sheetpile in as far as possible with non-vibratory equipment (e.g., excavator) before using the vibrator; using a small, hand-operated vibratory hammer or one with a different operational frequency to further reduce the vibration potential; flooding the soils before tamping with the vibrator; and/or operating vibratory equipment with "throttling" when a vibrator must be used. • All equipment and trucks used by the Construction Contractor for project construction shall use the best available noise control techniques (including mufflers, use of intake silencers, ducts, engine enclosures and acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds) and be maintained in good operating condition to minimize construction noise impacts. All internal combustion engine-drive equipment shall be fitted with intake and exhaust mufflers which are in good condition. • During construction, the Construction Contractor shall prohibit unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines. In practice, this would mean turning off equipment if it would not be used for five or more minutes. • During construction, the Construction Contractor shall locate stationary noise-generating construction equipment, such as air compressors and generators, as far as possible from homes and businesses. • The Construction Contractor shall locate staging areas as far as feasibly possible from sensitive receptors.	1. Confirm measures are incorporated into the contract specifications. 2. Send notices 3. Implement noise and vibration control measures.	1. Contracting 2. Pre-Construction 3. Construction	1. Once 2. Once 3. Throughout construction	1. CVWD 2. Construction Contractor 3. Construction Contractor	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Mitigation Measure	*Monitoring and Reporting Actions*	*Implementation Schedule*	*Monitoring Frequency*	*Responsible Party*	*Review and Approval by:*	*Verification: Status/ Date Completed/ Initials*
Mitigation Measure TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan Prior to construction, CVWD shall require its construction contractor to implement an approved Traffic Control Plan, to the satisfaction of the CVWD construction inspector and the County. The components of the Traffic Control Plan shall include: • Identification of construction staging site locations and potential road closures, • Alternate routes of traffic detours, including emergency response contact information, • Planned routes for construction-related vehicle traffic (haul routes), and • Identification of alternative safe routes to maintain pedestrian safety during construction. CVWD's Project Manager shall coordinate with the police, fire, and other emergency services to alert these entities about potential construction delays, project alignment, and construction schedule. CVWD shall minimize the duration of disruptions/closures to roadways and critical access points for emergency services. The Traffic Control Plan shall provide for traffic control measures including flag persons, warning signs, lights, barricades, and cones to provide safe passage of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic and access by emergency responders. The Traffic Control Plan shall be submitted to CVWD's Project Manager and construction inspector for review and approval prior to construction. CVWD's construction inspector shall have the construction schedule and Traffic Control Plan reviewed by the County of Riverside to ensure construction of the proposed project does not conflict with construction activities associated with other construction projects that may be occurring at the same time in the vicinity.	1. Include measure in contract documents 2. Confirm construction contractor has implemented a Traffic Control Plan to the satisfaction of the CVWD Construction Inspector and CVWD's Project Manager. 3. Confirm Project Manager has coordinated with emergency services about construction. 4. Confirm CVWD Construction Inspector has the construction schedule and Traffic Control Plan reviewed by the County of Riverside.	1. Contracting 2. Pre-Construction 3. Pre-Construction 4. Pre-Construction	1. Once 2. Once 3. Once 4. Once	1. CVWD 2. CVWD, Construction Contractor 3. CVWD Construction Inspector 4. CVWD Construction Inspector	CVWD	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Purpose and Need

The Valley View MHP Water Consolidation Project would address potable water public health concerns, reliability, and functionality for the identified SWSs that are not currently connected to the CVWD potable water system. The objectives of the proposed project are twofold.

1. To improve the reliability, safety, and security of the water supply for rural DACs of the Valley View MHP Water Consolidation Project that are not currently connected to the CVWD potable water system; and

2. To implement a cost-effective, technically feasible, long-term water supply solution for the drinking water quality deficiencies identified in the existing small water systems of the Valley View MHP Water Consolidation Project.

Additional detail regarding the existing conditions of the SWSs can be found in the 2019 IS/MND.

2.2 Description of Phase III A-2 Transmission Main

The Phase III A-2 Transmission Main pipeline is an up to 3,500 linear foot (0.67 mile) pipe that would cross under the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Highway 111 using trenchless installation and connect to the existing CVWD water mains on Palm Street and Airport Boulevard. The Phase III A-2 pipeline project area is shown in **Figure 2-1.** The pipeline is a connecting segment between two existing water mains that is needed to deliver potable water to the nine independent Valley View MHP SWSs being consolidated onto the CVWD potable water system. Northernmost and southernmost optional alignments are proposed for this segment of pipeline. These are preliminary and may be altered as easements are finalized. Therefore, the project area shown in **Figure 2-1** encompasses a buffer area around the northern and southernmost options for the proposed pipeline alignment to provide flexibility for the final selected alignment.

The potential Phase III A-2 pipeline segments are described as follows:

- A 30-inch diameter segment of the pipeline would connect to the existing CVWD water main on Palm Street and continue northeast to Highway 111 via open trenching. This segment would be up to 400 linear feet.

- A 30-inch diameter segment of the pipeline would cross under Highway 111 and the Union Pacific railroad tracks via jack-and-bore methods. This segment would be up to 450 linear feet.

- A 30-inch diameter segment of the pipeline would be constructed via open trenching between the segment that crosses under Highway 111 and the Union Pacific railroad tracks, and the segment that crosses the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. This segment would be up to 1,050 linear feet.

- A 32-inch diameter segment of the pipeline would cross under the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). This segment would be up to 950 linear feet.

- On the east side of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, a 30-inch diameter pipeline would connect the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main pipeline from the end of the pipeline placed under the channel to the existing CVWD water main on Airport Boulevard via open trenching. This segment would be up to 610 linear feet.

2.3 Setting of Phase III A-2 Transmission Main

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would be located in the eastern portion of the greater Coachella Valley within Riverside County, California near the community of Thermal. Historically, Thermal has been an important agricultural center, and remains so, with some of its more prominent crops including dates, table grapes, grapefruit, and assorted vegetables (County of Riverside 2021). Land use in the area varies. The surrounding community contains light industrial, commercial, residential, open space, and transportation land uses. **Figure 2-2** shows the overlying land use designations as classified by the Riverside County General Plan (County of Riverside 2015) and City of Coachella General Plan (City of Coachella 2015).

Other projects within the vicinity of the Phase III A-2 pipeline include the following:

- CVWD's *Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project - Avenue 54 to Thermal Drop Structure* involves improvements to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel to address the risk of flooding during a 100-year storm event. The project extends from approximately 130 feet north of Avenue 54 to approximately 300 feet south of the Thermal Drop Structure, which is located between Avenue 57 and 58. It involves channel improvements to restore conveyance capacity, including slope protection, lowering the channel invert elevation, channel lining, and vegetation maintenance. Construction began in Spring 2021 and is expected to last 24 months.

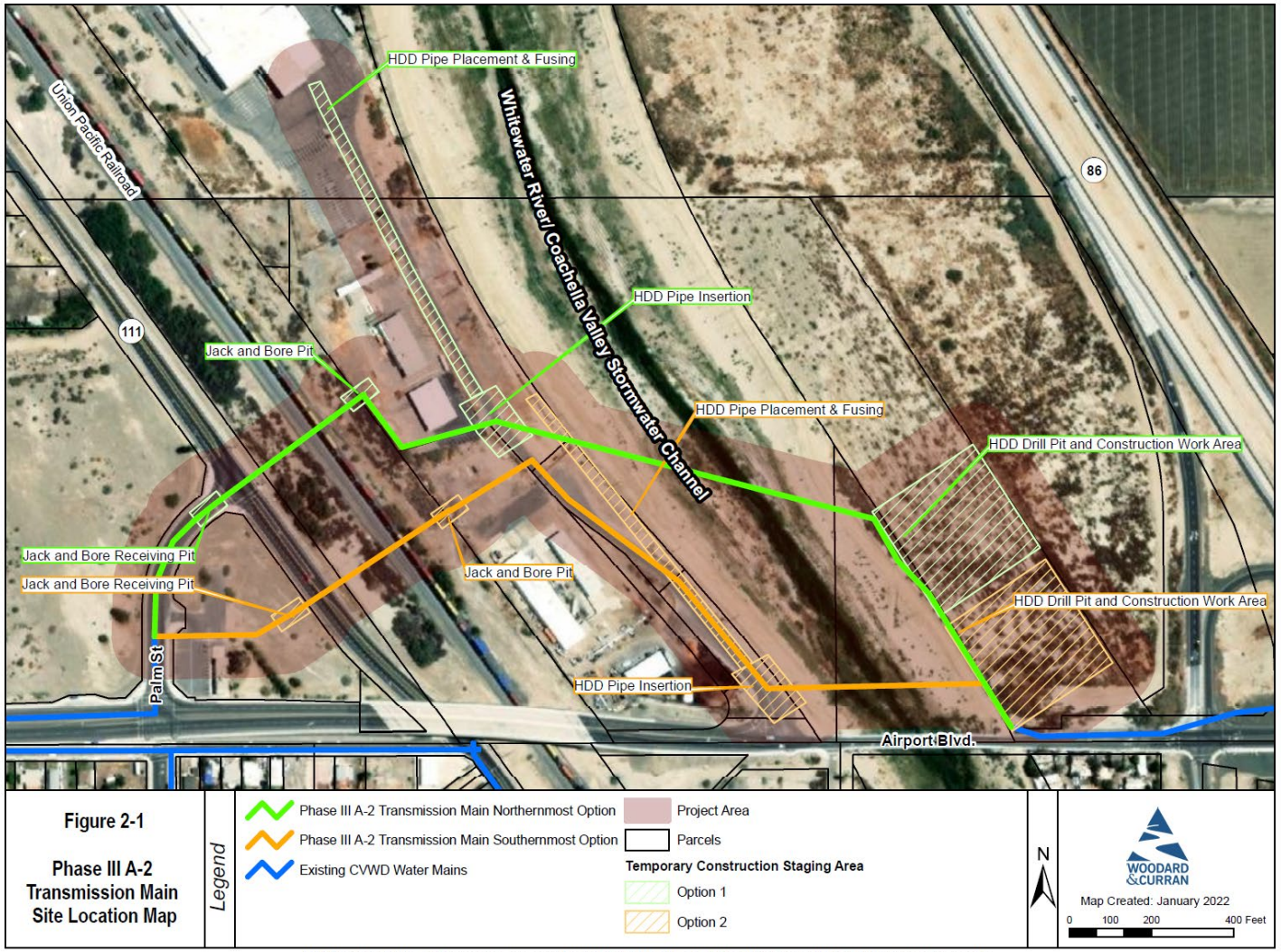
- The Coachella Valley Association of Government's (CVAG) *CV LINK* project would provide access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and golf carts on a dedicated off-road path parallel to Highway 111. A segment of the multi-modal path would be constructed between Avenue 54 and Airport Boulevard along the west bank of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. This segment is scheduled for construction in 2021.

- Riverside County's *Airport Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project* would widen Airport Boulevard overpass crossing of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. This project is in the early planning phases, with environmental study and preliminary design expected to be complete in fall of 2022 and a currently undetermined construction start date.

- The *Coachella Airport Business Park Project*, proposed by Hagen Company LLC, would develop parcels designated Light Industrial between the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and Highway 86, immediately north of Airport Boulevard. The project requires approval by the City of Coachella and is currently in the preliminary planning stages.

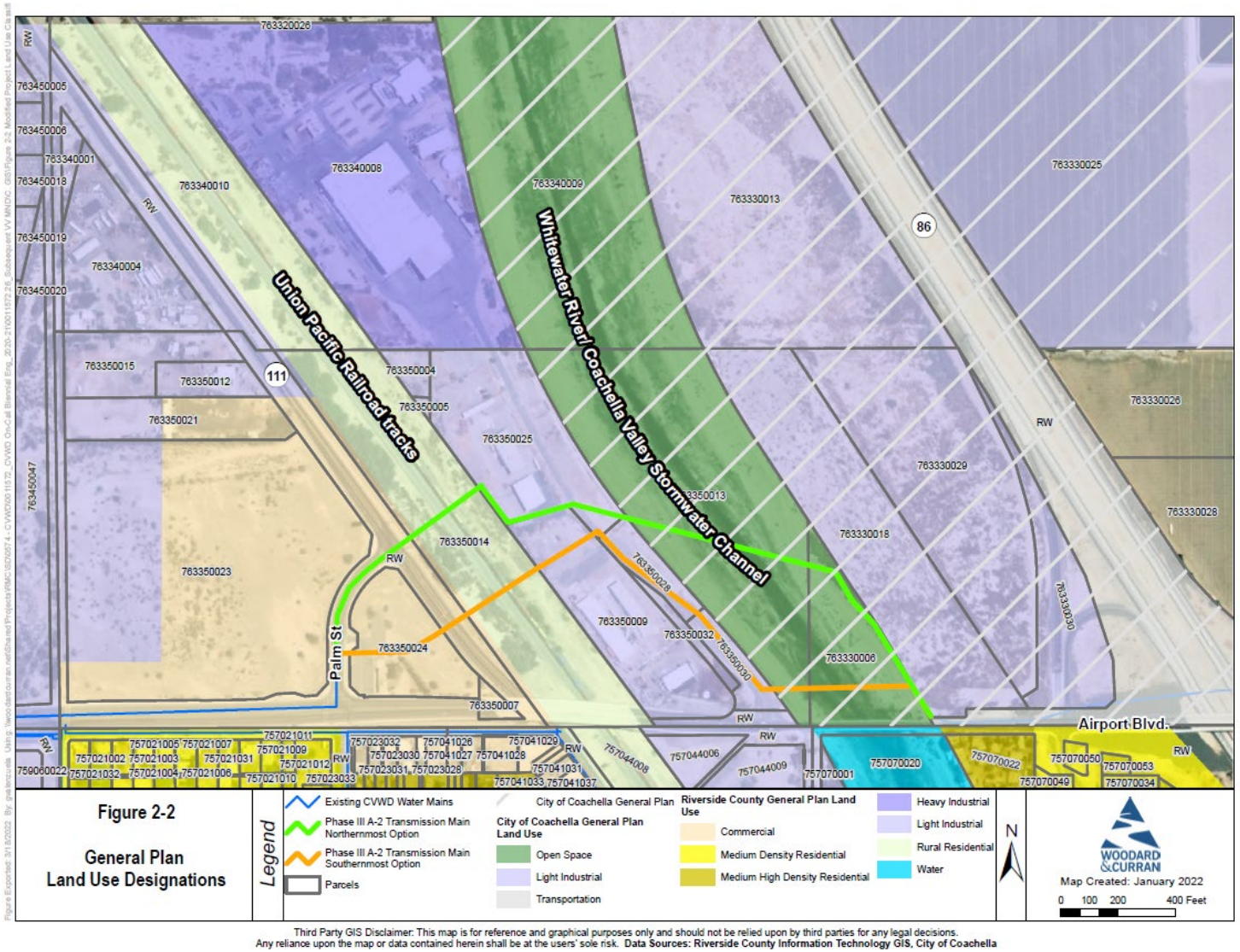
- The City of Coachella plans to construct a potable water pipeline north of Airport Boulevard, east of Highway 111, and west of Highway 86, in adjacent easements within the vicinity of the Phase III A-2 Transmission Main, in order to extend the City's potable water service capabilities easterly. No timeline for construction or planning is available as of the writing of this document.

Figure 2-1: Phase III A-2 Transmission Main Site Location Map



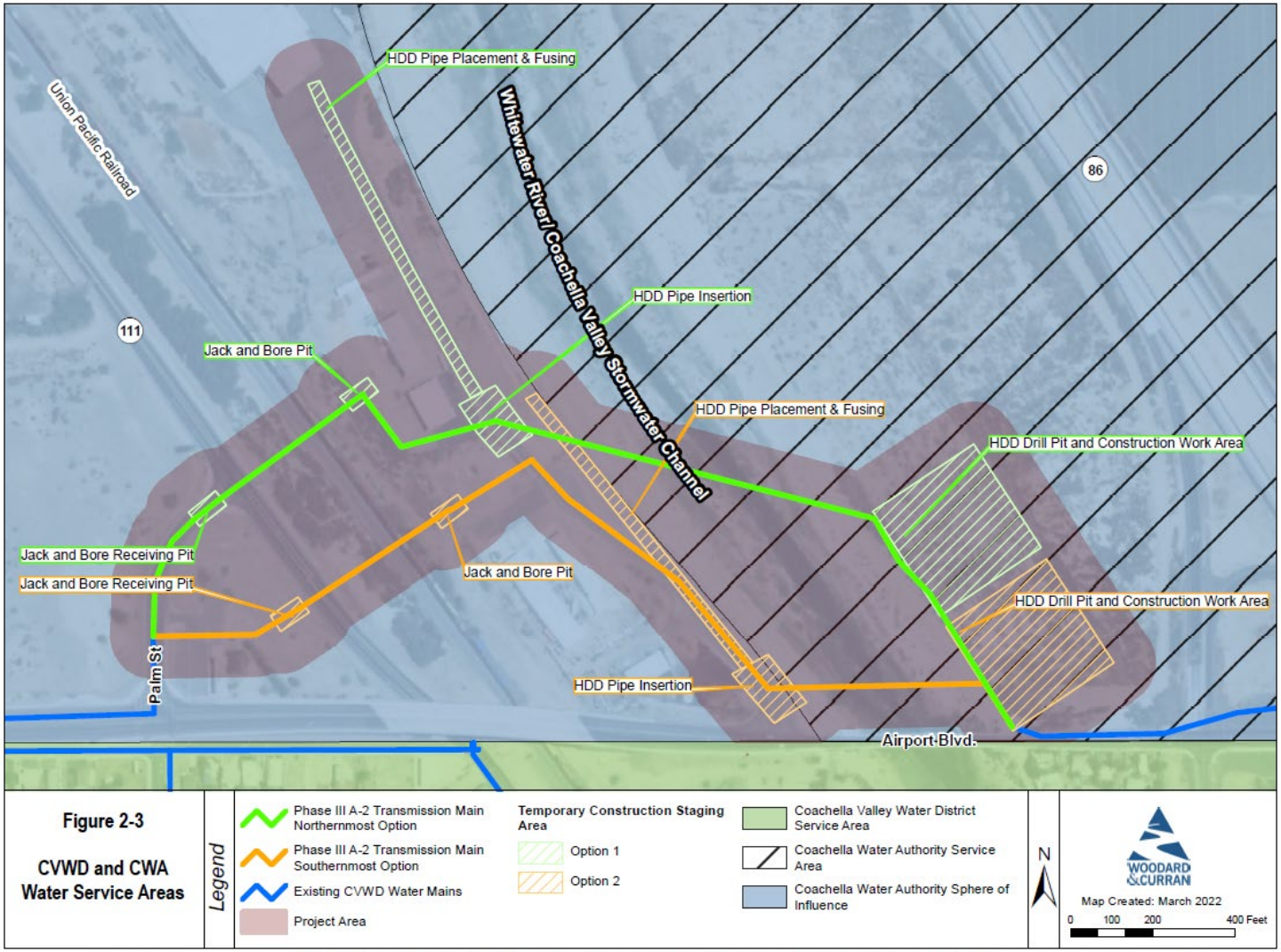
Third Party GIS Disclaimer: This map is for reference and graphical purposes only and should not be relied upon by third parties for any legal decisions.
Any reliance upon the map or data contained herein shall be at the users' sole risk. **Data Sources: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community**

Figure 2-2: General Plan Land Use Designations



Third Party GIS Disclaimer: This map is for reference and graphical purposes only and should not be relied upon by third parties for any legal decisions. Any reliance upon the map or data contained herein shall be at the users' sole risk. **Data Sources: Riverside County Information Technology GIS, City of Coachella**

Figure 2-3: Water Service Area Boundaries



Third Party GIS Disclaimer: This map is for reference and graphical purposes only and should not be relied upon by third parties for any legal decisions.
Any reliance upon the map or data contained herein shall be at the users' sole risk. **Data Sources: Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community**

2.4 Phase III A-2 Transmission Main Construction Methods

Pipeline Installation

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would be installed within County of Riverside, Union Pacific Railroad, City of Coachella, and privately-owned properties, as well as County of Riverside roadway right-of-way. Typical pipeline construction processes are described below:

- **Staging Area(s)** – At various locations along the construction route, staging areas would be required to store pipe, construction equipment, and other construction-related material. Potential staging areas include vacant private and public land and segments of closed traffic lanes.
- **Surface Preparation** – Surface preparation involves removing structures (such as fences or posts), pavement, and/or vegetation from the trenching, jack and bore, and HDD pit areas. Equipment may include jack hammers, pavement saws, graders, bulldozers, loaders, and trucks.
- **Trench Excavation/Shoring -** A backhoe, excavator, or trencher would be used to dig trenches for pipe installation. In general, trenches would have vertical side walls to minimize the amount of soil excavated, and the area needed for the construction easement. Soils excavated from the trenches, if of suitable quality, would be stockpiled alongside the trench or in staging areas for later reuse in backfilling the trench. If not reusable, the soil would be hauled off site for disposal. Disposal options include use as cover material at sanitary landfills and use as "clean fill" at other sites. In general, pipe trenches would be three to five feet wide and five to six feet deep. The domestic water pipeline easement, and assumed width of disturbance during construction, would be 20 feet. Deeper installations may be required under special circumstances, such as a large utility crossing.

  Pipeline trenches, in any given location, would be open for two to three days on average. During construction, vertical wall trenches would be temporarily "closed" at the end of each work day, by covering with steel plates or backfilled. Trenches would be backfilled with either the excavated soil or imported material. Native soil would be reused for backfill to the greatest extent possible; however, the soil may not have the properties necessary for compatibility and stability. Therefore, trucks could be used to deliver imported, engineered backfill material to stockpiles near the trenching operation.
- **Jack and Boring** – Jack and boring employs a non-steerable system that drives an open-ended pipe laterally using a percussive hammer, thereby resulting in the displacement of soil limited to the wall thickness of the pipe. For this construction method, pits would be dug on either side of the feature to be avoided (e. g. stream crossing, heavily traveled roadway, railroad tracks, or existing utilities). For the Phase III A-2 pipeline, the receiving pit on the west side of Highway 111 would be 15 feet by 40 feet (surface area) and the bore pit on the east side of the railroad tracks would also be 15 feet by 40 feet (surface area).

  The depth of the boring depends on the feature to be avoided. For the Phase III A-2 pipeline, the pipeline would avoid Highway 111, Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and existing gas, telephone/internet, and petroleum utilities by having a crossing depth of 13 feet. The boring equipment and pipe would be lowered into the boring pit and aligned at the appropriate depth and angle to achieve the desired exit location. A compressor would supply air to the pneumatic ramming tool to thrust the pipe forward. A cutting shoe may be welded to the front of the lead pipe to help reduce friction and cut through the soil.

  Depending on the size of the installation, spoil from inside the pipe would be removed with an auger, compressed air, water, or a combination of techniques. A seal cap would be installed on the starter pit side of the installation and spoil would be discharged into the receiver pit. Using this technique, ground surface disturbance would not occur, except at the pits.

- **Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD)** – HDD crossings are installed using a drill rig. The bore entry holes would be drilled from the starting to the destination pits which are located outside the banks of the channel. In preparing the hole, a 3-inch diameter pilot hole would be drilled first. After the initial hole is drilled, the final bore entry pit, approximately 10 feet square by approximately 10 feet deep, would be constructed and used as the collection point for Bentonite drilling mud and drill spoil.

  During HDD, drilling mud would be injected into the drill and recovered from the entry hole until the drill bit surfaces at the exit pit. Once the drill bit surfaces, the drilling mud would be recovered at both the entry and exit hole, pumped into tanks and transported back to the rig location for cleaning and eventual reuse. The proposed pipeline would be pulled back through the hole while simultaneously back-reaming the pilot hole (making the hole larger) so it can accommodate the pipeline. To avoid the channel, the pipeline would be placed at a depth of 40 feet. Using this technique, the ground surface would not be disturbed except at the pits outside the channel banks. Occasionally, the drilling mud escapes the bore hole and leaks through the ground surface, which is known as a "frac-out." To avoid and minimize potential impacts to the channel associated with accidental frac-out, CVWD would obtain a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) prior to construction.

- **Surface Restoration** – After the pipe is installed, the ground surface areas would be restored. When pipe is installed on paved roadways, the asphalt would be patched and restored to pre-construction conditions. When the pipe is installed in dirt access roads, the dirt would be graded and compacted. In natural or vegetated areas, native plantings would be installed.

Construction Equipment and Duration

The Table below summarizes the equipment and duration for each anticipated phase of the project.

Table 2-1: Anticipated Construction Equipment Fleet

Construction Phase	Duration (days)	Anticipated Fleet
Trenching	14	1 Excavator 1 Forklift 1 Loader/Backhoe 1 Dump Truck
HDD	20	1 Drill Rig 1 Excavator/Backhoe 1 Forklift 1 Dump Truck
Jack-and-bore	20	1 Drill Rig 1 Excavator/Backhoe 1 Forklift 1 Dump Truck
Restoration	50	4 Cement and Mortar Mixers 1 Pavers 1 Roller 1 Loader/Backhoe
Notes: Project-specific information provided by design engineers. Duration estimated based on total construction timeframe.		

2.4.1 Construction Staging

The Phase III A-2 pipeline's maximum area of disturbance during the construction period would encompass about 1,635,000 square feet (sq. ft.), or37.6 acres, including staging areas. However, this area encompasses the maximum possible extent to provide full environmental coverage; only a subset of this area would be disturbed depending on the final alignment selected. Construction staging would occur within the areas depicted on **Figure 2-1**. Disturbance activities would occur on existing roadways, private and Union Pacific Railroad-owned property, and vacant County owned land. Disturbed areas would be restored to their pre-construction condition and vegetated areas would be replanted with appropriate native species.

2.4.2 Construction Trip Generation

During construction, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would generate vehicle trips for construction crew, equipment, and materials deliveries. Construction is estimated to generate up to 30 worker round trips per day, nine daily round trips for hauling export material and infill material, and two daily round trips for vendor delivery of materials. Construction would involve approximately 2,400 cubic yards (cy) of material export, assuming as much native fill is reused for backfill of trenches as possible.

2.4.3 Construction Schedule

Construction is anticipated to last up to six months. Where open trench methods are used in roadway shoulders, construction would proceed at a rate of approximately 150 linear feet per day and where open trench methods are used between buildings, construction would proceed at a rate of 100 linear feet per day. Each construction activity - trenching, jack-and-bore, and HDD - is assumed to occur without overlap; however, resurfacing/ repaving was assumed to overlap the other phases, as they are complete. Open trenching would occur between the normal working hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday only and excluding federal holidays, which is compliant with the County of Riverside Ordinance Regulating Noise. Jack-and-bore segments and HDD would be limited to normal working hours in the initial stages but may require continuous operation during final pass and pipe pullback to maintain bore hole stability. The drilling and reaming would be done during normal working hours if needed; however, 10 hours/day working time at minimum may be extended to support the drilling and prevent bore hole collapse.

2.4.4 Construction Best Management Practices

As with the original approved project, CVWD would require implementation of the following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) with the Phase III A-2 pipeline:

- *Drainage / Erosion Control* - During construction, existing storm water facilities including catch basins, manholes, and ditches would be protected using erosion control measures. Design standards outlined in the *Riverside County Whitewater River Region Stormwater Quality Best Management Practice Design Handbook for Low Impact Development* (Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District [FCWCD] 2014) would be implemented as applicable to the project site's stormwater drainage features. In addition, the project contractor would be required to obtain a NPDES Construction General Permit, which would require development of a construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implementation of BMPs to prevent pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site.

- *Groundwater Dewatering* - The proposed pipe would be installed at a depth of five to six feet below ground surface for the segments being installed using open trench method. If encountered at this depth, groundwater would be controlled using standard methods including stone sumps wrapped in filter fabric and dewatering basins or baffled tanks if required in accordance with a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) NPDES discharge permit.

- *Traffic Controls* - Construction of the project may necessitate individual traffic lane closures. Traffic control requirements would require that emergency crews have access, as needed, and that the contractor coordinates the location of the work daily for routing of emergency vehicles. Traffic control would also require the contractor to make reasonable efforts, wherever possible, to provide landowners access to their property and patrons access to businesses during execution of the work. The contractor would be required to have a County-approved traffic control plan. Refer to mitigation measure **TRA-1 Traffic Control Plan**.

- *Air Quality / Dust Suppression* – The construction contractor would be required to comply with South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) rule 403.1 to control dust during construction specific to the Coachella Valley. The contractor is required to have an approved Fugitive Dust Control Plan prior to grading or excavation. The contractor is required to comply with the California Air Resources Boards (CARB) In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations, which would limit vehicle idling time to five minutes, restrict adding vehicles to construction fleets that have lower than Tier 3 engines, and establish a schedule for retiring older, less fuel-efficient engines from the construction fleet.

2.4.5 Phase III A-2 Pipeline Operation and Maintenance

CVWD would continue to operate and maintain its domestic water system with no operational modifications.

2.4.6 Permits and Discretionary Approvals

Permits and approvals for the original approved project are detailed in the 2019 IS/MND. The specific permits/approvals applicable for the Phase III A-2 pipeline include:

- County of Riverside – Encroachment, Road and Construction Permits
- South Coast Air Quality Management District – Fugitive Dust Control Plan
- SWRCB – General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with Construction Activities
- California Department of Transportation – Encroachment Permit
- RWQCB NPDES Permit for Construction Discharges (dewatering/test water)

Additionally, the Phase III A-2 pipeline may require the following additional permits not previously identified in the 2019 IS/MND:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Union Pacific Railroad – Encroachment Permit

The type of permits necessary to construct the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be confirmed during preparation of the design.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project title:** Phase III A-2 Transmission Main

2. **Lead agency name and address:** Coachella Valley Water District
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211

3. **Contact person and phone number:** William Patterson
Environmental Supervisor, CVWD
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92211
(760) 398-2651 x2545

4. **Project location:** The Phase III A-2 pipeline would be located in the eastern portion of the greater Coachella Valley within Riverside County, California near the community of Thermal. Highway 111 transects the project area at Airport Boulevard. More specifically, the project is located in Township 6 south, Range 8 east, and Section 15 of the United States Geological Survey Indio 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. The proposed project area consists of 10 parcels: Assessor's Parcel Number 763-350-024, 763-350-014, 763-340-008, 763-350-025, 763-350-009, 763-350-028, 763-350-030, 763-350-013, 763-330-006, and 763-330-018.

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

6. **County of Riverside General plan designations:** Commercial (CR), Rural Residential (RR), Light Industrial (LI)
City of Coachella General plan designations: Open Space, Light Industrial

7. **County of Riverside Zoning:** C-1/C-P, R-R, M-SC
City of Coachella Zoning: Open Space (O-S)

8. **Description of project:** The Phase III A-2 Transmission Main pipeline is an up to 3,500 linear foot (0.67 mile) pipe that would cross under Highway 111, the Union Pacific Railroad, and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel using trenchless installation. It would connect to the existing CVWD water mains on Palm Street and Airport Boulevard. The pipeline is a connecting segment between two existing water mains that is needed to deliver potable water to nine independent Small Water Systems being consolidated onto the CVWD potable water system. The proposed alignment for this segment of pipeline is preliminary and may be altered as easements are finalized; as such, the project area encompasses a buffer area around the northern and southernmost options for the proposed pipeline alignment. The proposed project would improve water supply reliability at the MHPs by connecting them to CVWD's water supply infrastructure.

9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The project site is bordered to the south by Airport Boulevard and is located within a disturbed, yet relatively undeveloped setting. The project site is transected by Highway 111, Union Pacific Railroad tracks, and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. Surrounding land uses include rural residential, light industrial, and open space.

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

- Local:
  - County of Riverside – Encroachment, Road and Construction Permits
  - South Coast Air Quality Management District – Fugitive Dust Control Plan
- State:
  - California Department of Transportation – Encroachment Permit
  - Regional Water Quality Control Board – NPDES Permit for Construction Discharges (dewatering/test water)
  - State Water Resources Control Board – General Permit for Storm Water Discharges associated with Construction Activities
  - California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Federal:
  - USEPA/SWRCB – funding under the DWSRF
  - USDA – funding under the Rural Development Program

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

CVWD has received formal written notification requests from several local Native American tribes as a result of Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto,2014). Refer to Section 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources for a complete discussion.

The NAHC identified 18 Native American contacts who may have knowledge of cultural resources of Native American origin at the project site. Rincon prepared and sent electronic mail letters to each of the groups with a listed email address on August 30, 2021. The groups without listed email address were sent hard copies of the letters via certified mail on September 2, 2021. On September 10, 2021, Rincon followed up with phone calls with the Native American contacts who had not replied to the letters. Two responses were received from this outreach effort. A summary of each response received can be found in Section 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. With adherence to the mitigation program identified within this IS/MND, the potentially significant impacts would be reduced or minimized to less than significant.

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

Determination: (To be completed by Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

Prepared by: Haley Johnson — March 30, 2022
Haley Johnson
Environmental Planner /Project Manager
Woodard & Curran
Date

Reviewed by: 3-30-22
William Patterson
Environmental Supervisor
Coachella Valley Water District
Date

Submitted by: 3/30/22
Steve Bigley
Director of Environmental Services
Coachella Valley Water District
Date

Approved by Board: 4.15.22
Sylvia M. Bermudez
Clerk of the Board
Coachella Valley Water District
Date

3.1 Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable aesthetic background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background or setting information has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. The Phase III A-2 pipeline area is disturbed, although relatively undeveloped and contains mostly open space and light industrial buildings. The project site area is generally flat, not visually prominent, and primarily visible to immediately adjacent areas. The project area is intersected by State Route 111, Union Pacific railroad tracks, and the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. There are no designated state scenic highways within the project area. While State Route 111 is a state-eligible scenic highway from Bombay Beach on the Salton Sea to State Route 195 near Mecca, providing views of the Salton Sea and the surrounding mountainous wilderness, this stretch is approximately six miles south of the Phase III A-2 pipeline area. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a, c) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would cause temporary short-term impacts to the views of the site from adjacent areas and visual quality of the project area through placement of large-scale construction equipment along and adjacent to roadways. However, once constructed, the pipeline would be located underground and would not impact the visual character of the project area. There would be a less than significant impact to scenic vistas and the quality of public views from adjacent areas.

b) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project is not within view of a state designated or eligible scenic highway (Caltrans 2019). Therefore, no impact would occur to scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline may create a minor source of glare from construction equipment parked onsite or security lighting at staging areas. However, this impact would be temporary and would cease upon completion of construction. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project would not create a new permanent source of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views within the project area and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Would the Project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable agricultural and forestry background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background or setting information has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. As shown in **Figure 3-1**, the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is almost entirely composed of built-up, urban, and other land. The Phase III A-2 pipeline project area east of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is shown as Farmland of Local Importance and the area around Palm Street is shown as Other Land (California Department of Conservation [DOC]) 2018). As shown in **Figure 3-2**, the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is not located on lands protected by a Williamson Act contract, although parcels south of the Phase III A-2 pipeline area are covered by a Williamson Act contract (DOC 2017). There are no designated forest lands or timberland within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

Figure 3-1: Important Farmland

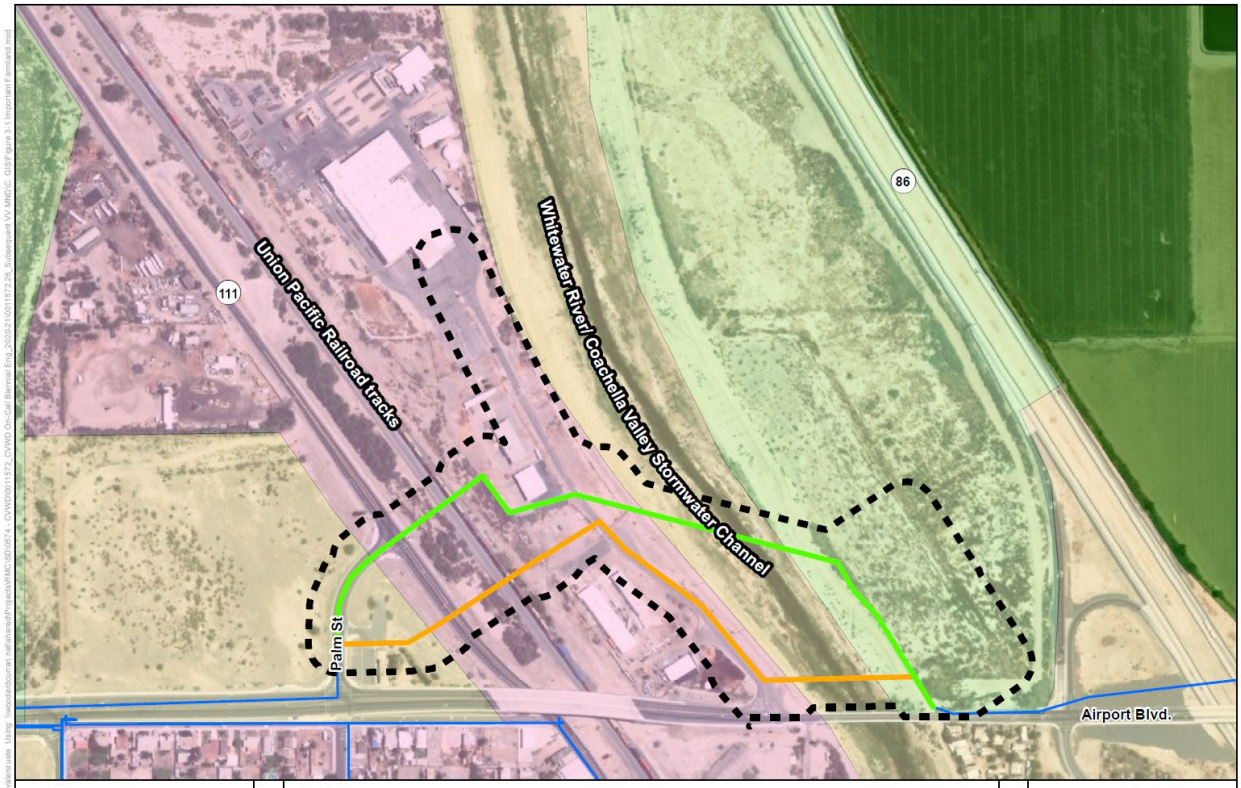
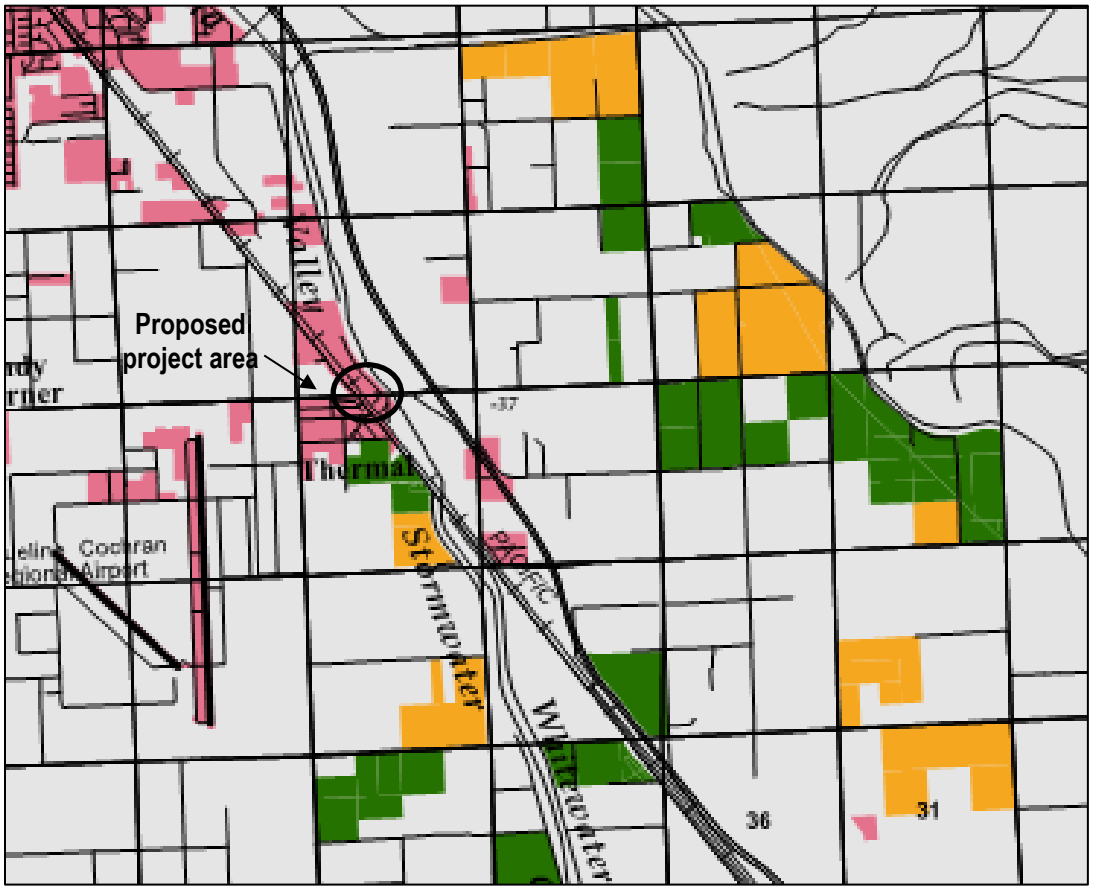


Figure 3-2: Williamson Act Lands



Notes: Green color indicates Williamson Act-Prime Agricultural land; yellow color indicates Williamson Act-nonrenewal land; pink color indicates urban and built up land.
Source: California Department of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection Conservation Program Support, "Riverside County Williamson Act FY 2015/16 Sheet 2 of 3," 2016.

a, b, e) Less than Significant Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would be installed within County of Riverside, Union Pacific Railroad, City of Coachella, and privately-owned properties, as well as County of Riverside roadway rights-of-way. While the majority of the proposed project is not located on important farmland, the Phase III A-2 pipeline ties into pipeline east of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel that is located within farmland of local importance (DOC 2018). However, similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would install below-grade pipelines and would restore all surfaces to pre-construction conditions. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in land use changes and would not convert important farmland to a nonagricultural use, conflict with zoning regulations, or result in other changes that would indirectly result in conversion of nearby farmland to non-agricultural use. There are no Williamson Act lands within the Phase III A-2 pipeline alignment area. Although there are Williamson Act lands in the vicinity of the Phase III A-2 pipeline area, construction and operation of the project would not alter the land use or zoning of those lands. Therefore, impacts to important farmland and Williamson Act contracted lands would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

c, d) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, there are no forest lands or timberlands within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area. Therefore, there would be no conflict with zoning or loss or conversion of forest land or timberland. No impacts to forest land or timberland would occur and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended

3.3 Air Quality

Would the Project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable air quality background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted, the SCAG *2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy* was updated in the *2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy*. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is located in the Coachella Valley region of the Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB), which is under the regulatory jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD's 2016 *Air Quality Management Plan* (AQMP) assesses the attainment status of the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB and provides a strategy for attainment of State and federal air quality standards. The AQMP strategies are developed based on population, housing, and employment growth forecasts anticipated under local city general plans and the SCAG's *2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy* (SCAG 2020). A project would conflict with or obstruct the AQMP if it would lead to population, housing or employment growth that exceeds the forecasts used in the development of the applicable air quality plan. As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not induce unplanned growth because no new housing or permanent employment are proposed. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline involves expansion of CVWD's municipal water delivery infrastructure within its service area. Operation

of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would serve specific existing communities and projected water demand consistent with planned growth anticipated in the Riverside County General Plan *Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* (County of Riverside 2021). Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not lead to population, housing or employment growth that exceeds the forecasts used in the development of the AQMD, and the potential for conflicts with the AQMP would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

Construction Emissions

The SCAQMD monitors air pollutant levels to ensure the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are met and, if they are not met, to develop strategies to meet the standards. The NAAQS and CAAQS attainment statuses for the Coachella Valley portion of the SSAB are listed in Table 3-1 of the 2019 IS/MND. The SSAB is non-attainment for ozone (O_3) and respirable particulate matter (PM_{10}) (federal and state standards), and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) (state standards only). Similar to the original proposed project, air quality emissions associated with the Phase III A-2 pipeline project are compared to the SCAQMD numerical regional air quality thresholds, and the SCAQMD Localized Significance Thresholds (LSTs). Similar to the original approved project, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would proceed at a rate equivalent to an active construction site less than one acre per day. Pursuant to SCAQMD guidance, LSTs for the one-acre site should be used for sites that are less than one acre in size. The SCAQMD regional air quality thresholds and LSTs for construction on a one-acre site in the Source Receptor Area (SRA) where the project area is located (SRA-30) are shown in **Table 3-1,** along with the Phase III A-2 pipeline's estimated maximum daily pollutant emissions. Construction emissions for the Phase III A-2 pipeline were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (2020.4.0) along with information about the project summarized in *Section 2.4 Phase III A-2 Transmission Main Construction Methods*. As shown in **Table 3-1**, Phase III A-2 pipeline construction emissions would not exceed SCAQMD regional thresholds or LSTs.

Table 3-1: Phase III A-2 Pipeline Maximum Daily Construction Emissions (lbs/day)

Emissions Source	NO_x	ROG	CO	SO_x	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
Construction equipment	14	2	18	<0.1	<1	<1
Offsite emissions	<1	<1	1	<0.1	<0.1	<1
Fugitive dust (with required fugitive dust controls)	--	--	--	--	<0.1	<0.1
Total Maximum Daily Emissions	**14**	**2**	**19**	**<0.1**	**<1**	**1**
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds	*100*	*75*	*550*	*150*	*55*	*150*
Threshold exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***
LST (onsite stationary emissions only)	*132*	*--*	*878*	*--*	*3*	*4*
Threshold exceeded?	***No***	***--***	***No***	***--***	***No***	***No***

Notes: The SSAB is non-attainment for O_3, however standards are set for NO_x (oxides of nitrogen) and ROG (reactive organic gases)/VOC (volatile organic compounds) because these pollutants are ozone precursors, which chemically react in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone. Emissions presented are the highest of winter or summer modeled emissions. Values may not sum due to rounding. See Appendix A for CalEEMod output sheets. Values shown in this table are from the "mitigated" emissions scenario to account for standard dust control measures.
Sources: Regional Thresholds: SCAQMD 2019; SCAQMD 2009.

Operational Emissions

As discussed under *Section 2.4.5 Phase III A-2 Pipeline Operation and Maintenance,* CVWD would continue to operate and maintain its domestic water system with no operational modifications. In addition, the Phase III A-2 pipeline does not propose installation of any buildings or equipment that would increase demand for natural gas. Emissions associated with operation and maintenance (O&M) would be negligible and would not result in a cumulatively

considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the SSAB is non-attainment. Therefore, operational increase in criteria pollutants would be less than significant.

To evaluate whether emissions from construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be cumulatively considerable, the estimated emissions were added to those of the original approved project. See **Table 3-2**. This analysis is conservative because it assumes CVWD would undertake construction of both the Phase III A-2 pipeline and the original approved project at the same time. The total combined mass daily emissions, in pounds per day (lbs/day), would also be below the SCAQMD regional thresholds or LSTs.

Table 3-2: Combined Valley View MHP and Phase III A-2 Pipeline Maximum Daily Construction Emissions (lbs/day)

Emissions Source	NO_x	ROG	CO	SO_x	$PM_{2.5}$	PM_{10}
Construction equipment	41.5	4.5	49	<0.1	2.2	2.4
Offsite emissions	1.5	0.5	4	<0.1	0.4	1.2
Fugitive dust (with required fugitive dust controls)	--	--	--	--	<0.1	<0.1
Total Maximum Daily Emissions	**43**	**5**	**53**	**<0.1**	**2.6**	**3.6**
SCAQMD Regional Thresholds	*100*	*75*	*550*	*150*	*55*	*150*
Threshold exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***	***No***
LST (onsite stationary emissions only)	*132*	*--*	*878*	*--*	*3*	*4*
Threshold exceeded?	***No***	***--***	***No***	***--***	***No***	***No***
Sources: Regional Thresholds: SCAQMD 2019; SCAQMD 2009.						

Therefore, impacts on regional air quality and local receptors due to construction-related air pollutant emissions would be less than significant. The project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant, and impacts would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact

Sensitive receptors are typically defined as schools (preschool – 12th grade), hospitals, resident care facilities, senior housing facilities, day care centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. Disturbance activities would occur on existing roadways, private commercial lands, Union Pacific Railroad-owned property, and vacant County-owned land. Thus, there are no sensitive receptors within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area. La Familia High School is located approximately one mile southwest, and John Kelley Elementary School is located approximately one-half mile southwest, of the Phase III A-2 pipeline.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) hotspots have the potential to occur in traffic-congested roadways and intersections with poor circulation. The project would involve minimal O&M trips. Furthermore, construction-related CO emissions would be below SCAQMD regional and LST thresholds (see **Table 3-2**). Therefore, the project would not have the potential to cause a CO hotspot on roadways adjacent to sensitive receptors.

As discussed under topic "b" above, the Phase III A-2 pipeline's construction emissions would not exceed the SCAQMD regional thresholds or LSTs, which are set at levels that protect public health. Furthermore, construction emissions would be temporary and would not be located in the same location for the entire six-month construction period. Similar to the original approved project, sensitive receptors would be exposed to temporary construction air pollution emissions while adjacent pipelines are being actively installed. However, emissions would be less than applicable thresholds and impacts on sensitive receptors would be less than significant.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would involve emissions of sulfur compounds from use of oil and diesel fuel during construction, which would potentially result in unpleasant odors. However, construction would be temporary and would not be located in a single location for the duration of the six-month construction period because where open trench methods are used on roadway shoulders, construction would proceed at a rate of approximately 150 linear feet per day, and where open trench methods are used between buildings, construction would proceed at only a slightly slower rate, 100 linear feet per day. In addition, odorous emissions from construction equipment tend to dissipate quickly within short distances from the construction site. Once the project is operational, the underground potable water pipelines would not be associated with odors. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.4 Biological Resources

Would the Project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or 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, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒

f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

A *Biological Resources Technical Study* was prepared in October 2021 by Rincon Consultants for the Phase III A-2 pipeline. Similar to the 2019 IS/MND, biological conditions in the Phase III A-2 pipeline area were evaluated by reviewing the applicable regulations, policies, standards, and literature pertinent to the site and vicinity; and conducting a reconnaissance-level survey of the site. A field survey of the Phase III A-2 pipeline alignment, as well as a 100-foot buffer around the project site, and associated biological resources was conducted on foot by Rincon biologists on July 30, 2021. Inaccessible private property was surveyed using binoculars. The study area covered by the *Biological Resources Technical Study* is shown in **Figure 3-3**. The complete *Biological Resources Technical Study* is provided in **Appendix B**. The Phase III A-2 pipeline is located within the planning boundary of the CVMSHCP but is not a part of or adjacent to any specific Conservation Area. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

Figure 3-3: Biological Resources Study Area

Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2021.

a) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

A project-level *Biological Resources Technical Study* (**Appendix B**) was prepared to identify potential impacts to special-status plant species that would result from the Phase III A-2 pipeline. Although 43 special status plant species have been previously documented within a five-mile radius of the pipeline area by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) and U.S, Fish and Wildlife Service- Information, Planning, and Conservation System Query (IPaC), none have a moderate or high potential to occur based on the existing developed and disturbed nature of the project area, lack of suitable soils, inappropriate hydrologic conditions, and absence of appropriate vegetation communities. In addition, many of the species' CNDDB occurrences are historical (dating from the early to mid-1920s). Further, no special-status plant species were detected within the biological assessment area during the field survey. As a result, project impacts on special status plant species would be less than significant.

The *Biological Resources Technical Study* also evaluated the potential for impacts to special-status wildlife species. Although 23 special-status wildlife species have been previously documented within a five-mile radius of the pipeline area by the CNDDB and IPaC, none were determined to have a moderate or high potential to occur based on low habitat quality in the developed and disturbed areas, lack of suitable vegetation that would support special-status wildlife species, and regular maintenance of the grounds or other disturbance from frequent human activity. While native vegetation does exist within the project area, the habitat quality is low relative to species' requirements, and many CNDDB occurrences are historical (dating from the early to mid-1900s). Therefore, impacts to special-status wildlife species are not anticipated and impacts would be less than significant.

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project area provides suitable nesting habitat for numerous species of birds common in the area and nesting birds are likely to be present within the project area during the bird nesting season (January 1 through July 1 for raptors, February 1 through August 31 for burrowing owl [which also may occur during the winter], and March 1 through September 15 for passerines). Therefore, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline has the potential to result in impacts to nesting birds through increased injury or mortality, or disruption of normal adult behaviors resulting in the abandonment or harm to eggs and nestlings if construction activities would be required during the nesting season. Construction occurring within the vicinity of nesting birds may also result in indirect impacts resulting from noise and dust, and visual disturbance for raptors. **Mitigation Measure BIO-2** and **Mitigation Measure BIO-3** would be implemented to reduce potential to impact any nesting birds, including raptors, or burrowing owls. **Mitigation Measure NOI-1** would be implemented to lessen possible noise and vibration impacts, and the construction contractor would be required to implement a Fugitive Dust Control Plan in compliance with SCAQMD rule 403.1 to control dust during construction. Therefore, with implementation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan and **Mitigation Measures BIO-2**, **BIO-3**, and **NOI-1**, direct and indirect impacts to special status wildlife species and nesting birds would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

As described in the *Biological Resources Technical Study*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline alignment contains primarily three vegetation communities and two land cover types: Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland, quailbush scrub, tamarisk thickets, developed land, and disturbed land. According to the *Biological Resources Technical Study*, CNDDB records have no occurrences of sensitive plant communities within a five-mile radius of the project area. However, Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland, which is considered a sensitive plant community according to NatureServe, occurs within a small portion of the project area located in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. The Phase III A-2 project would avoid direct impacts to this vegetation community by tunneling the pipeline under the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. Indirect impacts to the Goodding's willow-red willow riparian woodland, such as those caused by clearing and grubbing of the staging areas, would be addressed through erosion control measures (see *Section 2.4.4 Construction Best Management Practices*). At the construction staging area east of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, an approximately 300-by-300 feet area of quailbush scrub would be temporarily disturbed

to accommodate the HDD drill rig and other construction equipment. This vegetation community has varying levels of disturbance and is not identified as a sensitive natural community (see *Biological Resources Technical Study*). There is a potential for HDD methods to impact the Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland vegetation community in the event of an accidental frac-out. CVWD would obtain a SAA from CDFW under Section 1600 of the CFGC prior to construction and would adhere to the measures in the SAA to avoid and minimize potential impacts on sensitive vegetation communities. Therefore, potential impacts to sensitive vegetation communities would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, which intersects the Phase III A-2 pipeline area, connects directly to the Salton Sea which is considered a Traditionally Navigable Water per Section 404 of the Clean Water Act by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Therefore, the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is potentially subject to USACE, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW jurisdiction. However, impacts to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel have been avoided through the project design and permitting compliance process.

The construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would avoid direct impacts to jurisdictional waters through the use of trenchless pipeline installation methods. As discussed in *Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality*, the project contractor would be required to obtain and comply with the NPDES Construction General Permit requirements, which include preparation and implementation of a SWPPP containing BMPs to control sediment and other construction-related pollutants in storm water discharges. Erosion control measures that may be used include silt fences, sandbags, certified weed-free straw wattles and straw bales, and other control measures as needed. Adherence to **Mitigation Measure BIO-4**, which includes preparation of a Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan, would also ensure potential indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters are minimized. To avoid and minimize potential impacts associated with HDD methods, such as an accidental frac-out, CVWD would obtain a SAA from CDFW under Section 1600 of the CFGC prior to construction and would adhere to the measures in the SAA. Based on the project design avoidance of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, implementation of best management practices for pollution prevention, implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-4**, and compliance with CFGC; potential impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands would be less than significant.

d) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The Phase III A-2 pipeline project footprint is mostly located within previously developed and disturbed areas that offer little to no value to wildlife movement. The temporary construction staging areas would be located in disturbed and developed land cover types and quailbush scrub, which is not considered a sensitive plant community (i.e., a plant community that has limited distributions, has high wildlife value, includes sensitive species, or is particularly susceptible to disturbance). While the pipeline alignment crosses the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, a potential local habitat connectivity corridor, project design includes trenchless construction methods (HDD) under the channel and therefore would avoid directly disturbing the channel and the riparian habitat within it. In the event of an accidental frac-out, potential impacts to migratory wildlife could occur. CVWD would obtain a SAA from CDFW under Section 1600 of the CFGC prior to construction and would adhere to the measures in the SAA to avoid and minimize potential impacts on migratory wildlife. Project components installed in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel area would be installed underground and are not anticipated to have significant permanent impact on regional wildlife movement.

Direct impacts to wildlife movement as a result of project implementation would be less than significant. A limited amount of overnight work involving the use of floodlighting may be required for the trenchless construction methods to prevent bore hole collapse. As such, **Mitigation Measure BIO-5** is recommended to reduce indirect wildlife movement impacts from floodlighting. All operational activities are not expected to impact wildlife movement with the implantation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-5**. Therefore, with implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-5**, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project would not inhibit wildlife movement and would have a less than significant impact.

e) No Impact

Riverside County Ordinance 559 protects oak woodlands and requires a permit for removal of any native trees on parcels greater than one-half acre in size and above 5,000 feet in elevation; however, activities conducted by public utilities are exempt. Similar to the original approved project, no protected trees would be removed as part of the Phase III A-2 pipeline project as no trees within the project area meet these criteria.

The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project – Avenue 54 to Thermal Drop Structure Project has a mitigation site that is located approximately 550 feet upstream of the Airport Boulevard bridge and encompasses streambed and stream-associated habitat. This area is subject to preservation and long-term management (vegetation management and invasive species control) in accordance with the requirements of a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. 1600-2019-0235-R6) obtained by CDFW for the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project. Adherence to **Mitigation Measure BIO-6** would ensure construction of the project would avoid the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project mitigation site and in the event of unforeseen impacts to the mitigation site, the site shall be restored to ensure existing mitigation obligations are fulfilled. Therefore, with implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-6**, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project would not conflict with any local policy or ordinance protecting biological resources and would have a less than significant impact.

f) No Impact

Although the Phase III A-2 pipeline is within the CVMSHCP plan area, it is not within a designated Conservation Area. Additionally, no CVMSHCP-covered or otherwise special-status species have a moderate or high potential to occur within the project area, according to the *Biological Resources Technical Study*. As such, construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would avoid direct impacts to the CVMSHCP Conservation Areas and would not conflict with the CVMSHCP conservation objectives. As a permittee in the CVMSHCP, CVWD mitigates its development impact to parcels outside of the Conservation Areas but within the CVMSHCP plan boundaries through compliance with the Local Development Mitigation Fee guidelines; however, similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline does not permanently impact any undisturbed vacant parcels that would be applicable. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project would not conflict with any adopted or approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan and no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: To lessen potential impacts on special-status species and nesting birds, the project shall implement **Mitigation Measure BIO-2** and **BIO-3** from the 2019 IS/MND. To lesson potential indirect impacts to jurisdictional waters during construction, the project shall implement **Mitigation Measure BIO-4 Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan** and **Mitigation Measure BIO-5 Light Abatement**. To lessen potential impacts on a mitigation site preserved under the Streambed Alteration Agreement for the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project, the project shall implement **Mitigation Measure BIO-6**. Impacts are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Pre-Construction Burrowing Owl Surveys

To avoid potential impacts to burrowing owl, a pre-construction clearance survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted no more than fourteen (14) days prior to initiation of construction activities during nesting season (February 1 through August 31). The BUOW pre-construction survey shall be conducted on-foot within the proposed disturbance area including a 500-foot buffer. The survey methods will be consistent with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) and shall consist of walking parallel transects spaced adequately to obtain 100% visual coverage of the site. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of burrowing owl and their habitat.

If burrowing owls are found within the study area during the pre-construction surveys, active nesting burrows will be avoided. If possible, the timing and location of construction activities will be adjusted to avoid the

occupied burrow by the appropriate distance. If necessary, buffer zones for occupied nesting burrows will be established by a qualified Biologist during the breeding season The buffer zone will be clearly marked with flagging and/or construction fencing. CVWD has been authorized an incidental take permit by the Wildlife agencies under the CVMSHCP and will maintain compliance with the CVMSHCP requirements for this covered species to ensure protection of the species.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Nesting Birds

To avoid disturbance of nesting birds, including raptor species protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) 3503 and 3503.5, activities related to the proposed project including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction shall occur outside of the bird breeding season (typically January 1 to September 15) to the extent practicable.

If construction must occur within the bird breeding season (January 1 through September 15), CVWD shall, no more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal, contract with a qualified biologist to conduct a nesting bird and raptor pre-construction survey within the disturbance footprint plus a 100-foot buffer (500-foot for raptors), where feasible. If the proposed project is phased or construction activities stop for more than one week, a subsequent pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey will be required prior to each phase of construction within the project site.

Pre-construction nesting bird and raptor surveys shall be conducted during the time of day when birds are active and shall factor in sufficient time to perform this survey adequately and completely. A report of the nesting bird and raptor survey results, if applicable, shall be submitted to the lead agency for review and approval prior to ground and/or vegetation disturbance activities.

If nests are found, their locations shall be flagged. An appropriate avoidance buffer ranging in size from 25 to 50 feet for passerines birds and up to 500 feet for raptors depending upon the species and the proposed work activity shall be determined and demarcated by a qualified biologist with bright orange construction fencing or other suitable flagging. Buffers will be determined in conjunction with CDFW through the development of a nesting bird management plan. Active nests shall be monitored at a minimum of once per week until it has been determined that the nest is no longer being used by either the young or adults. No ground disturbance shall occur within this buffer until the qualified biologist confirms that the breeding/nesting is completed, and all the young have fledged. If project activities must occur within the buffer, they shall be conducted at the discretion of the qualified biologist. If no nesting birds are observed during pre-construction surveys, no further actions would be necessary.

BIO-4 Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan (Supplemental Measure)

If the HDD method of trenchless crossing of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is determined to be required, CVWD will require its construction contractor to prepare a Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan prior to construction. At a minimum, the Plan will prescribe the following measures to ensure protection of jurisdictional resources:

- Verify recommended depth of the pipeline under the channel based on soil properties and risk for potential frac-out during HDD operation
- Procedures to minimize the potential for frac-out associated with HDD
- Procedures for timely detection of frac-outs
- Procedures for timely response and remediation in the event of a frac-out, and
- Monitoring of drilling and frac-out response activities in jurisdictional areas by a qualified biologist.

BIO-5 Light Abatement (Supplemental Measure)

To prevent indirect impacts to sensitive habitat areas (Goodding's willow-red willow riparian woodland) that facilitate wildlife movement, all safety and security lighting at construction work areas and staging areas will be directed downward and shielded to avoid light spilling into sensitive habitat areas.

BIO-6 Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Mitigation Site Avoidance (Supplemental Measure)

Prior to project construction, the boundaries of the CVSC Improvement Project – Avenue 54 to Thermal Drop Structure Project mitigation site within 100 feet of project work areas shall be flagged for avoidance by qualified personnel in coordination with CVWD. All work shall avoid the mitigation site. In the event of unforeseen impacts to the mitigation site (i.e., frac out), CDFW shall be notified immediately and the site shall be restored in accordance with the Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for On-site Mitigation (Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2019-0235-R6) to ensure existing mitigation obligations at the site are fulfilled.

3.5 Cultural Resources

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

Discussion

A *Cultural Resources Assessment Report* was prepared in December 2021 by Rincon Consultants for the Phase III A-2 pipeline. The *Cultural Resources Assessment Report* was prepared for compliance with CEQA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Similar to the 2019 IS/MND, the report includes a records search of the California Historic Resources Information System (CHRIS) at the Eastern Information Center, local historic societies outreach, a field survey, and extensive background and archival research. The complete *Cultural Resources Assessment Report* is provided in **Appendix C**; and is summarized within this IS/MND.

On July 14, 2021, Rincon conducted a cultural resources records search of the CHRIS at the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside. Rincon also conducted a search of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), and the California State Historic Resources Inventory list. The records search was conducted to identify any previously recorded cultural resources and previously conducted cultural resources studies within the project area and a one-half-mile radius surrounding it.

The CHRIS records search found 23 previous cultural resource studies have been conducted within a one-half mile search radius of the project area. A total of 28 cultural resources have been previously recorded within a one-half mile radius of the proposed project. These include 10 historic period buildings located in the community of Thermal, two historic period structures (Union Pacific Railroad, Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel), 15 historic period archaeological sites (including privies/dumps/trash scatters, roads/trails/railroad grades, utility lines, glass), and one prehistoric isolated artifact (ceramic). Four of the known cultural resources are in the project area, which include historic period railroad lines (P-33-009498), historic period water conveyance system (P-33-017259), and two prehistoric and historic period isolated artifacts (P-33-024739 and P-33-024740). The historic period railroad line (P-33-009498) and historic water conveyance system (P-33-017259) were recommended as ineligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR during their most recent recording update in 2017 due to lack of historic integrity, status as a common infrastructure element, and/or general lack of useful data potential towards history or prehistory. Isolated prehistoric and historic period artifacts such as the brownware potsherd (P-33-024739) and sun-colored amethyst glass chemical bottle fragment (P-33-024740) are typically ineligible for NRHP and CRHR listing as their data potential is exhausted during their initial recording. Therefore, no previously recorded cultural resources listed or determined to be eligible for listing on the NRHP or CRHR are located within the project area.

On July 30, 2021, Rincon conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area which included a cultural resources field survey and a built environment survey for artifacts or historic properties within one-half mile of the project area. The archaeological survey identified one isolated cultural resource (Rincon-ISO-001). Per regulatory guidelines isolates, do not get management consideration and results of *Cultural Resources Assessment Report* concluded Rincon-ISO-001 will not be affected by the proposed project. The built environment survey identified five properties which contained buildings and structures older than 45 years of age. Two of these properties (Southern Pacific Railroad) and Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel) have been previously recorded and were found ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR. The remaining three properties (87200 Airport Boulevard, 87400 Airport Blvd., and 87500 Airport Blvd.) have not been subject to previous recordation and were therefore evaluated and recorded on California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 series forms. Results of the *Cultural Resources Assessment Report* concluded all three of the newly recorded historic-era properties within the project area are recommended ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CHCR, or any applicable local register, under any significance criteria. The properties are also not eligible as contributors to any existing or potential historic districts.

In addition, Rincon consulted the Riverside County Historical Commission, the Palm Springs Historical Society, the Coachella Valley Archaeological Society, the Coachella Valley Historical Society, and the Historic Society of Palm Desert to request information regarding historical resources in the proposed project area. One response from the Coachella Valley Archaeological Society noted that the area has the potential for prehistorical or historical cultural archaeological remains but did not mention any specific resources.

Section 106 Native American outreach was initiated in August 2021. In addition, CVWD initiated Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) consultation in October 2021. *Section 3.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources* provides an overview of the tribal outreach and consultation regarding the proposed project.

a-c) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The results of the CHRIS records search, Native American and Historical Society outreach, historical imagery review, and field survey identified eight cultural resources within a one-half mile radius of the project area. Historic-period resources include five built environment resources (P-33-009498 [Union Pacific Railroad and Southern Pacific Railroad lines], P-33-017259 [Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel], United States Post Office at 87200 Airport Boulevard, the buildings at 87400 Airport Blvd., and the lite industrial site at 87500 Airport Blvd.), two historic isolates (P-33-024740 [historic-period sun-colored amethyst glass chemical bottle fragment], Rincon-ISO-001 [metal punch and shear machine]), and one prehistoric isolate (P-33-024739 [prehistoric brownware potsherd]). All of the five historic period built environment resources were found ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, and therefore do not qualify as

historical resources pursuant to CEQA or historic properties under Section 106. In addition, all three of the cultural isolate artifacts were found ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR as their data potential is exhausted during their initial recording.

Similar to the 2019 IS/MND, although archeological sensitivity of the project area is considered low based on the records search and field survey, there is potential for ground-disturbing activities to expose previously unrecorded cultural resources. **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** would require the initial ground-disturbing activities be observed by an archaeological or Native American monitor. The text of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 has been slightly revised since the 2019 IS/MND to clarify that initial monitoring of ground-disturbing activities will be limited to undisturbed soils. Extending monitoring of ground-disturbing activities beyond previously undisturbed soils would be infeasible. **Mitigation Measure CUL-2** would require that all earth disturbing work be temporarily suspended if cultural resources are discovered during construction. With implementation of **Mitigation Measures CUL-1** and **CUL-2,** potential impacts resulting in a substantial adverse change to the significance of historical and/or archeological resources would be reduced to less than significant levels.

In addition, the discovery of human remains is a possibility during ground disturbing activities associated with construction projects**. Mitigation Measure CUL-3** would be implemented to ensure proper procedure would be in place if human remains were unearthed during construction activities. The implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measures: To lessen potential impacts on historical or unique archaeological resources, the project shall implement **Mitigation Measures CUL-1 Initial Monitoring of Archaeological Resources** and **CUL-2 Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological Resources** from the 2019 IS/MND. To lessen potential impacts to the disturbance of human remains, the project shall implement **Mitigation Measure CUL-3 Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains**. Impacts are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Initial Monitoring of Archaeological Resources

CVWD shall ensure that initial project-related ground-disturbing activities in undisturbed soils shall be observed by an archaeological or Native American monitor. The archaeological monitor shall be under the direction of a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for prehistoric archaeology (National Park Service 1983). If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area shall halt and the find shall be evaluated for CRHR and/or NRHP eligibility. Archaeological monitoring may be reduced or halted at the discretion of the qualified archaeologist as warranted by conditions such as encountering bedrock, sediments being excavated are fill materials, or negative findings during initial ground-disturbing activities. If monitoring is reduced, spot-checking shall occur when ground-disturbance moves to a new undisturbed location or when ground disturbance will extend to depths not previously reached (unless those depths are within bedrock). Both the project archeologist and Native American monitor will be invited to attend the pre-construction meeting. The project archeologist and Native American monitor will provide a brief orientation to construction crews on the first day of construction.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during project construction, the project archeologist, in coordination with CVWD's construction inspector shall temporarily suspend all earth disturbing work within a 100 foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify CVWD. CVWD shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures if the find is determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until CVWD, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the site either: 1) is not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.

Mitigation Measure CUL-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground-disturbing activities. In the event that human remains are found, CVWD shall temporarily suspend all earth disturbing work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. The project archaeologist would evaluate the significance of the find and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find. If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, the professional archaeologist shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (AB 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the Riverside County Coroner (as per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate information center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

3.6 Energy

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

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable energy background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background or setting information has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. Electrical service in the Phase

III A-2 pipeline area is provided by Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and natural gas service is provided by Southern California Gas Company. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would involve fossil fuel consumption from operation of diesel-powered construction equipment and from construction crew, equipment, and materials hauling and delivery trips. **Table 2-1** summarizes the anticipated construction fleet for the proposed project. Estimated material delivery and hauling truck trips, and worker vehicle trips for each type of construction activity are summarized in *Section 2.4.2 Construction Trip Generation*.

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would implement typical construction practices to conduct trenching, jack and bore, HDD, and surface restoration. The project would not require any unusual or excessive construction equipment or practices that would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy compared to projects or similar type and size. Similar to the original approved project, the construction fleet contracted for the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be required to comply with CARB's *In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulations* (CARB 2016), which would limit vehicle idling time to five minutes, restrict adding vehicles to construction fleets that have lower than Tier 3 engines, and establish a schedule for retiring older, less fuel-efficient engines from the construction fleet. As such, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy during construction.

Operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be incorporated into CVWD's existing potable water distribution system. Energy needed to pump the water to the small communities would be negligible compared to CVWD's overall operations. Routine inspection would also be incorporated into CVWD's existing O&M activities. Compared to operation of the individual private wells, connecting to the District's water supply would be a more energy efficient means of receiving drinking water. As such, construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy during construction and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not interfere with existing County or regional programs intended to improve renewable energy or energy efficiency. Similar to the original approved project, operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in a net increase in CVWD's existing energy use or O&M vehicle trips. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not involve land use changes, such as urban sprawl, that would indirectly result in an increase in vehicle trips or vehicle miles traveled. As discussed in *Section 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project would not conflict with regional and statewide plans to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable geologic and soils background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background or setting information has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. The Phase III A-2 pipeline is located within the Coachella Valley, a seismically active region subject to earthquake risks such as ground shaking, fault rupture, landslides, liquefaction, subsidence, and seiches. Two Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, the San Andreas and San Jacinto faults, are located approximately 3 miles east and 18 miles west of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, respectively (USGS 2021). There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a, c) Less than Significant Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline is located approximately 3 miles from the San Andreas fault and approximately 18 miles from the San Jacinto fault. However, according to the California Geological Survey (CGS)'s *Earthquake Hazard Zone Application*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not located within a fault zone (CGS 2021). Ground rupture is most likely to occur along active faults and only occurs within the area immediately adjacent to a fault. Due to the distance between the Phase III A-2 pipeline and the San Andreas and San Jacinto faults, impacts related to ground rupture would be less than significant.

Similar to the original approved project, the primary hazard to the Phase III A-2 pipeline is strong ground shaking due to the project's proximity to the active San Andreas and San Jacinto fault zones. Although impacts in the project area related to strong seismic ground shaking could be potentially significant in the event of an earthquake, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be installed below-ground and would not include any land use components or structures that would bring unplanned growth to the area. In addition, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be designed in conformance with seismic engineering standards to reduce potential damage in the event of ground shaking. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not directly or indirectly result in substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death due to seismic ground shaking and impacts would be less than significant.

According to the California Geological Survey (CGS)'s *Earthquake Hazard Zone Application*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not located within a liquefaction or landslide zone or located on a geologic unit that is unstable or would become unstable (CGS 2021). As such, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in impacts related to seismic-related ground failure or landslides and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline could result in minor erosion of exposed soils on or offsite during project construction due to the presence of soil piles and exposed trenching during excavation activities if subjected to wind or rain and not properly managed. However, as discussed in *Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality*, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would require preparation and implementation of a SWPPP containing BMPs to control sediment under the NPDES Construction General Permit. With implementation of the standard construction BMPs, the potential for soil erosion during proposed project construction would be less than significant.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Expansive soils are generally high in clays or silts that shrink or swell with variation in soil moisture content and can adversely affect the structural integrity of underground facilities including pipelines. According to the UC Davis on-line *SoilWeb Tool*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is underlain primarily by a variety of sandy loam soils outside of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and fluvents within the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (UC Davis 2021). Design of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would adhere to CVWD's professional engineering standards to avoid adverse effects on potential expansive soils. Therefore, impacts related to expansive soils would be less than significant.

e) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, septic tanks or other alternative wastewater disposal systems would not be a part of the Phase III A-2 pipeline project. Accordingly, no impact would occur.

f) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is predominately underlain by Gilman fine sandy loam and Indio fine sandy loam outside of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel and fluvents within the channel (Rincon 2021). According to the Geologic Map of the Palm Desert & Coachella 15-minute quadrangles (Dibblee and

Minch 2008), the project area is underlain by surficial sediments of the Holocene period (alluvial sand and clay, alluvial sand and gravel, and clay with some miscellaneous silt), which are generally too young to contain fossilized material. In addition, trench excavation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline is expected to reach a maximum depth of six feet below the ground surface and is, therefore, not expected to reach depths where sensitive paleontological resources would be expected to occur. Trenchless techniques would reach depths of 13 to 40 feet but would only disturb as much soil as necessary for the bore hole to pull through the 32-inch diameter pipe. As a result, the potential for encountering fossil resources during project excavation, trenchless installation, or ground disturbance is low and impacts on paleontological resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable greenhouse gas emissions background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted, several agency GHG-related planning and policy changes have occurred. First, Coachella Valley Water District has developed a Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CVWD 2021c). While the District's Climate Action & Adaptation Plan establishes 2030 reduction targets and a per-capita emissions target, it is not a qualified GHG Reduction Plan for CEQA tiering and streamlining. Next, the County of Riverside updated the *2015 Climate Action Plan* (County of Riverside 2019). The updated *Climate Action Plan (CAP)* contains further guidance on Riverside County's GHG inventory reduction goals, thresholds, policies, guidelines, and implementation programs including 2030 thresholds to reduce emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels. In addition, the County's Climate Action Plan is qualified for CEQA tiering and streamlining of individual projects' CEQA review and has set a screening threshold of 3,000 metric tons (MT) CO_2e per year to be used to identify projects that, when combined with the modest efficiency measures, are considered less than significant (County of Riverside 2019). While the original approved project IS/MND used the SCAQMD's screening level of 10,000 $MTCO_2e$/year for a CEQA significance threshold because it was widely used at that time, for the purposes of this analysis, the County of Riverside screening level of 3,000 $MTCO_2$/year as specified in the 2019 CAP, is used as a threshold to determine significance of the Phase III A-2 pipeline under CEQA. Additionally, since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) released a Climate Resiliency Plan. Lastly, the City of Coachella's Climate Action Plan is applicable to the Phase III A-2 pipeline project because a portion of the project lies within the boundaries of the City of Coachella, unlike the original approved project. These plans are summarized under topic "b" below. There are no other changed circumstances or new information that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would generate GHG emissions during construction activities such as use of construction equipment and transportation of equipment and workers to and from the project and staging sites. Construction is anticipated to last approximately six months. Once operational, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be maintained through CVWD's existing O&M practices, and would not require a net increase in operational activities (*Section 2.4.5 Phase III A-2 Pipeline Operation and Maintenance)*. Maintenance activities would remain substantially similar to existing conditions and a no net increase in GHG emissions from operations is anticipated.

Modeling of air emissions from construction was completed in CalEEMod version 2020.4.0, as described in *Section 3.3, Air Quality*. Details on construction, including timing, duration, equipment, and worker trips can be found in *Section 2 Project Description*. Additional project details necessary for GHG emission modeling were obtained from CalEEMod (e.g., equipment horsepower, load factors, fleet mix, and vehicle emissions factors). A summary of the results of the inventory for GHG emissions, as shown in the CalEEMod output tables in Appendix A, are presented in **Table 3-3**, along with the CEQA significance threshold. Construction-related GHG emissions were amortized over a 30-year period, consistent with the methodology of the *County of Riverside Climate Action Plan*.

Table 3-3: Phase III A-2 Pipeline GHG Emissions ($MTCO_2e$/year)

Source	$MTCO_2e$
Net Change in Operations Emissions	*Negligible*
Amortized Construction Emissions	2.5
Total	**2.5**
Riverside County CAP Screening Threshold	*3,000*
Significant?	***No***

As shown in **Table 3-3**, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is expected to generate approximately 2.5 $MTCO_2e$ per year from annualized construction. As such, the project GHG emissions would not exceed the threshold of significance set at 3,000 $MTCO_2e$ per year. The 2019 IS/MND estimated that the original approved project would result in 20.3 $MTCO_2e$, including annualized construction emissions. When combined with the Phase III A-2 pipeline project, the total annual emissions (22.8 $MTCO_2e$) would still be less than the GHG emissions threshold. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not generate significant construction or operational GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that would have a significant impact on the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

In this section, construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline is evaluated for consistency with California, Riverside County, and City of Coachella plans and policies adopted for the purpose of reducing GHGs emissions. The CARB *2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan* (CARB 2017) contains the strategies California will implement to achieve reduction of GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The *2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan* focuses on reducing energy demand, and GHG emissions, which result from mobile sources and land use development. As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not involve new land use development or construction of any new structures or businesses that would result in an increase in vehicle trips. Therefore, implementation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict *with the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan* and impacts would be less than significant.

The County of Riverside *2015 Climate Action Plan* established goals and policies that incorporate sustainability and GHG reduction targets into its management processes. The County set a goal to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, which is in line with the State's AB 32 GHG reduction targets. The *2015 Climate Action Plan* was updated in

2019 to contain further guidance on Riverside County's GHG Inventory reduction goals, thresholds, policies, guidelines, and implementation programs. In particular, the *2019 Climate Action Plan* set a threshold of 3,000 $MTCO_2e$ per year to be used to identify projects that, when combined with the modest efficiency measures, are considered less than significant (County of Riverside 2019). As shown in **Table 3-3**, the estimated GHG emissions associated with construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not exceed the 3,000 $MTCO_2e$ per year screening threshold established by the County's *2019 Climate Action Plan*. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with the Riverside County *2019 Climate Action Plan* and impacts would be less than significant.

The *Draft Eastern Coachella Valley's Action Plan for Climate Resilience (*Action Plan*;* CVAG and City of Coachella 2019*)* is a roadmap to identify and prioritize projects that increase climate resilience, reduce GHGs and provide equitable access to housing. Identified strategies to reduce GHG emissions include reduction of vehicle miles traveled, reduction of high and non-renewable energy demand, and an increase in carbon capture (planting more trees). While construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would result in GHG emissions associated with construction equipment use and vehicle roundtrips for crews and materials, these impacts would be temporary. Upon completion, operation and maintenance of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in additional energy use or vehicle miles traveled. In addition, the Thermal Community Specific Recommendations of the *Action Plan* called for the construction of water and wastewater infrastructure in its Polanco parks as a way to make the community more resilient to the effects of climate change. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would expand CVWD's potable water distribution system to these communities and allow CVWD to connect to these Polanco parks for water service, increasing their water supply reliability and replacing existing aging wells. Thus, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with the *Draft Eastern Coachella Valley's Action Plan for Climate Resilience* and impacts would be less than significant.

The City of Coachella *Climate Action Plan* (City of Coachella 2014) was developed in conjunction with the City of Coachella General Plan Update as a roadmap for achieving community wide GHG emissions reductions. The Climate Action Plan establishes a per service population 2020 emissions reduction target of 15% below 2010 levels and a 2035 emissions reduction target of 49% below 2010 levels. This reduction target was established so that the GHG reductions in the General Plan can be measured and tracked. As shown in **Table 3-3,** construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not expected to produce substantial GHG emissions. It would serve the nine existing privately owned Small Water Systems described in the 2019 IS/MND, which have a combined population of 572. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would result in the equivalent of 0.131 $MTCO_2e$ per service population (75 $MTCO_2e$/572) in the year it is constructed, which is far below the City's 2010 per service population emissions of 8.2 $MTCO_2e$ (City of Coachella 2014). Once operational, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be maintained by CVWD's existing O&M program and would not require modifications to O&M activities. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with the existing plans and policies that seek to reduce GHG emissions, and impacts would be less than significant.

The CVWD Climate Action & Adaptation Plan (CVWD 2021c) provides a comprehensive assessment of CVWD's current operations and water supplies and identifies the measures, policies, and projects that have been developed to reduce operational GHG emissions. The Plan establishes 2030 reduction targets which include a 40% emissions reduction from 1990 emissions levels, a per capita emissions target (0.16 $MTCO_2e$/person), and an absolute emissions target of 49,927 $MTCO_2e$. As shown in **Table 3-3**, construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not expected to produce substantial GHG emissions. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with the existing plans and policies that seek to reduce GHG emissions, and impacts would be less than significant.

The Phase III A-2 pipeline is not expected to interfere with the applicable plans, policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions, and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

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

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable hazards and hazardous materials background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background and setting information have changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. A regulatory records search was performed for the Phase III A-2 pipeline area using the SWRCB GeoTracker database (SWRCB 2021) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor database (DTSC 2021). There are no active hazardous materials cleanup sites listed on the SWRCB's GeoTracker or DTSC's Envirostor database within proximity of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. The project site is not listed as a cleanup site in the Geotracker or Envirostor database. The closest active cleanup site listed on the GeoTracker database is Thermal Airport (ID # SL20702103) located approximately 1.25 miles southwest of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. The closest active cleanup site

listed on the EnviroStor database is Thermal Landfill (ID #33990005) located approximately 2 miles to the south of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. As discussed in *Section 3.20 Wildfire,* the Phase III A-2 pipeline is located within the Western Riverside County Local Responsibility Area, a designated non-very high fire hazard severity zone (CalFire 2009).

The Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport is located approximately one mile west of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. The Phase III A-2 pipeline does not overlap the airport's forecasted noise contours (County of Riverside 2015, Appendix I-1, Figure 43). The airport's Land Use Compatibility Zone D overlays the Phase III A-2 pipeline. For Zone D, airspace review would be required for proposed development taller than 70 feet; children's schools, hospitals, nursing homes are discouraged; 10 percent of proposed development must be open land; and highly-noise sensitive outdoor nonresidential uses are prohibited (Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission [ALUC] 2004). There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would temporarily increase the routine transport and use of hazardous materials commonly used in construction activities. However, the construction contractor would be required to comply with applicable safety standards. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in additional O&M activities requiring the transport of hazardous materials upon completion. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not represent a significant hazard to the public or environment due to compliance with existing standards. Thus, the impact would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Similar to the original approved project, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline could create a hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials used in construction, which include diesel fuel and minor amounts of paints, fuels, solvents and glues. **Mitigation Measure HAZ-1** that was included in the 2019 IS/MND for the original approved project and applicable for the Phase III A-1 pipeline requires that the construction contractor develop and implement a Hazardous Materials Management Spill Prevention and Control Plan that includes project-specific contingencies. With implementation of **Mitigation Measure HAZ-1**, impacts resulting from potential hazardous materials-related accidents would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

c) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. La Familia High School is located approximately one mile southwest, and John Kelley Elementary is located approximately one-half mile southwest, of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not have the potential to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Thus, there would be no impact.

d) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the GeoTracker and EnviroStor database searches indicated there are no active hazardous materials cleanup sites within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area, and the project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, construction and operation associated with the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment related to the presence of listed hazardous material clean-up sites. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

e) Less than Significant Impact

Although the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport is located approximately one mile west of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would install below-ground potable water pipelines which would not create an aircraft safety hazard or expose workers or residents in the area to excessive aircraft noise. All disturbed areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

f) Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would involve installation of up to approximately 3,500 linear feet of CVWD potable water pipelines. All construction, staging, and disturbance activities would occur within roadways, private and Union Pacific Railroad-owned property, and vacant Riverside County owned land. Project construction would temporarily block of all lanes within Palm Street that could be used by emergency response vehicles or in emergency evacuations. As discussed in *Section 3.17 Transportation*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would implement **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** to ensure that construction would not interfere with emergency response times. Long term, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not physically impair or otherwise interfere with emergency response or evacuation in the project vicinity because the pipeline would be installed underground, and ground surfaces would be returned to pre-construction conditions. With the incorporation of traffic control measures identified in **Mitigation Measure TRA-1**, impacts would be less than significant.

g) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is located within a non-very high fire hazard severity zone (CalFire 2009). The Phase III A-2 would construct approximately up to 3,500 linear feet of below-ground potable water pipelines within roadways and other disturbed areas, and ground surfaces would be returned to pre-construction conditions. The Phase III A-2 pipeline does not involve construction or maintenance of infrastructure that typically exposes people or structures to risk of wildland fires, such as power lines. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

To lessen possible accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment during construction, the project shall implement **Mitigation Measure HAZ-1** from the 2019 IS/MND. Impacts are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan

Prior to construction, the construction contractor is required to submit to CVWD a Hazardous Materials Management Spill Control Plan that includes a project-specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations. The Plan will be applicable to construction activities and will establish policies and procedures according to applicable codes and regulations, including but not limited to the California Building and Fire Codes, and federal and California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Elements of the Plan will include, but not be limited to the following:

- A discussion of hazardous materials management, including delineation of hazardous material storage areas, access and egress routes, waterways, emergency assembly areas, and temporary hazardous waste storage areas;
- Notification and documentation of procedures; and
- Spill control and countermeasures, including employee spill prevention/response training.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the Project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) result in substantial erosion of siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable hydrology and water quality background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Amendments were made to the RWQCB's *Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Plan* (Basin Plan, Colorado River RWQCB 1993 and amended through January 2019) since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

Similar to the original approved project, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline could result in short-term erosion/sedimentation that has the potential to impact water quality. As discussed in *Section 2.4.4 Construction Best Management Practices*, the project contractor would be required to obtain a NPDES General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity - Construction General Permit (Order 2009-0009- DWQ). Coverage under the SWRCB's Construction General Permit requires preparation and implementation of a SWPPP containing BMPs to control sediment and other construction-related pollutants in storm water discharges.

In addition, trenchless HDD methods to install the transmission pipe under the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel have the potential to impact water quality within the channel if the bentonite drilling fluid were to accidentally leak (i.e., "frac-out") or otherwise run off into the channel. **Mitigation Measure BIO-4** would require the HDD contractor to develop and implement a Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan. The Plan would verify recommended depth of the pipeline under the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel based on soil properties and risk for frac-out during the HDD trenchless construction phase. The pipeline would be designed at depths from the channel bed to minimize risk for the release of HDD drilling fluid into the channel. In the event of an accidental frac-out, potential impacts to water quality within the channel would occur. CVWD would obtain a SAA from CDFW under Section 1600 of the CFGC prior to construction and would adhere to the measures in the SAA to avoid potential frac-out and minimize potential impacts should one occur. With implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-4**, the SWPPP, and the SAA, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise degrade surface or groundwater quality. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Less than Significant Impact

As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would extend CVWD's potable water infrastructure to existing mobile home parks that currently rely on small water systems and would not induce population growth or result in an increase in water demands. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would connect to existing pipelines and would be designed for existing demand and future planned connections. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not create an increase in impervious surface area or that could reduce or interfere with groundwater recharge efforts, nor decrease groundwater supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Less than Significant Impact

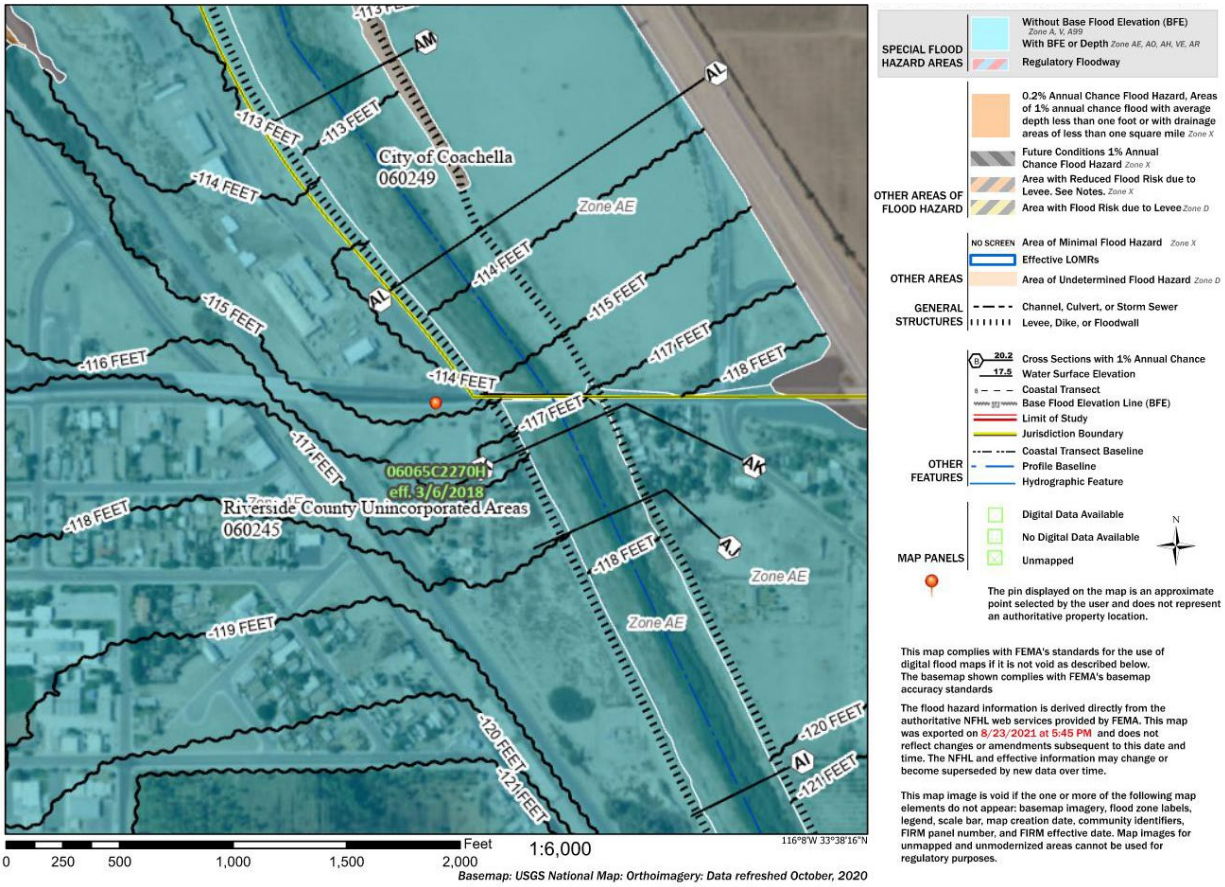
Phase III A-2 pipeline construction activities would occur within existing roadways, private and Union Pacific Railroad-owned property, and vacant County owned land. The pipeline would be installed below-ground, disturbed areas would be restored to their pre-construction condition, and vegetated areas would be replanted with appropriate native species. Thus, the pipeline would not result in a permanent increase in total impervious surface area. Additionally, as discussed under topic "a", construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline may result in disturbance or exposure of soil that could be subjected to erosion or sedimentation during a rain event; however, the project contractor would be required to obtain a NPDES Construction General Permit, which would require development of a construction SWPPP and implementation of BMPs to prevent construction-related pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site. As a result, the construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not impede or redirect flood flows, alter drainage patterns of the project area, cause substantial erosion, substantially increase surface runoff, generate runoff in excess of the existing storm drainage systems, or be a source of polluted runoff. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would have a less than significant impact.

d) Less than Significant Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline is located approximately 75 miles from the Pacific Ocean; at this distance, a tsunami would not impact the Phase III A-2 pipeline vicinity. According to the East Coachella Valley Area Plan, a seiche in the Salton Sea could cause flooding of areas immediately adjacent to the Sea (County of Riverside 2021); however, the Phase III

A-2 pipeline is located approximately 10 miles north of the Salton Sea, reducing the risk of potential inundation by a seiche to very low. As shown in **Figure 3-4**, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is located in a 100-year floodplain as designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. However, the pipeline would be installed below grade, disturbed areas would be restored to their pre-construction condition, and vegetated areas would be replanted with appropriate native species. In addition, operation of the pipeline would not require storage of potential pollutants onsite. Therefore, the potential for release of pollutants due to inundation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be less than significant.

Figure 3-4: FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



e) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the applicable water quality and groundwater sustainability plans for the Phase III A-2 pipeline are the Colorado River Basin Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) and the Indio Subbasin Alternative Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) (CVWD 2021b). CVWD is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the majority of the eastern portion of the Indio Subbasin, including the area that underlies the project site. CVWD is an active participant in sustainable groundwater management of the Indio Subbasin, operating under the Alternative GSP, and compliant with achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. While the Phase III A-2 pipeline extends CVWD's potable water distribution system, the project does not expand CVWD's service area or water rights and does not directly extract groundwater. In addition, restoration of disturbed ground to pre-construction condition ensures installation of the pipeline would not result in a permanent increase in total impervious surface area. Because the project is consistent with the Indio Subbasin Alternative GSP, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not impede

sustainable groundwater management of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. Additionally, the project would implement construction BMPs in accordance with the Construction General Permit as discussed under a) above to reduce potential impacts on water quality. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan and the impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended

3.11 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable land use and planning background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Background and setting information that has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted includes: an update to the *2016 Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* (County of Riverside 2021). The Phase III A-2 pipeline area includes commercial and industrial land use designations within County jurisdiction and industrial and open space designations within City jurisdiction. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would cause temporary short-term impacts during construction such as dust, noise, and traffic, on the adjacent established communities. However, once constructed, the pipeline would be located underground and would not affect adjacent established communities. There would be no impact that would physically divide an established community.

b) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would install below-grade pipelines and would restore all surfaces to pre-construction conditions. It would comply with all applicable permits and approvals identified in *Section 2.4.6 Permits and Discretionary Approvals*. Therefore, it would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies and regulations of agencies with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project – Avenue 54 to Thermal Drop Structure Project has a mitigation site that is located approximately 550 feet upstream of the Airport Boulevard bridge and encompasses streambed and stream-associated habitat. This area is subject to preservation and long-term management (vegetation management and invasive species control) in accordance with the requirements of a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Notification No. 1600-2019-0235-R6) obtained by CDFW for the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project. Adherence to **Mitigation Measure BIO-6** would ensure construction of the

project would avoid the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project mitigation site and in the event of unforeseen impacts to the mitigation site, the site shall be restored to ensure existing mitigation obligations are fulfilled. With mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: See **Mitigation Measure BIO-6**.

3.12 Mineral Resources

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

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable mineral resources background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background or setting information has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. As identified in the Riverside County General Plan Multipurpose Open Space Element (County of Riverside 2015) and the Department of Conservation (DOC) *Mineral Land Classification* (DOC 2021), the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is classified as Mineral Resource Zone MRZ-1. MRZ-1 indicates an area where available geologic information indicates that little likelihood exists for the presence of significant mineral resources (Busch 2007). There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a, b) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is classified as MRZ-1, indicating that there are no significant mineral resources or there is low probability of the presences of mineral resources. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline area would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value, nor would it result in the loss of availability of a mineral resource recovery site, and no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) For a Project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable noise background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) *2006 Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual* has been updated (FTA 2018). The existing noise setting in the Phase III A-2 pipeline area consists of traffic noise from Highway 111, Highway 86, and Airport Boulevard. Table 3-10 in the 2019 IS/MND summarizes base year noise levels that were assessed for the County of Riverside General Plan within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area (County of Riverside 2015). The Phase III A-2 project area is partially within the boundaries of the City of Coachella. As such, this analysis includes comparison of the Phase III A-2 pipeline's noise levels against City noise standards, in addition to the County noise standards disclosed in the 2019 IS/MND. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The Phase III A-2 pipeline has the potential to expose persons to noise resulting from construction activities and operations. Noise within the County of Riverside is regulated under the County's Noise Ordinance 847 and acceptable noise levels are established in the County's General Plan.

According to Riverside County Ordinance No. 847, sound emanating from capital improvement projects of a government agency are exempt from the provisions of the ordinance. Therefore, the County of Riverside Noise Ordinance would not apply to the Phase III A-2 pipeline. However, it can be used to understand local established standards for sound levels in the region. The ordinance stipulates that sound levels shall not exceed the exterior sound level standards at neighboring property lines within different land use designations. The sound levels for the land use designations in the Phase III A-2 pipeline area are summarized in **Table 3-4**.

Table 3-4: County of Riverside Sound Level Standards

General Plan Component	General Plan Land Use Designation	Maximum Decibel Level (dB L_{MAX})	
		7am – 10pm	10pm – 7am
Community Development	Commercial (CR, CO, CT, CC)	65	55
	Heavy Industrial (HI)	75	75
	Light Industrial (LI)	75	55
	Medium Density Residential (MDR)	55	45
	Medium High Density Residential (MHDR)	55	45
Rural	Rural Residential (RR)	55	45
Open Space	Watershed (W)	45	45
Source: Riverside County Ordinance 847 Noise https://www.rivcocob.org/ords/800/847.pdf			

Noise within the City of Coachella is regulated under Municipal Code Chapter 7.04 – Noise Control. The code stipulates that construction activities should be limited to within daytime hours (between 5am and 7pm on summer weekdays, 6am and 7pm on winter weekdays, and between 8am and 5pm on weekends and holidays). It also stipulates that noise should not exceed the levels presented in **Table 3-5**, as perceived at a distance of 50 feet from the noise source. The code exempts, "construction, operation, maintenance and repairs of equipment, apparatus or facilities of…public works projects or essential public services and facilities, including those of public utilities."

Table 3-5: City of Coachella Sound Level Standards

Zone	10-minute Average Decibel Limit (A-weighted)	
	6am – 10pm	10pm – 6am
Residential – All Zones	55	45
Commercial – All Zones	65	55
Source: City of Coachella Municipal Code https://library.municode.com/ca/coachella/codes/code_of_ordinances		

The Phase III A-2 pipeline has the potential to expose people to noise resulting from construction and operation activities. Construction is anticipated to last six months and would result in temporary and periodic noise increases. Construction noise levels would fluctuate depending on the construction phase, equipment type, and duration of use; distance between noise source and receptor; and presence or absence of existing barriers between noise source and receptor. **Table 3-6** shows the list of the anticipated construction equipment as well as their estimated hours of daily use and typical noise level.

Table 3-6: Noise Levels Generated by Typical Construction Equipment

Equipment	Typical Noise Levels (dBA, at 50 feet)
Auger Drill Rig	84
Drill Rig Truck	79
Excavator	81
Forklift	75
Backhoe	78
Front End Loader	79
Dump Truck	76
Concrete Mixer Truck	79
Paver	77
Roller	80
Water Truck	74
Noise Level Source: Federal Highway Administration "Construction Noise Handbook" https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ENVIRonment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm Forklift noise level was assumed to be comparable to a man lift. Water truck noise level was assumed to be comparable to a flat bed truck.	

In general, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be temporary and would continuously move along the pipeline alignment as installation proceeds from one segment to the next. Thus, noise impacts would occur within the same location for only a short duration over the six-month construction period. In addition to temporary equipment noise, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would generate truck traffic for hauling and delivery of equipment and materials. While truck noise depends upon factors such as vehicle speed, load, and terrain, the impact of construction-related truck traffic would depend on the existing ambient noise level at a particular receptor site. The Phase III A-2 pipeline area contains Airport Boulevard (a six-lane thoroughfare), Highway 111 and Highway 86, and Union Pacific Railroad tracks. The nearest residential structures are located over 450 feet away across Airport Boulevard and there are no sensitive receptors within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area. However, several projects are under various levels of planning and development within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area (see *Section 2.3 Setting of Phase III A-2 Transmission Main*) and could introduce noise receptors to the area by the time the Phase III A-2 pipeline is built.

According to the Riverside County Noise Ordinance, Ordinance 847, and City of Coachella Municipal Code sound emanating from capital improvement and public works projects of a government agency are exempt from the provisions of the local regulations. Therefore, impacts related to construction noise associated with Phase III A-2 pipeline would be exempt from Riverside County Noise Ordinance and City of Coachella Noise standards. However, construction would occur during daytime hours, consistent with the limits on private construction activities in the County and City Noise Ordinances. Nonetheless, similar to the original approved project, due to the close proximity of construction activities to residences, temporary impacts from construction noise would be potentially significant. With implementation of **Mitigation Measure NOI-1**, which requires the construction contractor to implement the best available noise control techniques and equipment, construction-related noise levels would be reduced to less than significant.

Once operational, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be below-ground and is not expected to result in a permanent increase in noise, other than noise associated with occasional vehicle maintenance trips. Operational vehicle maintenance trips would occur during daytime hours, between 7am and 8pm, consistent with the Riverside County Noise Ordinance and City of Coachella Municipal Code. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would have less-than-significant long-term noise impacts.

b) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline has the potential to cause groundborne vibration and groundborne noise. As discussed in the 2019 IS/MND, the Riverside County General Plan Noise Element identifies acceptable groundborne vibration levels related to protecting public health and welfare from groundborne vibrations.

Typical vibration levels for common pieces of construction equipment at a 25-foot range are listed in the 2019 IS/MND and have not changed with the update to the FTA *Transit Noise and Vibration Impart Assessment Manual* (2018).

Of all expected construction equipment, only a vibratory roller used during construction within 25 feet of residences has the potential to cause disturbance to sensitive receptors. According to the *Federal Transit Administration Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment*, groundborne vibration attenuates rapidly based on peak particle velocity of the equipment and distance from the equipment to the receiver. Groundborne vibration from a vibratory roller would attenuate to below 0.1968 inches/second peak particle velocity to reach a less than significant level at a distance of less than 30 feet (FTA 2018). There are no sensitive receptors within 30 feet of the Phase III A-2 pipeline alignment. However, several projects are under various levels of planning and development within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area (see *Section 2.3 Setting of Phase III A-2 Transmission Main*). These projects are generally related to transportation and commercial development and are not expected to introduce noise-sensitive land uses, (e.g., schools, hospitals, rest homes, long term care facilities, mental care facilities, residential uses, places of worship, libraries, and passive recreation areas according to the County General Plan [County of Riverside 2015]) to the area. However, as a precautionary measure, to ensure construction does not significantly impact these planned, potential future developments identified in *Section 2.3*, the Phase III A-2 project would implement the groundborne vibration control measures in **Mitigation Measure NOI-1** from the 2019 IS/MND**.** With mitigation, construction impacts associated with groundborne vibrations would be less than significant.

Once operational, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be below-ground and is not expected to result in a permanent source of groundborne vibration. Vehicles associated with occasional maintenance trips would have minimal vibration impacts. Operational vehicle maintenance trips would occur during daytime hours, consistent with the Riverside County Noise Ordinance and City of Coachella Municipal Code. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would have less-than-significant long-term vibration impacts.

c) Less than Significant Impact

Although the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport is located approximately one mile west of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, the project would install below-ground pipelines and disturbed ground surfaces would be restored to their pre-construction conditions. As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not directly induce unplanned growth that would be subject to aircraft noise levels because no new housing or permanent employment are proposed. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not expose those living or working near an airport to excessive noise levels. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

To lessen possible noise and vibration impacts, the project shall implement practical noise control measures **Mitigation Measure NOI-1** from the 2019 IS/MND for construction. Impacts are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1: Noise and Vibration Control During Construction

CVWD shall incorporate into the construction contract specifications the following noise and vibration control measures to be implemented by the construction contractor:

- Prior to construction, the Construction Contractor shall provide [CVWD-approved] written notification to residents within 500 feet of the proposed facilities undergoing construction shall be provided, identifying the type, duration, and frequency of construction activities. Notification materials shall be provided in English/Spanish translation and identify a mechanism for residents to contact CVWD's Project manager related to noise or vibration concerns.

- During construction, the Construction Contractor shall use equipment (e.g., jack hammers, pavement breakers, and rock drills) which is hydraulically or electrically powered to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools. Where use of pneumatically powered tools is unavoidable, an exhaust muffler on the compressed air exhaust would be used. This muffler can lower noise levels from the exhaust by up to 10 dBA. External jackets on the tools themselves would be used where feasible, and this could achieve a reduction of 5 dBA. Quieter procedures will be used such as drilling rather than impact equipment whenever feasible.

- During construction, the Construction Contractor shall comply with compaction standards for backfill. Vibration generated during soil compaction may be minimized by using a small compactor.

- During sheetpile driving for trench excavation, the Construction Contractor shall use the following measures: pushing the sheetpile in as far as possible with non-vibratory equipment (e.g., excavator) before using the vibrator; using a small, hand-operated vibratory hammer or one with a different operational frequency to further reduce the vibration potential; flooding the soils before tamping with the vibrator; and/or operating vibratory equipment with "throttling" when a vibrator must be used.

- All equipment and trucks used by the Construction Contractor for project construction shall use the best available noise control techniques (including mufflers, use of intake silencers, ducts, engine enclosures and acoustically attenuating shields or shrouds) and be maintained in good operating condition to minimize construction noise impacts. All internal combustion engine-drive equipment shall be fitted with intake and exhaust mufflers which are in good condition.

- During construction, the Construction Contractor shall prohibit unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines. In practice, this would mean turning off equipment if it would not be used for five or more minutes.

- During construction, the Construction Contractor shall locate stationary noise-generating construction equipment, such as air compressors and generators, as far as possible from homes and businesses.

- The Construction Contractor shall locate staging areas as far as feasibly possible from sensitive receptors.

3.14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable population and housing background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Background and setting information that has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted includes an update to the *Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* (County of Riverside 2021) and the U.S. Census Bureau's *American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates* (U.S. Census 2019). According to the U.S. Census 2015-2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the population of Thermal is approximately 1,333 and there are 620 housing units, of which approximately 38% (235) are mobile homes. The eastern portion of the Phase III A-2 pipeline project area is within the boundaries of the City of Coachella. In its General Plan (Coachella 2015), the City expected its population to grow from 40,000 to 155,000 by 2035. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not directly induce unplanned growth because no new housing or permanent employment are proposed. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline involves extension of CVWD's municipal water delivery infrastructure within its service area. Operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would serve specific existing communities and projected water demand consistent with planned growth anticipated in the Riverside County General Plan *Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* (County of Riverside 2021). Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not directly or indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth. and impacts would be less than significant.

b) No Impact

Construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would occur entirely within County of Riverside, Union Pacific Railroad, City of Coachella, and privately-owned properties, as well as County of Riverside roadway right-of-way. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not displace existing people or houses or require the construction of replacement housing. For these reasons, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.15 Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable public services background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background or setting information has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. Riverside County Fire Station 39 is approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. Riverside County Sheriff's Thermal Station is approximately one-half mile west of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. La Familia High School is approximately one mile southwest, and John Kelley Elementary School is approximately one-half mile southwest, of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. Canal Regional Park is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not change existing demand for public services (e.g., fire and police protection, schools, parks, libraries, or health clinics) because construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would serve existing communities and would not result in unplanned population growth (see *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*). Upon completion of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, CVWD would continue to operate and maintain its domestic water system with no operational modifications. Therefore, construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not necessitate expansion of existing or construction of new public facilities and no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.16 Recreation

		Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a)	Would the Project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable recreation background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Background and setting information that has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted includes an update to the *Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* (County of Riverside 2021). A portion of the project area is within the City of Coachella. **Figure 2-2** shows the overlying land use designations as classified by the Riverside County General Plan and City of Coachella General Plan. The surrounding community contains light industrial, commercial, residential, open space, and transportation land uses. There are no parks located within the project area. Canal Regional Park is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Phase III A-2 pipeline. As discussed and analyzed in *Section 3.17 Transportation,* Airport Boulevard is a designated Class I bike path and a regional trail runs along the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (County of Riverside 2021). The *CVLink* multi-modal path will eventually be extended south to Airport Boulevard (refer to *Section 2.3 Setting of Phase III A-2 Transmission Main*). Impacts of the Phase III A-2 project related to *CVLink* are also analyzed in *Section 3.17 Transportation.* There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

A, b) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Thus, no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable transportation background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Three background and setting planning documents have been updated since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted:1) the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) *2011 Congestion Management Plan* was incorporated into the *2019 Long Range Transportation Study* (RCTC 2019); 2) the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) *2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy* was updated in the *2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy* (SCAG 2020); and 3) Riverside County's *2016 Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* was updated in the *2021 Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* (County of Riverside 2021).

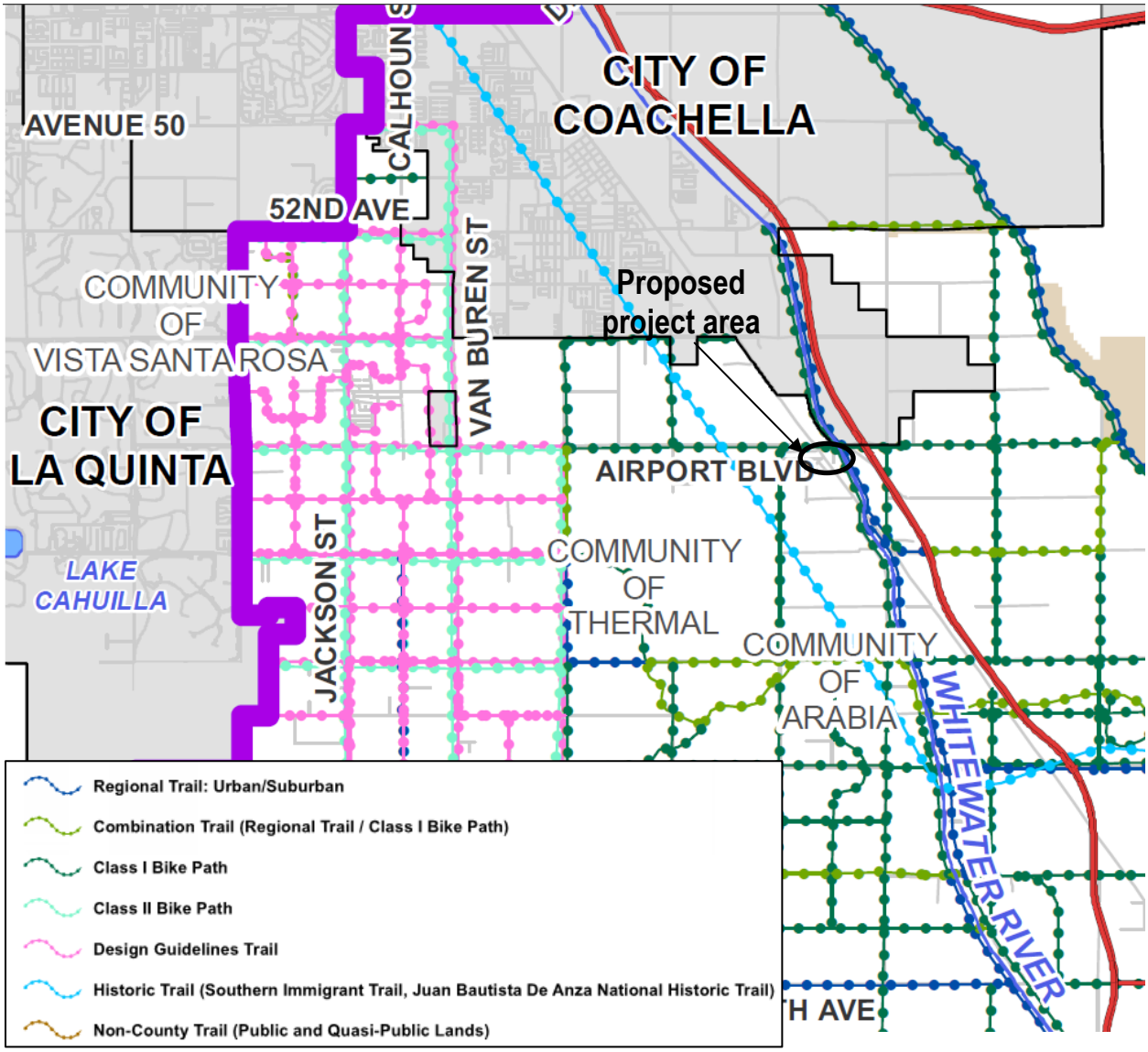
The CVAG *Transportation Prioritization Study* identifies Airport Boulevard and Palm Street as minor roadways (CVAG 2017). A segment of CVAG's *CV LINK* multi-modal path, which will provide access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and golf carts on a dedicated off-road path parallel to Highway 111, is planned to be constructed between Avenue 54 and Airport Boulevard along the west bank of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel in 2021. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

The *2019 Long Range Transportation Study* took a comprehensive review of projects on the state highway, regional arterials, rail and bus, freight, and active transportation networks to identify transportation improvements. According to the *Long Range Transportation Study*, RCTC's *Congestion Management Plan* (CMP) minimum level of service threshold has been met for much of the CMP system, and in cases where the CMP minimum threshold has been exceeded, there have been overriding considerations (e.g., construction, traffic diversions, etc.) or project improvements were already planned. No roadway segments in the Phase III A-2 pipeline area were identified with current deficiencies using highway capacity model-based level of service results from the SCAG 2016 PM peak period level of service traffic model (RCTC 2019).

The *2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy* identifies strategies to meet mobility of all modes, legislative, financial and air quality requirements in the six counties of Southern California. The most noteworthy project identified in the Coachella Valley is the *CVLink* multi-use trail which is expected to facilitate more than 3 million active transportation trips per year by 2035 (SCAG 2021).

As shown in **Figure 3-5**, Airport Boulevard is a designated Class I bike path and a regional trail runs along the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel according to the *2021 Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* (County of Riverside 2021).

Figure 3-5: Eastern Coachella Valley Area Trails and Bikeway System



Source: County of Riverside 2015

c) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

As described in *Section 2.4.3 Construction Schedule*, construction is anticipated to last up to six months and occur on weekdays between the hours of 7:00am and 6:00pm While jack-and-bore segments and HDD would be limited to normal working hours in the initial stages, 10 hours/day working time at minimum may be extended to support the HDD and jack and bore drilling and prevent bore hole collapse. During construction, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would generate up to 41 round-trip trips per day, assuming a construction rate of 150 LF per day for off hauling of export material, delivery of materials, and construction worker commuting. All construction, staging, and disturbance activities would occur within roadways, private and Union Pacific Railroad-owned property, and vacant Riverside County-owned land.

Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be temporary and potential traffic-related impacts would not occur in the same location over the six-month construction period, but would move along the pipeline alignment. All disturbed areas would be restored to original grade and the project would have no impact on the Airport Boulevard Class I bike path or Whitewater River trail. Similar to the original approved project, although construction impacts would not be substantial, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline may necessitate individual traffic lane closures. Construction along Palm Street may require individual lane closures for trenching and staging areas for jack and bore drilling underneath State Route 111 and the Union Pacific railroad. In addition, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline may occur simultaneously with the construction of other projects in the vicinity described in *Section 2.3 Setting of Phase III A-2 Transmission Main*, such as the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel lining project, *CVLink* , and the County of Riverside Airport Boulevard widening project.

To ensure the appropriate traffic controls are implemented and potential traffic impacts related to lane closures are less than significant, the Phase III A-2 pipeline shall implement **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** from the 2019 IS/MND. With implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1**, which requires a Traffic Control Plan to be developed and approved by CVWD and the County, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would have a less than significant impact related to the RCTC *Long Range Transportation* Plan, CVAG *Transportation Prioritization* Study, or SCAG *2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy*, which focus on long-term, regional circulation projects. **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** requires that a Traffic Control Plan be reviewed by the County of Riverside to ensure construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline does not conflict with construction activities associated with other projects that may be occurring at the same time in the vicinity. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 project would not conflict with the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel lining project, *CVLink*, or the County of Riverside Airport Boulevard widening project.

Once operational, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with applicable regional transportation plans because it would install below-ground pipelines that would not have a permanent impact on circulation. CVWD would continue to operate its water system with no operational modifications using standard vehicles. As such, long-term impacts on the circulation system plans would be less than significant.

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system and with implementation of standard construction practices and **Mitigation Measure TRA-1,** the project would result in less than significant impacts to transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

d) No Impact

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) stipulates criteria for analyzing transportation impacts in terms of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for land use projects and transportation projects. VMT refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project.

Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would involve temporary vehicle trips associated with workers, delivery of supplies and equipment, and hauling materials to and from the site, which is estimated to generate up to 41 round-trip trips per day. The screening threshold established by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for small projects states that "projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than significant transportation impact" (OPR 2018). Construction trips generated for this project would total 37% of the threshold set by OPR and roadway surfaces would be restored to their original condition upon completion of project construction. Upon completion of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, CVWD would continue to operate its water system with no operational modifications or net increase in VMT from cars and light-duty trucks. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) and there would be no impact.

c) No Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would install below-ground pipeline which would not have a permanent impact on geometric roadway design. All disturbed areas would be restored to original grade and CVWD would continue to operate its water system with no operational modifications using standard vehicles, which would not introduce incompatible uses to roadways. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in transportation hazards.

D) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Similar to the original approved project, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would generate trips associated with construction crews, equipment, and materials deliveries and may necessitate individual traffic lane closures. Temporary closure of lanes along Palm Street has the potential to result in inadequate access for emergency vehicles. To ensure that construction would not interfere with emergency response times, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would implement **Mitigation Measure TRA-1**. Traffic control requirements would require that emergency crews have access, as needed, and that the contractor coordinates the location of the work daily for routing of emergency vehicles. It would also require the Traffic control Plan be reviewed by the County of Riverside to ensure construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline does not conflict with construction activities associated with other construction projects that may be occurring at the same time in the vicinity. With the incorporation of traffic control measures identified in **Mitigation Measure TRA-1**, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

To lessen possible circulation and emergency access impacts during construction, the project shall implement practical transportation control measure **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** from the 2019 IS/MND. Impacts are considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan

Prior to construction, CVWD shall require its construction contractor to implement an approved Traffic Control Plan, to the satisfaction of the CVWD construction inspector and the County. The components of the Traffic Control Plan shall include:

- Identification of construction staging site locations and potential road closures,
- Alternate routes of traffic detours, including emergency response contact information,
- Planned routes for construction-related vehicle traffic (haul routes), and
- Identification of alternative safe routes to maintain pedestrian safety during construction.

CVWD's Project Manager shall coordinate with the police, fire, and other emergency services to alert these entities about potential construction delays, project alignment, and construction schedule. CVWD shall minimize the duration of disruptions/closures to roadways and critical access points for emergency services. The Traffic Control Plan shall provide for traffic control measures including flag persons, warning signs, lights, barricades, and cones to provide safe passage of vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic and access by emergency responders. The Traffic Control Plan shall be submitted to CVWD's Project Manager and construction inspector for review and approval prior to construction.

CVWD's construction inspector shall have the construction schedule and Traffic Control Plan reviewed by the County of Riverside to ensure construction of the proposed project does not conflict with construction activities associated with other construction projects that may be occurring at the same time in the vicinity.

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion

A *Cultural Resources Assessment Report* was prepared in December 2021 by Rincon Consultants for the proposed project. Similar to the 2019 IS/MND, the report includes a records search of the California Historic Resources Information System at the Eastern Information Center, a Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search, a field survey, and extensive background and archival research. The complete *Cultural Resources Assessment Report* is provided in **Appendix C**; and is summarized within this IS/MND.

On July 14, 2021, Rincon conducted a cultural resources records search of the California Historical Resources Information System at the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside to identify any previously recorded cultural resources and previously conducted cultural resources studies within the project area and a one-half-mile radius surrounding it. The CHRIS records search found 28 cultural resources have been previously recorded within a one-half mile search radius of the project area. Although four of these cultural resources were identified within the project area, none were eligible for listing on the NRHP and the CRHR due to lack of historic integrity, status as a common infrastructure element, and/or general lack of useful data potential towards history or prehistory.

On July 30, 2021, Rincon conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area which included a cultural resources field survey for artifacts within one-half mile of the project area. No NRHP or CRHR eligible resources were identified and recorded during the pedestrian survey of the project area.

On July 15, 2021, Rincon contacted the NAHC to request a Sacred Lands File search of the project area and a one-half mile radius surrounding it. Results of the Sacred Lands File search by the NAHC did not indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands within the vicinity of the project area. In addition to the search of the Sacred Lands File, the NAHC provided a list of 18 Native American contacts who may have knowledge of cultural resources of Native American origin at the project site. Rincon prepared and sent electronic mail letters to each of the groups with a listed email address on August 30, 2021. The groups without listed email address were sent hard copies of the letters via certified mail on September 2, 2021.

Section 106 Native American Outreach

On September 10, 2021, Rincon followed up with phone calls with the Native American contacts who had not replied to the letters. Two responses were received from this outreach effort. A summary of each response received is as follows:

- On August 31, 2021, Rincon received a letter from Victoria Martin, Tribal Secretary for the Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians, who stated that the Tribe is not aware of specific cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed project. However, in the event that any cultural resources are discovered during development of the project, please contact their office immediately.

- On September 7, 2021, Rincon received a letter from Jill McCormick, Historic Preservation Officer for the Quechan Tribe of the Fort Yuma Reservation, who stated the Tribe would defer to more local Tribes when the lead agency initiates formal consultation for the project.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 Consultation

AB 52 (Gatto, 2014) established a formal consultation process between a lead agency and all California Native American Tribes regarding tribal cultural resource evaluation. AB 52 mandates that a lead agency shall provide formal written notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have previously requested notice. The AB 52 consultation is initiated early in the project review phase by written notification including a brief description of the proposed project and its location, and the lead agency contact information. The Native American tribal government has 30 days to request project-specific consultation pursuant to this section (Public Resources Code §21080.1).

As a part of the consultation pursuant to PRC Section 21080.3.1, the parties may propose mitigation measures, including, but not limited to, those recommended in Section 21084.3, capable of avoiding or substantially lessening potential significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource or alternatives that would avoid significant impacts to a tribal cultural resource. If the California Native American tribe requests consultation regarding alternatives to the project, recommended mitigation measures, or significant effects, the consultation shall include those topics. The consultation may include discussion concerning the type of environmental review necessary, the significance of tribal cultural resources, the significance of the project's impacts on the tribal cultural resources, and, if necessary, project alternatives or the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the California Native American tribe may recommended to the lead agency. Further, consultation shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs: (1) The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource, or (2) A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached.

In October 2021, CVWD initiated AB 52 with local Native American tribal governments who had previously requested to consult under AB 52 (see **Appendix C**). As of December 2021, CVWD environmental staff received one response from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI). In a letter dated November 18, 2021, the ACBCI indicated the project area is not located within the boundaries of the ACBCI reservation but is within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area. The ACBCI requested government to government consultation under AB-52, copies of any cultural resource

documentation generated in connection with the project, and shapefiles of the APE. Because the letter from ACBCI was received later than 30 days from the date CVWD initiated AB 52 outreach, shapefiles and the cultural resource documentation were not provided to ACBCI and the AB 52 process is considered complete.

ai-aii) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

A project-level Cultural Resources Assessment Report (**Appendix C**) was prepared to identify potential impacts to cultural resources, including tribal cultural resources, that would result from the proposed project. No tribal cultural resources eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR have been recorded or identified within the project area. These results suggest that the project's area is not highly sensitive for buried archaeological remains and therefore the possibility of encountering intact surface tribal cultural resources is considered low. However, the lack of surface archaeology sites does not preclude their subsurface existence. Similar to the original approved project, construction of the proposed project requires ground-disturbing activities such as excavation which have the potential to expose previously unrecorded tribal cultural resources. **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** would require the initial ground-disturbing activities be observed by an archaeological and Native American monitor. **Mitigation Measure CUL-2** would require that all earth disturbing work be temporarily suspended if cultural resources, including tribal cultural resources, are discovered during construction. In addition, the discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. **Mitigation Measure CUL-3** would be implemented to ensure proper procedure would be in place if human remains were unearthed during construction activities. The implementation of these measures would reduce impacts to less-than-significant levels.

With implementation of **Mitigation Measures CUL-1, CUL-2** and **CUL-3**, potential impacts resulting in a substantial adverse change to the significance of tribal cultural resources would be reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: Refer to **Mitigation Measures CUL-1, CUL-2** and **CUL-3** in *Section 3.5 Cultural Resources*.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
Would the Project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒

d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable utilities background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. Background and setting information that has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted includes an update to the *CVWD Urban Water Management Plan* (CVWD 2021a). According to the updated *Urban Water Management Plan*, in 2020, CVWD provided 99,842 AF of water to 268,952 residents (CVWD 2021a). Also, since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted, Riverside County Department of Waste Resources (RCDWR) updated information on its solid waste disposal sites. The nearest active solid waste disposal sites are the Coachella Transfer Station and the Oasis Sanitary Landfill, located approximately 10 miles north and 16 miles south of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, respectively (RCDWR 2021). Since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted, the Mecca II landfill has been permanently closed. There are no other changed circumstances or new information that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted

a) Less than Significant Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline project would construct a potable water pipeline and would not require or result in the additional expansion of CVWD's potable water delivery system beyond construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline.

As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would serve existing and planned communities and would not induce unplanned population or employment growth that would require or result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities and is consistent with planned growth in CVWD's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan. Disturbed areas would be restored to their pre-construction condition and vegetated areas would be replanted with appropriate native species, so no permanent change in stormwater drainage would occur and no new drainage facilities would be constructed. Additionally, as explained in *Section 3.6 Energy*, operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not involve negligible additional consumption of electricity to CVWD's potable water distribution system. Therefore, the project would not result in the construction of new or expanded stormwater drainage or electrical power facilities.

A potable water transmission pipeline would be the only utility system constructed under the Phase III A-2 project. The environmental impacts of the Phase III A-2 potable water transmission pipeline are evaluated throughout this IS/MND and are anticipated to be less than significant.

b) No Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline involves extension of CVWD's water service infrastructure within its existing service area. Construction of the pipeline would require a minimal water supply for construction purposes such as dust prevention and concrete mixing. Existing sources would be sufficient, and no new or expanded water source would be required for construction. As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing*, operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not induce unplanned population growth and is consistent with planned growth anticipated in the *2020 Urban Water Management Plan*. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not require or result in the construction of new water treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. No impact related to sufficient water supplies would occur.

c) No Impact

As discussed in *Section 3.14 Population and Housing,* construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not directly or indirectly induce unplanned population or employment growth that would require or result in the construction of a new or expanded wastewater collection infrastructure or treatment services. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would have no impact on wastewater treatment capacity.

d) Less than Significant Impact

While excavated soil would be reused for backfill of trenches to the extent feasible, construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would generate approximately 2,400 cy of material export that would need to be disposed of at a permitted landfill in accordance with local and state solid waste disposal requirements. Waste material may be hauled to the Coachella Transfer Station or the Oasis Sanitary Landfill. The Oasis Sanitary Landfill (33-AA-0015) has a remaining capacity of 433,779 cy (CalRecycle 2019). Therefore, excess construction debris is reasonably anticipated to be within the permitted capacity of the Riverside County landfills after onsite backfill of excavated soil combined with adherence to mandatory construction waste diversion requirements. Operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not anticipated to generate long-term solid waste, and solid waste generation would be limited to temporary construction activities. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not affect available solid waste disposal capacity in the region and impacts to local infrastructure capacity and solid waste reduction goals would be less than significant.

e) Less than Significant Impact

Construction and operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would comply with local, State, and federal regulations related to solid waste. While operation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not anticipated to generate a significant amount of long-term solid waste, construction activities would create debris such as excavated soil and asphalt. Excavated soil would be backfilled to the extent possible, but construction contractor(s) would be required to dispose of excess construction debris in accordance with existing reduction statutes (AB 939 and AB 341) and regulations. These regulations would determine the landfill to be used for disposal of construction debris, mandatory 50 percent diversion of solid waste (AB 939), and mandatory recycling programs to reduce GHG emissions (AB 341). Similar to the original approved project, impacts from the Phase III A-2 pipeline related to compliance with local, State, and federal reduction statues and regulations regarding solid waste would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended.

3.20 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐

c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable wildfire background, environmental setting, and regulatory setting. No background or setting information has changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted. The Phase III A-2 pipeline project area is designated as a non-very high fire hazard severity zone within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) Western Riverside County local responsibility area (CalFire 2009). There is no other new information or changed circumstances that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

a) Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline would include installation of up to approximately 3,500 linear feet of pipelines to extend CVWD's potable water system. Construction activities and potential staging areas would occur within existing roadways, private property, Union Pacific Railroad-owned property, and vacant County-owned land. As a result, construction within Palm Street may temporarily impede access to all lanes that may be used by emergency response vehicles or in emergency evacuations. **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** addresses communication with emergency response agencies and identification of emergency access routes (see *Section 3.1.17 Transportation*). Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not physically impair or otherwise interfere with long-term emergency response or evacuation in the project vicinity as the pipeline would be located underground and ground surfaces would be restored to pre-construction conditions. Impacts would be less than significant with implementation of **Mitigation Measure TRA-1**.

b) Less than Significant Impact

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is located within a non-very high fire hazard severity zone. Upon completion, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would be located below-grade and ground surfaces would be returned to pre-construction conditions. The Phase III A-2 pipeline is an underground pipeline and not a land use development that would generate occupants on-site. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose any project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) No Impact

The Phase III A-2 pipeline would construct approximately up to 3,500 linear feet of below-ground pipelines to expand CVWD's potable water system. Upon completion of the pipeline, CVWD would continue to operate and maintain its domestic water system with no operational modifications. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. No impacts would occur.

d) No Impact

Although there are slopes within the Phase III A-2 pipeline alignment, the pipeline would be installed below ground, and disturbed areas would be restored to their pre-construction condition so no permanent change in site drainage would occur. Therefore, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not expose people or structures to significant risks as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes and no impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None required or recommended

3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

		Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a)	Does the Project have the 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 or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b)	Does the Project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a Project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion

a) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed project's presence within previously disturbed parcels limits the potential for habitat or environmental disturbances. As discussed in Section 3.4 Biological Resources, the project would not impact sensitive plant communities and no special status animal species were identified onsite. Previous site development, lack of suitable vegetation for wildlife species, regular site maintenance, and other disturbances from frequent human activity all limit the potential for impacts to fish or wildlife species habitat or populations. While the project site has the potential for nesting bird habitat, nesting birds are commonly found species and have the ability to migrate long distances and nest

within a wide range of habitat. Given the project's small footprint, there is no potential to cause a nesting bird population to drop below self-sustaining levels. At the construction staging area east of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, an approximately 300-by-300 feet area of quailbush scrub would be temporarily disturbed to accommodate the HDD drill rig and other construction equipment. This vegetation community has varying levels of disturbance and is not identified as a sensitive natural community. There is a potential for HDD methods to impact the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel the Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland vegetation community in the event of an accidental frac-out. CVWD would obtain a SAA from CDFW under Section 1600 of the CFGC prior to construction and would adhere to the measures in the SAA to avoid and minimize potential impacts on sensitive vegetation communities. Based on the project design avoidance of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, implementation of best management practices for pollution prevention, preparation of a Frac-Out Prevention and Control Plan, and compliance with CFGC, potential impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands would be less than significant. The project is also designed to avoid impacts to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel Improvement Project – Avenue 54 to Thermal Drop Structure Project mitigation site located approximately 550 feet upstream of the Airport Boulevard bridge. As described in Section 3.4 Biological Resources, indirect effects of the project would be limited. Short term construction lighting, noise or dust could result in temporary impacts on wildlife; however, the duration, intensity, and frequency would not be substantial enough to result in impacts to surrounding wildlife populations. Therefore, the proposed project does not have the potential to cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community. Similarly, the proposed project would occur within disturbed sites and, as such, would not have the potential to substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plants or animals.

As discussed in Section 3.5 Cultural Resources, the results of the cultural resources records search, Native American and local interested party outreach, historical imagery review, and field survey found no historical or pre-historical California artifacts would be impacted by the project. In addition, the project sites have been previously disturbed. The project therefore has no potential to eliminate major periods of California history or prehistory.

The project is located within previously disturbed sites. Although the proposed HDD methods could impact the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel in the event of an accidental frac-out, CVWD would minimize impacts through project design, best management practices for pollution prevention, preparation of a Frac-Out Prevention and Control Plan, and compliance with CFGC. Therefore, the project does not 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 or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed project would not result in individually limited or cumulatively considerable significant impacts. According to the CEQA Guidelines, 15065(a)(3), "cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects. As described in Sections 3.1 through Section 3.20, all resource topics associated with the proposed project have been analyzed in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, and were found to pose no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated. No potentially significant impacts would occur from project implementation. Impacts related to air quality were evaluated against thresholds designed to gauge an individual project's cumulative impacts and were determined to be less than significant. Potential impacts on special status and protected species, including migratory birds, would be less than significant with mitigation. Likewise, the project's potential impacts on unrecorded cultural resources and human remains would be less than significant with mitigation. Temporary impacts of construction related to handling hazardous materials, noise and vibration, and transportation circulation systems would also be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Cumulative projects consist of other CVWD domestic water supply projects. These include the Talavera Phase 1 Project, Ion Exchange Treatment Plant 7991 Replacement Project, Saint Anthony Mobile Home Park Small Water System Consolidation Project, Dale Kiler Water Main Replacement Project, North Shore Water Main Replacement Project, Tank 7101-2 Construction Project, Tanks 4711-3 and 4711-4 Replacement Project, and Booster Station 5513W/5514 Improvements and Reservoir 5514-2 Construction Project. These projects would be implemented on varying timelines and would not be located at or near the proposed project sites. The incremental impact of the proposed project together with impacts of these other cumulative projects in the region would be considered less than significant due to the large geographical area of the projects and the extended timeframe for development of the projects (that is, most projects would not occur simultaneously). Additionally, the cumulative projects would be required to comply with the same or similar regulations and mitigation measures that would reduce potential impacts. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project along with current and future projects would not result in cumulatively considerable significant impacts.

c) Less than Significant Impact

The proposed project has limited potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. As described throughout the previous sections in Chapter 3 of this document, potential impacts to humans arise from temporary construction-related impacts in areas such as risk of minor accidental spills, construction noise and groundborne vibration, and temporary single lane traffic closures. All of these impacts, while requiring mitigation have limited potential to cause more than temporary impacts. The quantities of gasoline, lubricants, and other potentially harmful hazardous materials are limited to that necessary to operate equipment, and as such would not be able to be spilled in a quantity that would result in an overall substantial adverse effect to human beings. Impacts from construction noise and vibration would be temporary, during daytime hours, and construction would not require equipment that generates excessive levels of prolonged noise. Traffic impacts are limited to the in-road work and would only require closure of one lane. The project, once completed, would return the road to previous use and no lasting or substantially adverse impacts would occur. Other potential areas for adverse impacts to human beings could occur from rupture, contamination, or failure of project features, however, as discussed in Section 3.7 Geology and Soils and Chapter 2 Project Description, the project is designed to all current codes and standards to prevent rupture, contamination, or failure of water systems. Consequently, the proposed project would not result in any environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings directly or indirectly.

Mitigation Measures:

None required.

4. FEDERAL CROSS-CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS EVALUATION

The Phase III A-2 pipeline may receive funding under the DWSRF, which is administered by the SWRCB via funds from US EPA. Project grant funding may also come from the USDA Rural Development Program. Thus, this section analyzes the Phase IIIA-2 Transmission Main project's impacts related to federal environmental regulations. The topics are based on the USDA environmental policies and procedures and the SWRCB's DWSRF Program Federal Cross-cutting Environmental Regulations Evaluation Form for Environmental Review and Federal Coordination.

The 2019 IS/MND describes the applicable regulatory background of each federal cross-cutting regulation. There are no changed circumstances or new information that have arisen since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted.

4.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

As explained in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Appendix B), the Phase III A-2 pipeline area does not provide suitable habitat for most special-status plant and wildlife species. The Biological Resources Technical Report evaluated 23 special-status wildlife species and 43 special-status plant species documented within five miles for their potential to occur within the Phase III A-2 pipeline area. None had a moderate or high potential to occur. No special-status species were detected during the field survey. In addition, the Biological Resources Technical Report found that there would be no direct or indirect impacts on federally designated critical habitat because the nearest critical habitat, which is for Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis nelsoni*) is over eight miles west of the project area. Riparian vegetation along the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel provides marginally suitable habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; LBVI), which are federally and state-listed endangered species. However, the area is subject to disturbance from maintenance and nearby transportation corridors. The Biological Resources Technical Report found that these species have a low potential to occur and that no direct impacts to these species, or the riparian vegetation that is marginally suitable habitat for them are expected. Potential indirect impacts would be minimized through implementation of erosion control measures (see *Section 2.4.4 Construction Best Management Practices*) and actions to avoid special status bird species during construction (**Mitigation Measure BIO-3**). Therefore, similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in direct or indirect impacts to special-status plant or wildlife species, would not jeopardize any listed species, and a no effect determination is anticipated. The lead agency would be in compliance with the FESA.

4.2 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act applies to projects in which the maximum surface area of impoundment of water is greater than ten acres. It is not applicable to activities primarily connected to land management and use carried out by federal agencies with respect to federal lands under their jurisdiction. The Phase III A-2 pipeline would not involve any direct or indirect impacts from construction or operational activities to a body of water. Therefore, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act would not apply.

4.3 Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

As explained in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Appendix B), the Phase III A-2 pipeline area contains potential nesting bird habitat, particularly landscaped trees, quailbush scrub, tamarisk thickets and riparian habitat associated with the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline has the potential to impact species protected by the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act directly through injury, mortality, disruption of normal adult behaviors resulting in the abandonment or harm to eggs and nestlings, or indirectly through construction noise, dust, and vibration from equipment. Impacts would be minimized through actions to avoid special status bird species during construction (**Mitigation Measure BIO-3**). Therefore, similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would not result in direct or indirect impacts to protected birds, and the lead agency would be in compliance with the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

4.4 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Phase III A-2 pipeline area is not located in any U.S. federal waters regulated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. As explained in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Appendix B), the area is not within any Essential Fish Habitat. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not expected to have an adverse effect on resident or migratory fish, wildlife species, or fish habitat in the proposed project area.

4.5 Invasive Species - Executive Order 13112

Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species) calls upon executive departments and agencies to take steps to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, and to support efforts to eradicate and control invasive species that are established. Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline has the potential to affect the spread of invasive species. The spread of invasive species pollen and seeds would be minimized through implementation of construction best management practices that suppress dust and contain sedimentation and runoff from the site (see *Section 2.4.4 Construction Best Management Practices*). As such, the lead agency would be in compliance with Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species.

4.6 Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10

If a project involves the construction of structures or any other regulated activities in, under, or over navigable waters of the United States, a Section 10 Permit from the USACE is required. Regulated activities include the placement/removal of structures, work involving dredging, disposal of dredged material, filling, excavation, or any other disturbance of soils/ sediments or modification of a navigable waterway. The Salton Sea is not a navigable water of the United States under Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act (USACE Los Angeles 1961). Therefore, the Rivers and Harbors Act does not apply to the proposed project.

4.7 Protection of Wetlands - Executive Order 11990

As explained in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Appendix B), the Phase III A-2 pipeline area contains a small portion of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel which is mapped as a Riverine Wetland by the National Wetland Inventory. Within the area of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is comprised of Goodding's willow – red willow riparian woodland with dense cattail as codominant. The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel connects directly to the Salton Sea, which is considered a Traditionally Navigable Water by the US Army Corps of Engineers per Section 404 Clean Water Act (USACE Los Angeles 2001). Impacts to wetlands have been avoided through the project design process; the pipeline would be installed under the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel via HDD and HDD entry and exit pits would be located outside of wetland areas. To avoid and minimize potential impacts in the event of an accidental frac-out, CVWD would obtain a SAA from CDFW under Section 1600 of the CFGC prior to construction and would adhere to the measures in the SAA. Therefore, there would be no impact to wetlands and the lead agency would be in compliance with EO 11990.

4.8 Coastal Barriers Resources Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act

As explained in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Appendix B), the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is not within or adjacent to the Coastal Zone or the Coastal Barrier Resources System. It is located 80 miles from the ocean and construction activities would not involve direct, indirect, and/or cumulative impacts to marine mammals. Similar to the original approved project, the Coastal Barriers Resources Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and Marine Mammal Protection Act do not apply to the Phase III A-2 pipeline.

4.9 Floodplain Management - Executive Orders 11988, 12148, and 13690

As described in *Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project area is in FEMA SFHA Zone AE (100-year flood zone). Although the proposed project would be located within 100-year SFHA, it would include installation of underground water distribution pipelines that would not interfere with floodplain management or floodplain function or expose people or structures to a significant loss, injury or death involving flooding. As such, the lead agency would be in compliance with these executive orders.

4.10 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Wilderness Act

As explained in the Biological Resources Technical Report (Appendix B), the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is not within any federal designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. It also is not within a designated wilderness area. Similar to the original approved project, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Wilderness Act do not apply to the Phase III A-2 pipeline.

4.11 Safe Drinking Water Act/ Sole Source Aquifer Protection

Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is not located in an area with a sole source aquifer. Therefore, the Sole Source Aquifer Program does not apply to the proposed project, and the lead agency would be in compliance with Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

4.12 National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106/ Historic Sites Act

As discussed in *Section 3.5 Cultural Resources*, a cultural resource assessment report for the proposed project was conducted and provided in **Appendix C**. The analysis includes a Section 106 evaluation for the proposed project and can be submitted as part of the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Concurrence by SHPO would ensure compliance with the NHPA.

The *Cultural Resource Assessment Report* identified eight cultural resources within a one-mile radius of the project area. Historic-period resources include five built environment resources (P-33-009498 [Union Pacific Railroad and Southern Pacific Railroad lines], P-33-017259 [Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel], United States Post Office at 87200 Airport Boulevard, the buildings at 87400 Airport Blvd., and the lite industrial site at 87500 Airport Blvd) and three prehistoric and historic isolates (P-33-024739 [prehistoric brownware potsherd], P-33-024740 [historic-period sun-colored amethyst glass chemical bottle fragment], Rincon-ISO-001 [metal punch and shear machine]). All of the five historic period built environment resources were found ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, and therefore do not qualify as historical resources under Section 106. In addition, all three of the prehistoric and historic isolate artifacts were found ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR as their data potential is exhausted during their initial recording.

Similar to the 2019 IS/MND, although archeological sensitivity of the project area is considered low based on the records search and field survey, there is potential for ground-disturbing activities to expose previously unrecorded cultural resources. **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** would require the initial ground-disturbing activities be observed by an archaeological and Native American monitor. **Mitigation Measure CUL-2** would require that all earth disturbing work be temporarily suspended if cultural resources are discovered during construction. **Mitigation Measure CUL-3** would be implemented to ensure proper procedure would be in place if human remains were unearthed during construction activities. There would be no effect to historic properties under Section 106 of the NHPA.

4.13 Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA)

As described in *Section 3.5 Cultural Resources* and *Federal Cross-Cutting Environmental Regulation 4.12 National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Historic Sites Act*, a cultural resource assessment for the proposed project was conducted and is provided in **Appendix C**. This assessment evaluated the potential for the proposed project to impact prehistoric, historic, and archaeological resources. The *Cultural Resource Assessment Report* identified eight cultural

resources within a one-mile radius of the project area. This included five built environment resources (P-33-009498 [Union Pacific Railroad and Southern Pacific Railroad lines], P-33-017259 [Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel], 87200 Airport Boulevard, 87400 Airport Blvd., 87500 Airport Blvd.) and three prehistoric and historic isolates (P-33-024739 [prehistoric brownware potsherd], P-33-024740 [historic-period sun-colored amethyst glass chemical bottle fragment], Rincon-ISO-001 [metal punch and shear machine]). All of the five historic period built environment resources were found ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, and therefore do not qualify as historical resources pursuant to CEQA or historic properties under Section 106. In addition, all three of the prehistoric and historic isolate artifacts were found ineligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR as their data potential is exhausted during their initial recording. No new archaeological resources or historic age buildings or structures were identified during the field survey of the project area (including scientific, prehistoric, historic and archaeological materials and data).

Similar to the original approved project, the proposed project would include ground-disturbing activities which could impact buried materials. In order to mitigate this impact, and ensure preservation of any materials or data discovered, several mitigation measures would be implemented. **Mitigation Measure CUL-1** would require ground-disturbing activities be observed by an archaeological and Native American monitor. **Mitigation Measure CUL-2** would require that all earth disturbing work be temporarily suspended if cultural resources are discovered during construction until the discovery can be evaluated, and appropriate notification measures can be taken. **Mitigation Measure CUL-3** would be implemented to ensure proper procedure would be in place if human remains were unearthed during construction activities. With implementation of **Mitigation Measures CUL-1**, **CUL-2** and **CUL-3**, scientific, prehistoric, historic and archaeological materials and data would be preserved. The proposed project is expected to have no effects to scientific, prehistoric, historic and archaeological materials and data under the AHPA.

4.14 Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites

As discussed in *Section 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources*, results of the Sacred Lands File Search by the NAHC did not indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands within the vicinity of the project area. Therefore, the proposed project would not be located on or impact any federal lands and therefore would not affect any Indian sacred sites under this executive order.

4.15 Farmland Protection Policy Act

As discussed in *Section 3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline project area east of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel is shown as Farmland of Local Importance and the area around Palm Street is shown as Other Land pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The Phase III A-2 pipeline area is not located on lands protected by a Williamson Act contract, although parcels south of the Phase III A-2 pipeline area are covered by a Williamson Act contract. Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would install below-grade pipelines and would restore all surfaces to pre-construction conditions. The project would not result in land use changes and would, therefore, not convert important farmland to a nonagricultural use, conflict with zoning regulations, or result in other changes that would indirectly result in conversion of nearby farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, the lead agency would be in compliance with the FPPA.

4.16 Clean Air Act

As described in *Section 3.3 Air Quality*, the Phase III A-2 pipeline is within the SSAB, which is in non-attainment status for O_3 and PM_{10}. **Table 4-1** summarizes the Phase III A-2 pipeline's total annual construction emissions, adds the total annual construction emissions from the original approved project, and compares those to the applicable de minimis threshold for the SSAB region. As shown in **Table 4-1**, the Phase III A-2 pipeline and original approved project combined criteria air pollutant emissions would not exceed the applicable de minimis thresholds. Therefore, the general conformity requirements do not apply to these emissions and the project is exempt from a conformity determination.

Table 4-1: Annual Project Emissions Compared to De Minimum Thresholds (tons/year)

Emissions Source	NO_x	VOC	PM_{10}
Phase III A-2 annual construction emissions	0.4	0.04	0.03
Valley View MHP annual construction emissions	2.8	0.31	0.24
Combined annual construction emissions	**3.2**	**0.4**	**0.3**
De Minimis Threshold	*25*	*25*	*70*
Threshold exceeded?	***No***	***No***	***No***

Notes: The SSAB is non-attainment for O_3, however thresholds are set for NO_x (oxides of nitrogen) and ROG (reactive organic gases)/VOC (volatile organic compounds) because these pollutants are ozone precursors, which chemically react in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone. For the purposes of this analysis, the terms ROG and VOC are used interchangeably.
Sources: USEPA 2017; SCAQMD 2017.

The results of the air quality modeling show that pollutant emissions would not exceed federal General Conformity de minimis thresholds. Accordingly, the lead agency would be in compliance with the CAA.

4.17 Executive Order 13195 on Trails for America in the 21st Century

As described in Section 3.17 Transportation, a regional trail runs along the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel according to the *2021 Eastern Coachella Valley Area Plan* and a segment of CVAG's *CV LINK* multi-modal path, which provides access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and golf carts on a dedicated off-road path parallel to Highway 111, is planned to be constructed between Avenue 54 and Airport Boulevard along the west bank of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel in 2021. Construction of the Phase III A-2 pipeline could interfere with these trails. To ensure appropriate traffic controls are implemented, including identification of temporary alternative safe routes to maintain pedestrian safety, the Phase III A-2 pipeline shall implement **Mitigation Measure TRA-1** from the 2019 IS/MND. As a result, no adverse effects on trails would occur and the lead agency is in compliance with this EO.

4.18 Environmental Justice

As shown in *Section 4.14 Environmental Justice*, of the 2019 IS/MND, the Phase III A-2 pipeline area is areas identified as the 90-95 and 95-100 percentiles for minority population. According to the U.S. Census 2015-2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates, the population of Thermal is 99.3% Hispanic or Latino (U.S. Census 2019). For this time period, the Median Household Income was $30,433, which is less than 80% of the California MHI of $75,235. Therefore, the community is composed of a minority population exceeding 50 percent and is considered a Disadvantaged Community (DAC). Similar to the original approved project, the Phase III A-2 pipeline would extend potable water infrastructure to the minority and low-income populations in Thermal. Although there would be short-term environmental effects associated with dust, noise, traffic, etc. during construction, as assessed elsewhere in this document, such impacts would be reduced to less than significant. Therefore, with the consideration of the benefits provided to these communities through implementation of the Phase III A-2 pipeline, it would not result in any disproportionately high adverse impact on minority or low-income communities. Thus, no adverse environmental justice impacts would occur.

4.19 Environmental Alternative Analysis

SWRCB SRF Programs' federal regulations and the State Environmental Review Process require an environmental alternative analysis for projects covered under a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Report. The analysis should briefly explain the direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with each project alternative considered and the environmental reasoning behind why the project alternative was selected. The 2019 IS/MND and the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Valley View Mobile Home Park (Woodard & Curran 2020) include a comparative analysis of the environmental impacts of the project alternatives. The

project alternatives have not changed since the 2019 IS/MND was adopted and include the No Project Alternative and the Consolidate All SWSs Alternative.

As explained in those reports, the No Project/No Action Alternative would not achieve the project objectives to improve the reliability, safety and security of the water supply for rural disadvantaged communities in the East Coachella Valley. The No Project/No Action Alternative is also not consistent with regional and state plans to address climate change, which call for improved coordination and management of various water supplies. Although the Consolidate All Projects Alternative would have impacts largely similar to the proposed project, including the Phase III A-2 pipeline, and would largely accomplish the same Project Objectives, as explained in the Preliminary Engineering Report, it would be far more costly than the proposed project and would therefore conflict with the second project objective to implement a cost-effective, technically feasible, long-term water supply solution for the drinking water quality deficiencies in the Valley View MHP SWSs.

The addition of the Phase III A-2 pipeline to the proposed Valley View Mobile Home Park Water Consolidation Project would add a new potential environmental effect related to temporary construction-related impacts on wetlands and jurisdictional habitat in the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. However, compliance with the SWRCB Construction General Permit including implementation of BMPs outlined in a SWPPP, as well as implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-4**, a Frac-Out Prevention and Contingency Plan, would result in less than significant impacts. The proposed project, including the Phase III A-2 pipeline, is the recommended alternative because it is cost-effective, serves the greatest demand, and achieves other project objectives for drinking water compliance reliability.

5. REPORT PREPARATION

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APPENDIX A: AIR QUALITY MODELING CALEEMOD RESULTS

APPENDIX B: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT

APPENDIX C: CULTURAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT AND AB 52 CONSULTATION LETTER

APPENDIX D: COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED