



Casitas-Ojai Water System Consolidation Project

Public Review Draft Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration

prepared by

Casitas Municipal Water District

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Appendix B	Biological Resources Assessment
Appendix C	Construction Noise Modeling

Initial Study

1. Project Title

Casitas-Ojai Water System Consolidation Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address

Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 Ventura Avenue
Oak View, California 93022

3. Contact Person and Phone Number

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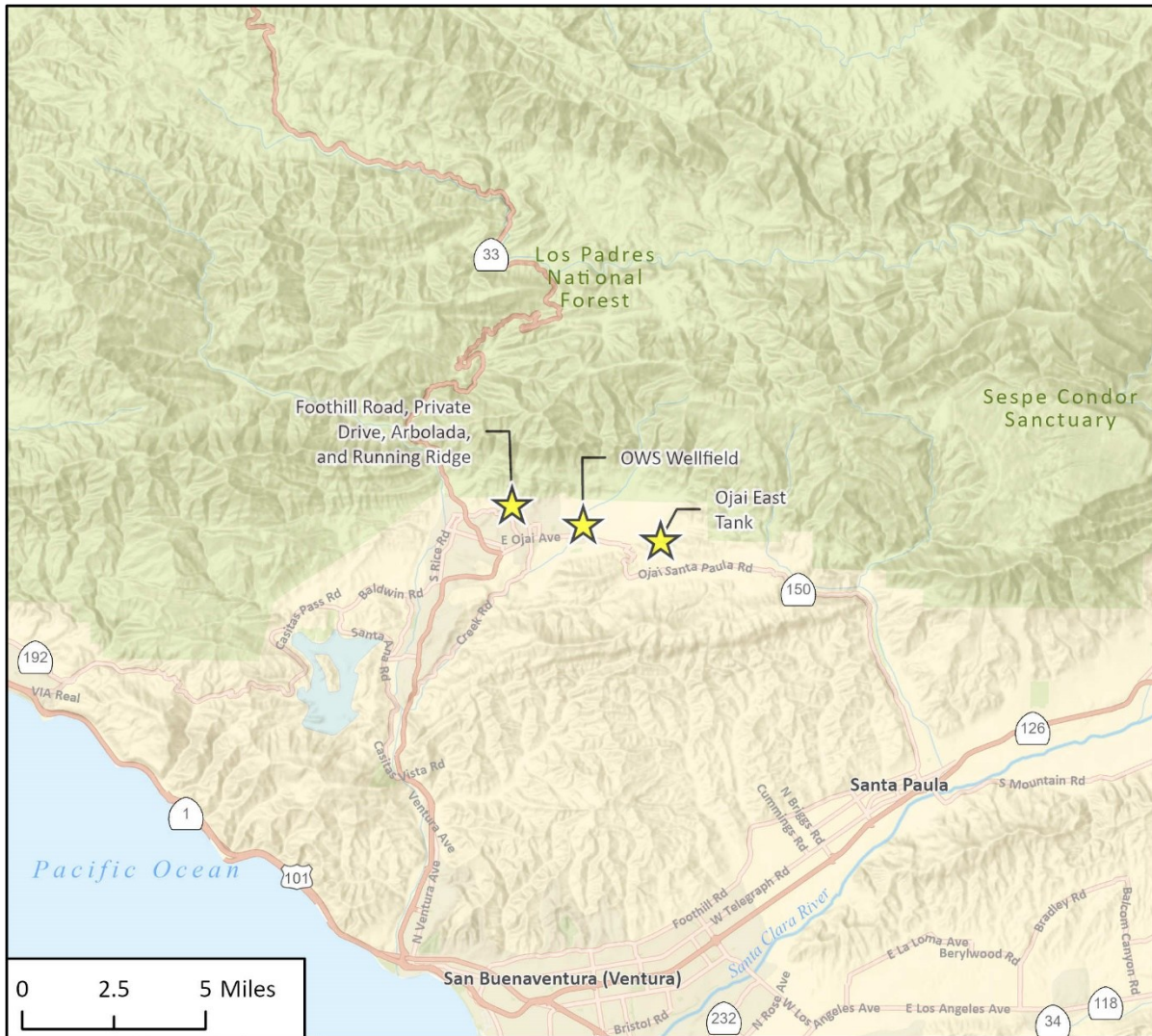
4. Project Location

The project site is comprised of multiple areas in unincorporated Ventura County and the city of Ojai, as described below:

- **Private Drive:** This site is located in unincorporated Ventura County and consists of a private, unnamed roadway extending west from Foothill Road.
- **Foothill Road:** This site is located on the border of unincorporated Ventura County and the city of Ojai, at the intersection of Foothill Road and Fairview Road. This site is currently developed with a public roadway (Foothill Road).
- **Running Ridge Tanks:** This site is located in unincorporated Ventura County and consists of vegetated land north of Running Ridge Trail at Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 010012021 and 010013021. This site is partially developed with private residences and with the Running Ridge Tanks.
- **Arbolada Tank and Pump Station:** This site is located in the city of Ojai and consists of an approximately 1.2-acre site south of Fairview Road at APN 020001001. This site is currently developed with the Arbolada Tank and Valley View Booster Pump Station (BPS).
- **Ojai East Tank:** This site is located in unincorporated Ventura County and consists of an approximately 3.7-acre site south of the intersection of Reeves Road and McAndrew Road, at APN 030017007. This site is currently developed with the Ojai East Tank and San Antonio BPS.
- **Ojai Water System (OWS) Wellfield:** This site is located in the city of Ojai and consists of an approximately 3.2-acre site south of Grand Avenue at APN 028011102. This site is currently developed with the OWS Wellfield.

Figure 1 presents the regional location of the project site, and Figure 2 through Figure 6 present the location of each project element within a neighborhood context.

Figure 1 Regional Project Location



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Fig 1 Regional Location

★ Project Location

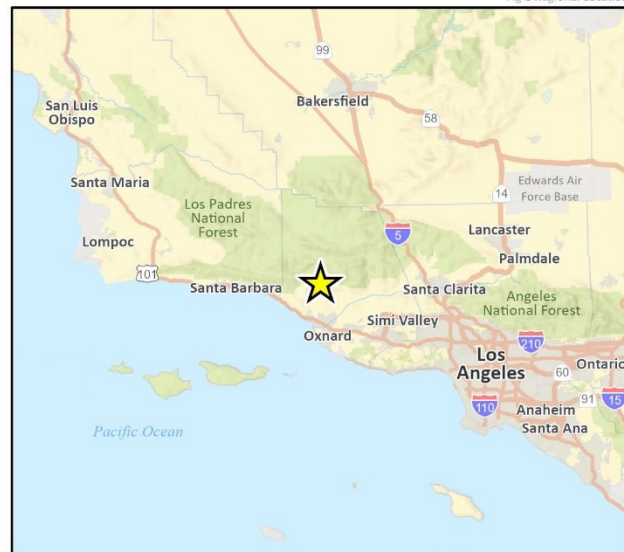


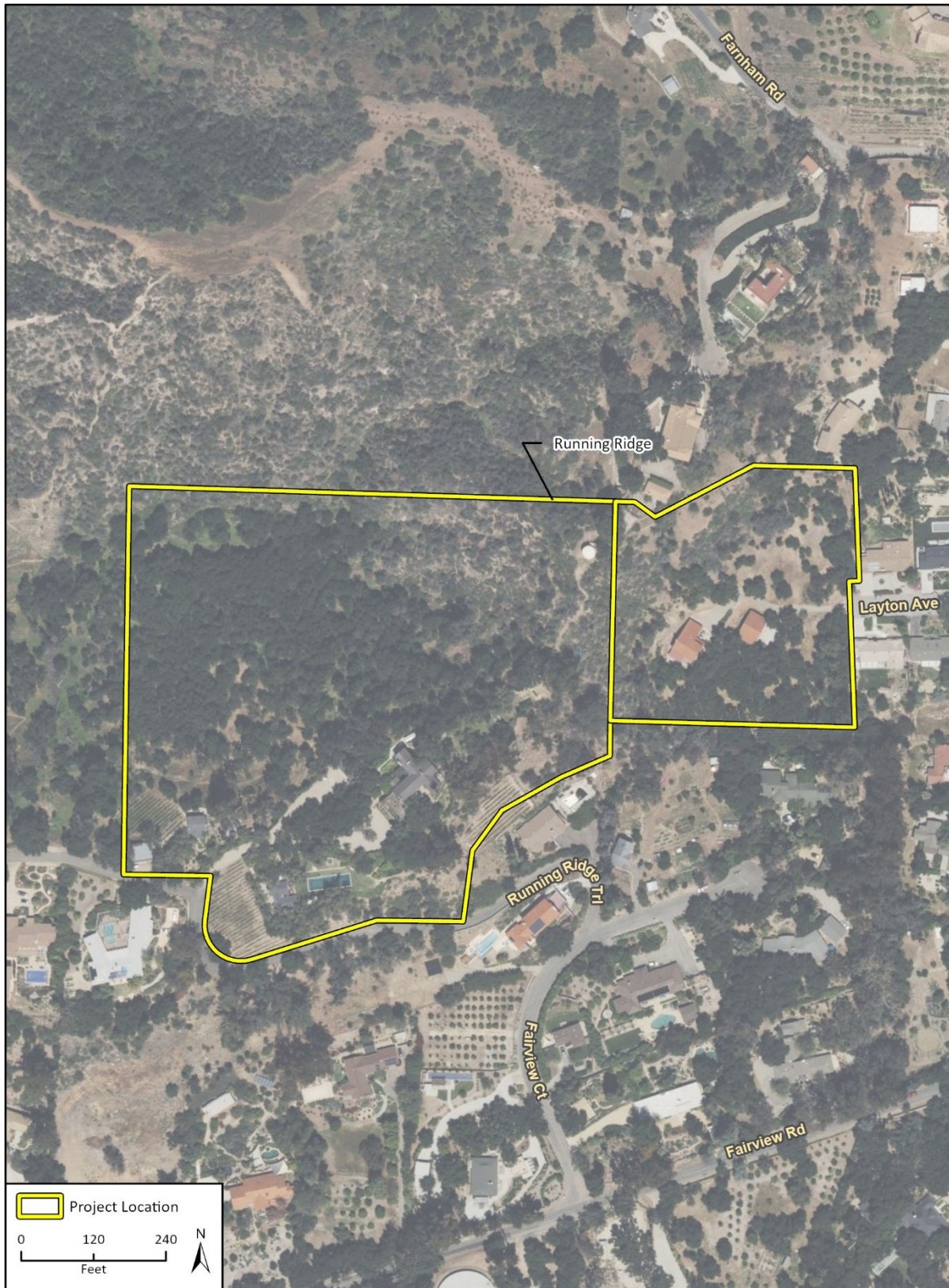
Figure 2 Project Location, Private Drive and Foothill Road



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Fig 2 Project Location

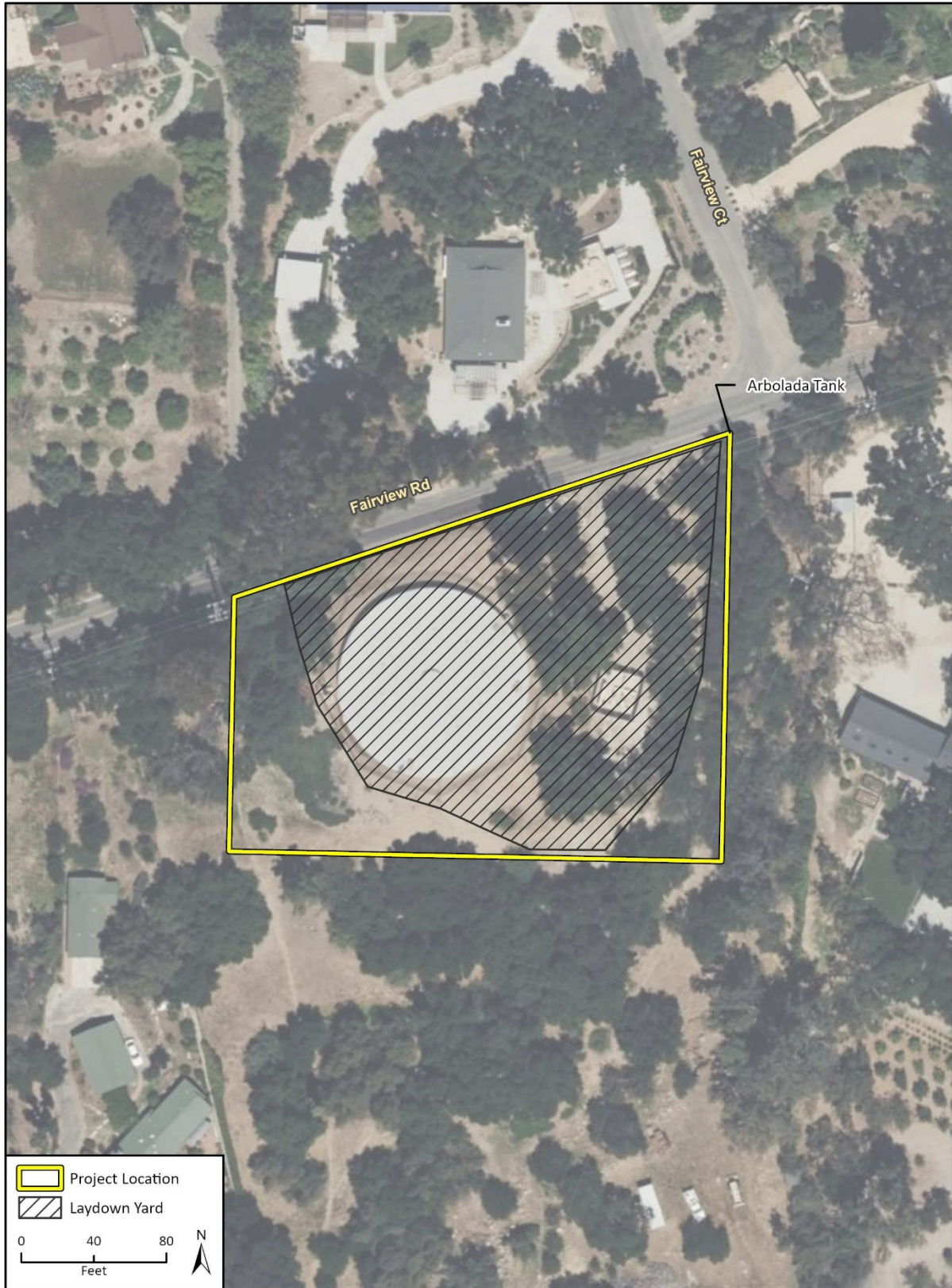
Figure 3 Project Location, Running Ridge



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Fig 2 Project Location1

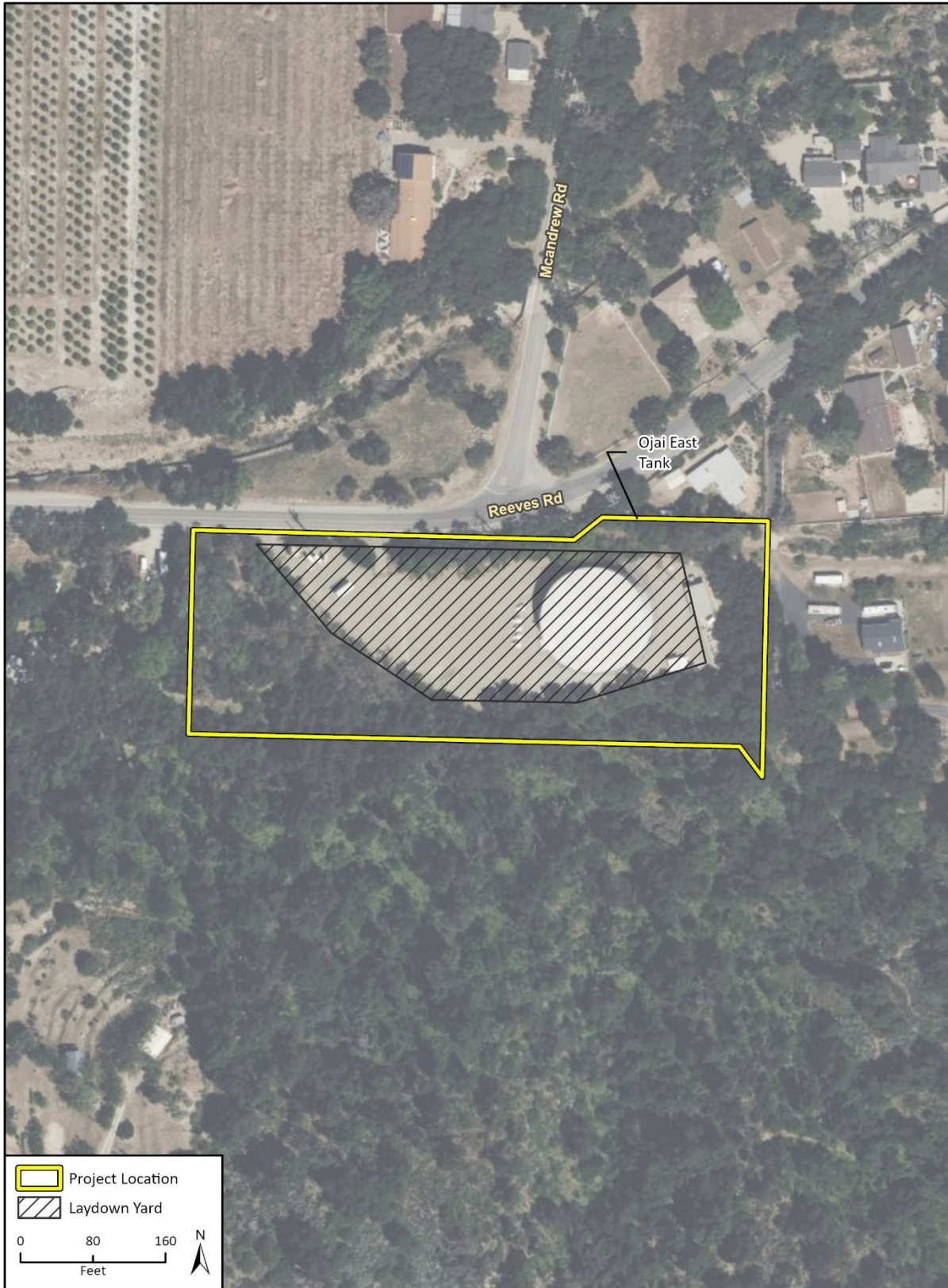
Figure 4 Project Location, Arbolada Tank and Pump Station



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Fig 2 Project Location

Figure 5 Project Location, Ojai East Tank



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Fig 2 Project Location

Figure 6 Project Location, OWS Wellfield



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Fig 2 Project Location

5. General Plan Designation and Zoning

Table 1 provides the City of Ojai and County of Ventura General Plan land use designations and zoning for each component of the proposed project. The Foothill Road site is located within a public roadway and consequently does not have a land use designation or zoning designation.

Table 1 Project Site General Plan Land Use Designations and Zoning

Project Component	Land Use Designation	Zoning Designation
Foothill Road Pipeline	Not applicable	Not applicable
Private Drive Pipeline	Rural	Rural Agricultural-2
Arbolada Tank Demolition	Low Density Residential	Public
Running Ridge Tank Abandonment	Rural	Rural Agricultural-5
Ojai East Tank Rehabilitation and Construction	Rural	Rural Exclusive-5
OWS Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion	Rural	Agricultural

Sources: County of Ventura 2025; City of Ojai 2008

Per California Government Code Section 53091, building and zoning ordinances of a county or city do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, storage, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency. The following information is provided for informational purposes.

According to Section 8104-2 of the Ventura County Code, the Rural Agricultural zone is intended to provide for and maintain a rural setting where a wide range of agricultural uses are permitted while surrounding residential land uses are protected, and the Rural Exclusive zone is intended to provide for and maintain rural residential areas in conjunction with horticultural activities, and to provide for a limited range of service and institutional uses which are compatible with and complementary to rural residential communities. According to Section 10-2.601 of the City of Ojai’s Municipal code, the Public zone is applied to areas appropriate for public facilities, government offices, and cultural facilities, and the Agricultural zone is intended to preserve lands suitable for commercial agricultural activities, and to protect local agriculture as an economic and environmental resource.

6. Description of Project

Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) acquired the OWS in 2017 from Golden State Water Company. The proposed project would integrate the OWS with the Casitas Water System to address insufficient storage capacity in the OWS and provide compatible water treatment to both systems. The proposed project consists of five main components: pipeline installation; tank demolition and construction; tank rehabilitation; water treatment; and booster pump station demolition and construction. These four components are discussed in the following subsections. Table 2 presents the construction timeframe for each project component. Construction would mostly be limited to between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. No nighttime construction would be required.

Pipelines

The typical construction sequence for the project would include the following pipeline installation activities:

- **Open-cut trench pipeline installation** typically consists of trench excavation (including saw cutting of pavement where applicable), pipe bedding stabilization, pipe installation, and backfill. The construction crew would typically operate a backhoe and/or excavator, compaction equipment (attachment to an excavator and hand-operated equipment), dump trucks for stockpiling of soils and delivery of backfill material, and utility trucks (with truck-mounted or towed generator and hand tools).
- **Temporary paving and ground restoration** typically is performed at the completion of each segment of pipeline and then final paving is performed at the end of a project once all excavation and backfill operations have been completed.

The maximum depth of excavation would be 10 feet.

Private Drive Pipeline

The project would include installation of approximately 450 linear feet of new 6-inch water pipeline at the Private Drive site, extending west from Foothill Road in unincorporated Ventura County. The western terminus of the new water line would be at a fire hydrant, and the eastern terminus of the new water line would connect to an existing 6-inch water line within Foothill Road, at the intersection of the private roadway and Foothill Road.

Construction activities at the Private Drive site are not anticipated to encounter groundwater. Water used for hydrostatic testing and disinfection of the new pipeline would be dechlorinated and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' applicable National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. During construction, workers would park at Arbolada Plant or along the shoulder of the private roadway, Foothill Road, or Fairview Road.

Foothill Road Pipeline

The project would include installation of approximately 1,100 linear feet of new 8-inch pipeline at the Foothill Road site, which would extend from a new pressure-reducing valve station (south of the intersection of Foothill Road and Fairview Road) north where it would connect to an existing 6-inch water line at Station 31+78.48 (just north of the intersection of Foothill Road and a private driveway).

If groundwater is encountered during construction activities at the Foothill Road site, groundwater would be discharged to an on-site retention pond, or monitored and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' NPDES permit. Water used for hydrostatic testing and disinfection of the new pipeline would be dechlorinated and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' applicable NPDES permit. During construction, workers would park at Arbolada Plant or along the shoulder of Foothill Road.

Tanks

Arbolada and Running Ridge Tanks

The project would include demolition of the existing 1.0-million gallon (MG) concrete tank at the Arbolada Tank site. The tank would be drawn down prior to demolition, and any remaining water

would be considered nuisance water and appropriately disposed of on-site. Following demolition, the site of the former tank would be leveled. The project would also include abandonment of the existing Running Ridge tanks, located at the Running Ridge site. No ground disturbance would occur for the abandonment of the Running Ridge tanks.

Ojai East Tank

The project would include the construction of a 1.0-MG welded steel tank located at the Ojai East Tank site. The new tank would have a height of 40 feet and 115-foot diameter. The project would also include rehabilitation of an existing 3.0-MG welded steel tank located at the Ojai East Tank site. Rehabilitation activities would include removal of interior and exterior coatings, application of a new epoxy coating to the interior and exterior of the tank, various structural improvements and anchoring to prevent uplift, installation of cathodic protection, and the addition of an exterior ladder. Construction of the new 1.0-MG tank would allow for additional storage and redundancy for Casitas' planned operations in east Ojai and would also allow for the existing 3.0-MG tank to be taken out of service for the proposed rehabilitation activities.

Water used for hydrostatic testing and disinfection of the new and rehabilitated tanks would be dechlorinated and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' applicable NPDES permit. During construction, workers would park at the Ojai East Tank site.

Treatment

Ojai Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion

The project would include converting the treatment system of the OWS Wellfield from chlorine to chloramines. Construction activities would include installation of a new, approximately 2,700-linear-foot, 16-inch discharge line which would connect to the existing water line in Grand Avenue at the northern terminus to the existing San Antonio BPS, located at the OWS Wellfield site; as well as construction of a new free chlorine analyzer, new sample point for chlorine analyzer, new ammonia injection point, and new ammonia storage tanks and dosing pumps at the OWS Wellfield site. The OWS Wellfield chloramine conversion would provide treatment uniformity in Casitas' operations, making OWS water consistent with the water currently provided to existing Casitas customers.

If groundwater is encountered during construction activities or facilities need to be temporarily dewatered, such water would be discharged to an existing retention pond at the OWS Wellfield site (on the west side of San Antonio Creek) or at the San Antonio Pump Plant. Construction workers would park at the OWS Wellfield site.

Pump Stations

Arbolada Booster Pump Station

The project would include construction of a temporary pump station at the northwest corner of the Arbolada Tank site and a new BPS in the southeastern portion of the Arbolada Tank site. The temporary BPS would keep the OWS operational until all project components are complete. The new Arbolada BPS would replace the existing Arbolada BPS (which would be demolished) located at the Arbolada Tank site and Valley View BPS, located further north on Foothill Road. The replacement of the Arbolada BPS with a redesigned pump configuration would eliminate the need for the aging Valley View BPS.

Table 2 Project Component Construction Durations

Project Component	Construction Duration
Private Drive Pipeline	6 to 8 weeks
Foothill Road Pipeline	6 to 8 weeks
Arbolada and Running Ridge Tanks	3 to 4 months
Ojai East Tanks	6 to 8 months
Ojai Water System Chloramine Conversion	6 to 8 months
Arbolada Booster Pump Station	6 to 8 months

Standard Construction Measures

The proposed project would implement the following measures throughout construction activities.

- **Vibration Best Practices:** To avoid potential vibration-related impacts or effects to adjacently located historic-period buildings, structures, or objects, vibratory rollers would not be used within 37 feet of off-site buildings or structures over 50 years of age. Additionally, when grading or earthwork activities occur within 21 feet of off-site buildings or structures over 50 years of age, only equipment with 100 horsepower or less would be used.
- **Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) Measures:**
 - **Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust):** This rule requires fugitive dust generators, including construction and demolition projects, to implement control measures limiting the amount of dust from vehicle track-out, earth moving, bulk material handling, and truck hauling activities. The rule would apply during construction and operational activities.
 - **Rule 55.1 (Paved Roads and Public Unpaved Roads):** This rule requires fugitive dust generators to begin the removal of visible roadway accumulation within 72 hours of any written notification from the VCAPCD. The use of blowers is expressly prohibited under any circumstances. This rule also requires controls to limit the amount of dust from any construction activity or any earthmoving activity on a public unpaved road. This rule would apply throughout all construction activities.
 - **Rule 55.2 (Street Sweeping Equipment):** This rule requires the use of PM₁₀-efficient street sweepers for routine street sweeping and for removing vehicle track-out pursuant to Rule 55. This rule would apply during all construction activities.
 - **Title 13, Section 2449 – In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets:** This regulation aims to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), diesel particulate matter (PM), and other pollutants from in-use off-road diesel vehicles by requiring fleet owners to retrofit, repower, or replace older engines and comply with idling limits and reporting requirements
 - **Title 13, Section 2485 – Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Limit Diesel-Fueled Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling:** This rule prohibits unnecessary idling of diesel-fueled commercial vehicles to reduce public exposure to toxic diesel exhaust, with specific limits on idling time and exemptions for certain operational needs.

7. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The land use setting in the vicinity of the project site is predominantly characterized by rural, low-density residential, and open space uses. Table 3 provides surrounding land uses for each component of the proposed project.

Table 3 Project Site Surrounding Land Uses

Project Component	Surrounding Land Uses
Foothill Road Pipeline	Single-family residences extending along the entirety of the proposed pipeline alignment.
Private Drive Pipeline	Single-family residences to the north, west, and south, and by Foothill Road followed by single-family residences to the east.
Arbolada Tank Demolition	Single-family residences to the west, south, and east, and by Fairview Road followed by single-family residences to the north.
Running Ridge Tank Abandonment	Single-family residences to the south and southeast, and vegetated open space to the west, north, and northeast.
Ojai East Tank Rehabilitation and Construction	Vegetated open space to the south, single-family residences to the west, east, and northeast, and Reeves Road followed by agricultural land (orchards) to the north.
OWS Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion	Agricultural land (orchards) to the south and west, Grand Avenue followed by agricultural land (orchards) to the north, and San Antonio Creek to the east. San Antonio Pump Plant is surrounded by agricultural land (orchards) to the south and east, Grand Avenue followed by agricultural land (orchards) to the north, and San Antonio Creek to the west.

8. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

The proposed project may require the following permits:

- City of Ojai Encroachment Permit
- County of Ventura Transportation Department Encroachment Permit
- General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. CAG994004 – Discharges of Groundwater from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This project would potentially affect the environmental factors checked below, involving at least one impact that is “Potentially Significant” or “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

Determination

Based on this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to 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 “less than significant with mitigation incorporated” 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.

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- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potential 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.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Environmental Checklist

1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. In non-urbanized areas, 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 a 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Scenic vistas are viewpoints providing expansive views of highly valued landscape for the public benefit. The project site is located in the city of Ojai and unincorporated Ventura County. The County of Ventura General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element identifies scenic resources in the Ojai Valley, including the Topa Topa mountain range, Lake Casitas, and Matilija Lake (County of Ventura 2020a). No portion of the project site is located within the Scenic Resource Protection Overlay Zone for these scenic resources, as delineated in Figure 8-7 of the General Plan Natural Resources Background Report (County of Ventura 2020a). The City of Ojai’s General Plan does not specifically designate scenic vistas, but the City’s General Plan Open Space Element does state scenic open space includes those areas with views of the city and featuring the aesthetic quality of the Ojai Valley’s ridgelines (City of Ojai 1987). Although surrounded by mountainous areas, the relatively flat nature of the Ojai Valley means scenic vistas of mountains and ridgelines are commonly obscured by intervening structures and vegetation surrounding the project site. Nevertheless, public rights-of-way adjacent to the project site offer occasional views of the undeveloped Topa Topa Mountains in Los Padres National Forest to the north and of Sulphur Mountain to the south.

The project would involve rehabilitation of one tank, construction of a new tank, and construction of a pump station, as well as abandonment and/or demolition of infrastructure to be replaced. Construction activities would include grading, excavation, trenching, tank and pump station construction, and paving. These activities could temporarily obstruct or degrade scenic vistas for residents and motorists in the project site vicinity due to the presence of construction equipment and machinery within the project site. Following construction, the new underground pipelines would not be visible and would not affect scenic vistas. The new tank and pump station would be aesthetically similar to existing site conditions. The new pump station would be located at the Arbolada site, which contains an existing pump station. The new tank would be located at the Ojai East Tank site, which contains an existing tank. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact to scenic vistas during construction and no impact during operation.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. *Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

No state scenic highways are visible from the project site. State Route 33 is the closest designated state scenic highway, extending from 6.4 miles north of State Route 150 to the Santa Barbara County line (California Department of Transportation 2018). This stretch of highway is approximately 3.9 miles northwest of the nearest project improvements at the Arbolada Tank and Pump Station site, and obstructed from view by the Topa Topa Mountains. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. *Would the project, in non-urbanized areas, 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 a 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?*

CEQA Guidelines Section 21071 defines an urbanized area as:

1. An incorporated city that has either:
 - a. A population of at least 100,000 persons, or
 - b. A population of less than 100,000 persons if the population of that city and not more than two contiguous incorporated cities combined equals at least 100,000 persons.
2. An unincorporated area that is either:
 - a. Completely surrounded by one or more incorporated cities and both of the following criteria are met:
 - i. The population of the unincorporated area and the population of the surrounding incorporated city or cities equals at least 100,000 persons
 - ii. The population density of the unincorporated area at least equals the population density of the surrounding city or cities.
 - b. Located within an urban growth boundary and has an existing residential population of at least 5,000 persons per square mile.

The project site is located within the incorporated city of Ojai and unincorporated Ventura County. The city of Ojai has a population of 7,637 (United States Census Bureau 2023a), and unincorporated Ventura County is not completely surrounded by one or more unincorporated cities. Therefore, the project site is considered to be located within a non-urbanized area. Because the project site occurs in a non-urbanized area, this analysis evaluates potential degradation of existing visual character.

The project would involve rehabilitation of one tank, construction of a new tank, and construction of a pump station, as well as abandonment and/or demolition of infrastructure to be replaced. Construction of the proposed project would be visible from surrounding land uses and would temporarily alter the existing visual character and quality of the project area and vicinity. A temporary change in visual character would result from the presence of construction equipment and material, stockpiles of soil, and construction vehicles. Construction equipment and materials would be removed from the project site upon completion of construction activities. Following construction, the new pipelines would not substantially alter scenic quality or visual character as the pipelines would be located underground, and the site would be restored to pre-project conditions. Tank and pump station construction would occur at the site of existing infrastructure and would be consistent with the existing visual character of the site. Therefore, the project would not substantially alter the scenic quality or visual character of the project site. Construction and operation of the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the project site and its surroundings. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- d. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?*

The proposed pipelines would not create a new source of light or glare once construction is complete, as the pipelines would be located underground. The project would involve rehabilitation of one tank, construction of a new tank, and construction of a pump station, as well as abandonment and/or demolition of infrastructure to be replaced. Rehabilitation and the construction of new facilities may involve upgrading lighting fixtures. However, such improvements would be similar to existing infrastructure during operation, and additional lighting beyond what is currently provided is not proposed. There would be no impact regarding operational light and glare.

Proposed project components may create light and glare during construction due to the presence of construction vehicles and equipment. Construction would occur primarily during daytime hours, though late afternoon activities during the winter could require the use of lighting. Any construction lighting used would be shielded to minimize impacts to any nearby receptors as a standard best practice implemented by Casitas. As such, light and glare from construction activities would not substantially disturb sensitive receptors. Therefore, construction activities would be temporary and potential impacts during construction associated with light or glare would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
--	--------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	-----------

Would the project:

a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

-
- a. *Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*
 - b. *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?*
 - c. *Would the project 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. *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

- e. *Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The project site is not currently in agricultural production and does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or land with a Williamson Act contract (California Department of Conservation 2022). No part of the proposed project is located on forest land or timber land.

Due to the absence of agricultural land at the project site or in the surrounding area, the proposed project would not involve changes to the existing environment which could result in conversion of Farmland to a non-agricultural use. The project would not expand potable water service capacity and, therefore, would not result in or support new residential development leading to the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. The proposed project would not cause the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact on agricultural or forestry resources would occur.

NO IMPACT

3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The project area is in the South Central Coast Air Basin (Basin) which covers San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. The VCAPCD monitors and regulates the local air quality in Ventura County and administers the Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The analysis presented in this section is based on information found in the Ventura County Air Quality Assessment Guidelines (Guidelines), adopted by the VCAPCD in 2003.

Air quality is affected by stationary sources (e.g., industrial uses and oil and gas operations) and mobile sources (e.g., motor vehicles). Air quality at a given location is a function of several factors, including the quantity and type of pollutants emitted locally and regionally, and the dispersion rates of pollutants in the region. Primary factors affecting pollutant dispersion are wind speed and direction, atmospheric stability, temperature, the presence or absence of inversions, and topography. The project site is located in the southeastern portion of the Basin, which has moderate variability in temperatures, tempered by coastal processes. The air quality within the Basin is influenced by a wide range of emission sources, such as dense population centers, heavy vehicular traffic, industry, and weather.

Air Quality Standards and Attainment

The VCAPCD is required to monitor air pollutant levels to ensure National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) are met. If the standards are met, the Basin is classified as being in “attainment.” If the standards are not met, the Basin is classified as being in “nonattainment” and the VCAPCD is required to develop strategies to meet the standards. According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Area Designation Maps, the project site is located in a region identified as being in nonattainment for the ozone NAAQS and CAAQS and nonattainment for the particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) CAAQS (CARB 2025). In December 2022, the VCAPCD adopted the 2022 Ventura County AQMP, which provides a strategy for the attainment of federal ozone standards (VCAPCD 2022).

San Joaquin Valley Fever (formally known as Coccidioidomycosis, hereafter referred to as Valley Fever) is an infectious disease caused by the fungus *Coccidioides immitis*. Valley Fever is a disease of concern in the Basin. Infection is caused by inhalation of *Coccidioides immitis* airborne spores, formed when dry, dusty soil or dirt is disturbed by natural processes, such as wind or earthquakes, or by human-induced ground-disturbing activities, such as construction, farming, or other activities (VCAPCD 2003). In 2024, there were 3,667 cases of Valley Fever reported in California, with 81 of those cases occurring in Ventura County (California Department of Public Health 2025).

Air Emission Thresholds

The VCAPCD's Guidelines recommend specific operational air emission thresholds for determining whether a project may have a significant adverse impact on air quality within the Basin. These air emission thresholds differ between the Ojai Planning Area, which is defined as the Ojai Valley and includes the project area, and the remainder of Ventura County. Because the proposed project is in the Ojai Planning Area, the applicable threshold of significance for operational emissions is five or more pounds per day of Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC; also referred to as Reactive Organic Gases) or five or more pounds per day of Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x). Pursuant to the VCAPCD's Guidelines, construction-related emissions of ROC and NO_x are not counted toward the threshold of significance, since these emissions are temporary; however, VCAPCD's Guidelines state if construction would exceed the threshold of significance, standard ROC and NO_x minimization measures listed in Section 7.4.3 of the VCAPCD Guidelines should be applied to minimize construction-related emissions.

The VCAPCD has not established quantitative thresholds for particulate matter for either operation or construction. The VCAPCD indicates a project generating fugitive dust emissions in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons, or which may endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person, or which may cause or have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property, would have a significant air quality impact. This threshold is applicable to the generation of fugitive dust during grading and excavation activities. The VCAPCD Guidelines recommend fugitive dust mitigation measures be applied to all dust-generating activities. Such measures include minimizing the project disturbance area, watering the site prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, covering all truck loads, and limiting on-site vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less.

Applicable VCAPCD Rules and Regulations

The VCAPCD implements rules and regulations for emissions generated by various uses and activities. The rules and regulations detail pollution-reduction measures to be implemented during construction and operation of projects. Relevant rules and regulations to the project include:

- **Rule 50 (Opacity):** This rule sets opacity standards on the discharge from sources of air contaminants. This rule would apply during construction of the proposed project.
- **Rule 51 (Nuisance):** This rule prohibits any person from discharging air contaminants or any other material from a source which would cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or the public or which endangers the comfort, health, safety, or repose to any considerable number of persons or the public. The rule would apply during construction and operational activities.

- **Rule 55 (Fugitive Dust):** This rule requires fugitive dust generators, including construction and demolition projects, to implement control measures limiting the amount of dust from vehicle track-out, earth moving, bulk material handling, and truck hauling activities. The rule would apply during construction and operational activities.
- **Rule 55.1 (Paved Roads and Public Unpaved Roads):** This rule requires fugitive dust generators to begin the removal of visible roadway accumulation within 72 hours of any written notification from the VCAPCD. The use of blowers is expressly prohibited under any circumstances. This rule also requires controls to limit the amount of dust from any construction activity or any earthmoving activity on a public unpaved road. This rule would apply throughout all construction activities.
- **Rule 55.2 (Street Sweeping Equipment):** This rule requires the use of PM₁₀-efficient street sweepers for routine street sweeping and for removing vehicle track-out pursuant to Rule 55. This rule would apply during all construction activities.
- **Rule 74.4 (Cutback Asphalt):** This rule sets limits on the type of application and volatile organic compound (VOC) content of cutback and emulsified asphalt. The proposed project is required to comply with the type of application and VOC content standards set forth in this rule.

a. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

According to VCAPCD's Guidelines, a project may be inconsistent with the applicable air quality plan if it would cause the existing population to exceed forecasts contained in the most recently adopted AQMP. The VCAPCD adopted the 2022 Ventura County AQMP to demonstrate a strategy for, and reasonable progress toward, attainment of the federal 8-hour ozone standard. The 2022 Ventura County AQMP relies on the Southern California Association of Governments' 2020 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy forecasts of regional population growth in its projections for managing Ventura County's air quality.

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 14, *Population and Housing*, the proposed project would involve abandonment, demolition, rehabilitation, and new construction of water infrastructure to address insufficient storage capacity in the OWS and provide compatible water treatment to both the Ojai and Casitas systems. The proposed project would not expand system capacity, nor would it generate new housing or businesses. Consequently, it would not contribute directly or indirectly to population growth and would not cause exceedances of the growth forecasts employed in the 2022 Ventura County AQMP. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. *Would the project 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?*

The proposed project would generate short-term emissions associated with project construction and long-term emissions associated with operation of the new pump station. As this project would include several construction components (e.g., pipeline installation, tank demolition, tank construction, tank rehabilitation, and pump station construction), emissions for each component were modeled individually using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2022.1.1.29.

Construction

Project construction would generate temporary air pollutant emissions. These impacts are associated with fugitive dust and exhaust emissions from heavy-duty construction vehicles. Table 4 summarizes the maximum daily pollutant emissions for each project component.

Table 4 Construction Emissions (pounds/day)

Maximum Daily Emissions	ROC	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Foothill Road Pipeline	1.17	9.95	13.6	0.03	0.55	0.40
Private Drive Pipeline	1.21	8.87	12.7	0.03	0.48	0.35
Arbolada Tank Demolition	1.81	15.1	22.7	0.04	1.47	0.66
Running Ridge Tank Abandonment	1.69	14.6	19.2	0.03	3.21	1.78
Ojai East Tank Rehabilitation and Construction	3.76	9.64	12.5	0.02	0.63	0.38
OWS Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion	0.70	5.62	9.13	0.01	0.48	0.24

ROC: reactive organic compounds; NO_x: nitrogen oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; PM₁₀: particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM_{2.5}: particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SO₂: sulfur dioxide
 See Appendix A for CalEEMod worksheets.

VCAPCD's Ojai Planning Area threshold of five pounds per day for ROC and NO_x does not apply to construction emissions since such emissions are temporary; however, in accordance with VCAPCD Guidelines to minimize construction emissions, construction-related emissions should be mitigated if estimated ROC and NO_x emission exceed the five pounds per day for ROC and NO_x. As shown in Table 4, NO_x emissions would exceed the five pounds per day threshold for each project component. Accordingly, without implementation of standard mitigation measures listed in the VCAPCD Guidelines, this impact would be potentially significant.

With respect to fugitive dust emissions, VCAPCD states significant construction-related air quality impacts could occur if fugitive dust emissions are generated in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of people or to the public, or which may endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person or the public. For construction impacts, the VCAPCD recommends minimizing fugitive dust through dust control measures, including those listed within Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection *Standard Construction Measures*. Following compliance with these measures, construction emissions would not be generated in such quantities as to cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of people or to the public, or endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such person or the public. Given the temporary nature of construction emissions and incorporation of fugitive dust reduction measures through compliance with existing VCAPCD regulations measures, impacts related to fugitive dust would be less than significant.

Operation

The new water infrastructure would not require regular maintenance beyond what is already required for existing infrastructure and therefore, would not generate any new, ongoing maintenance trips or activities. The new pump station would not generate substantial operational emissions because it would be connected to the regional electricity grid, which is increasingly powered by renewable energy. Furthermore, the new pump station would not be used to increase the retail water supply or serve additional customers. Therefore, emissions associated with long-

term project operation and maintenance would remain unchanged from current conditions and would have a less than significant impact on regional air quality.

Mitigation Measure

AQ-1 VCAPCD Construction Mitigation Measures

The following shall be implemented during construction to minimize emissions of ozone precursors.

1. Minimize equipment idling time.
2. Maintain equipment engines in good condition and in proper tune as per manufacturers' specifications.
3. Lengthen the construction period during smog season (May through October), to minimize the number of vehicles and equipment operating at the same time.
4. Use alternatively fueled construction equipment, such as compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, or electric, if feasible.

Casitas shall include these measures within the construction contract. Prior to construction, Casitas shall confirm with the construction contractor the fuel used for construction equipment and the construction equipment is in good working condition.

Significance After Mitigation

Based on the VCAPCD Guidelines, the implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would reduce impacts related to ROC and NO_x emissions to a less-than-significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

c. *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

VCAPCD defines sensitive receptors as facilities or land uses which include members of the population particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples of sensitive receptors listed in the VCAPCD Guidelines include schools, hospitals, and daycare centers (VCAPCD 2003). Potential sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site include single-family residences within 0.25 mile. There are no schools, senior centers, nursing homes, hospitals, or churches within 0.25 mile of the project site.

Toxic Air Contaminants

As discussed under Items 3(b) and 3(c), project construction would result in temporary emissions of criteria pollutants, including fugitive dust, ROC, and NO_x. Emissions from construction activities at a given sensitive receptor would occur for only a limited portion of the overall construction period, as construction activities would progress across the project site. Furthermore, compliance with the regulations listed within Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection *Standard Construction Measures* would minimize emissions of TACs and fugitive dust during construction. Therefore, project construction would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial TAC emissions.

CO Hotspots

Traffic-congested roadways and intersections have the potential to generate elevated localized carbon monoxide (CO) levels (i.e., CO hotspots). In general, CO hotspots occur in areas with poor

circulation or areas with heavy traffic. Existing CO levels in Ventura County have historically been low enough to the point where VCAPCD monitoring stations throughout the county ceased monitoring ambient CO concentrations in March and July 2004 (VCAPCD 2010).

The proposed project would not require regular maintenance trips beyond existing conditions. Construction activities would cause a temporary increase in vehicle traffic. Because construction is a short-term activity, construction-related traffic impacts with potential to cause temporary CO hotspots would not be substantial. Therefore, the project would not result in CO hotspots on adjacent roadways.

San Joaquin Valley Fever

The population of Ventura County has been and will continue to be exposed to Valley Fever from agricultural and construction activities occurring throughout the region. The fungal spores responsible for Valley Fever generally grow in virgin, undisturbed soil. Soil at the project site is already disturbed by construction of roadways and existing water infrastructure. Due to the previous amount of disturbance at the project site, disturbance of soil during construction activities is unlikely to pose a substantial risk of infection. Substantial increases in the number of reported cases of Valley Fever tend to occur only after major ground-disturbing events such as the 1994 Northridge earthquake (VCAPCD 2003). Construction of the proposed project would not result in a comparable amount of ground disturbance. Furthermore, the regulations listed within Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection *Standard Construction Measures* would reduce fugitive dust generation, which would further minimize the risk of infection. Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not significantly increase the risk to public health above existing background levels. Because the project area does not pose a substantial risk for Valley Fever, Valley Fever-specific mitigation measures detailed in the VCAPCD Guidelines would not be required.

Summary

The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- d. *Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*

The proposed pipelines would be installed belowground and would not create objectionable odors during project operation. Operation of the new pump station, tank, and treatment system would not include activities with the potential to create objectionable odors. Project construction could generate odors associated with heavy-duty equipment operation and earth-moving activities. Such odors would be temporary in nature and limited to the duration of construction. Although the new pump station, tank, and treatment system are located near residences, construction activities at these locations would be similar to other construction activities occurring near residences in the city (such as residential and commercial construction) and would not create other emissions, such as those leading to objectionable odors, affecting a substantial number of people. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

The following analysis is informed by the June 2025 Biological Resources Assessment prepared in support of the proposed project, included as Appendix B.

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

Special Status Plant Species

No special status plant species were observed on the project site. Furthermore, no special status plant species were determined to have a moderate or high potential to occur within the project site. Special status plant species have specialized habitat requirements, including plant community types, soils, and other elements, which do not occur within the project site. Based on the lack of suitable habitat, no special status plants are anticipated to occur within the project site, and the proposed project would have no impact.

Special Status Wildlife Species

No special status wildlife species were observed on the project site. However, four special status wildlife species were determined to have a moderate potential to occur within the project site: Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*).

Elements of suitable habitat for the Crotch's bumble bee, a state Candidate Endangered species, are present within the project site vicinity, specifically within a 50-foot buffer around the OWS Wellfield site where California buckwheat is present, as well as the scrub habitat around the Running Ridge Tank site. Potential impacts to nesting Crotch's bumble bee are not expected because no ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities are proposed at the Running Ridge site and the suitable habitat at the OWS Wellfield site is outside of the project's disturbance area. However, potential impacts to transiting Crotch's bumble bee may occur during worker presence at the Running Ridge site. Should workers inadvertently damage or cause harm to Crotch bumble bee, impacts would be potentially significant.

Elements of suitable habitat for California legless lizard, coastal whiptail, and coast patch-nosed snake, all of which are state Species of Special Concern, are present within the scrub habitat surrounding the Running Ridge Tank site. Potential impacts to these special status reptiles at the Running Ridge tank site are not expected because no ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities are proposed at this site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Nesting Birds

The project site contains habitat capable of supporting nesting birds, including raptors protected under the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGF) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The adjacent native trees, ornamental vegetation and orchards along the project footprint provide suitable nesting habitat for avian species. Specifically, the coast live oak trees and blue gum eucalyptus throughout the project site contain suitable habitat for passerine and raptor species, such as Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). In addition, the existing water facilities and road culverts may provide habitat for mud and cavity-nesting birds such as cliff swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) and black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). The project could impact raptors and other nesting birds if construction occurs while they are present within or adjacent to the project footprint, through direct mortality or abandonment of nests. The loss of a nest due to construction activities would be a violation of the MBTA and CFGF Section 3503. Therefore, impacts to nesting birds would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-1 Worker Environmental Awareness Program

Prior to initiation of construction activities (including staging and mobilization) at the Running Ridge Tank and OWS Wellfield sites, all personnel associated with project construction at these sites shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to aid workers in recognizing special status biological resources which may occur in the project site. This training shall include information about Crotch's bumblebee, special status reptiles (California legless lizard, coast whiptail, and coast patch-nosed snake), nesting birds, and protected trees.

The specifics of this program shall include identification of special status species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of special status resources, and review of the limits of construction and measures required to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. Employees shall sign a form provided by the trainer documenting they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The crew foreman shall be responsible for ensuring crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions designed to avoid impacts to special status species.

BIO-2 Nesting Bird Season Avoidance

To avoid disturbance of nesting and special status birds, including raptor species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code Section 3503, activities related to the project including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside of the bird breeding season for migratory birds (February 1 through August 31), if practicable.

BIO-3 Nesting Bird Survey

If construction must begin during the breeding season, then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than seven days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities. The nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted on foot inside the project footprint, including a 100-foot buffer (300-foot for raptors), and in inaccessible areas (e.g., private lands) from afar using binoculars to the extent practicable. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in southern California coastal communities. If nests are found, an avoidance buffer (dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground-disturbing activities shall occur inside this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3, which would require a Worker Environmental Awareness Program for construction personnel (BIO-1), avoidance of construction

activities during the nesting bird season (BIO-2), and pre-construction surveys and establishment of avoidance buffers for nesting birds (should construction occur during the nesting bird season) (BIO-3) would reduce potential impacts to special status species. Specifically, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 would reduce impacts to Crotch's bumble bee, California legless lizard, coastal whiptail, and coast patch-nosed snake, and Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-3 would all reduce impacts to nesting birds. With implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

b. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No riparian habitat or sensitive plant communities are documented within the project site. Coast live oak woodlands, considered a locally important plant community in Ventura County, are present within a 50-foot buffer of the Ojai East Tank site but outside of the project's disturbance area. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on riparian habitat or sensitive plant communities.

NO IMPACT

c. Would the project 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?

San Antonio Creek, located to the west of the OWS Wellfield site, is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. However, San Antonio Creek is located outside of the project's disturbance area at the OWS Wellfield site. Construction activities would occur outside of riparian vegetation and top of bank associated with San Antonio Creek, and no human traffic or equipment is proposed in jurisdictional features. The proposed project would thus avoid direct impacts to San Antonio Creek.

Indirect impacts from construction materials stored onsite, such as stockpiled materials, construction equipment, and trash, could adversely affect water quality. These impacts may include increased turbidity, altered pH, or decreased dissolved oxygen levels within the water features if runoff occurs during storm events. These indirect impacts would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures

BIO-4 Jurisdictional Waters Avoidance and Minimization

The construction contractor(s) shall implement the following best management practices during work at the OWS Wellfield site:

- Areas of temporary disturbance shall be minimized to the extent practicable.
- Staging and laydown areas shall occur in unvegetated areas and previously disturbed sites only.
- All vehicles and equipment shall be in good working condition and free of leaks to avoid or minimize the risk of oil, petroleum products, or any other pollutant from contaminating the soil or entering a watercourse (dry or otherwise). When vehicles or equipment are stationary, mats or drip pans shall be placed below vehicles to contain fluid leaks.

- Materials shall be stored on impervious surfaces or plastic ground covers to avoid or minimize effects of any spills or leakage. Material storage shall be at least 100 feet from San Antonio Creek. Any material/spoils from project activities shall be located and stored 100 feet from San Antonio Creek. Construction materials and spoils shall be protected from stormwater run-off using temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, silt fences, fiber rolls, covers, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers, as appropriate.
- The construction contractor(s) shall provide street sweeping, vacuuming, and rumble plates, as appropriate, to avoid or minimize the off-site tracking of loose construction and landscape materials.
- Avoid or minimize the discharge of silt or pollutants off the site when working adjacent to San Antonio Creek by installing BMPs (e.g., silt barriers, sand bags, straw bales) as appropriate.
- All food related trash shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project area each day during the construction period. Construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the construction area. At project completion, all project-generated debris, vehicles, building materials, and rubbish shall be removed from the project footprint.
- All re-fueling, cleaning, and maintenance of equipment shall occur at least 100-feet from San Antonio Creek.
- Any spillage of material shall be stopped if it can be done safely. The contaminated area shall be cleaned, and any contaminated materials properly disposed. For all spills, the project foreman or other designated liaison shall notify Casitas immediately.

Significance After Mitigation

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires a Worker Environmental Awareness Program for construction personnel, and Mitigation Measure BIO-4 includes best management practices to reduce potential indirect impacts to water quality within San Antonio Creek. With implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts to jurisdictional waters would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- d. *Would the project 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?*

The entirety of the project site occurs within an Essential Connectivity Area as mapped in the report, *California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California* (Spencer et al. 2010). Additionally, San Antonio Creek may operate as a movement corridor for wildlife species; common wildlife adapted to urban and suburban areas (e.g., raccoon and striped skunk) could use the riverine habitat of San Antonio Creek for local movement. The proposed project would not modify San Antonio Creek, nor substantially increase the level of disturbance beyond existing conditions.

The project site is located within sites developed with existing water infrastructure, and no new aboveground infrastructure would occur beyond these existing sites. Proposed project components would be similar in design and scale to existing infrastructure, and would not create a barrier to wildlife movement. Thus, the proposed project would not substantially interfere with wildlife movement, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- e. *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

Protected trees, including California sycamore, coast live oak, and potential historical or heritage trees, were observed within the project site. Impacts to protected trees may include construction equipment compacting soil around the trees as well as disturbance of the crown and the root zone from trenching, grading, and clearance pruning. The proposed project would consist of water infrastructure improvements primarily within the public right-of-way and developed sites with existing water infrastructure.

The Ojai Municipal Code states a permit is required when encroachment to a protected tree dripline is unavoidable. Applications for a permit to impact protected trees must be accompanied by a certified arborist report. The report should list each of the protected trees located within the work area, show the protected tree's location on a development plan, and recommend a program for protecting the trees prior to, during, and after construction. The County of Ventura requires a ministerial permit to be obtained from the County for removal, alteration, or encroachment into the tree protection zone of a tree regulated by the County of Ventura requires a ministerial permit to be obtained from the County. Minor pruning does not require a permit and includes pruning dead limbs or roots, pruning living limbs or roots that are 20 percent less than the trunk's girth, and pruning living limbs or roots that are less than 20 percent of the tree's overall canopy or root system. The removal, encroachment, or alteration of protected trees that is necessary to construct improvement within the public right-of-way or within a flood control or other public utility right-of-way; and no more than five protected trees from a subject property where the trees deny reasonable access and/or use of the property as permitted by zoning may occur through a ministerial permit process. However, California Government Code Section 53091 exempts location or construction of facilities for the production, storage, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency from requiring a county or city permit.

The Ventura County 2040 General Plan Conservation Element, Ojai Valley Area Plan Conservation and Open Space Section, and Ojai Municipal Code contain policies to protect potentially jurisdictional waters, sensitive local vegetation communities and species, protected trees, and wildlife movement from development. As discussed in Items 4(a) through 4(d), the proposed project is not anticipated to significantly impact these resources. However, the proposed project may result in impacts to protected trees through removal, trimming and/or tree protection zone encroachment at Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, Foothill Drive, Private Drive, and OWS Wellfield. These impacts would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 Arborist Study

An Arborist Study shall be completed for any protected trees occurring within or adjacent to (with any portion of the crown overhanging) the project footprint required by the County or the City. The study shall determine the jurisdiction of any trees to be impacted or protected in place. An Arborist Report shall be prepared by a Certified Arborist in compliance with both the City of Ojai and County of Ventura ordinance guidelines. Specifically, the Arborist Report shall include, at minimum:

- An inventory of all trees that are within or adjacent to (with any portion of the crown overhanging) the project footprint, as feasible without trespassing on private lands. Inventory data shall record, at minimum: trunk location, species, diameter at standard height (DBH), height, dripline, mapping, and health and vigor rating.

- Representative photographs of each regulated tree that may be impacted.
- Description of proposed site development activities including, but not limited to, excavation for trenching, any tree trimming for access, and construction access routes.
- A project-specific Tree Protection Plan (TPP) shall be prepared which would at a minimum include site plans, protective tree fencing, the designated tree protection zone (identifying an area sufficiently large enough to protect the tree and its roots from disturbance), activities prohibited/permitted within the tree protective zone, encroachment boundaries, and potential requirements for transplanting or replacement tree plantings.

The Arborist Report shall be completed consistent with the tree ordinance guidelines of the County of Ventura or City of Ojai prior to the start of any tree-disturbing construction activities, as necessary.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-5, which would require preparation of an Arborist Study and associated avoidance, minimization, and tree replacement measures for impacts to protected trees, would reduce potential impacts involving conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. With implementation of this mitigation measure, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- f. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

The project site is not within an area of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any such provisions, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This section analyzes the project’s potential impacts related to cultural resources, including historical and archaeological resources as well as human remains. The analysis in this section is based on the Casitas-Ojai Water System Consolidation Project Historic Properties Identification Report (Consolidation Project HPIR) prepared for the Casitas-Ojai Water System Consolidation Project by Rincon in June 2025. The investigation consisted of a California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search through the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), Native American outreach and local interested party outreach, a geoarchaeological review, a pedestrian field survey, and an updated historical evaluation of the Ojai Water System (OWS). The Consolidation Project HPIR contains sensitive and confidential information concerning archaeological sites. As such, it has not been appended to this IS-MND.

The OWS was previously recorded and evaluated in 2018 for a previous project, the OWS Improvements Project. The Cultural Resources Technical Report for the OWS Improvements Project, prepared by Rincon in 2018, recommended the system as ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). An evaluation of the OWS for local register eligibility was not completed as part of the previous project documentation.

a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

In accordance with California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) guidance, Rincon re-evaluated the historic-age elements of the OWS within project site, as well as the system as a whole, due to the passage of more than five years since the original study. The updated evaluation confirms the 2018 findings: the OWS and its components are not eligible for listing in the NRHP, CRHR, or applicable local registers. Neither the OWS system nor any of the historic age components of the OWS within the project site are considered historical resources pursuant to CEQA.

Construction-related vibration could result in potential impacts to historic-period buildings, structures, or objects within the project site's vicinity. As discussed in Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection *Standard Construction Measures*, to avoid potential vibration-related impacts or effects to adjacently located historic-period buildings, structures, or objects, vibratory rollers would not be used within 37 feet of off-site buildings or structures over 50 years of age. Additionally, when grading or earthwork activities occur within 21 feet of off-site buildings or structures over 50 years of age, only equipment with 100 horsepower or less would be used. These construction measures would ensure impacts associated with construction vibration would be less-than-significant.

As such, the project would result in a less than significant impact to historical resources as defined in Section 15064.5(b) of the CEQA Guidelines.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No archaeological resources were identified within or immediately adjacent to the project site as a result of the CHRIS records search, SLF search, Native American and local interested party outreach, or field survey completed as part of the Consolidation Project HPIR. The geoarchaeological review indicates the project site has low potential to contain intact archaeological deposits. This is due to alluvial and colluvial landforms with large clasts, which reflect high-energy environments not conducive to preserving archaeological materials. As such, the potential for encountering intact archaeological deposits during project construction is considered low.

Based on the results of the Consolidation Project HPIR, no archaeological resources were identified in the project site, and the project would not result in significant impacts to known archaeological resources pursuant to CEQA. Nevertheless, there is a potential for unanticipated archaeological resources to be encountered during ground-disturbing activities. Impacts to unanticipated archaeological resources during project construction, such as damage of the resources, would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measure

CUL-1 Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources

In the event of the unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials, the construction contractor shall immediately cease all work activities in the area (within approximately 100 feet) of the discovery until it can be evaluated by an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (qualified archaeologist). Prehistoric archaeological materials might include obsidian and chert flaked-stone tools (e.g., projectile points, knives, scrapers) or toolmaking debris; culturally darkened soil ("midden") containing heat-affected rocks, artifacts, or shellfish remains; stone milling equipment (e.g., mortars, pestles, handstones, or milling slabs); and battered stone tools, such as hammerstones and pitted stones. Historic-period materials might include stone or concrete footings and walls; filled wells or privies; and deposits of metal, glass, and/or ceramic refuse. Construction should not resume until the qualified archaeologist has conferred with Casitas on the significance of the resource.

If it is determined the discovered archaeological resource constitutes a historical resource or unique archaeological resource under CEQA, avoidance and preservation in place is the preferred manner of mitigation. Preservation in place maintains the important relationship between artifacts and their

archaeological context and also serves to avoid conflict with traditional and religious values of groups who may ascribe meaning to the resource. Preservation in place may be accomplished by, but is not limited to, avoidance, incorporating the resource into open space, capping, or deeding the site into a permanent conservation easement. In the event preservation in place is demonstrated to be infeasible and data recovery through excavation is the only feasible mitigation available, an Archaeological Resources Data Recovery and Treatment Plan shall be prepared and implemented by the qualified archaeologist in consultation with Casitas. The Archaeological Resources Data Recovery and Treatment Plan shall provide for the adequate recovery of the scientifically consequential information contained in the archaeological resource. The qualified archaeologist and Casitas shall consult with appropriate Native American representatives in determining treatment for prehistoric or Native American resources to ensure cultural values ascribed to the resource, beyond those of scientific importance, are considered.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, which would require implementation of unanticipated discovery protocol in the event cultural resources are discovered during construction, would reduce potential impacts to archaeological resources. With implementation of this mitigation measure, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- c. *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

The Consolidation Project HPIR did not indicate human remains are present or likely to be present within the project site. However, the discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states no further disturbance shall occur until the county coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which would determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD must complete the inspection of the site and provide recommendations for treatment to the landowner within 48 hours of being granted access. With adherence to existing regulations, potential impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a. *Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*

Construction

Energy use during project construction would be primarily in the form of fuel consumption to operate heavy equipment, light-duty vehicles, and machinery. Temporary grid power may also be provided to construction trailers or electric construction equipment. Energy use during construction would be temporary in nature. Heavy-duty equipment used would be typical of similar-sized construction projects in the region. In addition, the construction contractor(s) would be required to comply with regulations listed within Section 2, *Project Description*, Subsection *Standard Construction Measures*. Adherence to these regulations would minimize unnecessary fuel consumption. Furthermore, heavy-duty equipment would be subject to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Construction Equipment Fuel Efficiency Standard, which would also minimize inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary fuel consumption by requiring construction contractor(s) to meet specific performance standards which promote the use of cleaner technologies and more efficient fuel usage practices. These practices would result in efficient use of energy necessary to perform construction of the project. In the interest of cost-efficiency, construction contractor(s) also would not utilize fuel in a wasteful or unnecessary manner. Therefore, construction would not involve the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary use of energy. No construction impact would occur.

Operation

Operation of the new pump station would require approximately 3,229 kWh per year, which represents a 5 percent decrease from existing conditions, as the proposed project would replace two BPSs (Arbolada [old] and Valley View) with one improved BPS (Arbolada [new]). This energy demand would be supplied by the regional electricity grid, which is increasingly powered by renewable energy. In addition, the project would restore lost efficiency in the water distribution system, which would improve energy efficiency. The project would not be used to increase the retail

water supply or serve additional customers. Operational trips associated with maintenance of the infrastructure would be the same as under existing conditions.

As such, project operation would not result in a potential impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Senate Bill 100 mandates 100 percent clean electricity for California by 2045. Because the proposed project would be powered by the existing electricity grid, the project would eventually be powered by renewable energy mandated by Senate Bill 100 and would not conflict with this statewide plan. Casitas and the City of Ojai do not have any specific renewable energy or energy efficiency plans with which the project could comply. The County of Ventura's 2040 General Plan, which serves as Ventura County's Climate Action Plan, does not contain any regulations, goals, or policies which would apply to the project. Thus, the project would not conflict with or obstruct the state plan for renewable energy; therefore, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project:

a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
1. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a.1. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving 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?*
- a.2. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?*

Pursuant to state law, the California Geological Survey has designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones for the Ojai and Matilija Quadrangles in which the project site is located. No portion of the project site is located in an Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone. The nearest Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zones to the project site are the Mission Ridge Fault Zone, approximately 1.4 mile southwest of the project site in the unincorporated community of Meiners Oaks, and the San Cayetano Fault Zone, approximately 1.5 miles east of the project site in unincorporated Ventura County (California Department of Conservation 2025a).

Although the project site is located in a seismically active area, the proposed project would not expose people or habitable structures to seismically induced risk. The proposed project involves water infrastructure improvements; it does not involve construction of or modification to any habitable structures. While the project may be subject to strong ground shaking in the event of an earthquake, it would not be subject to unusual levels of ground shaking as compared to the rest of the region. The engineering design of the proposed water infrastructure improvements would consider the seismic environment and would comply with applicable seismic design standards. In the event an earthquake compromised any project component during operation, Casitas would temporarily cease operations and conduct emergency repairs as soon as possible. Therefore, while the project site is located within a seismically active area, the project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death, involving rupture of a known earthquake fault or seismic ground shaking. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- a.3. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*

Liquefaction occurs when strong, cyclic motions during an earthquake cause water-saturated soils to lose their cohesion and take on a liquid state. Liquefied soils are unstable and can subject overlying structures to substantial damage. In the event of a major earthquake, seismically induced liquefaction would be expected throughout the city of Ojai and Ventura County.

Liquefaction hazard zones within the project site include the Ojai East Tank and OWS Wellfield sites (California Department of Conservation 2025a). At these locations, project development would consist of a new water tank and rehabilitated water tank (at the Ojai East Tank site) and a new water treatment system (at the OWS Wellfield site). In the event seismically induced liquefaction compromises the proposed water infrastructure improvements during operation, Casitas would temporarily cease operations and conduct emergency repairs as soon as possible. The project involves construction of water infrastructure and would not involve placement of habitable structures within a liquefaction-prone area, thereby minimizing the potential to result in loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure due to liquefaction. As a result, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk

of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

a.4. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?

The Private Drive, Foothill Road, and Running Ridge sites are adjacent to hillside areas identified as Landslide Zones (California Department of Conservation 2025a). In general, a landslide event may be triggered by removing material down-slope of potentially unstable materials; placing fill or heavy structures upslope of potentially unstable materials; or applying substantial amounts of water to the surface or subsurface to the point where it decreases the strength of potentially unstable geologic areas.

The proposed project would not include habitable structures and would not expose people to loss, injury, or death involving landslides. Although portions of the project site are adjacent to hillside areas, the proposed project would not disturb or burden potentially unstable geologic areas. As discussed under Items 7(a.1) and 7(a.2), all project activities would be constructed in compliance with applicable standards for seismic integrity and safety, which includes the potential for landslides. The proposed project would not have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects involving landslides. Impacts involving landslides would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Soil erosion or the loss of topsoil may occur when soils are disturbed but not secured or restored, to the point where wind or rain events may mobilize disturbed soils, resulting in their transport off the project site. Construction activities involving soil disturbance, such as excavation, stockpiling, and grading could result in increased erosion and sediment transport by stormwater to surface waters.

The proposed project would minimize soil erosion via implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), in accordance with the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit). Compliance with the Construction General Permit requires the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to reduce erosion and topsoil loss from stormwater runoff. The SWPPP would include additional erosion control BMPs, such as covering of stockpiles, use of desilting basins, limitations on work during high-wind events, and post-construction revegetation and drainage requirements. With adherence to the permit requirements, the project would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

c. Would the project 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. Would the project 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?

Unstable soils are those soils which are physically unsuitable to support buildings, roads, utilities, or other development-related improvements, or which have the potential for slope failure, erosion, or

subsidence. As discussed under Items 7(a.3) and 7(a.4), the proposed project would not exacerbate soil instability in areas of the project site at risk of liquefaction, lateral spreading or landslide. The project site is not located in an area subject to subsidence (County of Ventura 2020d). Expansive soils are those soils which can undergo substantial changes in volume (i.e., shrink-or-swell potential), due to variations in moisture content. Expansive soils have been documented throughout Ventura County, including portions of the Ojai Valley (County of Ventura 2020d), and may be present in localized areas of the project site.

During pipeline construction, trench spoils would be temporarily stockpiled within the construction staging and storage area, then used to backfill the trench after pipeline placement; backfilling would be conducted to meet proper compaction requirements. Depending on applicable requirements at the time of construction, slurry backfill may be used. The proposed water infrastructure improvements, including the new treatment system, tank, and pump station, would occur on sites where similar infrastructure currently exists. As discussed previously, although the project site is located in a seismically active area, the project is not anticipated to adversely affect soil stability or increase the potential for local or regional landslides, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The project would not include habitable structures and would therefore not create substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property beyond existing conditions.

The project would not compromise soil stability and there would be no impact involving unstable or expansive soils.

NO IMPACT

- e. *Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

The proposed project would not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- f. *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

Paleontological resources, or fossils, are the evidence of once-living organisms preserved in the rock record. They include both the fossilized remains of ancient plants and animals and the traces thereof (e.g., trackways, imprints, burrows). Paleontological resources are not found in “soil” but are contained within the geologic deposits or bedrock underlying the soil layer. Typically, fossils are greater than 5,000 years old (i.e., older than middle Holocene in age) and are typically preserved in sedimentary rocks. Although rare, fossils can also be preserved in volcanic rocks and low-grade metamorphic rocks under certain conditions (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology [SVP] 2010). Fossils occur in a non-continuous and often unpredictable distribution within some sedimentary units, and the potential for fossils to occur within sedimentary units depends on several factors. It is possible to evaluate the potential for geologic units to contain scientifically important paleontological resources, and therefore evaluate the potential for impacts to those resources and provide mitigation for paleontological resources if they are discovered during construction of a development project.

Rincon evaluated the paleontological sensitivity of the geologic units underlying the project site to assess the project's potential for significant impacts to scientifically important paleontological resources. The analysis was based on the results of a paleontological locality search and a review of existing information in the scientific literature regarding known fossils within geologic units mapped at the project site. According to the SVP (2010) classification system, geologic units can be assigned a high, low, undetermined, or no potential for containing scientifically significant nonrenewable paleontological resources. Following the literature review, a paleontological sensitivity classification was assigned to each geologic unit mapped within the project site. This criterion is based on rock units within which vertebrate or significant invertebrate fossils have been determined by previous studies to be present or likely to be present. The potential for impacts to significant paleontological resources is based on the potential for ground disturbance to directly impact paleontologically sensitive geologic units.

Rincon requested a records search from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County on May 15, 2025, which recovered no known paleontological localities within the project site (Bell 2025). Known fossil localities occur nearby from the Sespe Formation, Coldwater Sandstone, and unnamed Pleistocene sediments.

The project site is situated in the Transverse Ranges geomorphic province, one of the eleven geomorphic provinces in California (California Geological Survey 2002). The Transverse Ranges extend approximately 275 miles west-east from Point Arguello in Santa Barbara County, east to the San Bernardino Mountains, and south to the Anacapa-Santa Monica-Hollywood-Raymond-Cucamonga fault zone (Yerkes and Campbell 2005). The Transverse Ranges are composed of Proterozoic to Mesozoic intrusive crystalline igneous and metamorphic rocks overlain by Cenozoic marine and terrestrial sedimentary deposits and volcanic rock (Norris and Webb 1976). Locally, the project site lies in the Ojai Valley, a small east-west-running valley running between the Topa Topa Mountains to the north and Black Mountain to the south.

The project site is located in the *Ojai* and *Matilija* United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles. The geology of the region surrounding the project site was mapped by Tan and Irvine (2005), Tan and Jones (2006), and Bedrossian et al. (2010). These authors identified three geologic units underlying the various locations of the project site: Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits, Quaternary active alluvial fan deposits, and Sespe Formation. They also identified two other geologic units within 100 feet of the project site, Quaternary active wash deposits and Rincon Shale. The proximity of these additional geologic units to the project site means they could be affected by project construction due to errors in geologic mapping due to their relatively large scale or their presence at shallow depths in the subsurface. Therefore, all five of these geologic units are assessed herein.

Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits underlie the majority of the project site, including the entirety of the Foothill Road and Private Drive pipelines, Arbolada Tank, and OWS Wellfield sites (Figure 7). Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits consist of unconsolidated sandy clay with occasional gravel (Tan and Irvine 2005; Tan and Jones 2006; Bedrossian et al. 2010). Quaternary active alluvial fan deposits underlie the Ojai East Tank site (Figure 7) and consist of sandy clay with smaller amounts of gravel, cobbles, and boulders (Tan and Irvine 2005; Bedrossian et al. 2010). Quaternary active wash deposits are found within San Antonio Creek between the OWS wellfield and a laydown site and less than 100 feet north of the Ojai East Tank site (Figure 7). These sediments consist of unconsolidated gravel, sand, and silt (Tan and Irvine 2005). Quaternary young wash deposits are unlikely to be impacted by project construction, because they are restricted to the active creek channel. Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits, Quaternary active alluvial fan

deposits, and Quaternary active wash deposits are too young (i.e., less than 5,000 years old; SVP 2010) to preserve paleontological resources and are considered to have low paleontological sensitivity. However, Holocene-aged sediments may become old enough (i.e., 5,000 years old) to preserve paleontological resources in the subsurface. Pleistocene-aged sediments are known to preserve paleontological resources in Ventura County (Jefferson 2010; Paleobiology Database 2025). Therefore, such sediments should be considered to have high paleontological sensitivity. The relatively narrow width of the Ojai Valley and lack of known Pleistocene localities within the Ojai Valley suggests this transition may occur as deep as 10 feet within the project site. However, this transition depth is an estimate, so Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits, Quaternary active alluvial fan deposits, and Quaternary active wash deposits, should be considered to have low paleontological sensitivity from 0 to 10 feet below the surface and undetermined paleontological sensitivity greater than 10 feet below the surface.

The Sespe Formation underlies the Running Ridge Tank site and is also found just north of the Arbolada Tank site (Figure 7). This geologic unit consists of red sandstone with lesser amounts of conglomerate and mudstone (Tan and Jones 2006). The Sespe Formation is Oligocene in age and has produced vertebrate-bearing fossil localities in Ventura County, including mammals (Primates, Carnivora, Artiodactyla, Perissodactyla, Rodentia), reptiles (lizards, snakes, turtles), and invertebrates (Bivalvia, Crustacea, Gastropoda) (Kelly et al. 1991; Paleobiology Database 2025). Given this fossil-producing history, the Sespe Formation is assigned high paleontological sensitivity.

The Rincon Shale is mapped less than 100 feet south of the Ojai East Tank site (Figure 7) and consists of early Miocene-aged shale and siltstone (Tan and Irvine 2005). The Rincon Shale has produced numerous invertebrate-bearing fossil localities (Paleobiology Database 2025). Given this fossil-producing history, Rincon Shale is assigned high paleontological sensitivity.

Ground-disturbing activities within previously undisturbed sediments with high or undetermined paleontological sensitivity could result in significant impacts to paleontological resources. Impacts would be significant if construction activities result in the destruction, damage, or loss of scientifically important paleontological resources and associated stratigraphic and paleontological data. Table 5 presents paleontological sensitivity and potential impacts to paleontological resources for each project component.

Table 5 Project Component and Paleontological Sensitivity

Project Component	Depth of Excavation/Activity	Underlying Geologic Formation	Impact
Private Drive Pipeline	10 feet, open-cut trenching	Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits (low paleontological sensitivity)	No impact due to low sensitivity and previous disturbance of sediments
Foothill Road Pipeline	10 feet, open-cut trenching	Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits (low paleontological sensitivity)	No impact due to low sensitivity and previous disturbance of sediments
Arbolada Tank	Grading	Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits (low paleontological sensitivity)	No impact due to low sensitivity and previous disturbance of sediments
Ojai East Tanks	Grading	Quaternary active alluvial fan deposits (low paleontological sensitivity)	No impact due to low sensitivity and previous disturbance of sediments
Ojai Water System Chloramine Conversion	10 feet, open-cut trenching for the proposed discharge line	Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits (low paleontological sensitivity)	No impact due to low sensitivity and previous disturbance of sediments
Arbolada Booster Pump Station	10 feet, excavation and grading	Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits (low paleontological sensitivity)	No impact due to low sensitivity and previous disturbance of sediments

As discussed in Table 5, none of the proposed activities are expected to impact previously undisturbed sediments with high or undetermined paleontological sensitivity. Nonetheless, trenching for the new pipelines in Foothill Road and Private Drive may reach the transition depth at which Quaternary active alluvial valley deposits become old enough to preserve paleontological resources. Since this 10-foot-deep transition depth was an estimate, it is possible, though unlikely, sediments old enough to contain paleontological resources could be impacted. Therefore, impacts to paleontological resources would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measure

GEO-1 Unanticipated Fossil Discovery

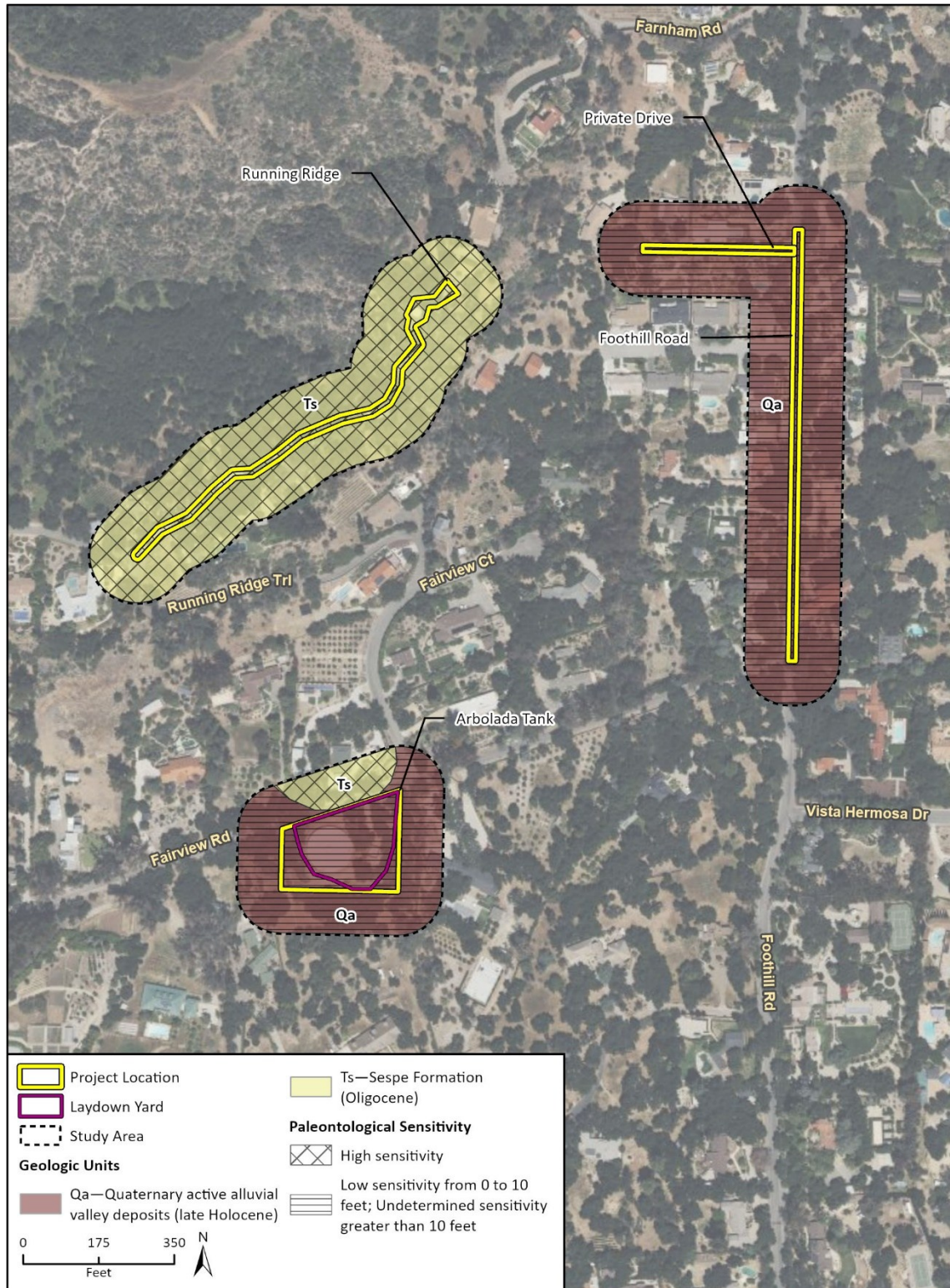
Casitas shall include a standard inadvertent discovery clause in every construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement. If a potential fossil is discovered during project construction, construction activity within 50 feet of the find shall cease until the discovery is examined by a Qualified Professional Paleontologist. If the find is determined to be significant, the Qualified Professional Paleontologist shall direct all mitigation efforts related to paleontological resources consistent with the SVP (2010) standards, which may include, but are not limited to: paleontological monitoring; fossil salvage, preparation, and curation; and reporting to summarize the paleontological mitigation efforts.

Significance After Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1, which would require an unanticipated fossil discovery protocol in the event paleontological resources are discovered during construction, would reduce potential impacts to paleontological resources. With implementation of this mitigation measure, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

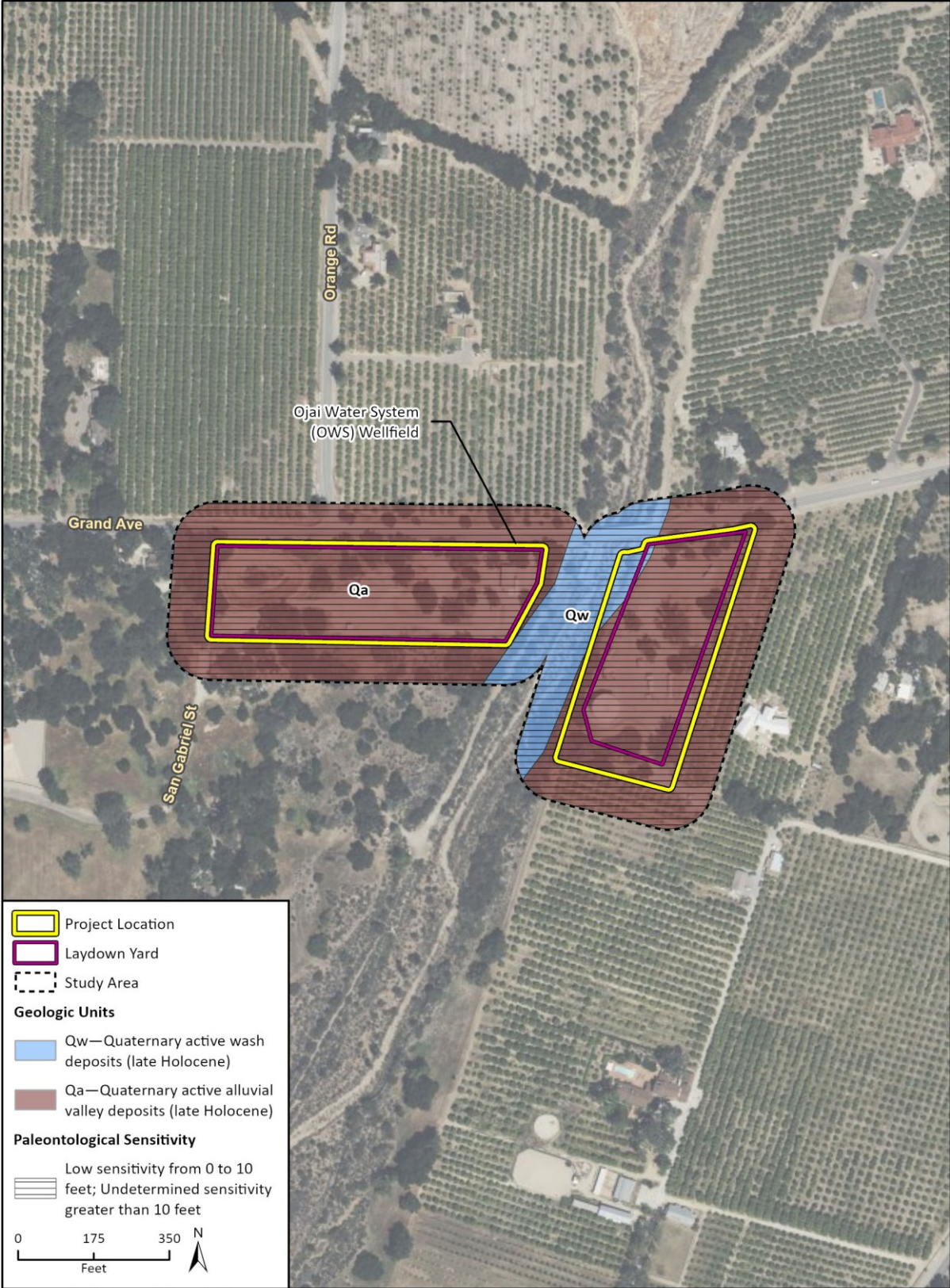
LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Figure 7 Geologic Map of the Project Site



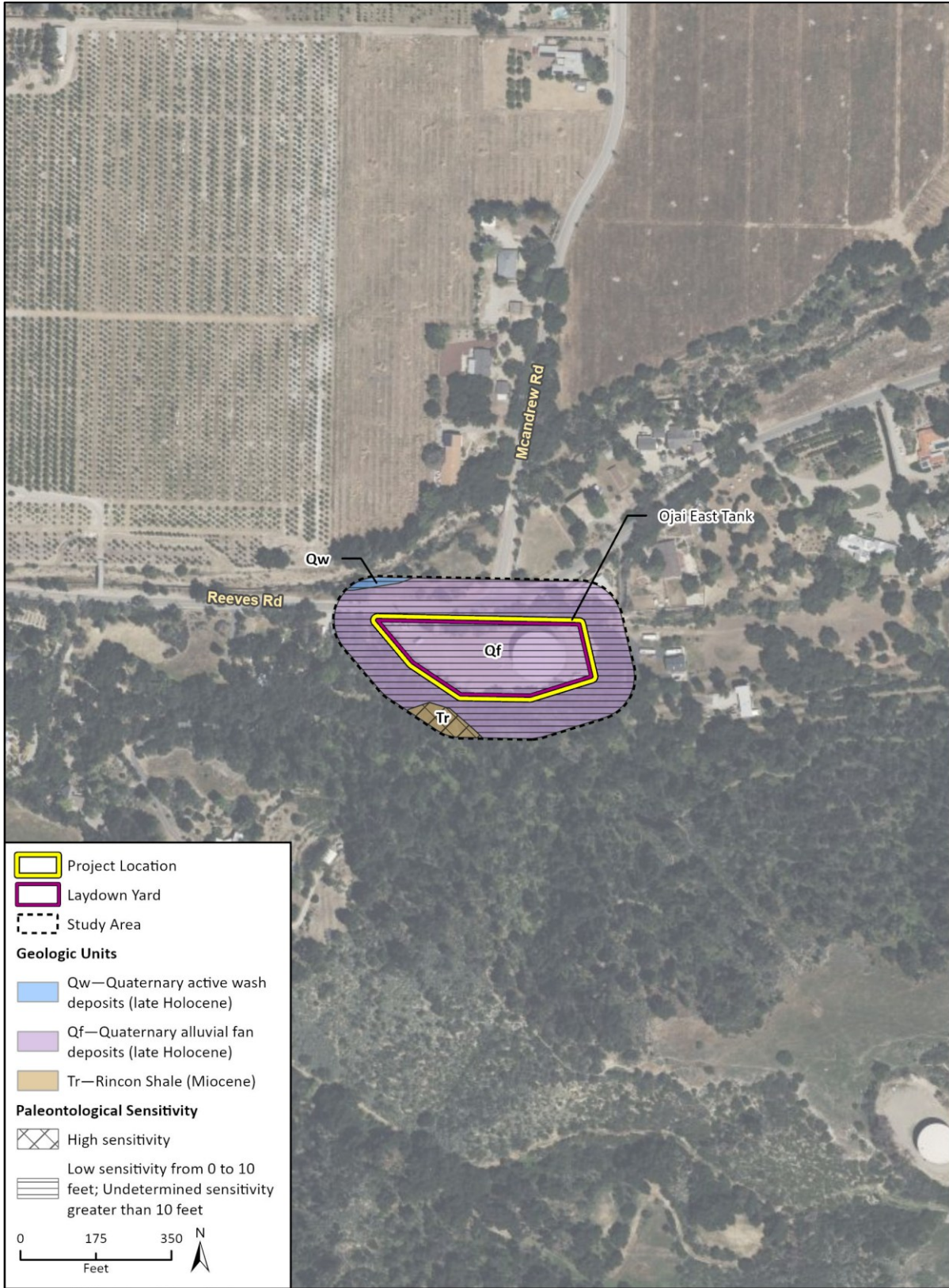
Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2025.
 Additional data provided by Tan and Irvine 2005; Tan and Jones 2006; Bedrossian et al. 2010.

24-16859 EPS
 Fig X Geology_1



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 Additional data provided by Tan and Irvine 2005; Tan and Jones 2006; Bedrossian et al. 2010. 24-16859 EPS
 Fig X Geology_2

Casitas Municipal Water District
Casitas-Ojai Water System Consolidation Project



Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2025.
 Additional data provided by Tan and Irvine 2005; Tan and Jones 2006; Bedrossian et al. 2010.

24-16859 EPS
 Fig X Geology_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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*
- b. *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

Climate change is the observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere and oceans along with other substantial changes in climate (such as wind patterns, precipitation, and storms) over an extended period. Climate change is the result of numerous, cumulative sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions contributing to the warming of Earth’s surface. GHG emissions occur both naturally and as a result of human activities, such as fossil fuel burning, decomposition of landfill wastes, raising livestock, deforestation, and some agricultural practices. GHGs produced by human activities include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

To date, Casitas and Ventura County have not adopted GHG thresholds of significance. In 2011, VCAPCD published *Greenhouse Gas Thresholds of Significance Options for Land Use Development Projects in Ventura County*, which identifies options for potential significance thresholds for GHG emissions, but has not yet adopted specific significance thresholds. In the absence of any adopted numeric threshold, the significance of the proposed project’s GHG emissions is evaluated consistent with *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.4(b) by considering whether the proposed project complies with applicable plans, policies, regulations, and requirements adopted to implement a statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions. Therefore, the significance of the proposed project’s potential impacts regarding GHG emissions and climate change is evaluated based on consistency with plans and polices adopted for the purposes of reducing GHG emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change. GHG emissions from the construction of the proposed project are provided for informational purposes. The applicable adopted regulatory plan to reduce GHG emissions is the County of Ventura 2040 General Plan, which serves as Ventura County’s Climate Action Plan (CAP). In addition, CARB’s 2022 Scoping Plan contains guidance on GHG-reduction; however, this guidance is related to transportation electrification, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction, and building decarbonization for operational residential and mixed-use

projects and therefore is not applicable to the proposed project (CARB 2022). Accordingly, the proposed project’s potential to conflict with a GHG reduction plan is based solely on its potential to conflict with the Ventura County 2040 General Plan.

GHG emissions associated with project construction were estimated using CalEEMod, as described in Item 3(b) in Section 3, *Air Quality*. As described therein, emissions associated with long-term project operation and maintenance would remain unchanged from existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed project’s operational emissions are not quantified and are rather discussed qualitatively. Construction emissions were amortized over the proposed project’s estimated 30-year lifetime because construction emissions are confined to a relatively short period of time in relation to the overall life of the proposed project. Table 6 shows the proposed project’s estimated construction emissions amortized over a 30-year project lifetime.

Table 6 Estimated Construction GHG Emissions

Project Component	Project Emissions (metric tons CO₂e)
Foothill Road Pipeline	46
Private Drive Pipeline	21
Arbolada Tank Demolition	109
Running Ridge Tank Abandonment	233
Ojai East Tank Rehabilitation and Construction	170
OWS Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion	153
Total	732
Total Amortized over 30 Years	24.4 per year

CO₂e = carbon dioxide equivalent; OWS = Ojai Water System
 Carbon dioxide equivalent is a metric used to compare the emissions of various greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential relative to carbon dioxide.
 See Appendix A for CalEEMod worksheets.

As shown in Table 6, construction would generate a total of approximately 732 metric tons, or 24.4 metric tons per year of CO₂ equivalent amortized over a 30-year period. GHG emissions from construction would be short-term in nature, lasting only for the duration of the construction period, and would not represent a long-term source of GHG emissions. Operational GHG emissions would remain the same as existing conditions.

Appendix B, Climate Change, of the County’s 2040 General Plan identifies a goal of promoting water efficiency, resiliency, and conservation for the purposes of GHG emissions reduction. The purpose of the proposed project is to address insufficient storage capacity in the OWS and provide compatible water treatment capabilities to the Casitas and OWS water systems, thereby increasing the overall efficiency and resiliency of the local water supply system. Accordingly, the proposed project would be consistent with the County of Ventura’s 2040 General Plan. Therefore, the proposed project’s impact related to conflicts with an applicable GHG reduction plan would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located in 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

Construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase the transport and use of hazardous materials at the project site through the operation of vehicles and equipment, consistent with other construction projects in the region. Such substances include diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and other similar materials brought onto the construction site for use and storage during the construction period. These materials would be contained within vessels specifically engineered for safe storage and would not be transported, stored, or used in quantities which would pose a significant hazard to the public or construction workers. Furthermore, project construction would require the excavation and transport of paving materials and soils which could possibly be contaminated by vehicle-related pollution (e.g., oil, gasoline, diesel, and other automotive chemicals). All such paving and soils removed during construction would be transported and disposed of in accordance with applicable codes and regulations to minimize potential hazards to construction workers and the surrounding community.

Operation of the proposed project would involve the maintenance of water infrastructure and would not require the use, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

The use, transport, and storage of hazardous materials during construction of the proposed project (e.g., diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and other similar materials) could introduce the potential for an accidental spill or release to occur. As discussed under Item 9(a), operation and maintenance of the project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, potential impacts are limited to the construction period.

The presence of hazardous materials during project construction activities could result in an accidental upset or release of hazardous materials if they are not properly stored and secured. However, hazardous materials used during project construction would be disposed of off-site in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Additionally, the proposed project would adhere to BMPs required by the SWPPP, which include hazardous material management measures. Therefore, construction impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- c. *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?*

The nearest school to the project site is Topa Topa Elementary School, located approximately 0.8 mile northwest of the OWS Wellfield site. Therefore, the proposed project would not handle hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. *Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous material 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?*

Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency to develop an updated Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List, also known as the Cortese List. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is responsible for a portion of the information contained in the Cortese List; other state and local government agencies are also required to provide additional hazardous material release information for the Cortese List. The analysis for this section included a review of the following resources on May 21, 2025, to provide hazardous material release information:

- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database (SWRCB 2025a)
- DTSC EnviroStor database (DTSC 2025)

Based upon review of these databases, there are no hazardous material sites mapped at, adjacent to, or within 1,000 feet of the project site. Therefore, the project would not be located on a site included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- e. *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public or private airport (Ventura County Airport Land Use Commission 2000). The nearest airport is the Santa Paula Airport, approximately 10 miles southwest of the Ojai East Tank site. As a result, the proposed project would have no impact related to safety hazards for people residing or working in the project area due to proximity to an airport.

NO IMPACT

- f. *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would require temporary lane closures which could impede emergency response or emergency evacuation. Casitas would implement standard traffic controls to minimize impacts to the traveling public and potential emergency evacuation routes. A segment of the Foothill Road pipeline alignment would require flagger-controlled traffic controls, and a minimum of one lane of traffic in each direction would be open during project construction. Open-cut trenching activities and paving and ground restoration activities would be mobile and constantly moving in a linear path along the pipeline alignment. Thus, lane closures would only affect one specific area of the project's alignment for a short period of time.

As discussed in Section 17, *Transportation*, the project would also implement traffic control plans, where necessary, to detour traffic lanes around the work area. Project operation and maintenance would not impede or interfere with emergency plans. Impacts related to emergency response plans and emergency evacuation plans during project construction would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?*

As discussed in detail in Section 20, *Wildfire*, the Private Drive, Foothill Road, and Running Ridge sites are located in State Responsibility Areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection [CAL FIRE] 2024). The Ojai East Tank site is located directly adjacent to a State Responsibility Area designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2024).

Project construction would involve the use of heavy equipment and machinery at the project site, including within or adjacent to areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. However, the project would comply with regulations related to fire hazards and wildfire safety, including mandatory use of spark arrestors (PRC Section 4442), maintenance of fire suppression equipment during the highest fire danger period (PRC Section 4428), and adherence to standards for conducting construction activities on days when a burning permit is required (PRC Sections 4427 and 4431). Therefore, although portions of the project site are located within an area susceptible to wildfire, the proposed project would not increase fire risks at the project site or surrounding areas. Potential construction impacts associated with wildland fire would be less than significant.

Following the completion of project construction, operational activities would be similar to existing conditions, and the new infrastructure would be designed in accordance with the California Building Code, which includes provisions for fire-resistant construction materials. Project operational activities would be associated with the ongoing maintenance of water supply infrastructure, and would not include additional operational or maintenance activities beyond existing conditions which could pose a substantial risk of wildfire ignition. No operational impact would occur.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

Excavation, grading, and other activities associated with construction of the proposed project would result in soil disturbance which could cause water quality violations through potential erosion and subsequent sedimentation of receiving water bodies. Indirect impacts from construction materials stored onsite, such as stockpiled materials, construction equipment, and trash, could adversely affect water quality. Both direct and indirect impacts to water quality may include increased turbidity, altered pH, or decreased dissolved oxygen levels within San Antonio Creek if runoff occurs during storm events.

The proposed project would require coverage under the Construction General Permit and development and implementation of a SWPPP. The SWPPP would minimize the amount of sediment and other pollutants associated with the construction site discharged in stormwater runoff. Additionally, Casitas would obtain coverage under NPDES Permit No. CAG994004 (Discharges of Groundwater from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties), which would require extracted groundwater (if dewatering is required) to be treated to remove pollutants (e.g., sediments, metals, hydrocarbons) before it is discharged.

As such, the proposed project would be consistent with water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. As discussed in the impact analyses for Section 7, *Geology and Soils*, and Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, implementation of SWPPP BMPs would reduce the extent of sedimentation and hazardous materials entering San Antonio Creek. However, indirect impacts to water quality due to the proximity to San Antonio Creek may nevertheless occur, and would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measure

BIO-4 Jurisdictional Waters Avoidance and Minimization

Refer to Item 4(c) in Environmental Checklist Section 4, *Biological Resources*.

Significance after Mitigation

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 includes best management practices to reduce potential indirect impacts to water quality within San Antonio Creek. With implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts to water quality would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- b. *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

In September 2014, the California Legislature enacted comprehensive legislation aimed at strengthening local control and management of groundwater basins throughout the state. Known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the legislation provides a framework for sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local authorities, with a limited role for State intervention when necessary to protect the resource. The project site overlies the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin, which is designated as a “high priority” basin and is managed by the Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency (Ojai Basin Groundwater Management Agency 2022).

The project would involve abandonment, rehabilitation, and construction of water infrastructure for the purpose of storing and distributing potable water. The proposed project would not introduce a demand for groundwater supplies. If groundwater dewatering is required during construction based on site conditions, the project would adhere to applicable rules and regulations related to discharge. Depending on the quality of the dewatered groundwater, water may be discharged to an existing retention pond at the OWS Wellfield site or at the San Antonio Pump Plant and allowed to percolate into the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin. The volume of dewatered groundwater expected to be encountered during construction would be minimal and not sufficient to impede sustainable groundwater management. Potential impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- c.(i) Would the project 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 result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*
- c.(ii) Would the project 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 substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*
- c.(iii) Would the project 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 that would 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?*

The proposed project would not alter the course of a stream or river and would not introduce substantial new impervious surfaces resulting in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding on or off the site. Construction of the new pipelines would not increase impervious surfaces because the pipelines would be installed under existing roadways. The new treatment system, tank, and pump station would occur on sites with existing infrastructure and would not substantially change the drainage characteristics of these sites. After construction, the drainage pattern at the project site would be similar to pre-construction conditions.

In addition, as discussed for Item 10(a), the project would not result in water quality degradation as the project would not introduce a permanent source of polluted runoff. The proposed project would not exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems and would not provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- c.(iv) Would the project 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 impede or redirect flood flows?*

Most of the project site is located outside of a flood hazard area. The OWS Wellfield site is located within Zone AE (defined as an area subject to inundation by the one percent annual chance flood), and the Ojai East Tank site is located within Zone AE and Zone B (defined as an area between the limits of the 100-year and 500-year floods) (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2014 and 2021).

As discussed for Items 10(c.i) through 10(c.iii), potential impacts related to drainage pattern alterations from the proposed project would be less than significant. The proposed project would not substantially alter existing drainage patterns at the project site or in the surrounding area. The proposed pipeline at the OWS Wellfield site would be located underground and would not impede or redirect flood flows. The proposed treatment system improvements at the OWS Wellfield site, as well as the new tank at the Ojai East Tank site, would not impede or redirect flood flows as the sites are already developed with existing water infrastructure (thus the project would not include a new encroachment into a floodplain) and the project would not include substantial grading or alteration of flow paths to the point where flows would be redirected when compared to existing conditions. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

The project site is located approximately 12 miles inland and is not in a tsunami inundation zone (California Department of Conservation 2025b). The nearest large surface water body is Lake Casitas, located approximately 5.2 miles southwest of the project site. The project site is not within a seiche inundation zone, given the distance of the project site to Lake Casitas and intervening topography. Portions of the project site at the OWS Wellfield and Ojai East Tank sites are located in Special Flood Hazard Areas as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Federal Emergency Management Agency 2014 and 2021).

An extreme flood event could inundate the OWS Wellfield and Ojai East Tank sites. However, chemical treatment facilities at the OWS Wellfield site would include secondary containment designed to catch leaks or spills from the primary tank, and would be anchored to a concrete pad. These project design features would reduce the potential for the release of pollutants in the unlikely event the OWS Wellfield site is inundated. The proposed improvements at the Ojai East Tank site would not involve construction or installation of any structures or facilities using, processing, or storing pollutants which could be released in the event of inundation. Therefore, the proposed project would not risk release of pollutants due to inundation. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

e. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

The project site is under the jurisdiction of RWQCB Region 4 (Los Angeles Region). The RWQCB provides permits for projects potentially affecting surface waters and groundwater locally, and is responsible for preparing the Water Quality Control Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses of water in the region and establishes narrative and numerical water quality objectives. The State has developed total maximum daily loads (also called TMDLs), which are a calculation of the maximum amount of pollutants a water body can have and still meet water quality objectives established by the region. San Antonio Creek, which is located adjacent to the OWS Wellfield site, is listed as impaired for nitrogen, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, and other pollutants (SWRCB 2024a). With adherence to the requirements of the Construction General Permit and NPDES Permit No. CAG994004 (Discharges of Groundwater from Construction and Project Dewatering to Surface Waters in Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties), impacts to water quality within

San Antonio Creek from construction and operation of the proposed project would be reduced. Nevertheless, water quality impairments may still occur during construction activities, and this impact would be potentially significant.

The project would not increase groundwater extraction rights nor result in groundwater extraction beyond the historical baseline and, therefore, would not obstruct implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Ojai Valley Groundwater Basin.

Mitigation Measure

BIO-4 Jurisdictional Waters Avoidance and Minimization

Refer to Item 4(c) in Environmental Checklist Section 4, *Biological Resources*.

Significance after Mitigation

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 includes best management practices to reduce potential indirect impacts to water quality within San Antonio Creek. With implementation of these mitigation measures, impacts involving conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

The proposed project would consist of water infrastructure improvements located within paved roadways (e.g., new pipelines) and located on sites currently containing water infrastructure (e.g., new tank, rehabilitated tank, and new pump station). The presence of construction-related equipment and workers would temporarily change the existing character of the vicinity to a construction zone. However, construction staging would maintain local access for residences along the proposed pipeline alignments and other project components to the extent practicable throughout short-term construction of the proposed project. The proposed project would not have the potential to divide an established community. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

b. Would the project 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?

Per California Government Code Section 53091, building and zoning ordinances of a county or city do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, storage, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency. Nonetheless, the proposed project has been evaluated for consistency with applicable land use plans and policies adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects.

The project supports the goals and policies of both the Ventura County 2040 General Plan (2020d) and Ojai General Plan (1987), particularly those related to water supply reliability and water infrastructure. Applicable goals and policies include:

City of Ojai

- **Policy:** The City shall ensure that adequate supplies of water be available to all City residents and uses requiring water.

- **Program:** Coordination between the City and all water agencies and companies shall be maintained, and the City shall work together with any involved entities to enhance the quality and quantity of water in the Ojai Valley.
- **Policy:** The City shall identify the sources and availability of water, flood potential, and sources of potential damage to the City's water supply and quality in order to maintain the optimum quality of water in the City and its watershed.

County of Ventura

- **Policy WR-1.8: Water Supplier Consolidation.** The County shall encourage the consolidation of water suppliers where necessary to ensure all residents are receiving water of adequate quality and quantity, to promote management efficiencies, and to encourage sharing of local resources and enhancement of managerial and technical expertise and capacity.

The proposed project would integrate the OWS with the Casitas Water System to address insufficient storage capacity in the OWS and provide compatible water treatment to both systems. Thus, the proposed project would directly further these policies related to provision of adequate water supplies to Ojai residents, enhancement of water quality and quantity for Ojai residents, and consolidation of water suppliers to ensure all Ventura County residents receive water of adequate quality and quantity.

There would be no conflicts with land use plans, policies, or regulations of the City of Ojai or County of Ventura. Therefore, the project would not 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. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

12 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project:

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project 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. *Would the project 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?*

Mineral resources in Ventura County consist of aggregate resources, more commonly known as construction grade sand and gravel, as well as petroleum resources in the form of oil and gas deposits. The project site is located within Mineral Resource Zone 1 (defined as an area where adequate geologic information indicates no significant mineral deposits are present), Mineral Resource Zone 3 (defined as an area containing known mineral deposits, which may qualify as mineral resources), and Mineral Resource Zone 4 (defined as an area where geologic information does not rule out either the presence or absence of mineral resources) (County of Ventura 2020a).

The proposed project would not involve mineral extraction or changes in land use affecting the availability of mineral resources. Furthermore, the proposed project would involve water infrastructure upgrades at existing infrastructure facility sites, and would not develop new areas where mineral resources may be present. The proposed project would not require a supply of mineral resources beyond sand and gravel used to conduct road resurfacing and provide fill materials. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or a locally important mineral resource recovery site. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project result in 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?*

Overview of Noise

Noise levels are commonly measured in decibels (dB) using the A-weighted sound pressure level (dBA). The A-weighting scale is an adjustment to the actual sound pressure levels so they are consistent with the human hearing response. The equivalent noise level (L_{eq}) is one of the most frequently used noise metrics; it considers both duration and sound power level. The L_{eq} is defined as the single steady-state A-weighted sound level equal to the average sound energy over a time period. When no time period is specified, a 1-hour period is assumed. The L_{max} is the highest noise level within the sampling period.

Threshold of Significance

Noise exposure goals for various types of land uses reflect the varying noise sensitivities associated with those uses and their associated sensitive receivers. Pursuant to Policy HAZ-9.2 of the County's 2040 General Plan, construction noise must be evaluated in accordance with the County's *Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan* (County of Ventura 2020c). The County's *Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan* implements a daytime construction noise threshold criteria of either a 55 dBA L_{eq} or an ambient L_{eq} plus 3 dB hourly noise level, whichever is

greater (County of Ventura 2020c). Based on the *Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan*, the following land uses are considered sensitive receivers for noise (County of Ventura 2010):

- Hospitals and nursing homes are considered noise-sensitive receivers at all times.
- Single-family and multi-family residences are considered noise-sensitive receivers from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.
- Hotels and motels are considered noise-sensitive receivers from 7:00 pm to 7:00 am.
- Schools, churches, and libraries are considered noise-sensitive receivers when in use from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm.

The closest sensitive receivers to the project site include:

- Single-family residences located adjacent to the Private Drive and Foothill Road sites;
- Single-family residences located approximately 60 feet east, 125 feet southwest, and 40 feet north of the Arbolada Tank site;
- Single-family residences within the Running Ridge site;
- A single-family residence adjacent to the Ojai East Tank site; and
- A single-family residence located approximately 100 feet east of the OWS Wellfield site.

There are no hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, motels, schools, churches, or libraries within 0.25 mile of the project site. Construction of the proposed project would occur from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and therefore would not take place during the time of day in which the County considers residential uses to be noise-sensitive. Therefore, these criteria are not applicable to the proposed project.

Article 11 of the Ventura County Code of Ordinances prohibits loud or raucous noise within any residential zone which is audible to the human ear during the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. at a distance of 50 feet from the property line of the noise source or 50 feet from any such noise source if the source is in a public right-of-way. While the ordinance indicates “loud or raucous noise” can include operation of riding tractors or other mechanical or electrical devices or hand tools, which could be used during construction activities, Section 6299-2(a) exempts any government entity or public utility, such as Casitas, from the provisions of the ordinance. Accordingly, these criteria are not applicable to the proposed project.

Chapter 5-11 of the City of Ojai’s Municipal Code enforces noise regulations, including a 55 dB and 45 dB daytime and nighttime noise standard, respectively, for residential areas and a 65 dB and 55 dB daytime and nighttime noise standard, respectively, for commercial and industrial areas. However, Section 5-11.05(c) of the City of Ojai’s Municipal Code exempts construction activities occurring between 7:00 am and 5:00 pm. Construction of the proposed project would occur from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm and therefore would take place within the City-approved timeframe for construction noise. Accordingly, the City’s quantitative noise thresholds are inapplicable to the proposed project.

Construction Noise

Construction activities would generate temporary noise, exposing sensitive receptors to increased noise levels from the use of construction equipment. Each phase of construction has a specific equipment mix and associated noise characteristics, depending on the equipment used. For assessment purposes, construction noise for each project component was estimated using the Federal Highway Administration’s Roadway Construction Noise Model. Each phase was modeled

assuming the five loudest pieces of construction equipment for each project component would operate simultaneously. Construction equipment was derived from an equipment list provided by Casitas.

Typical construction projects have long-term noise averages which are lower than louder short-term noise events due to equipment moving from one point to another on the site, work breaks, and idle time. Additionally, due to the dynamic nature of a construction site, noise levels for stationary construction are calculated from the center of the activity. Thus, noise levels generated at the Arbolada Tank site, Running Ridge site, Ojai East Tank site, and OWS Wellfield site are calculated from the center of each of the construction locations.

Construction noise levels at the Private Drive and Foothill Road sites are evaluated based on the distance from the centerline of these roadways to the adjacent residences. Multiple single-family residences are present adjacent to both Private Drive and Foothill Road, and as pipeline construction progresses and construction equipment is moved, construction would expose adjacent residences to varying construction noise levels depending the portion of the pipelines being constructed. To conservatively calculate construction noise levels at these residences, construction noise levels are presented based on the closest distance to a residence the construction equipment would operate. However, the overall noise exposure for an individual residence would vary as construction moves along the pipeline alignments. Construction noise levels for the proposed project are presented in Table 7.

Table 7 Construction Noise Levels

Project Component	Nearest Receptor (feet) ¹	dBA L _{eq} 8-hour	Jurisdiction
Private Drive Pipeline ²	10	99.9	Ventura County
Foothill Road Pipeline ²	10	101.2	Ventura County and City of Ojai
Arbolada Tank and BPS ³	40	79.1	City of Ojai
Running Ridge Tank ³	10	77.4	Ventura County
Ojai East Tank ³	10	75.2	Ventura County
OWS Wellfield Chloramine Conversion ³	100	73.7	City of Ojai

¹ Distances are to the property line of the nearest receptors

² The noise values for Private Drive and Foothill Road pipelines are based on the closest distance to a residence construction equipment would operate.

³ The noise values for Arbolada Tank and BPS, Running Ridge Tank, Ojai East Tank, and OWS Wellfield Chloramine Conversion are based on distances from the center of construction to the nearest receptor.

dBA = A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level; BPS = booster pump station; OWS = Ojai Water System

Source: Appendix B

Construction noise impacts at residences near the Private Drive and Foothill Road sites would be temporary and short-term because construction would be continuously moving along the pipeline alignments. Similarly, construction noise impacts at residences proximate to the Arbolada Tank site, Running Ridge Tank site, Ojai East Tank site, and OWS Wellfield site would be temporary in nature and limited to the duration of construction activities at each location. Pursuant to the County's *Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan*, residential uses are not considered sensitive noise receivers between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm. Project construction would occur between 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. As such, the proposed project's construction activities would not result in substantial noise at a sensitive receiver.

In addition, because no hospitals, nursing homes, hotels, motels, schools, churches, or libraries are located within 0.25 mile of the project site, construction noise would not exceed the County’s quantitative noise threshold for daytime construction activities at these receivers. As previously described, the City exempts construction activities from its noise thresholds between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm. Therefore, project construction activities would be exempt from the City’s noise thresholds.

Given the temporary nature of construction noise, construction of the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact related to temporary increases in ambient noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance.

Operational Noise

The Private Drive and Foothill Road pipelines would not generate operational noise. The Arbolada Tank would be demolished and the Running Ridge tanks would be abandoned and therefore would not generate operational noise. The Arbolada Tank site BPS would replace the existing Arbolada BPS and therefore would not introduce additional noise associated with BPS infrastructure. The new and rehabilitated tanks at the Ojai East Tank site would be used for water storage and would not generate additional permanent operational noise. The OWS Wellfield Chloramine Conversion would not generate substantial additional permanent noise on site as the ammonia tanks would be used for storage and the new dosing pumps are a negligible source of operational noise. Operational trips associated with maintenance of the infrastructure would be the same as under existing conditions and therefore no additional vehicle noise during operation would be generated. Therefore, project operation would not generate substantial on-site operational noise levels at the nearest sensitive receptors, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Groundborne vibration consists of oscillatory waves moving through the ground from a source to adjacent buildings or structures. The primary concern from vibration comes from its potential to cause structural damage. Typically, groundborne vibration generated by manmade activities attenuates rapidly as distance from the source of the vibration increases. For the purposes of this analysis, vibration amplitudes are expressed in peak particle velocity (PPV) and described in inches per second (in/sec). PPV is often used as it corresponds to the stresses experienced by buildings. For the purposes of this analysis, the vibration thresholds outlined in the Federal Transit Administration’s Transit Noise and Vibration Assessment Manual are utilized, which are shown in Table 8.

Table 8 Groundborne Vibration Architectural Damage Thresholds

Building Category	PPV (in/sec)
I. Reinforced concrete, steel, or timber (no plaster)	0.5
II. Engineered concrete and masonry (no plaster)	0.3
III. Nonengineered timber and masonry buildings	0.2
IV. Buildings extremely susceptible to vibration damage	0.12

in/sec = inches per second; PPV = peak particle velocity

Source: Federal Transit Administration 2018

The greatest sources of vibration during construction activities would be the use of a vibratory roller during construction of the Private Drive and Foothill Road pipelines, which could be used as close as 15 feet to existing structures. At 15 feet, a vibratory roller would result in a vibration level of 0.45 PPV in/sec, which would exceed the Federal Transit Administration's construction vibration damage criteria threshold of 0.2 PPV in/sec for non-engineered timber and masonry buildings. This threshold is used as the criteria to evaluate residential structures (Federal Transit Administration 2018; Appendix B). Accordingly, use of a vibratory roller on Private Drive and Foothill Road could result in a potentially significant impact related to the generation of groundborne vibration.

Construction at other portions of the project site would not require use of a vibratory roller and would occur at greater distances to existing structures than construction at Private Drive and Foothill Road. The next closest distance construction equipment could operate to a structure is at the Ojai East Tank site, where construction equipment could operate as close as 25 feet to existing residences. At 25 feet, heavy-duty construction equipment such as a large bulldozer used at the Ojai East Tank site could result in a vibration level of 0.089 PPV in/sec which would not exceed Federal Transit Administration thresholds (Federal Transit Administration 2018; Appendix B). Other non-vibratory roller heavy-duty construction equipment would result in similar or lesser vibration levels compared to a large bulldozer. Therefore, at locations other than Private Drive and Foothill Road, vibration impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

NOI-1 Groundborne Vibration Reduction

To reduce vibration levels generated at structures on contiguous parcels to the Private Drive and Foothill Road sites, the following measure shall be implemented during construction of the Private Drive and Foothill Road pipelines:

- Construction activities using a roller shall be conducted with a static or pneumatic roller in lieu of a vibratory roller.

This measure shall be shown within the construction contract for the project and reviewed by the construction contractor prior to the start of construction. Casitas shall verify the construction contractor has implemented this requirement prior to the start of excavation activities and prior to the start of paving activities at the Private Drive and Foothill Road sites by confirming the construction equipment meets the above requirements.

Significance After Mitigation

Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would require construction at Private Drive and Foothill Road to utilize a static or pneumatic roller in lieu of a vibratory roller. Static rollers rely on the weight of the machine itself to exert pressure and compact materials instead of vibrations like a vibratory roller, and therefore static rollers result in minor vibration levels. Pneumatic equipment, which uses air for compaction, does not provide a substantial source of groundborne vibration (California Department of Transportation 2020). With implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1, groundborne vibration levels at Private Drive and Foothill Road would be minimized and impacts related to groundborne vibration during construction would be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- 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?*

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public or private airport (Ventura County Airport Land Use Commission 2000). The nearest airport is the Santa Paula Airport, located approximately 10 miles southwest of the Ojai East Tank site. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people working in the project area to excessive noise levels due to proximity to an airport. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project:

a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a. *Would the project 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)?*

The proposed project does not propose construction of new homes or businesses and would therefore not directly induce population growth in the Ojai and Ventura County areas.

Although the proposed project would expand the conveyance capacity of existing water infrastructure by increasing the diameter of the pipelines currently serving existing customers and adding new ancillary features, such as a tank and pump station, the purpose of the water infrastructure improvements is to address insufficient storage capacity in the OWS and provide compatible water treatment to both the Casitas and Ojai systems. The project would not result in the acquisition of additional water supplies and would not expand service beyond areas presently served by the existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the pipelines, pump station, and tanks would be maintained by existing Casitas employees and would not indirectly induce population growth as a result of new employment opportunities. Therefore, the project would not indirectly support population growth. No impact related to population growth would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

The proposed project would primarily be constructed within existing roadways and existing Casitas-owned properties and does not include any features with potential to displace any existing housing or people. No impact would occur

NO IMPACT

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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, or the 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:				
1 Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2 Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3 Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5 Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a.1-5. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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 fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and/or other public facilities?*

The proposed project does not include any features or facilities requiring additional or unusual fire or police protection resources. It is expected construction workers would be local to the city of Ojai and the surrounding area, and as discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 14, *Population and Housing*, project construction and operation would not generate new population growth. The existing Casitas workforce would operate the proposed project. The proposed project would not change existing demand for public services because population growth would not result from construction of the proposed project, thus, the proposed project would not result in a commensurate increase in demand for public services. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- 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?*

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 14, *Population and Housing*, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly support population growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities so as to cause or accelerate a substantial physical deterioration of the facility. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- 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?*

The proposed project does not propose recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of any recreational facilities. As such, no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a. *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*

Local access to the project site would be provided by Foothill Road, Fairview Road, Grand Avenue, and Reeves Road. There are no dedicated bicycle facilities, pedestrian sidewalks, or transit stops located on roadways within or adjacent to the project site. The proposed project involves construction and operation of potable water infrastructure which would not conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs addressing the circulation system, including public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. The proposed pipeline alignments would be placed along existing roadways and in public rights-of-way; and infrastructure improvements, such as the new pump station and tank, would be located on sites with existing water system infrastructure.

Full street closures during project construction would not be necessary, as the pipeline trench would be on one side of the street. Traffic control would be set up to allow one travel lane with flaggers to maintain vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the greatest extent practicable during construction while maintaining worker and public safety. As discussed in Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, open-cut trenching activities and paving and ground restoration activities would be mobile and constantly moving in a linear path along the pipeline alignment. Thus, lane closures would only affect one specific area of the project’s alignment for a short period of time. Anticipated construction-related vehicle trips include construction workers traveling to and from the project work areas, haul trucks (including for import and export of excavated materials, as needed), and other trucks associated with equipment and material deliveries. Because construction is a short-term activity, and impacts to existing roadways during pipeline construction would move as work progresses along the pipeline corridor, construction-related traffic impacts would not be substantial. Roadways would be restored to match the surrounding road type once construction is complete. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact involving conflict with a

program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?*

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) identifies criteria for evaluating transportation impacts and states vehicle miles traveled (VMT) exceeding a specific threshold may indicate a significant impact. A VMT calculation is typically conducted on a daily or annual basis to determine operational usage of a project. In accordance with Section 15064.3(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, a lead agency may include a qualitative analysis of operational and construction traffic. Casitas has not adopted VMT thresholds.

As discussed under Item 17(a), traffic on local roadways may be temporarily increased during project construction due to the presence of construction vehicles and equipment. Increases in VMT from construction would be short-term and temporary. Following the completion of construction activities, operation and maintenance activities would be infrequent and would not substantially contribute to VMT along project roadways. Therefore, because VMT from construction would be temporary and limited to the active construction period, and operation and maintenance activities would be negligible, no impact associated with VMT would occur and the proposed project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b).

NO IMPACT

- c. *Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?*

The proposed project would not introduce new roadway design features or land uses incompatible with the surrounding area. The project would not involve reconfiguration of any roadways or intersections resulting in a substantial increase in traffic hazards. Pipeline construction activities would require temporary lane closures; however, standard traffic controls would minimize the potential for construction-related traffic hazards. As such, the project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible use, and no impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

Emergency access to the project site would be maintained throughout construction and operation. A segment of the Foothill Road pipeline alignment would require flagger-controlled traffic controls, and a minimum of one lane of traffic in each direction would be open during project construction. As discussed in Section 9, *Hazardous and Hazardous Materials*, Casitas would implement standard traffic controls to minimize impacts to the traveling public and potential emergency evacuation routes. Therefore, although temporary lane closures during project construction would be necessary, emergency access would be maintained at all times.

Project operation and maintenance would not introduce new activities or traffic with the potential to result in inadequate emergency access, and the proposed project would not increase demand for emergency services along the project alignment. The proposed project would have a less than significant impact regarding inadequate emergency access.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in a Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or 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:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. 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)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. 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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

On July 1, 2015, Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) was enacted, expanding CEQA by defining a new resource category, “tribal cultural resources” (PRC Section 21074). As noted in PRC Section 21084.2, “a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment.”. PRC Section 21084.3 further states the lead agency shall avoid damaging effects to tribal cultural resources and develop mitigation measures to avoid or minimize significant adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, when feasible.

PRC Sections 21074 (a)(1)(A-B) and 21074(a)(2) define tribal cultural resources as “sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe” and are:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k); or

2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1(c). In applying these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

AB 52 also established a formal consultation process for California Native American tribes regarding tribal cultural resources. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified or adopted. Under AB 52, lead agencies are required to “begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project.” Native American tribes to be included in the process are those who have previously requested in writing to be notified of projects proposed in the jurisdiction of the lead agency and who request consultation on a project.

Casitas has not received written requests from California Native American tribes regarding notification of projects under AB 52. Therefore, no California Native American tribes required notification under AB 52, and AB 52 consultation was not conducted for the project.

- a. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 that is 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)?*
- b. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 that is 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?*

No tribal cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR or in a local register of historical resources were identified within the project site. In addition, no tribal cultural resources within or near the project site have been identified and determined by Casitas (the lead agency) to be significant. Therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in PRC Section 21074, which is listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k) or is a resource determined by Casitas (the lead agency), in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1(c). No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a. *Would the project 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?*

Water

The proposed project involves the construction of new water infrastructure, the environmental effects of which are analyzed in this IS-MND. The project would not increase Casitas' capacity to serve additional customers. As concluded by this IS-MND, the water facilities included in the proposed project would not cause unmitigable significant environmental effects. Consequently, no additional impact related to water facilities would occur.

Wastewater

The project would not require permanent on-site personnel and does not include the installation of restroom facilities. Therefore, no wastewater would be generated, and the project would not result in the construction or relocation of additional new or expanded wastewater facilities. Thus, no impact related to wastewater treatment would occur.

Stormwater Drainage

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the proposed pipelines would be constructed underground, and other proposed infrastructure would be located in developed areas. The proposed improvements would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff so as to exceed the capacity of existing or planned drainage systems or provide additional sources of polluted runoff. The proposed project would not result in substantial new impervious surfaces. Therefore, no impact related to stormwater drainage would occur.

Electric Power

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 6, *Energy*, the proposed project would not increase energy demands associated with the existing water infrastructure as the improvements would not involve an expansion of design capacity. Therefore, no new or relocated energy facilities would be required as a result of the proposed project. No impact related to electric power would occur.

Natural Gas

The project would not involve any components requiring natural gas service and is not anticipated to involve the relocation of existing natural gas facilities. Therefore, no impact related to natural gas facilities would occur.

Telecommunications

The project would not involve any components requiring telecommunications infrastructure and is not anticipated to involve the relocation of existing telecommunications facilities. Therefore, no impact related to telecommunications facilities would occur.

NO IMPACT

- b. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*

The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of potable water facilities. Project construction water requirements would be met via Casitas' existing supplies and facilities. The project would not increase overall water supply availability or result in increased water consumption. Therefore, no impact related to sufficiency of water supplies would occur.

NO IMPACT

- c. *Would the project 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?*

As discussed under Item 19(a), the project would not generate sanitary wastewater or otherwise contribute to an increase in wastewater treatment requirements. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- d. *Would the project 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. *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

E.J. Harrison and Sons provides waste and recycling services in the city of Ojai and the surrounding unincorporated areas of Ventura County. Solid waste is directed by E.J. Harrison and Sons to the Gold Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, a privately-operated diversion and recycling station. The remaining waste is then transferred to the Toland Road Landfill, a Class III landfill operated by the Ventura Regional Sanitation District. The Toland Road Landfill is located in Santa Paula, approximately 13 miles southeast of the project site. Toland Road Landfill accepts a variety of materials, including construction and demolition materials, agricultural waste, industrial waste, sludge (biosolids), and mixed municipal waste. According to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, the Toland Road Landfill has a permitted capacity of 30 million cubic yards and a maximum disposal capacity of 2,864 tons per day. As of December 2021, the remaining capacity at the landfill was approximately 7.6 million cubic yards. The landfill solid waste permit lists an estimated closure date of 2033 (CalRecycle 2025).

Construction activities may temporarily generate solid waste, such as from demolition of the existing Arbolada Tank and pump station, which would be disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local statutes and regulations. Local solid waste infrastructure has the capacity to accept solid waste generated by project construction activities. Once constructed, project operation would not generate solid waste. Therefore, the project would comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste. The project would not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. Potential impacts would therefore be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

The Private Drive, Foothill Road, and Running Ridge sites are located in State Responsibility Areas designated as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CAL FIRE 2024). The Ojai East Tank site is located directly adjacent to a State Responsibility Area designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CAL FIRE 2024).

The areas within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Private Drive, Foothill Road, and Running Ridge sites) are accessed via local roads including Foothill Road, Running Ridge Road, and a private driveway. These roads are not identified as primary or secondary evacuation routes in the Ventura County General Plan Safety Element or the City of Ojai Safety Element. Construction activities would be temporary and localized, and would not require full road closures. Traffic control measures (e.g., flaggers, signage) would be implemented as needed to maintain emergency access at all times.

During operation, the project would not introduce new structures or uses which could interfere with emergency response or evacuation.

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, and Environmental Checklist Section 17, *Transportation*, neither construction nor operation of the proposed project would impair or conflict with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan and the project would not permanently result in inadequate access for emergency response vehicles. However, construction activities would require temporary lane closures which could impede emergency response or emergency evacuation, and impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- b. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project, 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?*

As discussed under Item 20(a), portions of the project site are located within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, indicating slope, winds, and fuel availability around the project site create a high potential for fire, absent any fuel modification efforts.

The proposed project would consist of water infrastructure improvements within paved roadways and developed sites; however, areas adjacent to the project site could be characterized as grass-covered land. Construction of the proposed project would include the use of heavy-duty equipment. In accordance with PRC Section 4442, equipment including earth-moving and portable construction equipment with internal combustion engines would be equipped with spark arrestors to prevent the emission of flammable debris from exhaust, when operating on any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land. In addition, PRC Sections 4427 and 4431 specify standards for conducting construction activities on days when a burning permit is required, and PRC Section 4428 requires construction contractors to maintain fire suppression equipment during the highest fire danger period (April 1 to December 1) when operating on or near any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land. These measures are designed to prevent accidental ignition and facilitate rapid response in the event of a fire.

The project would not introduce habitable structures, permanent ignition sources, or land use changes which could increase long-term wildfire risk. Operation and maintenance activities would be infrequent and similar to existing conditions. Additionally, the project would not expose workers or the public to elevated pollutant concentrations from wildfire smoke, as no sensitive receptors would be located on site.

Therefore, with adherence to applicable fire safety regulations, the project would not exacerbate wildfire risk due to slope, wind, or fuel conditions. Impacts would be less than significant.

LESS-THAN-SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- c. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project 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. *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project 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?*

Portions of the project site are located within Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (CAL FIRE 2024).

The project would not require the construction of new roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities which could exacerbate fire risk. Upon completion of construction, the ground surface would generally be restored to pre-project conditions. Routine operation and maintenance activities would be limited in scope and would not introduce new ignition sources or exacerbate fire risk.

Construction would occur in relatively flat or gently sloping areas and would not disturb adjacent open space, steep hillsides, or natural drainage features. Additionally, as discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the proposed project would not alter existing drainage patterns or increase stormwater runoff. BMPs would be implemented to control erosion and sedimentation during construction. As such, the project would not expose people or structures to significant downslope or downstream flooding or landslide risks resulting from runoff or drainage changes. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

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21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than - Significant Impact	No Impact
Does the project:				
a. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?*

As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 4, *Biological Resources*, the project would 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, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. In addition, as discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 5, *Cultural Resources*, the project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. No impact would occur.

NO IMPACT

- 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)?*

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual (and potentially less than significant) project effects which, when considered together or in concert with other projects, combine to result in a significant impact within an identified geographic area. Cumulative development in the geographic area of the project site (defined as the Ojai Valley area) consists of pavement rehabilitation throughout the city of Ojai (City of Ojai 2025; County of Ventura 2024).

Project impacts are primarily temporary, localized effects that would occur during construction activities. As discussed throughout this IS-MND, the project would result in no impacts to agriculture and forestry resources, energy, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and tribal cultural resources, and therefore the project would not contribute to cumulative impacts to these resources. The potential for the project to contribute to cumulative impacts would be limited to project construction and infrequent operation and maintenance activities, and the following specific issue areas, for which the project is anticipated to have less than significant impacts (with or without mitigation):

- **Aesthetics:** Cumulative development in the region would consist of roadway repaving and would have limited potential to change the existing visual landscape. Additionally, there are no cumulative projects in the vicinity of the project site. The project would result in a small change to the current visual character of the project site through the addition of new infrastructure but would be substantially similar to what is present at the site currently. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to aesthetics would not be significant.
- **Air Quality:** Because the Basin is designated as being in nonattainment for the ozone NAAQS and CAAQS and PM₁₀ CAAQS, significant cumulative air quality impacts currently exist for these pollutants. As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 3, *Air Quality*, with implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1, the proposed project would not generate emissions of these air pollutants which exceed the VCAPCD significance thresholds, which are intended to assess whether a project’s contribution to existing cumulative air quality impacts is considerable. Therefore, the project’s contribution to significant cumulative air quality impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.
- **Biological Resources:** Cumulative development in the region have the potential to disturb areas with the potential to contain or provide habitat for biological resources. Discretionary cumulative development projects have undergone or would be required to undergo CEQA review, which would determine the extent of potential biological resources impacts and mitigate those impacts appropriately. If these cumulative projects would result in impacts to biological resources, impacts to such resources would be addressed on a case-by-case basis. However, cumulative impact to biological resources are potentially significant. The proposed project would be required to implement Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5, which would minimize impacts to special status species, aquatic habitat, and protected trees, such that the proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a potentially significant cumulative impact.
- **Cultural Resources:** As mentioned above, discretionary cumulative development projects have undergone or would be required to undergo CEQA review, which would determine the extent of potential cultural resources impacts. If cumulative projects would result in impacts to known or unknown cultural resources, impacts to such resources would be addressed on a case-by-case

basis. However, cumulative impact to cultural resources are potentially significant. The proposed project would be required to implement Mitigation Measure CUL-1, which would require unanticipated discovery protocols to protect cultural resources, such that the proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a potentially significant cumulative impact.

- **Geology and Soils:** Geologic impacts are typically site-specific and not cumulative in nature. However, cumulative development in the region have the potential to disturb areas that contain paleontological resources. As discussed above, discretionary cumulative development projects have undergone or would be required to undergo CEQA review, which would determine the extent of potential paleontological resources impacts and mitigate those impacts to the extent feasible. However, cumulative impact to paleontological resources are potentially significant. The proposed project would be required to implement Mitigation Measure GEO-1, which would require an unanticipated discovery protocol to protect paleontological resources, such that the proposed project would not have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a potentially significant cumulative impact.
- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** GHG emissions and climate change are, by definition, cumulative impacts. As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 8, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, the adverse environmental impacts of cumulative GHG emissions, including increased average temperatures, more drought years, and more frequent large wildfires, are already occurring. As a result, cumulative impacts related to GHG emissions are significant. Thus, the issue of climate change involves an analysis of whether a project's contribution towards an impact is cumulatively considerable. As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 8, *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, project emissions during construction would be short-term in nature, and operational emissions would be the same as existing conditions. Furthermore, project emissions would be consistent with adopted plans which reduce climate change, and would therefore not be cumulatively considerable.
- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** Similar to the proposed project, cumulative projects would be required to comply with regulations applicable to the use, disposal, and transportation of hazardous materials during construction activities, and compliance with applicable regulations would reduce potential cumulative impacts to less-than-significant levels. With respect to the use and accidental release of hazardous materials in the environment during construction, effects are generally limited to site-specific conditions. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to accidental release of hazardous materials would not be significant.
- **Hydrology and Water Quality:** San Antonio Creek is listed by the Los Angeles RWQCB on the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies for nitrogen, total dissolved solids, dissolved oxygen, and other pollutants (SWRCB 2024a); thus, a cumulative impact to water quality occurs under existing conditions. The proposed project would be required to comply with existing NPDES regulations to ensure it does not result in substantial erosion or stormwater discharges that would substantially affect water quality in San Antonio Creek. Implementation of these regulations minimizes the potential for significant impacts to occur. Furthermore, the proposed project would implement Mitigation Measure BIO-4, which would require construction BMPs which would reduce the potential for adverse water quality impacts to San Antonio Creek. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a considerable contribution to this cumulative impact.

- **Noise:** Cumulative development may occur at the same time as the proposed project; however, there are no cumulative projects in the vicinity of the project site which could result in an increase in noise, should construction schedules overlap. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to noise would not be significant.
- **Transportation:** Cumulative development may occur at the same time as the proposed project. However, the cumulative development projects and the proposed project would not increase traffic levels or require closures of the same roadways; therefore no significant cumulative transportation impacts would occur.
- **Utilities and Service Systems:** Cumulative development, including the proposed project, would involve the installation of new utility infrastructure. However, other cumulative development consists of roadway repaving and would not increase demand for utilities such that new or expanded utility infrastructure would be required. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to utilities and service systems would not be significant.
- **Wildfire:** All cumulative development would be required to comply with PRC Section 4442 and Section 4428, which would minimize potential fire risk. Additionally, cumulative development (roadway repaving) would occur within paved roadways and would have limited potential to ignite wildfires during construction. Therefore, cumulative impacts related to wildfire would not be significant.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

- c. *Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

In general, impacts to human beings are associated with air quality, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, and wildfire impacts. As detailed in Environmental Checklist Section 3, *Air Quality*, the project would not result, either directly or indirectly, in substantial adverse effects related to air quality through construction or operation with implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1. As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, project operation would not involve the routine use of large quantities of hazardous materials. Compliance with applicable regulations during project construction would ensure potential impacts on human beings related to hazards and hazardous materials would be less than significant. During project construction, implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would ensure construction activities would not generate excessive vibration and substantially impact nearby residential land uses. Construction noise would be temporary and the project would have a less than significant impact related to temporary increases in ambient noise levels in excess of local noise standards. Project operation would not generate noise or substantially increase noise levels. Impacts involving noise would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated. As discussed in Environmental Checklist Section 20, *Wildfire*, the project's impacts involving wildfire would be less than significant, as project construction would comply with applicable regulations minimizing fire risk.

Therefore, the project would have environmental effects that would have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly; however, these impacts would be reduced less than significant with mitigation.

LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED

Federal Cross-Cutting Environmental Regulations Evaluation

Casitas is seeking funding under a state program with a federal funding component. As such, this IS-MND includes analysis to support compliance with applicable federal environmental requirements, commonly referred to as federal cross-cutters. The requirements for compliance with these federal authorities are outlined in the Drinking Water Environmental Package Instructions (Construction – Tier I) (SWRCB 2024b). This section summarizes the project’s status with respect to relevant federal laws, executive orders, and policies, and identifies any consultation conducted or anticipated.

The topics addressed are based in part on the State Water Resources Control Board’s (SWRCB) Federal Cross-Cutting Environmental Regulations Evaluation Form, which is used to document compliance for projects funded through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program, partially supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project must demonstrate consistency with the following federal cross-cutters:

- Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA; Section 7)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA; Section 106)
- General Conformity Rule for the Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA)
- Clean Air Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management
- Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Executive Order 13168
- Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Safe Drinking Water Act – Source Water Protection
- Executive Order on Trails for America in the 21st Century
- Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice

Federal Endangered Species Act

Section 7 of the FESA requires federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to ensure their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species. Under Section 7, a project that could result in incidental take of a listed threatened or endangered species must consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to obtain a Biological Opinion. If the Biological Opinion finds the project could jeopardize the existence of a listed species (“jeopardy opinion”), the agency cannot authorize the project until it is modified to obtain a “non-jeopardy” opinion.

According to the Biological Resources Assessment (Appendix B), based on the plant communities present, prior development, existing disturbances, and isolation of the project site from native, natural habitat, the project site does not support federally endangered wildlife species. The Biological Resources Assessment determined the proposed project would have no effect on federal special status species under federal regulations. The project would be in compliance with the FESA.

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106

The purpose of the NHPA is to protect, preserve, rehabilitate, or restore significant historical, archaeological, and cultural resources. Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account effects on historic properties. Section 106 review involves a step-by-step procedure described in detail in the implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 800). The HPIR prepared for the project includes a Section 106 evaluation for the project and can be submitted by SWRCB as part of the consultation process with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Concurrence by the SHPO would ensure compliance with the NHPA.

The HPIR determined neither the OWS system nor any of the historic age components of the OWS in the APE are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources. Additionally, the NHPA defines a historic property as “any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included on, or eligible for inclusion on, the NRHP, including artifacts, records, and material remains relating to the district, site building, structure, or object” (NHPA 300308). There are no historic properties located within the APE for the purposes of Section 106 of the NHPA. Based on the results of HPIR, Rincon recommends a finding of no effect to historic properties under Section 106 of NHPA for the proposed undertaking.

Clean Air Act

The 1990 Amendment to Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) Section 176 requires USEPA to promulgate rules to ensure federal actions conform to the appropriate State Implementation Plan (SIP). These rules, known as the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Parts 51.850–51.860 and 93.150–93.160), require any federal agency responsible for an action in a federal nonattainment/maintenance area to demonstrate conformity to the applicable SIP, by either determining the action is exempt from the General Conformity Rule requirements or subject to a formal conformity determination. Actions would be exempt, and thus conform to the SIP, if an applicability analysis shows the total direct and indirect emissions of nonattainment/maintenance pollutants from project construction and operation activities would be less than specified emission rate thresholds, known as *de minimis* levels. If not determined exempt, an air quality conformity analysis would be required to determine conformity.

The proposed project site is located within the South Central Coast Air Basin, which is a federal nonattainment area for 8-hour ozone. Therefore, the General Conformity Rule is applicable to the project emissions of ozone precursors (ROC and NO_x). Table 9 lists the total annual emissions potentially generated during construction of the proposed project, as well as the maximum worst-case scenario (which assumes all project components are constructed simultaneously) and compares these emissions to the applicable *de minimis* emission rates for the South Central Coast Air Basin region.

Table 9 Proposed Project Total Annual Construction Emissions

	Estimated Annual Construction Emissions (tons/year)					
	ROC	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂
Foothill Road Pipeline	<0.1	0.19	0.27	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Private Drive Pipeline	<0.1	<0.1	0.12	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Arbolada Tank Demolition	<0.1	0.45	0.67	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Running Ridge Tank Abandonment	0.12	1.07	1.35	0.11	<0.1	<0.1
Ojai East Tank Rehabilitation and Construction	0.12	0.47	0.62	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
OWS Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion	<0.1	0.61	0.98	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Maximum Worst-Case Scenario	0.24	2.79	4.01	0.11	<0.1	<0.1
De Minimis Thresholds	50	50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	No	No	No	No

ROG: reactive organic gases; NO_x: nitrogen oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; PM₁₀: particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM_{2.5}: particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter; SO₂: sulfur dioxide

See Appendix A for full modeling details.

As shown in Table 9, the project’s criteria air pollutant emissions would not exceed the applicable *de minimis* rates. Therefore, the general conformity requirements do not apply to the project, and a formal conformity determination is not applicable to the project. Accordingly, the lead agency would be in compliance with the FCAA.

Coastal Zone Management Act

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA), passed by Congress in 1972 and managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, is designed to balance competing land and water issues in coastal zones. It also aims to “preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance the resources of the nation’s coastal zone.” Within California, the CZMA is administered by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission.

No portion of the project is within the coastal zone (California Coastal Commission 2019). The coastal zone extends inland from the Pacific Ocean and varies between several hundred feet to five miles from the coastline. The project site is approximately 12 miles northeast of the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, the CZMA does not apply to the project.

Farmland Protection Policy Act

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requires a federal agency consider the effects of its actions and programs on the nation’s farmlands. The FPPA is intended to minimize the impact of federal programs with respect to the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It assures, to the extent possible, federal programs are administered to be compatible with state, local, and private programs and policies to protect farmland.

The project site is not currently in agricultural production and does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or land with a Williamson Act contract (California Department of Conservation 2022). Therefore, the project would not adversely affect any farmland areas and the project would be in compliance with the FPPA.

Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management

Executive Order (EO) 11988 requires federal agencies to recognize the values of floodplains, consider the public benefits from restoring and preserving floodplains, and evaluate the potential effects of any actions taken within a floodplain.

Most of the proposed project components are located outside of designated flood hazard areas. However:

- The OWS Wellfield site is located within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Zone AE, which is defined as an area subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance (100-year) flood.
- The Ojai East Tank site is located within both FEMA Zone AE and Zone B, the latter of which is subject to inundation by the 0.2-percent annual chance (500-year) flood (FEMA 2014, 2021).

The proposed improvements at these sites—including treatment system upgrades and a new water storage tank—would occur within previously developed areas which currently support water infrastructure. The project would not involve new encroachments into undeveloped floodplain areas, nor would it alter topography or introduce features which could impede or redirect flood flows.

Additionally, the project would not increase flood risk to people or structures, nor would it interfere with local or federal floodplain management practices. Therefore, the project is consistent with the intent and requirements of this EO.

Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Executive Order 13168

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibit the take of migratory birds (or any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird) and the take and commerce of eagles. EO 13168 requires any project with federal involvement to address impacts of federal actions on migratory birds. As described in the Biological Resources Assessment (Appendix B), Casitas would implement nesting bird avoidance measures and pre-construction surveys through BIO-2 and BIO-3 to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code. These measures are designed to avoid take of species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. With implementation of these measures, the project would be in compliance with these federal regulations.

Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands

Under EO 11990, federal agencies must avoid affecting wetlands unless it is determined no practicable alternative is available. As described in the Biological Resources Assessment (Appendix B), the project site would not affect federally-protected wetlands as defined by CWA Section 404, and therefore no impacts would occur. Thus, the project would be in compliance with EO 11990.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 to preserve and protect designated rivers for their natural, cultural, and recreational value. There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within the project area (National Wild and Scenic Rivers System 2025), nor will any designated rivers be adversely affected by the project. As a result, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not apply to the project.

Safe Drinking Water Act – Source Water Protection

Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act established the USEPA's Sole Source Aquifer Program. This program protects communities from groundwater contamination from federally-funded projects. Within USEPA's Region 9, which includes California, there are nine sole source aquifers. None of these sole source aquifers are located within the project area (USEPA 2025). Therefore, the Sole Source Aquifer Program does not apply to the project, and the project would be in compliance with Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Executive Order on Trails for America in the 21st Century

The EO on Trails for America requires federal agencies to protect, connect, promote, and assist trails of all types throughout the United States. No trails exist on the project site, and project implementation would not affect trails. Therefore, no adverse effects on trails would occur, and the project is in compliance with this EO.

Executive Order 13007 – Indian Sacred Sites

Sacred sites are defined in EO 13007 as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site." The project would not be located on or impact any federal lands and therefore would not affect any Native American sacred sites under this EO.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) of 1976 as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq.), is the primary act governing federal management of fisheries in federal waters, from the 3-nautical-mile state territorial sea limit to the outer limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone. It establishes exclusive U.S. management authority over all fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone, all anadromous fish throughout their migratory range except when in a foreign nation's waters, and all fish on the continental shelf. The Act also requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on actions which could damage Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined in the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-297).

The project would not be located in or impact any U.S. federal waters regulated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and the project would be in compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Executive Order 12898 - Environmental Justice

Consistent with the federal cross-cutter requirements, this section describes the existing socioeconomic resources in the project area and the regulatory setting pertaining to environmental justice-related issues. USEPA guidelines recommend the analyses of low-income communities consider the United States Census poverty level definitions, as well as applicable State and regional definitions of low-income and poverty communities. According to United States Census estimates, approximately 11 percent of Ojai residents are at or below the poverty level. In comparison, the percentage of persons in poverty in the entire state of California is 12 percent (United States Census Bureau 2023a, 2023b). Therefore, the affected area has a poverty rate below the State average.

A Disadvantaged Community (DAC) is defined as a community with a median household income (MHI) less than 80 percent of the California MHI (Public Resource Code Section 75005[g]). According to United States Census data, the statewide MHI was \$95,521 in 2023. A DAC would therefore be defined as a community with a MHI of \$76,417 or less. According to the SWRCB's SAFER Dashboard, the MHI of the OWS is \$75,499 (SWRCB 2025b). Therefore, the project area would be considered a DAC. The proposed project would address insufficient storage capacity in the OWS and provide compatible water treatment to both the OWS and Casitas system. Thus, the proposed project would result in an overall benefit to the OWS community, and no adverse environmental justice impacts would occur.

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List of Preparers

Rincon Consultants, Inc. prepared this IS-MND under contract to Casitas Municipal Water District. Persons involved in data gathering analysis, project management, and quality control are listed below.

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Appendix A

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Modeling

Appendix B

Biological Resources Assessment

June 19, 2025
Project No: 24-16859

Julia Aranda, Engineering Manager
Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 Ventura Avenue
Oak View, California 93022
Via email: jaranda@casitaswater.com

Subject: Casitas-Ojai Water System Consolidation Project, Biological Resources Assessment

Dear Ms. Aranda:

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) prepared this Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) to provide the Casitas Municipal Water District (Casitas) with an evaluation of the potential impacts to biological resources associated with implementation of the Casitas-Ojai Water System Consolidation Project (project).

The project is seeking funding through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); therefore, it is also subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EPA has delegated its lead agency responsibility to the SWRCB for carrying out the requirements of NEPA. As such, this report also addresses federal environmental cross-cutter regulations per DWSRF Tier I Environmental Package requirements (California SWRCB 2025). This BRA was prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and NEPA. Casitas is the lead agency for this project under CEQA.

This report documents the existing conditions of the project site and evaluates the potential for impacts to species, sensitive communities, potential jurisdictional waters, wildlife movement near the proposed project, and locally protected resources such as native trees. The biological evaluation includes the results of a background literature review and field reconnaissance survey conducted by Rincon on May 21, 2025, to document current site conditions.

Project Location

The proposed project includes the potable water distribution system service area for the city of Ojai (Ojai) in western Ventura County. This system serves an unincorporated area east of Ojai and a small portion of the unincorporated Meiners Oaks community west of Ojai. The project is located in the City of Ojai and unincorporated Ventura County in the Ojai Valley Plan Area, approximately 15 miles inland from the city of Ventura. The project site is bounded generally by open space to the east, State Route (SR) 150 to the south, SR-33 to the west, and the Los Padres National Forest to the north (Figure 1, Attachment 1). The project site is within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) *Ojai and Matilija, California* 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (USGS 2022).

The project site is comprised of multiple areas within a neighborhood context in unincorporated Ventura County and the city of Ojai (Figure 2 to Figure 6, Attachment 1), as described below:

- **Private Drive:** This site is located in unincorporated Ventura County and consists of a private, unnamed roadway that extends west from Foothill Road. The site does not have an associated Assessor's Parcel Number (APN).



- **Foothill Road:** This site is located on the border of unincorporated Ventura County and the city of Ojai, at the intersection of Foothill Road and Fairview Road. This site is currently developed with a public roadway (Foothill Road). The site does not have an associated APN.
- **Running Ridge Tanks:** This site is in unincorporated Ventura County and consists of vegetated land north of Running Ridge Trail at APN 010012021 and 010013021. This site is partially developed with private residences and with the Running Ridge Tanks.
- **Arbolada Tank and Pump Station:** This site is in the city of Ojai and consists of an approximate 1.2-acre site south of Fairview Road at APN 020001001. This site is currently developed with the Arbolada Tank and Valley View Booster Pump Station (BPS).
- **Ojai East Tank:** This site is in unincorporated Ventura County and consists of an approximate 3.7-acre site south of the intersection of Reeves Road and McAndrew Road, at APN 030017007. This site is currently developed with the Ojai East Tank and San Antonio Booster Pump Station (BPS).
- **Ojai Water System (OWS) Wellfield:** This site is in the city of Ojai and consists of an approximate 3.2-acre site south of Grand Avenue at APN 028011102. This site is currently developed with the OWS Wellfield.

Project Description

Casitas acquired the Ojai Water System (OWS) in 2017 from Golden State Water Company. The proposed project would integrate the OWS with the Casitas Water System to address insufficient storage capacity in the OWS and provide compatible water treatment to both systems. The proposed project consists of five main components: pipeline installation; tank demolition and construction; tank rehabilitation; water treatment; and booster pump station demolition and construction. These components are discussed in the following subsections. Table 1 presents the construction timeframe for each project component. Construction would mostly be limited to between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. No nighttime construction would be required.

Pipelines

The typical construction sequence for the proposed project would include the following pipeline installation activities:

- **Open-cut trench pipeline installation** typically consists of trench excavation (including saw cutting of pavement where applicable), pipe bedding stabilization, pipe installation, and backfill. The construction crew typically operates a backhoe and/or excavator, compaction equipment (attachment to an excavator and hand-operated equipment), dump trucks for stockpiling of soils and delivery of backfill material, and utility trucks (with truck-mounted or towed generator and hand tools).
- **Temporary paving and ground restoration** is usually performed at the completion of each segment of pipeline and then final paving is performed at the end of a project once all excavation and backfill operations are completed.

The maximum depth of excavation would be 10 feet.

Private Drive Pipeline

The project would include installation of approximately 450 linear feet of new 6-inch water pipeline at the Private Drive site, extending west from Foothill Road in unincorporated Ventura County. The western terminus of the new water line is at a fire hydrant, and the eastern terminus of the new water



line would connect to an existing 6-inch water line within Foothill Road, at the intersection of the private roadway and Foothill Road.

Construction activities are not anticipated to encounter groundwater. Water used for hydrostatic testing and disinfection of the new pipeline would be dechlorinated and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' applicable National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. During construction, workers would park at Arbolada Plant or along the shoulder of the private roadway, Foothill Road, or Fairview Road.

Foothill Road Pipeline

The project would include installation of approximately 1,100 linear feet of new 8-inch pipeline at the Foothill Road site, extending north from a new pressure reducing valve station (south of the intersection of Foothill Road and Fairview Road) to connect to an existing 6-inch water line at Station 31+78.48 (just north of the intersection of Foothill Road and a private driveway).

If groundwater is encountered during construction activities, it would be discharged to an on-site retention pond, or monitored and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' NPDES permit. Water used for hydrostatic testing and disinfection of the new pipeline would be dechlorinated and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' applicable NPDES permit. During construction, workers would park at Arbolada Plant or along the shoulder of Foothill Road.

Tanks

Arbolada and Running Ridge Tanks

The project would include demolition of the existing 1.0-million gallon (MG) concrete tank at the Arbolada Tank site. The tank would be drawn down prior to demolition, and any remaining water would be considered nuisance water and appropriately disposed of on-site. Following demolition, the site of the former tank would be leveled. The project would also abandon the existing Running Ridge tanks, located at the Running Ridge site. No ground disturbance or vegetation removal would occur for the abandonment of the Running Ridge tanks.

Ojai East Tank

The project would include the construction of a 1.0-MG welded steel tank located at the Ojai East Tank site. The new tank would have a height of 40 feet and 115-foot diameter. The project would also include rehabilitation of an existing 3.0-MG welded steel tank located at the Ojai East Tank site. Rehabilitation activities would include removal of interior and exterior coatings, application of a new epoxy coating to the interior and exterior of the tank, various structural improvements and anchoring to prevent uplift, installation of cathodic protection, and the addition of an exterior ladder. Construction of the new 1.0-MG tank would allow for additional storage and redundancy for Casitas' planned operations in east Ojai and would also allow for the existing 3.0-MG tank to be taken out of service for the proposed rehabilitation activities.

Water used for hydrostatic testing and disinfection of the new and rehabilitated tanks would be dechlorinated and discharged to a local storm drain or sewer in accordance with Casitas' applicable NPDES permit. During construction, workers would park at the Ojai East Tank site.



Treatment

Ojai Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion

The project would include converting the treatment system of the OWS Wellfield from chlorine to chloramines. Construction activities would include installation of a new, approximately 2,700-linear-foot, 16-inch discharge line which would connect to the existing water line in Grand Avenue at the northern terminus to the existing San Antonio BPS, located at the OWS Wellfield site; as well as construction of a new free chlorine analyzer, new sample point for chlorine analyzer, new ammonia injection point, and new ammonia storage tanks and dosing pumps at the OWS Wellfield site. The OWS Wellfield chloramine conversion would provide treatment uniformity in Casitas’ operations, making OWS water consistent with the water currently provided to existing Casitas customers.

If groundwater is encountered during construction activities or facilities need to be temporarily dewatered, such water would be discharged to an existing retention pond at the OWS Mutual Wellfield site (on the west side of San Antonio Creek) or at the San Antonio Pump Plant. Construction workers would park at the OWS Wellfield site.

Pump Stations

Arbolada Booster Pump Station

The project would include construction of a temporary pump station at the northwest corner of the Arbolada Tank site and a new BPS in the southeastern portion of the Arbolada Tank site. The temporary BPS would keep the OWS operational until all project components are complete. The new Arbolada BPS would replace the existing Arbolada BPS (which would be demolished) located at the Arbolada Tank site and Valley View BPS, located further north on Foothill Road. The replacement of the Arbolada BPS with a redesigned pump configuration would eliminate the need for the aging Valley View BPS.

Table 1 Project Component Construction Durations

Project Component	Construction Duration
Private Drive Pipeline	6 to 8 weeks
Foothill Road Pipeline	6 to 8 weeks
Arbolada and Running Ridge Tanks	3 to 4 months
Ojai East Tanks	6 to 8 months
Ojai Water System Chloramine Conversion	6 to 8 months
Arbolada Booster Pump Station	6 to 8 months

Area of Potential Effects

The project Area of Potential Effects (APE) generally depicts areas expected to be affected by the proposed project, including: pipeline installation; tank demolition and construction; tank rehabilitation; water treatment; and booster pump station demolition and construction. For this study, the APE includes the project disturbance footprint associated with Private Drive, Foothill Road, Running Ridge Tanks, Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, Ojai East Tank, and OWS Wellfield. The APE includes a 50-foot buffer around each project site to address potential indirect project effects such as noise and dust.



Methodology

Rincon conducted an analysis of the APE and vicinity to assess the presence of sensitive biological resources potentially impacted by the project. The analysis consisted of a review of relevant background literature, a query of resource agency databases, and a biological reconnaissance survey. The methods used in the regulatory setting, literature review, and field surveys are provided in the following subsections.

Regulatory Setting

This section provides a general summary of the applicable federal and state regulations related to biological resources with potential to occur within the APE and immediate vicinity. Regulated or sensitive biological resources considered and evaluated in this report include special status plant and wildlife species, nesting birds and raptors, sensitive plant communities, jurisdictional waters and wetlands, wildlife movement, and locally protected resources, such as protected trees.

Environmental Statutes

For the purposes of this BRA, potential project-related impacts to biological resources were analyzed according to the following regulatory statutes and guiding documents:

Federal

- Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Federal Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
- The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Floodplain Management – Executive Order 11988
- Protection of Wetlands – Executive Order 11990
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Coastal Barriers Resources Act
- Rivers and Harbors Act

To meet the requirements of the federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, it is anticipated the SWRCB would perform either formal or informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of its review of the project's eligibility for DWSRF program assistance.

State

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- California Endangered Species Act (CESA)
- California Fish and Game Code (CFGC)
- Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act



Coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) would occur, as appropriate, pending a determination of CDFW as a trustee agency under CEQA.

Local

- County of Ventura 2040 General Plan
- County of Ventura Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance
- City of Ojai Municipal Code

Guidelines for Determining CEQA Significance

The following threshold criteria, as defined within the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G – Initial Study Checklist, are used as the basis to evaluate potential environmental effects. Centered on these criteria, a proposed project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would:

- 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, 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.

Literature Review

Rincon conducted a literature review to characterize the nature and extent of biological resources in the APE. The literature review included an evaluation of current and historical aerial photographs of the site (Google Earth 2025), regional and site-specific topographic maps, and other readily available literature regarding biological resources present on and near the APE. Rincon staff also reviewed the Ojai Water System Improvements Project draft Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration, which includes the project’s previous BRA (Rincon 2019). The Ventura County Locally Important Animal and Plant lists were also reviewed (County of Ventura 2025).

On May 20, 2025, Rincon requested an official species list from the USFWS Initial Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database including migratory bird species (Attachment 2; USFWS 2025a). An official species list is an official letter from the local USFWS field office (in this case Ventura) containing information to support evaluation of potential project impacts. It includes a list of species and critical habitat to be considered under Section 7 of the ESA, as well as a project tracking number and other pertinent information from the local field office. Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to request Secretary of Interior information on whether any species listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action.



Queries of the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, CDFW 2025a) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2025) were also conducted to obtain comprehensive information regarding state and federally listed species, and other special status species, considered to have potential to occur within the *Ojai, California* USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles, *Matilija*, *Wheeler Springs*, *Lion Canyon*, *Topatopa Mountains*, *Santa Paula Peak*, *Santa Paula*, *Saticoy*, and *Ventura*. A portion of the project components (Running Ridge Tank, Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, Private Drive, and Foothill Road sites) are within the *Matilija* quadrangle. However, additional quadrangles surrounding the *Matilija* quadrangle were not added to the query because the land uses in the overlapping areas are similar and are not expected to support additional special status species. The final list of special status biological resources (species and sensitive natural communities) was evaluated for potential to occur in the APE based on documented occurrences within the nine-quadrangle search area and biologists' expert opinions on species known to occur in the region.

The following resources were also reviewed for additional information on existing conditions relating to biological resources within the APE:

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (USDA 2025a, USDA 2025b)
- USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (USFWS 2025b)
- CDFW Special Animals List (CDFW 2025b)
- CDFW Biogeographic Information and Observation System (CDFW 2025c)
- CDFW Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List (CDFW 2025d)
- USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI; USFWS 2025c)
- United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (NHD; USGS 2025)

Field Reconnaissance Survey

A biological reconnaissance survey was conducted by Rincon biologist, Kendra Bonsall, on May 21, 2025, between the hours of 0800 to 1325. Weather conditions during the survey included temperatures ranging from 65 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit, with clear skies and light winds. The survey area consisted of the APE. The surveys were conducted to characterize the existing conditions within the APE, and to investigate the presence, or potential presence, of special status species, sensitive vegetation communities, jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, wildlife migration and movement corridors, and nesting bird habitat (regulated biological resources). Biological resources observed were photographed and recorded using a Global Positioning System unit (Geode GNS3 submeter) capable of sub-meter accuracy and equipped with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.'s Field Maps application. Densely vegetated woodland and scrub areas within the APE with limited access were observed via binoculars from a safe vantage point within the APE.

Plant species nomenclature and taxonomy followed *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition* (Baldwin, et al. 2012) and the Jepson eFlora (Jepson Flora Project eds. 2025). Plant species encountered were identified to the lowest taxonomic level possible given the condition of the materials during the survey. The vegetation community mapping and classification system used for this analysis is based on *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (MCV2; Sawyer et al. 2009, CNPS 2025), and was modified as needed to accurately describe the existing habitats observed onsite. Land cover types not described in the MCV2 were classified using conventional naming practices (e.g., developed). Photographs were taken of representative areas of the APE as well as notable features (Attachment 3).



The potential for wildlife movement corridors was evaluated based on review of the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project (Spencer et al. 2010) commissioned by the California Department of Transportation and CDFW.

Existing Conditions

Discussions regarding the general environmental setting, soils, vegetation communities, plant species, and wildlife species observed in the APE are presented below.

Topography and Surrounding Land Uses

Prior to the establishment of Ojai, the land was dominated by oak woodland habitat. Presently, land uses in and around the APE are predominantly residential with some commercial, mixed use, and public facilities zoning. The land use setting surrounding the APE consists of rural, low-density residential, and open space uses. The APE elevation is between 800 to 1,150 feet above mean sea level (Google Earth 2025). Table 2 provides surrounding land uses for each component of the proposed project.

Table 2 Project Site Surrounding Land Uses

Project Component	Surrounding Land Uses
Foothill Road Pipeline	Single-family residences extending along the entirety of the proposed pipeline alignment.
Private Drive Pipeline	Single-family residences to the north, west, and south, and by Foothill Road followed by single-family residences to the east.
Arbolada Tank Demolition	Single-family residences to the west, south, and east, and by Fairview Road followed by single-family residences to the north.
Running Ridge Tank Abandonment	Single-family residences to the south and southeast, and vegetated open space to the west, north, and northeast.
Ojai East Tank Rehabilitation and Construction	Vegetated open space to the south, single-family residences to the west, east, and northeast, and Reeves Road followed by agricultural land (orchards) to the north.
OWS Water System Wellfield Chloramine Conversion	Agricultural land (orchards) to the south and west, Grand Avenue followed by agricultural land (orchards) to the north, and San Antonio Creek to the east. San Antonio Pump Plant is surrounded by agricultural land (orchards) to the south and east, Grand Avenue followed by agricultural land (orchards) to the north, and San Antonio Creek to the west.

Soils

The USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey delineates eight soil map units within the APE (Figure 7 through Figure 9, Attachment 1):

- Ojai stony fine sandy loam, 2 to 15 percent slopes, eroded
- Ojai stony fine sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes, eroded
- Lodo rocky loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes
- Anacapa gravelly sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Cortina stony sandy loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes



- Garretson gravelly loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- Sespe clay loam, 30 to 50 percent slopes
- Riverwash

Three of these soil map units – Anacapa gravelly sandy loam, Cortina stony sandy loam, and Riverwash – are designated as hydric soils in the Ventura Area (USDA, NRCS 2025b). Anacapa gravelly sandy loam and Cortina stony sandy loam are located within the Ojai East Tank APE, near Reeves Creek. These two soil map units and Riverwash occur within the OWS Wellfield APE, adjacent to San Antonio Creek.

Hydrology

The APE is within the Matilija Creek subwatershed (12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code 12-180701010103), which is part of the larger Ventura River watershed (USGS 2025). The NHD maps depict two potential jurisdictional features in the APE, San Antonio Creek, identified as an intermittent stream, and another unnamed intermittent stream (USGS 2025, Figure 5 and Figure 6, Attachment 1). The NWI maps depict one potential riverine feature in the APE, San Antonio Creek. San Antonio Creek flows northeast to southwest before it converges with the Ventura River. Within the APE, San Antonio Creek traverses the western boundary of the OWS Wellfield APE. The unnamed intermittent stream identified by NHD runs through the center of the Ojai East Tank site. This feature is not identified in the NWI and was not observed during the reconnaissance survey on May 21, 2025. The NHD mapping is likely a remnant depiction of a feature now underground (USGS 2025, USFWS 2025c). Reeves Creek, mapped as an intermittent riverine feature by NWI and NHD, is approximately 0.03 mile north of the Ojai East Tank site.

Other hydrological features within the APE include road culverts, pipe outlets, and retention basins (Figure 4 through Figure 6, Attachment 1). These features are not identified in NHD or NWI and are man-made. Two pipe outlets connected to the existing Arbolada tank were observed within the APE at the Arbolada site. Three road culverts are present at the OWS Wellfield site, running through the center of the site to a residential property surrounded by oak woodlands, south of the site. In addition, two retention basins are present at the OWS Wellfield within the APE, one at the western portion of the site and one at the eastern portion of the site. These features are further described below in the *Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands* section.

Vegetation Communities and Land Covers

Vegetation communities and land cover types documented within the APE during the reconnaissance survey include black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) – California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) scrub, coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) woodland, mulefat thickets, and developed (Figure 10 through Figure 14, Attachment 1). Historically, Ojai was developed primarily within oak woodland habitat. Presently, the APE is primarily dominated by residential development and existing facilities associated with Casitas, situated around remnant oak trees. The Running Ridge Tank site is surrounded by scrub vegetation at the northern extent, as further discussed below in the *Black Sage – California Sagebrush Scrub* section. Vegetation observed during the field reconnaissance survey is listed in Attachment 4.

Developed

The developed land cover type consists of residential neighborhoods, paved and dirt roads, and the existing Casitas infrastructure, such as tanks and pump stations, and includes developed agriculture and developed coast live oak woodland. The Private Drive and Foothill Road APEs are mostly developed



with stands of developed coast live oak woodland. The Arbolada Tank APE is developed and contains developed coast live oak woodland. Existing infrastructure within the Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, Ojai East Tanks, and OWS Wellfield is surrounded by chain-link fencing. The Running Ridge Tank site contains a disturbed dirt path, ranging from approximately four to eight feet in width, surrounded by scrub vegetation. The disturbed path leads from a residential property to the tank and is primarily devoid of vegetation. Numerous ornamental species are present throughout this land cover type, reflecting Ojai's current and historic use as residential, commercial, mixed use, and public facilities zoning. Examples of ornamental species observed include pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), agave (*Agave* spp.), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), and rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*). Emergent coast live oak, valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) were observed throughout the APE. Some of the emergent species canopy driplines were observed to be overhanging the project footprint. The herbaceous layer in this land cover type is primarily bare or disturbed with non-native, ruderal species, such as short-podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), and annual yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus indicus*). Most of the area appears to be mowed annually for fuel clearance. The developed land cover type is not described in MCV2.

Some portions of the APE consist of developed oak woodland, which include developed parcels surrounding this land cover type. The project footprint in developed oak woodland is located within private properties containing vegetation including coast live oaks. Within the APE, developed oak woodland is present within the Running Ridge Tank, Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, Foothill Road, and OWS Wellfield sites. Some portions of the APE consist of developed agricultural fields, which include vineyards and citrus tree orchards. Within the APE, developed agricultural fields are present within the 50-foot buffer at the OWS Wellfield and Running Ridge Tank sites. Some portions of the APE consist of modified oak woodland, which include some open areas with sparse cover of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Within the APE, modified oak woodland is present within the 50-foot buffer at the OWS Wellfield site (west of San Antonio Creek), outside of the project footprint.

Black Sage – California Sagebrush Scrub

The black sage– California sagebrush scrub alliance is characterized by black sage dominant or codominant with California sagebrush and other coastal scrub in the shrub canopy, such as chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), orange bush monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), and California brittlebrush (*Encelia californica*). This vegetation type is typically found on dry slopes and alluvial fans, with shallow soils. Within the APE, black sage – California sagebrush scrub is present within the project footprint of the APE at the Running Ridge Tank site. A disturbed, dirt path intersects the center of the project footprint through the black sage – California sagebrush scrub, as further described in the *Developed* section. This vegetation community is dominated by black sage and California sagebrush in the shrub layer, with laurel sumac, chamise, and bigpod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus*) also present. Emergent coast live oak and blue gum eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*) are present within the community. A large pine species (*Pinus* spp.) is present near the existing Running Ridge tank. Native species within the herbaceous layer include ladies tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), orange bush monkeyflower, and non-native species include African cornflag (*Chasmanthe floribunda*) and annual yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus indicus*). This vegetation community is ranked G4/S3S4, which is not classified as sensitive (CDFW 2025e).

Coast Live Oak Woodland

The coast live oak woodland alliance is characterized by coast live oak trees found in monotypic stands. This woodland alliance is typically found along alluvial terraces, canyon bottoms, stream



banks, slopes, and flats between zero and 3,937 feet above mean sea level. Within the APE, coast live oak woodlands are present within the 50-foot buffer at the Ojai East Tank site, outside of the project footprint. This vegetation community is dominated by coast live oaks in the tree layer. The shrub layer consists of toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). The herbaceous layer consists primarily of non-natives, such as wild oats (*Avena fatua*). This vegetation community is ranked G5S4, which is not classified as sensitive (CDFW 2025e). Coast live oak woodlands are considered a locally important plant community in Ventura County (County 2007).

Mulefat Thickets

The mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) thickets shrubland alliance is characterized by mulefat dominant in the shrub layer with native and non-native species such as California sagebrush, coyote brush, tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), and laurel sumac also present. This shrub alliance is typically found in canyon bottoms, floodplains, irrigation ditches, lake margins, and stream channels between zero and 1,250 feet above mean sea level. Within the APE, mulefat thickets are limited to San Antonio Creek, which is a small portion of the OWS Wellfield site APE, outside of the project footprint. The channel was primarily dry with emergent species, including mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), willow species (*Salix* spp.), tree tobacco, and castor bean (*Ricinus communis*). This vegetation community is ranked G5S4, which is not classified as sensitive (CDFW 2025e). Mulefat thickets are also not designated as a locally important plant community in Ventura County (County 2007).

General Wildlife

The APE provides suitable habitat for wildlife species commonly found in semi-rural, residential areas. The wildlife species detected on site are common, widely distributed, and adapted to living in proximity to human development. Common avian species detected on or adjacent to the site include California scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*). Other wildlife species observed include western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), western brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*).

Regulated Biological Resources

This section discusses the general presence or potential for regulated biological resources to occur within the APE.

Special Status Species

Local, state, and federal agencies regulate special status species and require an assessment of their presence, or potential presence, to be conducted on site, prior to the approval of proposed development. Assessments for the potential occurrence of special status species are based upon known ranges, habitat preferences for the species, species occurrence records from the CNDDDB, species occurrence records from other sites near the APE, and previous reports for the APE (Attachment 5). The potential for each special status species to occur in the APE was evaluated according to the following criteria:

- *Not Expected.* Habitat on and adjacent to the APE is clearly unsuitable for the species requirements (foraging, breeding, cover, substrate, elevation, hydrology, plant community, site history, disturbance regime).

- *Low Potential.* Few of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or the majority of habitat on and adjacent to the APE is unsuitable or of very poor quality. The species is not likely to be found on the APE.
- *Moderate Potential.* Some of the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present, and/or only some of the habitat on or adjacent to the APE is unsuitable. The species has a moderate probability of being found on the site.
- *High Potential.* All the habitat components meeting the species requirements are present and/or most of the habitat on or adjacent to the site is highly suitable. The species has a high probability of being found on the APE.
- *Present.* Species is observed on the site or has been recorded (e.g., CNDDDB, other reports) on the APE recently (within the last 5 years).

For the purpose of this report, special status species are those plants and animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered by the USFWS under the ESA; those listed or candidates for listing as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the CDFW under the CESA or Native Plant Protection Act; those designated as Fully Protected (FP) by the CFGC; those recognized as Species of Special Concern (SSC) and Watch List (WL) species identified by the CDFW; those identified in Ventura County Locally Important Species lists (County 2014); and plants occurring on the CNPS California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) system, per the following definitions:

- **Rank 1A** = Plants presumed extinct in California;
- **Rank 1B.1** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat);
- **Rank 1B.2** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened);
- **Rank 1B.3** = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known);
- **Rank 2** = Rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
- **Rank 3** = Rare or threatened in California, but lack sufficient information to make a definitive determination.
- **Rank 4** = Not currently rare or threatened, but limited distribution and could become more at risk if threats increase.

In addition, special status species are ranked globally (G) and subnationally (S) 1 through 3 based on NatureServe's (2010) methodologies:

- **G1 or S1** – Critically Imperiled Globally or State-wide
- **G2 or S2** – Imperiled Globally or State-wide
- **G3 or S3** – Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or State-wide

Special Status Plant Species

Rincon evaluated a total of 71 special status plant species tracked by the CNDDDB and CNPS within a nine-quadrangle search of the APE for their potential to occur within the APE (Attachment 5). No special status plant species were observed within the APE during the field reconnaissance survey. Areas of oak woodland and scrub observed within the APE could provide marginal habitat for some special status species, such as Douglas' fiddleneck (*Amsinckia douglasiana*), Plummer's baccharis (*Baccharis*



plummerae ssp. *plummerae*), mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*), and late flowered mariposa-lily (*Calochortus fimbriatus*). While elements of oak woodland and scrub were observed within the APE, the proposed project is located on developed or disturbed sites within the existing tank and pump station facilities or in highly modified residential neighborhoods. Furthermore, for the oak woodlands, the habitat does not occur within the project footprint, but rather within the 50-foot buffer. In addition, many of the species' CNDDDB occurrences are historical, dating from the early to mid-1900s. No special status plant species were determined to have moderate or high potential to occur within the project footprint due to lack of suitable habitat, prior development, and ongoing disturbance. For this analysis, special status species not expected or with a low potential to occur are not addressed further in this report.

Special Status Wildlife Species

Rincon evaluated a total of 47 special status wildlife species tracked by CNDDDB within a nine-quadrangle search of the APE for their potential to occur within the APE (Attachment 5). No special status wildlife species were observed within the APE during the field reconnaissance survey. Of the 47 species evaluated, four special status species was determined to have a moderate potential to occur within the APE: Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*), California legless lizard (*Anniella* spp.), coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*), and coast patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*). No other special status species were determined to have a moderate or high potential to occur in the APE based on the absence of suitable habitat or vegetation communities, and the highly modified nature of the APE.

While native vegetation does exist within the APE, the habitat quality within the project footprint is low relative to species' requirements, has been previously developed/disturbed, and many CNDDDB occurrences are historical (dating from the early to mid-1900s). Therefore, the other special status wildlife species either have a low potential or are not expected within the APE buffer areas. For this analysis, special status species not expected or with a low potential to occur are not addressed further in this report.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

The Crotch's bumble bee is a candidate species for state listing under CESA. Formal determination of the listing is expected to occur this year (2025) and could result in the species being designated as a state-listed Endangered species under CESA. This species occurs from coastal California to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Crotch's bumble bee is known to inhabit open grassland, shrubland, chaparral, desert margins including Joshua tree and creosote scrub, and semi-urban settings. This species is a generalist and forages on a variety of floral resources including *Antirrhinum* spp., *Phacelia* spp., *Clarkia* spp., *Dendromecon* spp., *Eschscholzia* spp., *Eriogonum* spp., *Vicia* spp., *Carduus* spp., and *Amsinckia* spp. The species' queen flight season is defined as February to March, their worker active period is defined as April to August, and their gyne flight season is defined as September to October (Williams et al. 2014). Crotch's bumble bee nests are located in cavities, most commonly underground in abandoned rodent nests, or may also be found above ground in cavities formed by tufts of grass, brush piles, leaf litter, vegetation mulch, old bird nests, rock piles, or cavities in dead trees. New queens overwinter a few centimeters underneath bare soil, leaf litter, or vegetation mulch.

Crotch's bumble bee was not observed during the May reconnaissance survey. Suitable nectar sources, including California buckwheat, were observed within the APE buffer at the OWS Wellfield Site (west of San Antonio Creek), outside of the project footprint. There is marginally suitable nesting, foraging, and overwintering habitat for Crotch's bumble bee throughout the APE 50-foot buffer, specifically at the OWS Wellfield site (west of San Antonio Creek) and scrub habitat within the APE at



the Running Ridge tank site. However, the project footprint at these locations is located in developed portions of the existing water facilities, or within residential areas. Multiple CNDDDB occurrence records of Crotch's bumble bee are documented within five miles of the APE, including one occurrence from 2017 located approximately 0.4 mile southeast of the East Ojai Tank site (CDFW 2025a). Due to the presence of floral and scrub resources within the APE, the species has a moderate potential to transit within the APE at the Running Ridge site and a low potential to transit within the APE at the OWS Wellfield site. The species is not expected to forage or nest within the project footprints at the Running Ridge Tank and OWS Wellfield site due to prior development, existing disturbances, and lack of suitable nesting substrate. The species is not expected to occur within the APE of the other sites (Private Drive, Foothill Road, Arbolada Pump Station and Tanks, Ojai East Tank) due to lack of suitable habitat.

California Legless Lizard

The California legless lizard is a state Species of Special Concern (SSC). This species requires a habitat composed of sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soils with high moisture content are essential (Nafis 2025). Often locally abundant, specimens are found in coastal sand dunes and a variety of interior habitats, including sandy washes and alluvial fans (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012). In a study conducted in coastal Central California, California legless lizard density was high near shrubs and where soil moisture was greater, but lower in disturbed soils and in iceplant (Kuhn et al. 2005). California legless lizard was not observed during the May reconnaissance survey. Elements of suitable habitat, such as moist, loose soil, are present within the APE, but the project footprint is generally located in existing, disturbed facilities or within residential properties. There are two known CNDDDB occurrences from 2017 and 2018 within five miles of the APE, with the closest occurrence along Reeves Creek, approximately 350 feet northeast of the East Ojai Tank site (CDFW 2025a). California legless lizard has a moderate potential to occur within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge Tank site. The species is not expected to occur within the APE of the other sites (Private Drive, Foothill Road, Arbolada Pump Station and Tanks, Ojai East Tank, OWS Wellfield) due to lack of suitable habitat.

Coastal Whiptail

The coastal whiptail is a state SSC found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation within Ventura, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Diego Counties. The species is one of three subspecies of the western whiptail found in California. This subspecies is distributed along the middle Transverse Ranges south through the Peninsular Ranges into northwestern and central Baja California Norte (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012). The species is commonly found in a variety of habitats including valley-foothill hardwood, valley-foothill hardwood-conifer, valley-foothill riparian, mixed conifer, pine-juniper, chamise-redshank chaparral, mixed chaparral, desert scrub, desert wash, alkali scrub, and annual grasslands. The species is active above ground between mid-April to early October (Zeiner 1990). Coastal whiptail was not observed during the May reconnaissance survey. Some elements of suitable habitat, such as mixed scrub, are present within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge Tank site. However, the project footprint is located in disturbed areas of the existing facilities or within residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within five miles of the APE (CDFW 2025a). Coastal whiptail has a moderate potential to occur within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge Tank site. The species is not expected to occur within the APE of the other sites (Private Drive, Foothill Road, Arbolada Pump Station and Tanks, Ojai East Tank, OWS Wellfield) due to lack of suitable habitat.

Coast Patch-nosed Snake

The coast patch-nosed snake is a state SSC, commonly found in semi-arid brushy areas and chaparral in canyons, rocky hillsides, and plains. The species requires loose soils for burrowing. They are

presumed to overwinter in small mammal burrows and/or woodrat middens during October through March. The coast patch-nosed snake range occurs from the northern Carrizo Plains in San Luis Obispo County, south through the coastal zone, south and west of the deserts, into coastal northern Baja California (Nafis 2025). The species was not observed during the May reconnaissance survey. Elements of suitable habitat, such as mixed scrub, are present within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge Tank site. However, the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas of the existing facilities or within residential property. There are two known CNDDDB occurrences from 2016 within five miles of the APE, both in the Los Padres National Forest near SR-33, approximately 3.4 miles northwest of the Running Ridge Tank site. Coast patch-nosed snake has a moderate potential to occur within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge Tank site. The species is not expected to occur within the APE at the other sites (Private Drive, Foothill Road, Arbolada Pump Station and Tanks, Ojai East Tank, OWS Wellfield) due to lack of suitable habitat.

Nesting Birds

While not all birds are designated as special status species, destruction of their eggs, nests, and nestlings is prohibited by federal and state law. Section 3503 of the CFGC incorporates restrictions imposed by the federal MBTA with respect to migratory birds (which consist of most native bird species). Section 3503.5 of the CFGC specifically protects birds of prey, and their nests and eggs, against take, possession, or destruction. The APE provides suitable nesting habitat for numerous species of birds common in the area, and nesting birds are likely to be present within the APE during the bird nesting season (typically February 1 to August 31).

Sensitive Plant Communities

Three vegetation communities occur in the APE: black sage – California sagebrush scrub, coast live oak woodland, and mulefat thickets. No sensitive plant communities are documented within the APE. Coast live oak woodlands, a locally important plant community in Ventura County (County 2007), are present within the 50-foot buffer of the Ojai East Tank APE, outside of the project footprint.

Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

The APE is located in the Matilija Creek subwatershed within the larger Ventura River watershed. As stated previously, San Antonio Creek flows from northeast to southwest through a small portion of APE, within the 50-foot buffer of the OWS Wellfield site, outside of the project footprint. The creek was dry during the survey conducted on May 21, 2025, and naturally lined with silt, sand, rocks, and boulders within the streambed. Some emergent vegetation was observed within the creek, including mule fat, castor bean, and tree tobacco. San Antonio Creek is an ephemeral drainage ultimately terminating at its confluence with Ventura River. It is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and CDFW. The Ventura River is a relatively permanent water (RPW) because it contains flows for at least 3 months out of most years and connects to the Pacific Ocean, a traditional navigable water (TNW). The project footprint is located outside the top of bank of San Antonio Creek. No construction equipment is proposed within San Antonio Creek. Because San Antonio Creek flows at least seasonally, it is considered an RPW.

Other hydrological features within the APE include road culverts, pipe outlets, and retention basins (Figure 4 through Figure 6, Attachment 1). These features are not identified in NHD or NWI and are man-made. Two pipe outlets connected to the existing Arbolada tank were observed within the APE at the Arbolada site. These features appear to convey water north of the tank to Fairview Road and south of the tank to bare ground within the existing Arbolada facility, likely used for drainage of surface water



from the tank. Three road culverts are present at the OWS Wellfield site, running through the center of the site to a residential property surrounded by oak woodlands, south of the site. No water was observed in these features at the time of the reconnaissance survey.

In addition, two retention basins are present at the OWS Wellfield within the APE: one at the western portion of the site and one at the eastern portion of the site. These retention basins were constructed in upland areas as part of the existing facility infrastructure and are likely sustained by artificial water inputs from the tanks. The western retention basin within the project footprint at OWS Wellfield site is approximately 150 feet by 110 feet and surrounded by bare ground, which appears to be regularly mowed. Standing water with algae and emergent vegetation, including emergent Gooding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*) saplings, cattail (*Typha latifolia*), and non-native grasses, was observed during the reconnaissance survey on May 21, 2025. A small pipe outlet is present on the east side of the basin. The eastern retention basin within the project footprint at OWS Wellfield site is approximately 75 feet by 85 feet and also surrounded by the existing facility, with the OWS Wellfield water tank adjacent to the basin. Standing water with emergent vegetation, including English plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), mulefat, and tall cyperus (*Cyperus eragrostis*) was observed during the reconnaissance survey on May 21, 2025.

Other hydrological features within the APE include road culverts, pipe outlets, and retention basins within the project footprint of the APE (Figure 4 through Figure 6, Attachment 1). These features are not identified in the NHD or NWI. The pipe outlets and retention basins appear to be constructed in upland areas as part of the existing facility infrastructure. As described in the previous *Hydrology* section, the pipes are connected to the existing Arbolada tanks within the APE and convey water north to Fairview Road and south to bare ground within the existing Arbolada facility, likely used as drainage for excess water from the tank. The retention basins within the APE at the OWS Wellfield site are isolated and surrounded by the developed water facilities. At the time of the May reconnaissance survey, the basins were vegetated with native and non-native species, and standing water was present. Although water was present in the basins, it was likely the result of artificial inputs from the nearby tanks. Due to their lack of connection to other waters, reliance on artificial inputs from the facility, and their man-made origin, the pipes and basins were determined to be non-jurisdictional.

Three road culverts with a drainage ditch runs through the center of the APE at the OWS Wellfield site. The ditch originates from the agricultural field north of the site and connects to a residential property surrounded by oak woodlands, south of the site. No water or vegetation was observed in these features at the time of the reconnaissance survey. The ditch is man-made and originates from an agricultural field, suggesting it may function as an agricultural drainage feature.

A formal jurisdictional delineation was not performed for this report.

Wildlife Movement

Wildlife movement corridors, or habitat linkages, are generally defined as connections between areas of suitable habitat allowing for physical and genetic exchange between otherwise isolated wildlife populations. Such linkages may serve a local purpose, such as providing a linkage between foraging and denning areas, or they may be regional in nature. Some habitat linkages may serve as migration corridors, wherein wildlife periodically move away from an area and then subsequently return. Others may be important as dispersal corridors for young wildlife. A group of habitat linkages in an area can form a wildlife corridor network. The California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, commissioned by the California Department of Transportation and CDFW, identifies "Natural Landscape Blocks" which support native biodiversity and the "Essential Connectivity Areas" (ECA) which link them (Spencer et al. 2010).



Wildlife movement corridors can be both large- and small-scale. Regionally, the APE occurs within an ECA as mapped in the report *California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California* (Spencer et al. 2010). ECAs represent principal connections between Natural Landscape Blocks and are regions in which land conservation and management actions should be prioritized to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity. ECAs are mapped based on coarse ecological condition indicators, rather than the needs of particular species, and thus serve most species in each region. Small scale habitat corridors are present within the APE and include drainages and other topographic features facilitating wildlife movement, such as San Antonio Creek, a tributary to Ventura River. The Ventura River also provides a means to facilitate regional connectivity for a number of species including, but not limited to the steelhead – Southern California DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 10), California red-legged frogs, and southwestern pond turtle. However, as discussed in the *Special Status Species* section, suitable habitat for special status aquatic species is not present in the APE, and these species are not anticipated to occur within the APE.

San Antonio Creek intersects a small portion of the APE at the OWS Wellfield, in the 50-foot buffer outside of the project boundary, and could act as movement corridors for wildlife species. Developed agricultural land and residential properties are present adjacent to the OWS Wellfield site and common wildlife adapted to urban and suburban areas (e.g., raccoon [*Procyon lotor*] and striped skunk) could use the culverts for local movement. Wildlife species could also use the riverine habitat of San Antonio Creek for local movement. The proposed project would not modify any of these features, nor substantially increase the level of disturbance beyond that which is present under ambient conditions.

Local Policies and Ordinances

Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance

County protected trees within the APE are defined by the County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO) Tree Protection Ordinance (VCTPO, § 8107-25 et seq.) based on their species and/or girth (also known as diameter at standard height [DSH]) and include:

- “Heritage trees” of any species with a single trunk measuring 90 or more inches in girth or with multiple trunks, two of which collectively measure 72 inches in girth or more. In addition, species with naturally thin trunks when full grown (such as Washington Palms), species with naturally large trunks at an early age (such as some date palms), or trees with unnaturally enlarged trunks due to injury or disease (e.g., burls and galls) must be at least sixty feet tall or 75 years old to be considered as a heritage tree.
- “Historical trees” which are any tree or group of trees identified by the County or a city as a landmark or identified on the Federal or California Historic Resources Inventory to be of historical or cultural significance, or identified as contributing to a site or structure of historical or cultural significance.
- “Oak tree” of any species of the genus *Quercus* measuring 9.5 inches or more in girth for a single-trunk tree and at least one trunk measuring 6.25 inches in girth for a multiple-trunk tree.
- “Sycamore tree” of any species of the genus *Platanus* measuring 9.5 inches or more in girth.

Per the VCTPO, no person shall alter, fell, or remove a protected tree except in accordance with the provisions of § 8107-25 et seq. If tree alteration, felling, or removal is part of a project requiring a discretionary permit, then the tree permit application and approval process should accompany the parent project discretionary permit (§ 8107-25.3). The VCTP defines the tree protection zone (TPZ) as “the surface and subsurface area within the dripline and extending a minimum of five feet outside the dripline, or 15 feet from the trunk of a tree, whichever is greater.



This ordinance applies in the unincorporated areas of the County outside the coastal zone and regulates—through a tree permit program—the removal or alteration (pruning, cutting, trimming, or otherwise damaging or invading the protected zone of a tree or to cause such alterations). Invasion includes trenching, digging, placement of heavy equipment, vehicles or materials within the protected zone (§ 8107-25.2). Individual trees are the focus of the ordinance, while oak woodlands are additionally protected as “locally important communities.” The ordinance requires a ministerial permit for alteration, felling, or removal of protected trees necessary to construct improvements within the public right-of-way or within a flood control or other public utility right of way; and of no more than five protected trees from a subject property where the trees deny reasonable access and/or use of the property as permitted by zoning (only three of which can be oaks or sycamores and none of which may be heritage or historical trees). Removal of more/other than this may trigger a discretionary tree permit.

Coast live oak trees, valley oak trees, sycamore trees, and potential heritage trees were observed within the APE at all four sites within the County (Private Drive, Foothill Road, Running Ridge, and East Ojai Tank). No historical trees currently designated by the County are present in the APE (County 2016, County 2025).

Ventura County 2040 General Plan

The Ventura County 2040 General Plan Conservation Element and Ojai Valley Area Plan Conservation and Open Space section contain the following policies applicable to this project:

- OV-36 states indigenous plant species will be incorporated into revegetation or landscaping plans where feasible. COS-1.12 states discretionary development landscaping shall be subject to the California Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance and avoid planting invasive species.
- OV-36.2 and COS-1.1 state a biological field reconnaissance report detailing species composition, presence of rare/threatened/endangered or candidate plant or animal species, significant wetlands, locally important plant communities, and suitable mitigation measures shall be prepared for discretionary development permits fully accounting for the impacted resource.
- OV-36.3 and COS-1.10 state discretionary development within 300 feet of wetlands shall be evaluated for potential impacts, and development shall be coordinated with affected agencies regulating water courses and wetland habitats to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are addressed.
- OV-36.4 and COS-1.9 state CDFW, USFWS, National Audubon Society, CNPS, and the Los Padres National Forest shall be contacted for discretionary development activities with potential to adversely affect resources under their purview.
- OV-36.5 states discretionary development resulting in significant adverse impact to a locally important plant community will replace removals on at least a 1:1 basis and monitor success for a minimum of seven years or dedicate lands at least two times the acreage of the removed area.
- OV-36.6 and COS-1.4 state discretionary development shall consider project-specific and cumulative impacts on wildlife movement, and development within 300 feet of San Antonio Creek shall be reviewed for interference with wildlife migration opportunities.
- OV-36.7 states discretionary development shall be located to avoid loss or damage to protected trees as defined in the VCTPO.
- OV-36.8 states discretionary development on parcels containing VCTPO protected trees shall design grading to ensure survival and health of all protected trees, except those expressly authorized for removal or encroachment into the protected zone.



City of Ojai

The Ojai Municipal Code contains policies which protect sensitive habitats. Ojai Municipal Code Chapter Title 4 Chapter 11 protects oak, sycamore, heritage and other mature trees as significant historical, aesthetic, and ecological resources, including:

- Oak trees of the genus *Quercus*, with a single trunk diameter of eight inches as measured four and one-half feet above the root crown; or with multiple trunks, where the sum of the two largest trunks measures 11 inches.
- Sycamore trees of the genus *Platanus*, with a single trunk diameter of eight inches; or with multiple trunks, where the sum of the two largest trunks measures ten inches.
- Mature trees of any species which is designated as such by the City Council, with a single trunk diameter of 12 inches; or with multiple trunks, where the sum of the two largest trunks measures 14.5 inches.
- Heritage tree of any species which is designated as such by the City Council.
- A permit is required to remove, cut down, destroy, or relocate; trench, grade, fill, compact, or place construction material of any type in the dripline; prune live limbs over four inches in diameter; or remove more than 25 percent of the canopy of protected trees located on all vacant and developed property not zoned as single-family residential.

Ojai Municipal Code Sec. 7-1.503 states:

- The trimming of trees shall be permitted only when and in the manner authorized by a permit so the shapeliness of the tree may be preserved. The removal of non-hazardous live trees shall require Council approval; dead or hazardous trees may be removed at the discretion of the Director. The removal of trees will be approved, and a permit issued, only when a necessity for removal exists. When a tree is removed, the entire stump shall be taken out at least one foot below the existing or proposed subgrade, unless otherwise specified in the permit, and the hole back-filled and compacted. All debris from trimming or removal shall be removed from the site, and the right-of-way shall be restored to its former condition. A suitable replacement tree may be required.

Ojai Municipal Code Sec. 9-11.203 states:

- Applications for grading permits shall include a tree and floral assessment containing the following information: A description of the trees and vegetation to be affected by grading; a description of the efforts to be undertaken to retain trees and vegetation within the proposed grading area; and a description of the methods of disposal of selected trees and vegetation.

Oak and sycamore trees and potential heritage trees are present at the two sites within the City, Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, and OWS Wellfield.

Ojai Municipal Code Sec. 10-2.1004 states:

- All structures (e.g., buildings, decks, fences) shall be set back a minimum of 25 feet from a blue line creek's top of bank. Additional setbacks may be necessary to protect sensitive environmental resources (e.g., vernal pools). Setbacks adjacent to creekside paths or open spaces shall be measured from the outside boundary of the path or open space.
- Structures, parking access, parking spaces, paved areas, swimming pools, or utilities (e.g., overhead or underground) shall not be constructed within a creek or creekside setback area.



- Grading or filling, planting of exotic/non-native or non-riparian plant species, or removal of native vegetation shall not occur within a creek or creekside setback area.
- Creek stabilization measures may be required if development or land use changes increase impervious surfaces or sedimentation resulting in stream channel erosion.

San Antonio Creek (jurisdictional feature) flows from northeast to southwest through a small portion of APE, within the 50-foot buffer of the OWS Wellfield site, outside of the project footprint.

California Government Code

Per California Government Code Section 53091, building and zoning ordinances of a county or city do not apply to the location or construction of facilities for the production, storage, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency.

Conservation Plans

The APE does not occur within any Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan areas.

Floodplain Management, Protection of Wetlands, Critical Habitat, Coastal Zone, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Essential Fish Habitat, Coastal Barrier Resources, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Most of the proposed project components are located outside of designated flood hazard areas, as defined by Executive Order (EO) 11988. However:

- The OWS Wellfield site is located within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Zone AE, which is defined as an area subject to inundation by the 1-percent annual chance (100-year) flood.
- The Ojai East Tank site is located within both FEMA Zone AE and Zone B, the latter of which is subject to inundation by the 0.2-percent annual chance (100 to 500-year) flood (FEMA 2014, 2021).

Under EO 11990, federal agencies must avoid affecting wetlands unless it is determined no practicable alternative is available. As described in the previous *Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands* section, no jurisdictional wetlands occur within the APE.

The APE is not within or adjacent to the Coastal Zone or any federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. The APE does not contain critical habitat as designated by the USFWS or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for threatened or endangered plant or wildlife species. The closest USFWS-designated critical habitat is for southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), located approximately 1.6 miles west of the Running Ridge site, in the Santa Clara River (USFWS 2025b). The closest NMFS-designated critical habitat is for steelhead – southern California DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 10), approximately 1.3 miles southwest of the Ojai East Tank site, in Lion Creek (NMFS 2025). Furthermore, the APE is not within or adjacent any Essential Fish Habitat, within lands covered by the Coastal Barrier Resources System, nor does it contain resources regulated by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.



Impact Analysis and Recommended Measures

This section discusses the potential impacts to biological resources potentially occurring from implementation of the proposed project and recommends measures to reduce those impacts.

Special Status Species

Special Status Plant Species

No special status plant species were observed during the field survey. As discussed previously, no special status plant species have a moderate or high potential to occur within the APE. Special status plant species have specialized habitat requirements, including plant community types, soils, and other elements. The project footprint lacks these requirements. Based on the lack of suitable habitat within the APE, no special status plants are expected to occur within the APE. Therefore, the project would have no effect on special status plant species under NEPA. No potential impacts to special status plant species under CEQA.

Special Status Wildlife Species

No special status wildlife species were observed during the field survey. Four special status wildlife species as designated by the state were determined to have a moderate potential to occur in the APE based upon habitat preferences, species occurrence records from the CNDDDB, and species occurrence records from other sites near the APE: Crotch's bumble bee, California legless lizard, coastal whiptail, and coast patch-nosed snake. As further discussed in the subsequent sections, potential impacts would be less than significant under CEQA, with implementation of proposed Measure BIO-1.

No federally listed special status wildlife species were determined to have a moderate or high potential to occur in the APE, based on prior development and ongoing disturbances and lack of suitable plant communities. Therefore, the project would have no effect on federally listed wildlife species under NEPA.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

Elements of suitable habitat for the Crotch's bumble bee are present within the APE, specifically within the 50-foot buffer at the OWS Wellfield site where California buckwheat is present and the scrub habitat at the Running Ridge Tank site. Multiple known CNDDDB occurrences are recorded within five miles of the APE, including one occurrence from 2017 located approximately 0.4 mile southeast of the East Ojai Tank site (CDFW 2025a). Although habitat for this species occurs within the APE, the project footprint occurs within previously developed infrastructure, including existing water tanks, pump stations, gravel substrates, and highly disturbed herbaceous layer (mowed grasses). Crotch's bumble bee has a moderate potential to transit within the project footprint at the Running Ridge Tank site and a low potential to transit within the OWS Wellfield site. The species is not expected to forage, nest, or overwinter in the project footprint at the Running Ridge and OWS Wellfield sites based on prior development, existing disturbances, and lack of suitable nesting substrate and host plants. Furthermore, Crotch's bumble bee is not expected to occur within the APE at the other sites (Private Drive, Foothill Road, Arbolada Pump Station and Tanks, Ojai East Tank) due to lack of suitable habitat.

Potential impacts to Crotch's bumblebee nesting are not expected because no ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities are proposed at the Running Ridge site, and the OWS Wellfield site lacks suitable habitat within the project footprint. To help ensure impacts to potential transiting bumble bees at the Running Ridge site are avoided, Measure BIO-1 requires environmental education to aid workers in recognizing special status biological resources potentially occurring in the APE. Potential impacts to



Crotch's bumble bee would be less than significant under CEQA, with implementation of proposed Measure BIO-1.

California Legless Lizard, Coastal Whiptail, and Coast Patch-nosed Snake

Elements of suitable habitat for California legless lizard, coastal whiptail, and coast patch-nosed snake are present within the APE, specifically within the scrub habitat at the Running Ridge Tank site. Multiple known CNDDDB occurrences are recorded for California legless lizard and coast patch-nosed snake within five miles of the APE (CDFW 2025a). Although the Running Ridge site contains existing water tanks and a disturbed, dirt footpath, marginally suitable scrub habitat for special status reptile species occurs within the black sage – California sagebrush scrub habitat surrounding the tank and footpath. The species have a moderate potential to occur within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge Tank site. The other project footprints within the APE (Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, Private Drive, Foothill Road, OWS Wellfield, and Ojai East Tank) contain previously developed infrastructure, including existing water tanks, pump stations, gravel substrates, and highly disturbed herbaceous layer (mowed grasses). Potential impacts to special status reptiles at the Running Ridge tank site are not expected because no ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities are proposed at this site. Therefore, no impact would occur under CEQA.

Nesting Birds

The APE contains habitat capable of supporting nesting birds, including raptors protected under the CFGC and the federal MBTA. The adjacent native trees, ornamental vegetation and orchards along the project footprint provide suitable nesting habitat for avian species. Specifically, the coast live oak trees and blue gum eucalyptus throughout the APE contain suitable habitat for passerine and raptor species, such as Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). In addition, the existing water facilities and road culverts may provide habitat for mud and cavity-nesting birds such as cliff swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) and black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). The loss of a nest through mortality or abandonment of nests due to construction activities would be a violation of the MBTA and CFGC Section 3503. Potential project impacts would be less than significant under CEQA, with implementation of proposed Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3 would help ensure compliance with the MBTA and CFGC 3503. For NEPA, potential project effects to nesting birds protected under the MBTA would be avoided and minimized through implementation of proposed Measures BIO-1, BIO-2 and BIO-3.

BIO-1 Worker Environmental Awareness Program. Prior to initiation of construction activities (including staging and mobilization) at the Running Ridge Tank and OWS Wellfield sites, all personnel associated with project construction at these sites shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to aid workers in recognizing special status biological resources potentially occurring in the APE. This training shall include information about Crotch's bumblebee, special status reptiles (California legless lizard, coast whiptail, and coast patch-nosed snake), nesting birds, and protected trees.

The specifics of this program shall include identification of special status species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of special status resources, and review of the limits of construction and measures required to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. Employees shall sign a form provided by the trainer documenting they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The crew foreman shall be responsible for



ensuring crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions designed to avoid impacts to special status species.

BIO-2 Nesting Bird Season Avoidance. To avoid disturbance of nesting and special status birds, including raptor species protected by the MBTA and CFGC 3503, activities related to the project including, but not limited to, vegetation removal, ground disturbance, and construction and demolition shall occur outside of the bird breeding season for migratory birds (February 1 through August 31), if practicable.

BIO-3 Nesting Bird Survey. If construction must begin during the breeding season, then a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted no more than seven days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and vegetation removal activities. The nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted on foot inside the project footprint, including a 100-foot buffer (300-foot for raptors), and in inaccessible areas (e.g., private lands) from afar using binoculars to the extent practicable. The survey shall be conducted by a biologist familiar with the identification of avian species known to occur in southern California coastal communities. If nests are found, an avoidance buffer (dependent upon the species, the proposed work activity, and existing disturbances associated with land uses outside of the site) shall be determined and demarcated by the biologist with bright orange construction fencing, flagging, construction lathe, or other means to mark the boundary. All construction personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zone and to avoid entering the buffer zone during the nesting season. No ground-disturbing activities shall occur inside this buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed breeding/nesting is completed, and the young have fledged the nest. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

Sensitive Plant Communities

No sensitive plant communities are documented within the APE. Coast live oak woodlands, a locally important plant community in Ventura County (County 2007), are present within the 50-foot buffer of the Ojai East Tank APE, outside of the project footprint. Impacts to coast live oak woodlands are further discussed in the *Local Policies and Ordinances* section. No potential impacts to sensitive plant communities are expected under CEQA.

Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands

The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. As stated previously in the *Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands* section, San Antonio Creek is subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE, and RWQCB, and CDFW within the APE. San Antonio Creek is located outside of the project footprint at the OWS Wellfield site, but within a small portion of the 50-foot buffer of the APE. The proposed project has been designed to avoid direct impacts to San Antonio Creek. Construction activities would occur outside of riparian vegetation and the top of bank associated with San Antonio Creek, and no construction personnel or equipment use are expected to encroach into jurisdictional features. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to directly impact jurisdictional waters or wetlands regulated by the USACE, RWQCB, or CDFW.

Indirect impacts from construction materials, such as stockpiled materials, construction equipment, and trash, stored onsite could adversely affect water quality. These impacts may include increased turbidity, altered pH, or decreased dissolved oxygen levels within the water features if runoff occurs during storm events. Therefore, Measure BIO-4 should be implemented within 50 feet of San Antonio



Creek at the OWS Wellfield site to reduce potential indirect impacts to water quality within San Antonio Creek. Potential project impacts to jurisdictional waters would be less than significant under CEQA with implementation of proposed Measures BIO-1 and BIO-4. In addition, with implementation of proposed Measure BIO-4, potential indirect effects to jurisdictional waters regulated by the USACE under CWA Section 404 and NEPA would not be expected.

BIO-4 Jurisdictional Waters Avoidance and Minimization. The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be implemented to help ensure avoidance and minimization of potential indirect impacts to San Antonio Creek at the OWS Wellfield site:

- **Disturbance Area.** Areas of temporary disturbance shall be minimized to the extent practicable.
- **Staging Equipment.** Staging and laydown areas shall be limited to unvegetated areas and previously disturbed sites only.
- **Pollutant Management.** All vehicles and equipment shall be in good working condition and free of leaks to avoid or minimize the risk of oil, petroleum products, or any other pollutant from contaminating the soil or entering a watercourse (dry or otherwise). When vehicles or equipment are stationary, mats or drip pans shall be placed below vehicles to contain fluid leaks.
- **Material Storage.** Materials shall be stored on impervious surfaces or plastic ground covers to avoid or minimize the effects of any spills or leakage. Material storage shall be at least 100 feet from San Antonio Creek. Any material/spoils from project activities shall be located and stored 100 feet from potential jurisdictional areas (San Antonio Creek). Construction materials and spoils shall be protected from stormwater run-off using temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, silt fences, fiber rolls, covers, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers, as appropriate.
- **Tracking Loose Material.** Implement BMPs to avoid or minimize the off-site tracking of loose construction and landscape materials such as street sweeping, vacuuming, and rumble plates, as appropriate.
- **Pollution Prevention.** Avoid or minimize the discharge of silt or pollutants off the site when working adjacent to potentially jurisdictional waters by installing BMPs (e.g., silt barriers, sand bags, straw bales) as appropriate.
- **Site Materials and Refuse Management.** All food related trash shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project area each day during the construction period. Construction personnel shall not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the construction area. At project completion, all project-generated debris, vehicles, building materials, and rubbish shall be removed from the project footprint.
- **Re-fueling and Maintenance.** All re-fueling, cleaning, and maintenance of equipment shall occur at least 100 feet from potentially jurisdictional waters (San Antonio Creek).
- **Responding to Spilled Materials.** Any spillage of material shall be stopped if it can be done safely. The contaminated area shall be cleaned, and any contaminated materials properly disposed. For all spills, the project foreman or other designated liaison shall notify Casitas immediately.

Wildlife Movement

The entirety of the APE occurs within an ECA as mapped in the report, *California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project: A Strategy for Conserving a Connected California* (Spencer et al. 2010). In



addition, San Antonio Creek could act as a movement corridor for wildlife species. Fully developed properties are present adjacent to the APE and common wildlife adapted to urban and suburban areas, such as raccoon and striped skunk could use the riverine habitat of San Antonio Creek for local movement. The proposed project would not modify any of these features, nor substantially increase the level of disturbance beyond that which is present under ambient conditions.

Overall, the proposed project is not expected to hinder wildlife movement in the region, considering none of the project components are designed in such a way as to create a barrier to wildlife movement and project activities would occur within the existing fenced facilities. The project footprint is located within previously developed infrastructure and no new infrastructure footprint is proposed beyond the new pipelines, new tank, new well, and new pump stations. The new infrastructure would be similar in design compared to the existing infrastructure and would not create a barrier to wildlife movement. Therefore, potential impacts to wildlife movement would be less than significant under CEQA.

Local Policies and Ordinances

In the City and County jurisdictions, protected trees were observed within the APE including California sycamore, coast live oak, and potential historical or heritage trees. Impacts to protected trees may include construction equipment compacting soil around the trees and disturbance of the crown and the root zone from trenching, grading, and clearance pruning. The proposed project is replacing infrastructure currently in place. Most of the project components are located within developed public right-of-way and developed water facilities. The Ojai Municipal Code states a permit is required when encroachment to a protected tree dripline is unavoidable. Applications for a permit to impact protected trees must be accompanied by a certified arborist report. The report should list each of the protected trees located within the work area, show the protected tree's location on a development plan, and recommend a program for protecting the trees prior to, during, and after construction.

Removal, alteration, or encroachment into the TPZ of a tree regulated by the County of Ventura requires a ministerial permit to be obtained from the County. Minor pruning does not require a permit and includes pruning dead limbs or roots, pruning living limbs or roots 20 percent less than the trunk's girth, and pruning living limbs or roots less than 20 percent of the tree's overall canopy or root system. The removal, encroachment, or alteration of protected trees necessary to construct improvement within the public right-of-way or within a flood control or other public utility right-of-way; and no more than five protected trees from a subject property where the trees deny reasonable access and/or use of the property as permitted by zoning may occur through a ministerial permit process. A ministerial permit requires the following:

- Ministerial tree permit application;
- Site sketch (no construction involved) or Site Plan (if involves new/expanding development);
- \$100 (non-refundable) application fee for one tree, \$315 for more than one tree;
- Color photos of tree(s); and
- Arborist Verification of Tree Protection Measures (Tree Form M5), if applicable.

Removal, encroachment, or alteration of more than the ministerial permit process may trigger a discretionary tree permit which requires the following:

- \$750 application deposit (if not part of another discretionary permit request) and
- An Arborist Report (Tree Doc D-AR).



California Government Code Section 53091 exempts location or construction of facilities for the production, storage, or transmission of water, wastewater, or electrical energy by a local agency from requiring a county or city permit. The proposed project has the potential to impact protected oak trees through removal, trimming and/or TPZ encroachment at Arbolada Tank and Pump Station, Foothill Drive, Private Drive, and OWS Wellfield. Therefore, Measure BIO-5 shall be implemented to reduce impacts to less than significant under CEQA and help ensure consistency with local ordinances protecting trees.

BIO-5 Arborist Study. An Arborist Study shall be completed for any protected trees occurring within or adjacent to (with any portion of the crown overhanging) the project footprint within a larger APE as required by the County or the City. The study shall determine the jurisdiction of any trees to be impacted or protected in place. An Arborist Report shall be prepared by a Certified Arborist in compliance with both the City of Ojai and County of Ventura ordinance guidelines. Specifically, the Arborist Report shall include, at minimum:

- An inventory of all trees within or adjacent to (with any portion of the crown overhanging) the project footprint, as feasible without trespassing on private lands. Inventory data shall record, at minimum: trunk location, species, diameter at standard height (DBH), height, dripline, mapping, and health and vigor rating.
- Representative photographs of each regulated tree potentially impacted.
- Description of proposed site development activities including, but not limited to, excavation for trenching, any tree trimming for access, and construction access routes.
- A project-specific Tree Protection Plan (TPP) shall be prepared which would at a minimum include site plans, protective tree fencing, the designated tree protection zone (identifying an area sufficiently large enough to protect the tree and its roots from disturbance), activities prohibited/permitted within the tree protective zone, encroachment boundaries, and potential requirements for transplanting or replacement tree plantings.
- The Arborist Report shall be completed consistent with the tree ordinance guidelines of the County of Ventura or City of Ojai prior to the start of any tree-disturbing construction activities, as necessary.

The Ventura County 2040 General Plan Conservation Element, Ojai Valley Area Plan Conservation and Open Space Section, and Ojai Municipal Code also contain policies to protect potentially jurisdictional waters, sensitive local vegetation communities and species, protected trees, and wildlife movement from development. As discussed in the previous *Special Status Species*, *Sensitive Communities*, *Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands*, and *Wildlife Movement* sections, the project is not anticipated to adversely affect these resources. The project footprint is located within previously developed infrastructure and no new infrastructure footprint is proposed beyond the new pipelines, new tank, new well, and new pump stations. Further, implementation of Measures BIO-1 through BIO-5 would avoid and minimize potential indirect impacts to these resources. The project is consistent with applicable policies from these plans and the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance and Ojai Municipal Code as summarized in the Regulated Biological Resources section.

Based on the project design and with implementation of proposed Measures, potential conflicts with local policies and ordinances.



Conservation Plans

The project parcel does not occur within any federal HCP, state NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan areas. The proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of any such plans. No impacts are expected to HCPs, NCCPs, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans under CEQA. No effects or conflicts with HCPs under NEPA are anticipated.

Floodplain Management, Protection of Wetlands, Critical Habitat, Coastal Zone, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Essential Fish Habitat, Coastal Barrier Resources, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The APE is not within wetlands, Essential Fish Habitat, within or adjacent to the Coastal Zone or Coastal Barrier Resources System, federally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, federally designated critical habitat, or resources regulated by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Some project components are located within FEMA Flood Zones, including the OWS Wellfield site and Ojai East Tank site, as described previously. However, the proposed improvements at these sites — including treatment system upgrades and a new water storage tank — would occur within previously developed areas which currently support water infrastructure. The project would not involve new encroachments into undeveloped floodplain areas, nor would it alter topography or introduce features which could impede or redirect flood flows. Additionally, the project would not increase flood risk to people or structures, nor would it interfere with local or federal floodplain management practices. Therefore, the project is consistent with the intent and requirements of EO 11988.

The proposed project would have no impact on these resources or conflicts with these regulations under NEPA.

Conclusion

Under NEPA, the proposed project would not significantly affect nesting birds protected by the MBTA or potentially jurisdictional waters, with implementation of the Measures described in the *Impact Analysis and Recommended Measures* section. The proposed project would not affect federally listed plant or wildlife species, sensitive natural communities, conservation plans, floodplains, wetlands, critical habitat, the Coastal Zone, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Essential Fish Habitat, Coastal Barrier Resources, or resources regulated by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Under CEQA, potential impacts to special status wildlife, nesting birds, potentially jurisdictional waters, and local policies and ordinances would be less than significant with implementation of the Measures described in the *Impact Analysis and Recommended Measures* section. No potential impacts are expected to sensitive natural communities, wildlife movement, or conservation plans under CEQA.



Thank you for selecting Rincon to provide you with this BRA. Please call if you have questions, or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendra Bonsall".

Kendra Bonsall
Biologist

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven J. Hongola".

Steven J. Hongola
Principal Biologist

Attachments

- Attachment 1 Figures
- Attachment 2 Official Information for Planning and Consultation List
- Attachment 3 Site Photographs
- Attachment 4 Floral and Faunal Compendium
- Attachment 5 Special Status Species Evaluation Tables
- Attachment 6 Resumes

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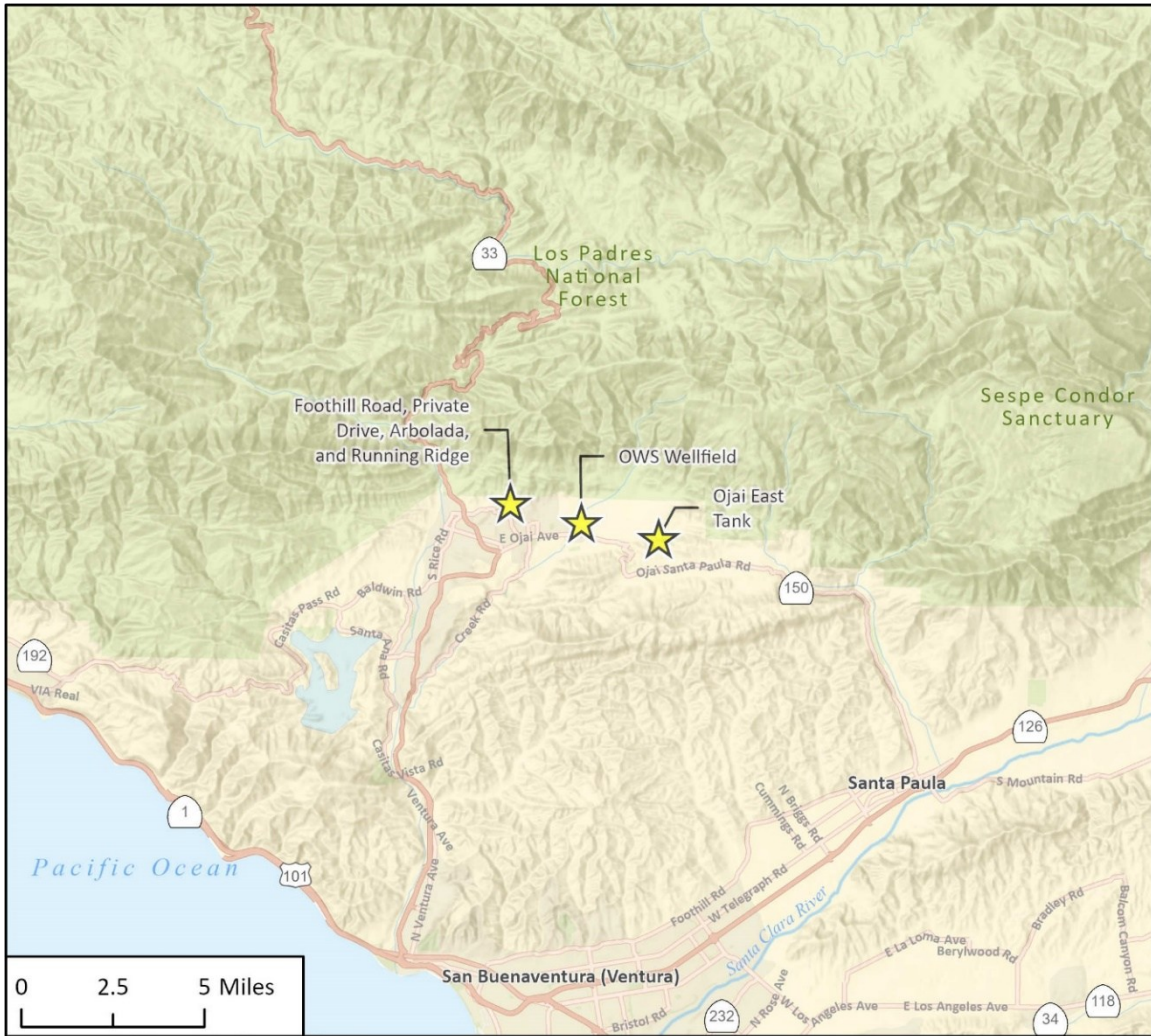


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Attachment 1

Figures

Figure 1 Regional Project Location



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24-16859 EPS
 Fig 1 Regional Location

Project Location

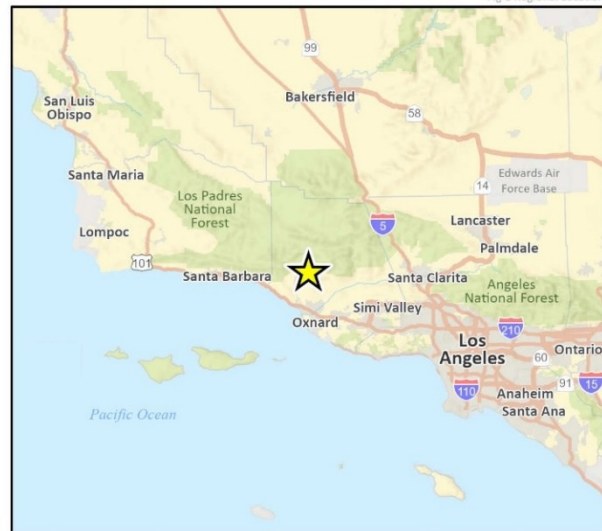


Figure 2 Project Location, Private Drive and Foothill Road



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Fig X Area of Potential Effects

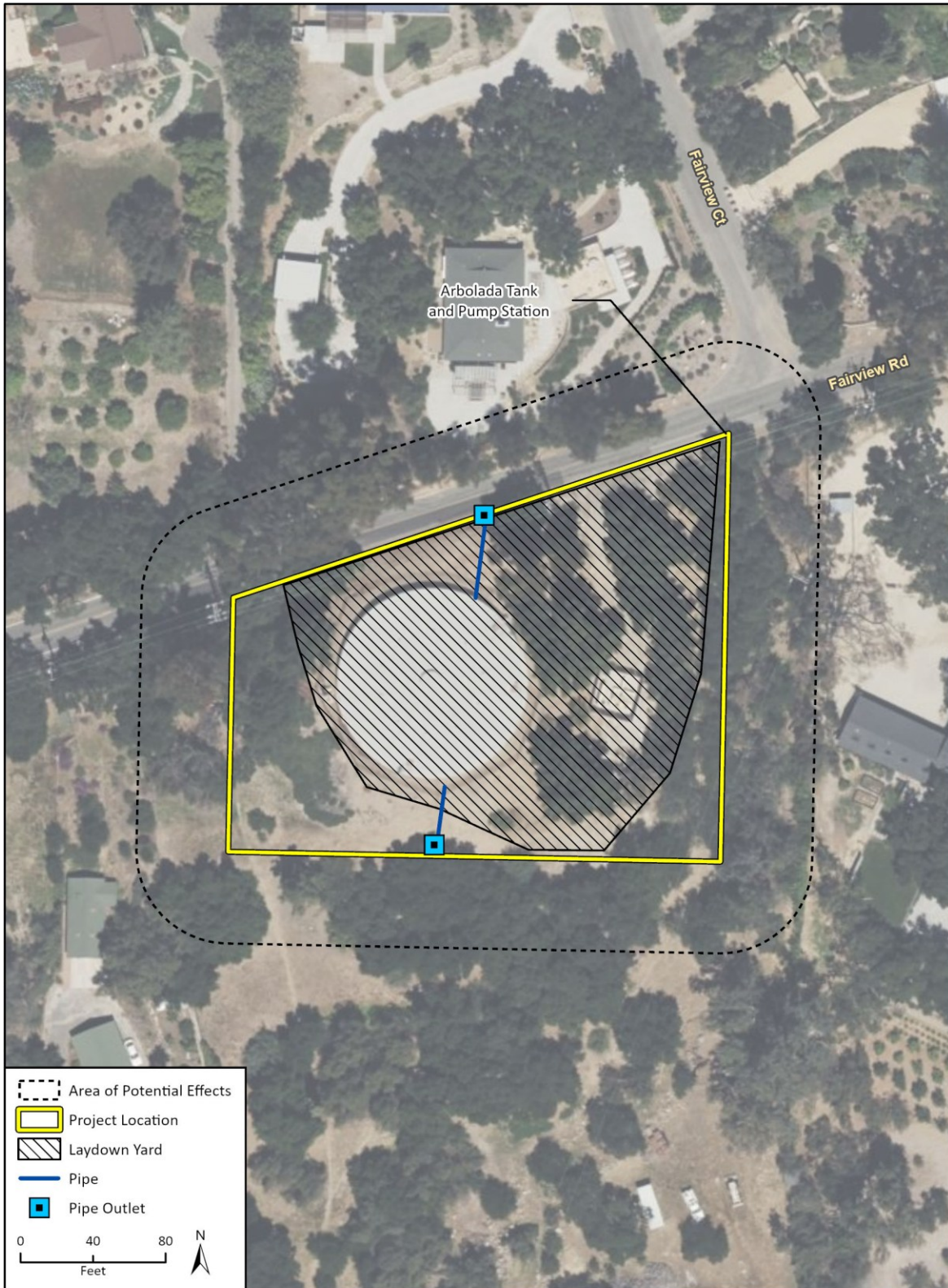
Figure 3 Project Location, Running Ridge Tank



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24-16839 010
Fig X Area of Potential Effects

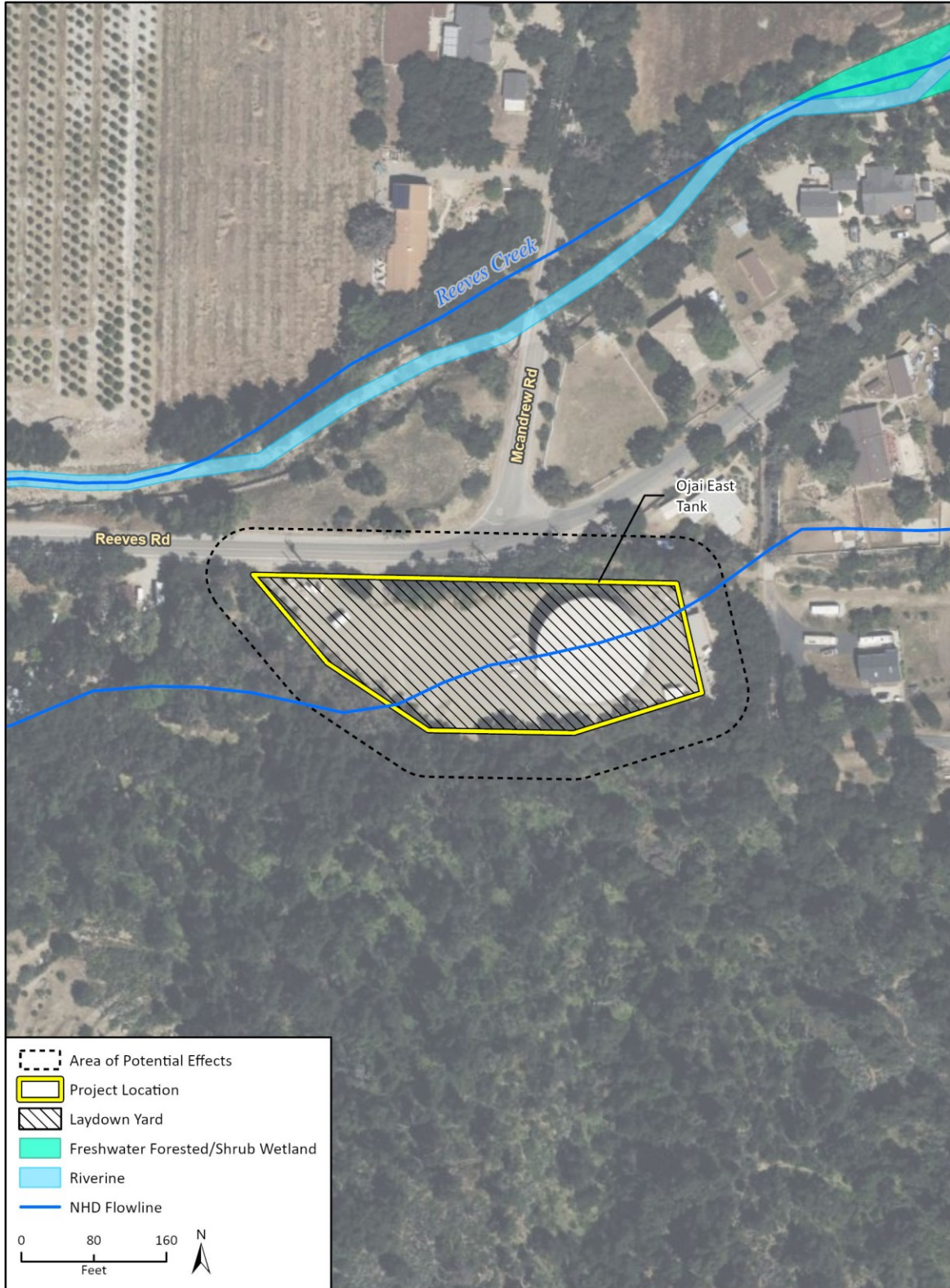
Figure 4 Project Location, Arbolada Tank and Pump Station



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24-16859 BIO
Fig X JD

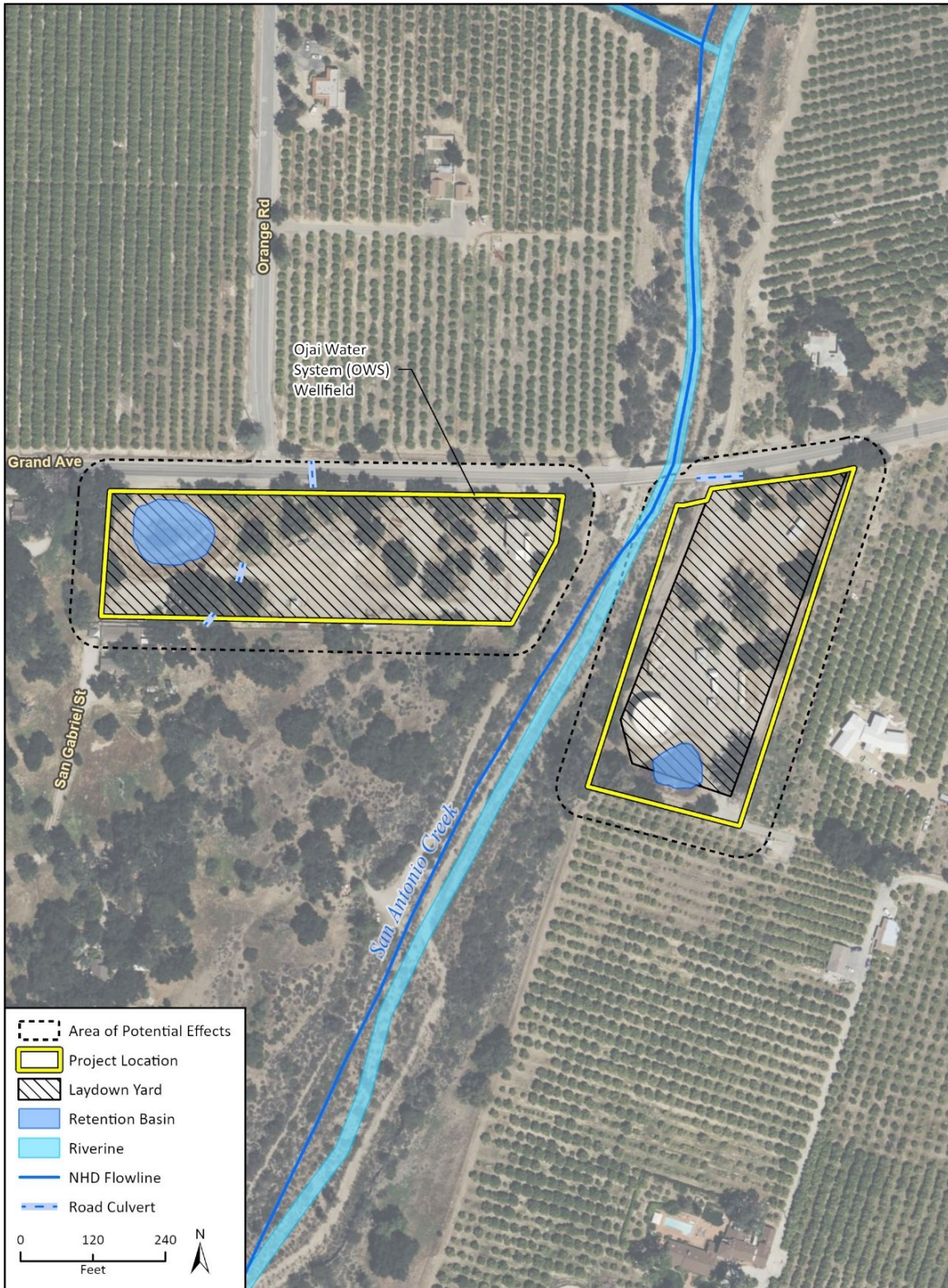
Figure 5 Project Location, Ojai East Tank



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24-16859 B10
 Fig X.ID

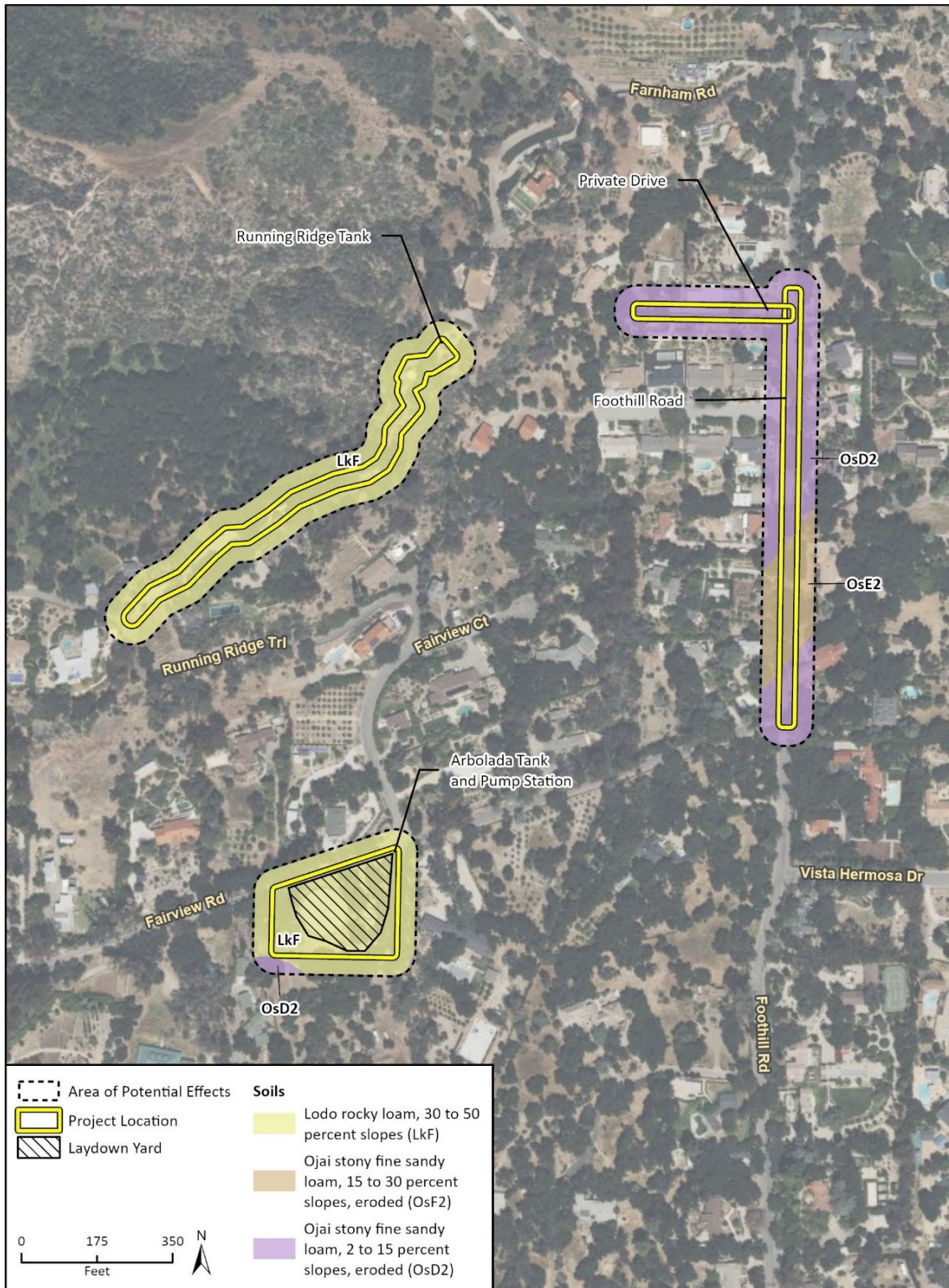
Figure 6 Project Location, OWS Wellfield



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 Additional data provided by the National Wetland Inventory and National Hydrography Dataset, 2025.

24-16839 B10
 Fig X.I.D

Figure 7 Soils, Running Ridge Tank, Private Drive, Foothill Road, and Arbolada Tank and Pump Station



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 Additional data provided by USDA, NRCS, SSURGO, 2025.

24-16859 BIO
 Fig X Soils_1

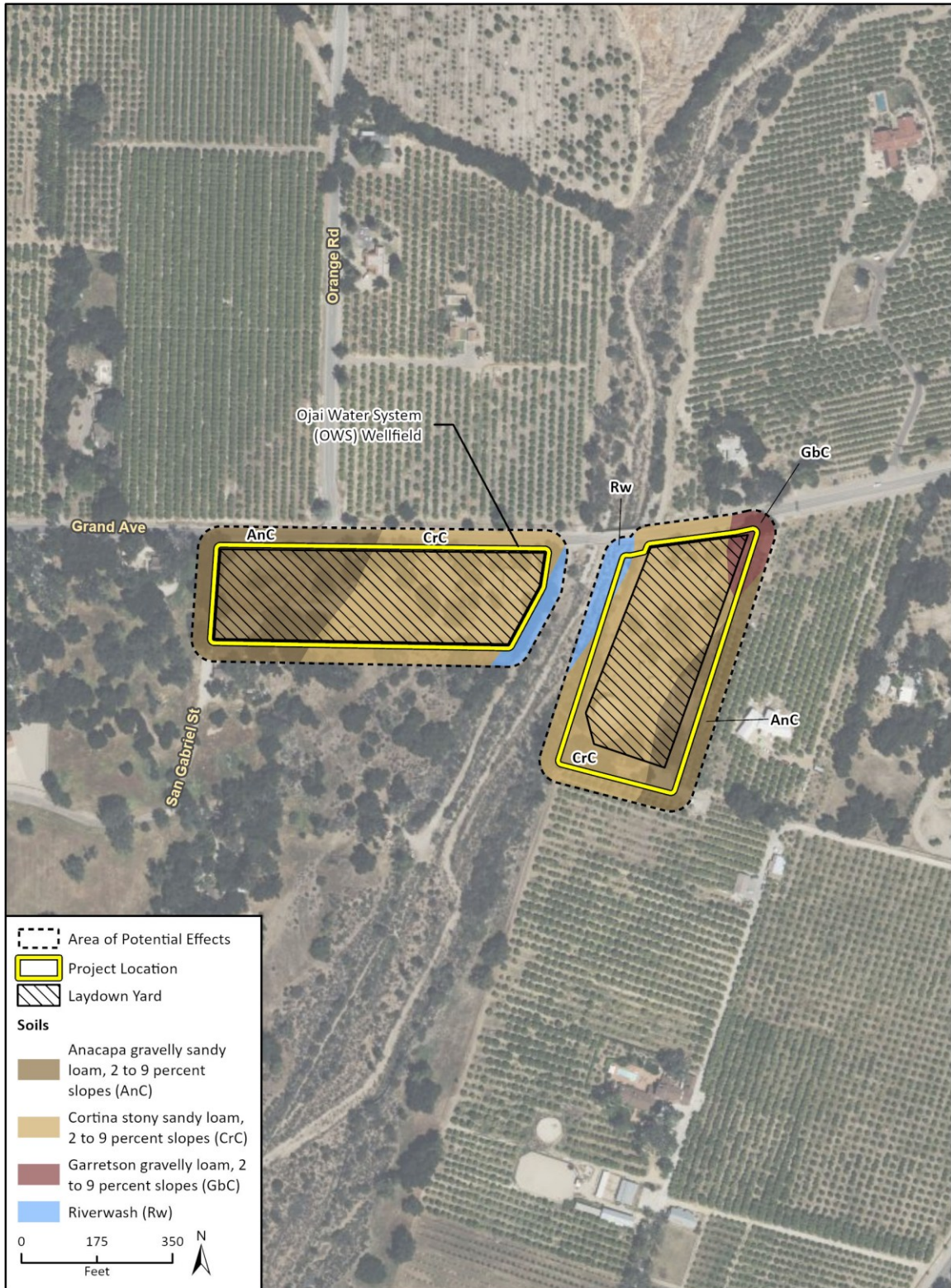
Figure 8 Soils, Ojai East Tank



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 Additional data provided by USDA, NRCS, SSURGO, 2025.

24-16859 B10
 Fig X Soils_3

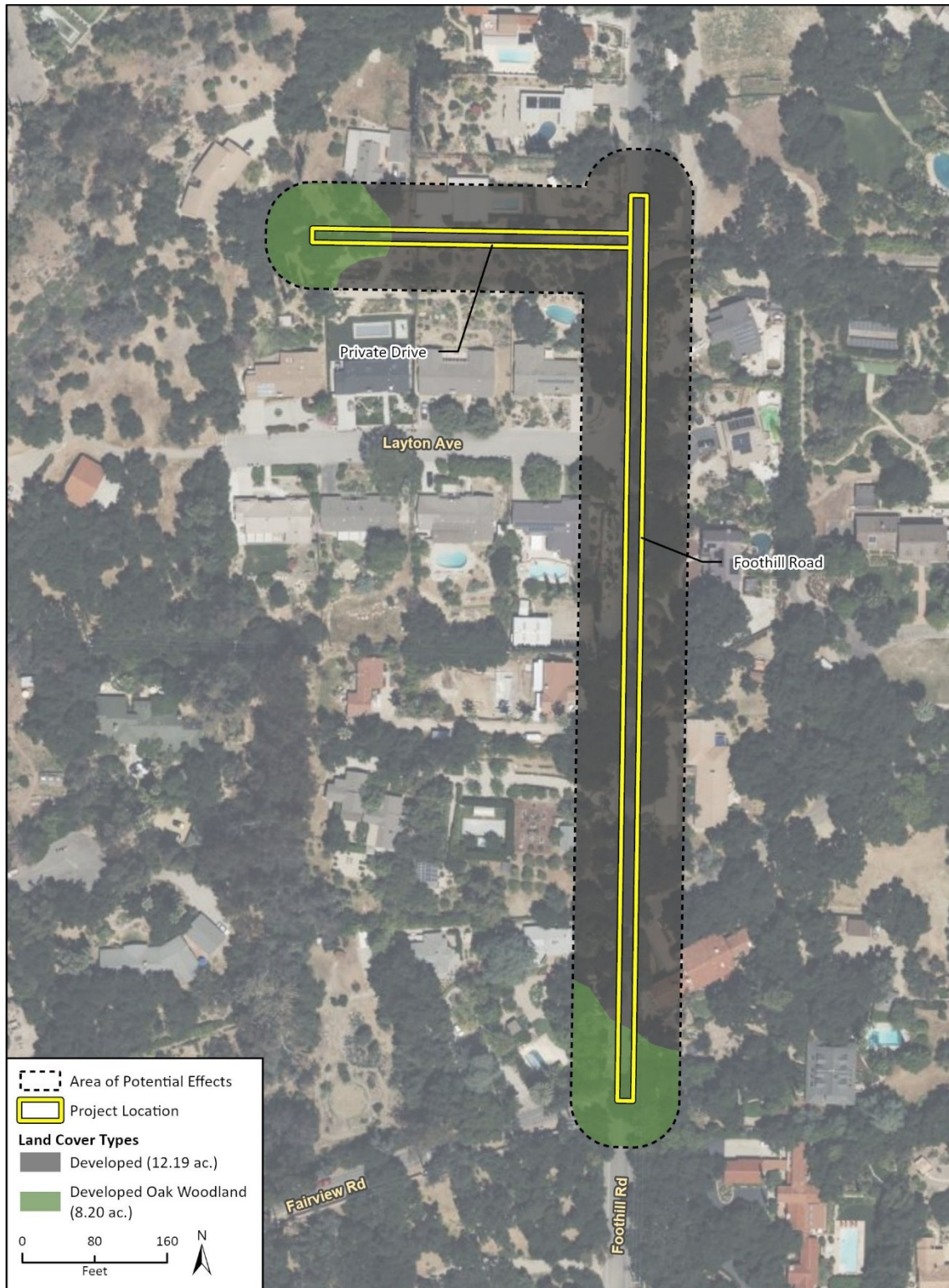
Figure 9 Soils, OWS Wellfield



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 Additional data provided by USDA, NRCS, SSURGO, 2025.

24-16859 B10
 Fig X Soils_2

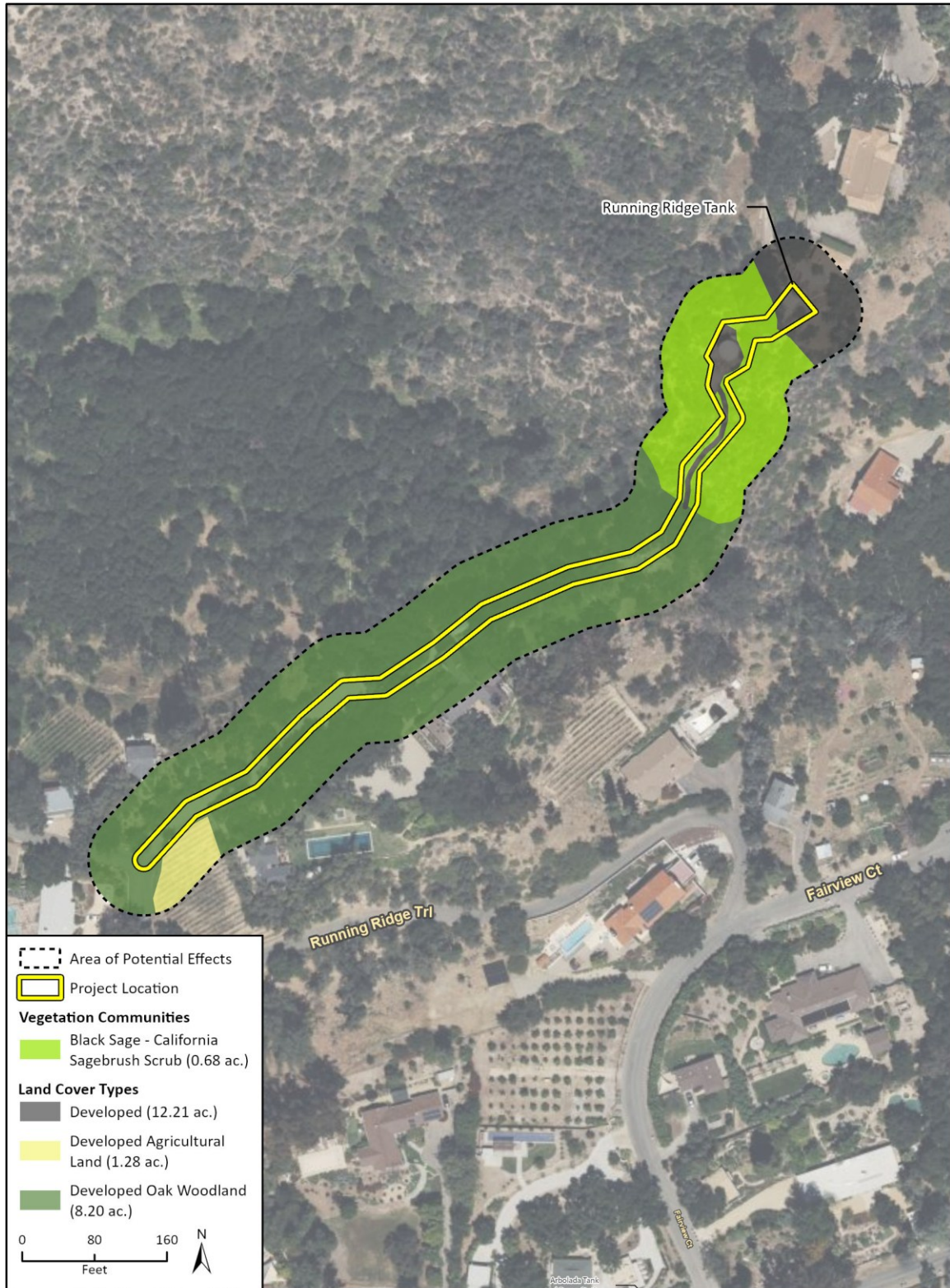
Figure 10 Vegetation Communities and Other Land Cover Types, Private Drive and Foothill Road



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 Additional data provided by National Hydrography Dataset, 2025.

24-16859 B10
 Fig X Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

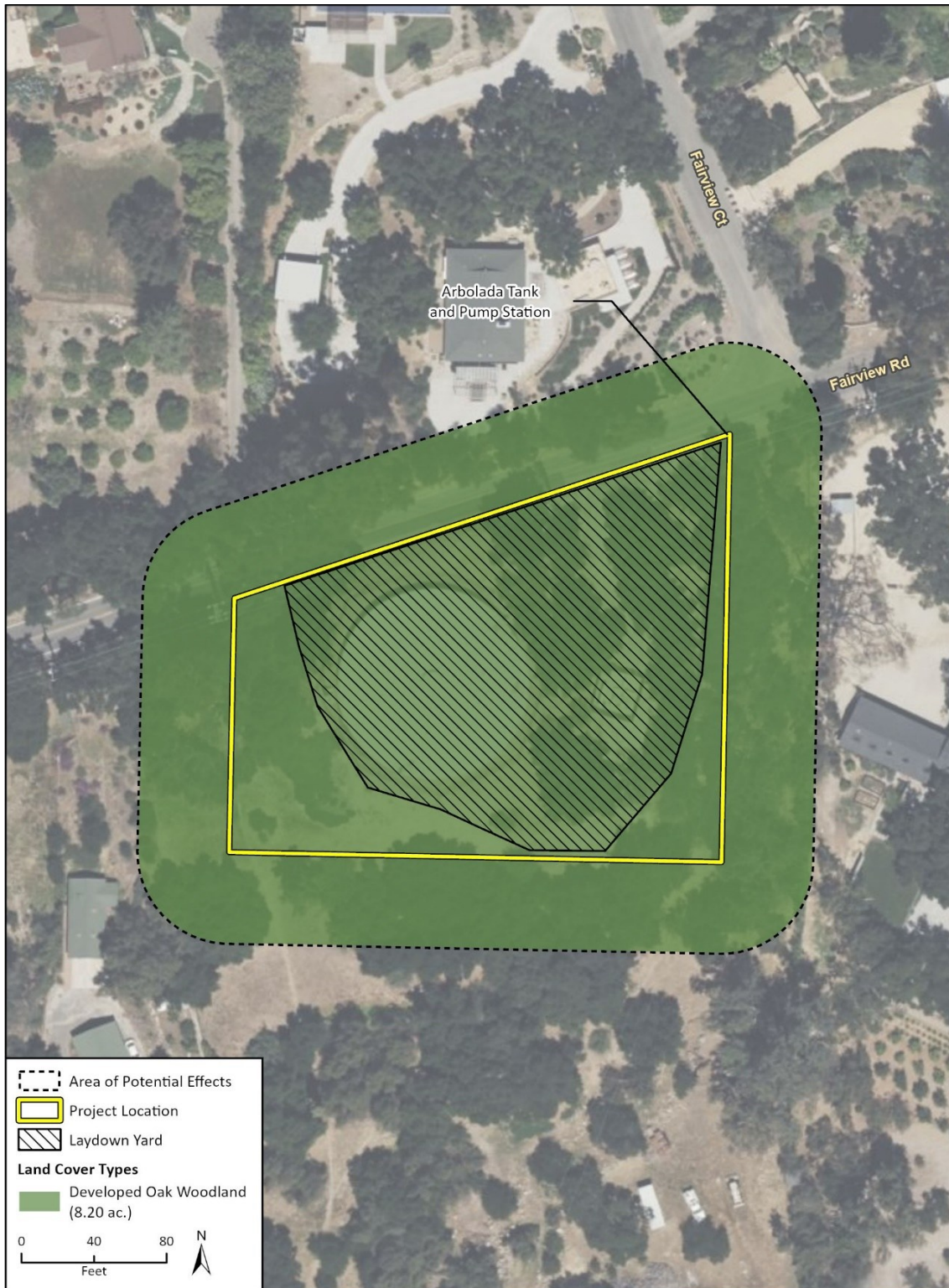
Figure 11 Vegetation Communities and Other Land Cover Types, Running Ridge Tank



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 Additional data provided by National Hydrography Dataset, 2025.

24-18839 B10
 Fig X Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

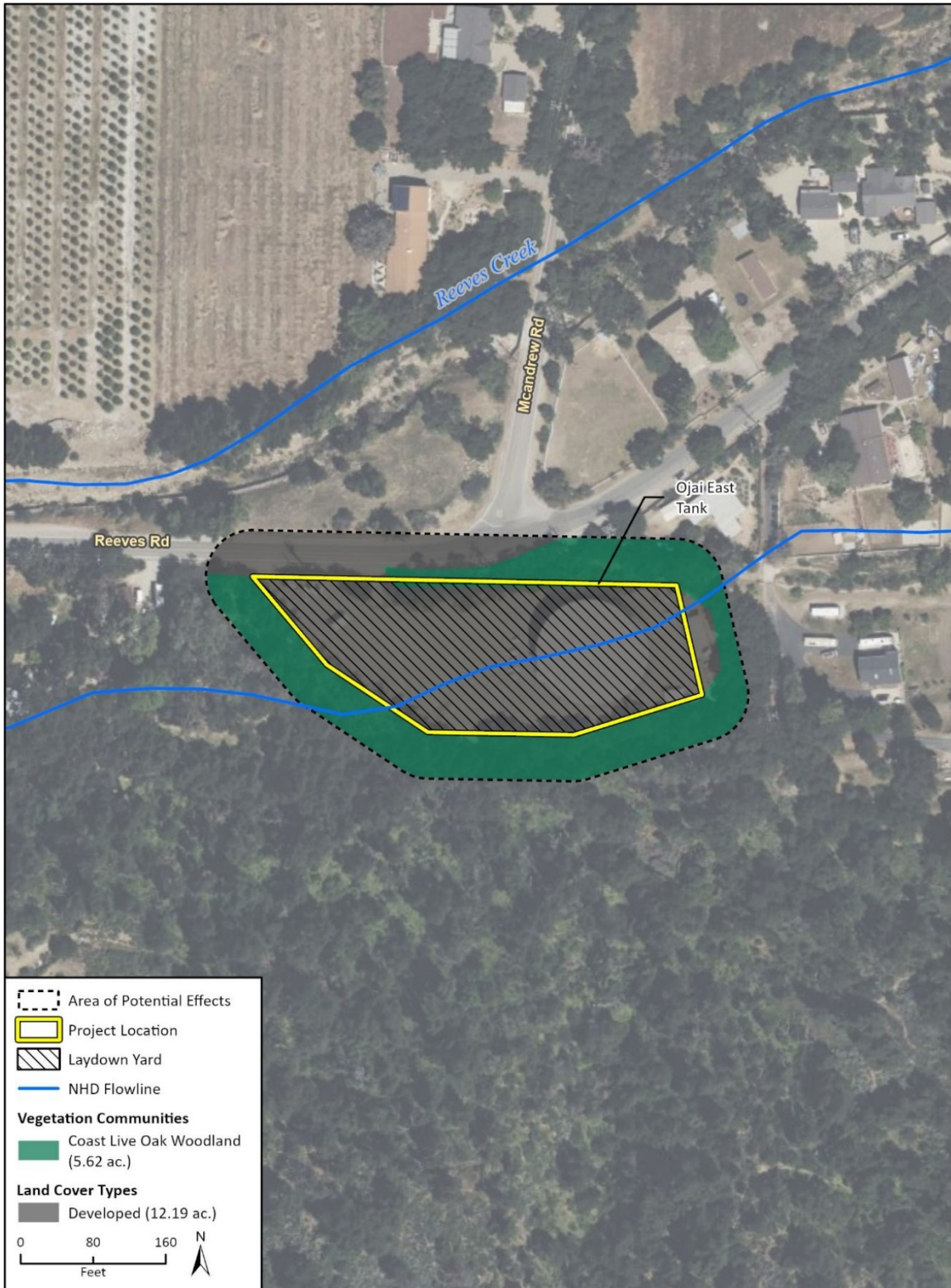
Figure 12 Vegetation Communities and Other Land Cover Types, Arbolada Tank and Pump Station



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 Additional data provided by National Hydrography Dataset, 2025.

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 Fig X Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

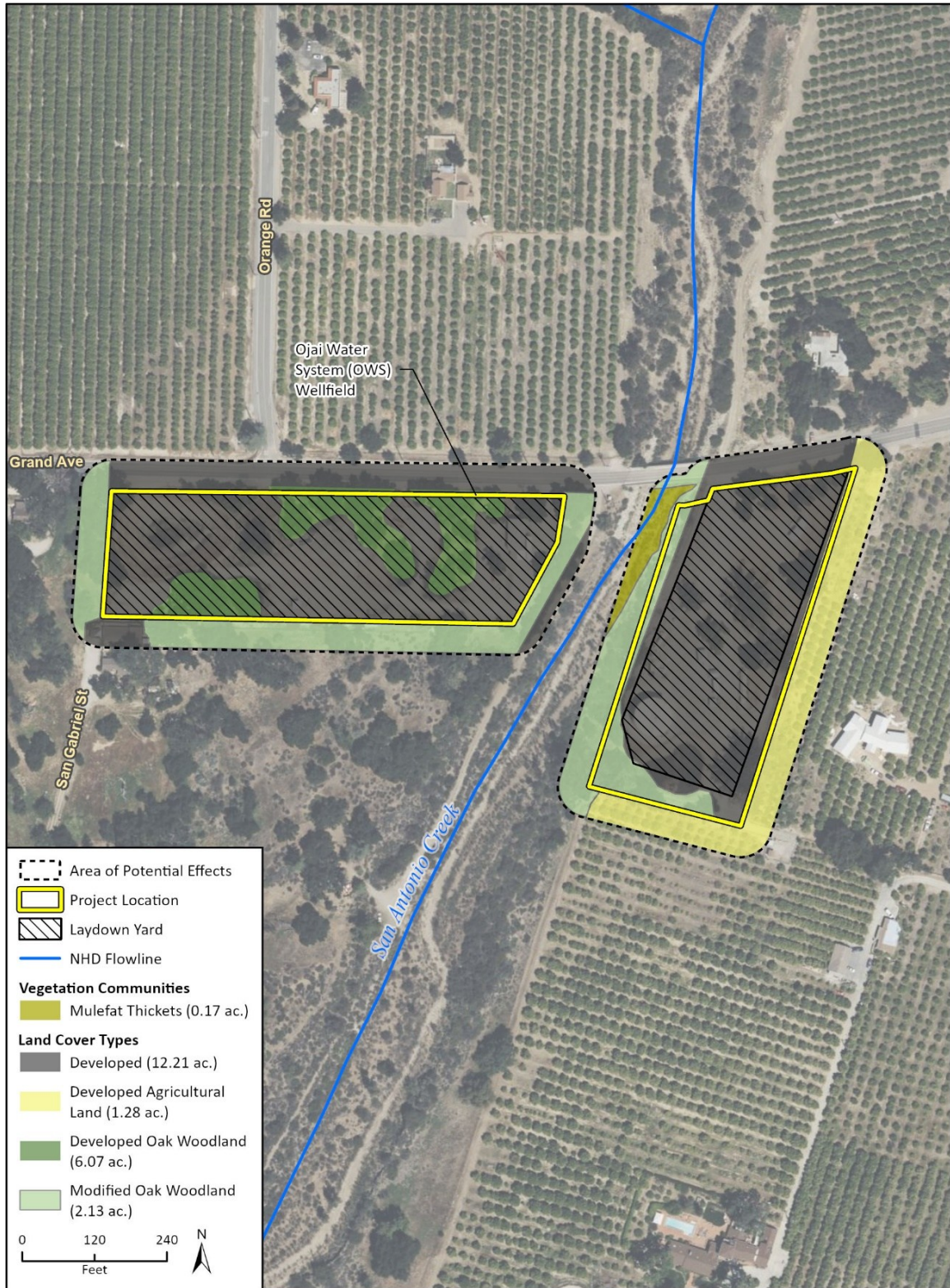
Figure 13 Vegetation Communities and Other Land Cover Types, Ojai East Tank



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 Additional data provided by National Hydrography Dataset, 2025.

24-16859 810
 Fig X Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Figure 14 Vegetation Communities and Other Land Cover Types, OWS Wellfield



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 Additional data provided by National Hydrography Dataset, 2025.

24-18859 BIC
 Fig X Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Attachment 2

Official Information for Planning and Consultation List



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958
Email Address: FW8VenturaSection7@FWS.Gov

In Reply Refer To:

05/22/2025 21:02:12 UTC

Project Code: 2025-0100809

Project Name: Ojai Water System and Casitas Integration Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a

written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the

human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
(805) 644-1766

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2025-0100809
Project Name: Ojai Water System and Casitas Integration Project
Project Type: Water Supply Facility - New Constr
Project Description: The project involves installation of pipelines and replacement of water tanks and pump stations.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.45409395,-119.22730911861387,14z>



Counties: Ventura County, California

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 13 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193	Endangered
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered
Yellow-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Population: Western U.S. DPS There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911	Threatened

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Southwestern Pond Turtle <i>Actinemys pallida</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4768	Proposed Threatened

AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i> Population: South Coast Distinct Population Segment (South Coast DPS) There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5133	Endangered

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

FLOWERING PLANTS

NAME	STATUS
California Orcutt Grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Gambel's Watercress <i>Rorippa gambellii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4201	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: Private Entity
Name: Kendra Bonsall
Address: 319 East Carrillo Street
Address Line 2: Suite 105
City: Santa Barbara
State: CA
Zip: 93101
Email: kbonsall@rinconconsultants.com
Phone: 8319205150

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Ojai city

Attachment 3

Site Photographs



Photograph 1. View of existing tank at the Running Ridge Tank site with surrounding black sage – California sagebrush scrub vegetation, facing north.



Photograph 2. View of existing pipes connected to the Running Ridge Tank site and disturbed, ruderal path, facing south.



Photograph 3. View of disturbed, ruderal path to the Running Ridge Tank site with surrounding black sage – California sagebrush scrub vegetation, facing northeast.



Photograph 4. View of developed residential property proposed as the access to the Running Ridge Tank site, facing southwest.



Photograph 5. View of existing Arbolada Tank and Pump Station site in the developed oak woodland, facing southwest.



Photograph 6. View of developed oak woodland at southeast side of the existing Arbolada Tank and Pump Station site, facing west. A small, plastic pipe is also located on the southeast side of the tank, likely for tank drainage.



Photograph 7. View of existing Arbolada Tank and Pump station site with drainage system, facing east.



Photograph 8. View of existing Arbolada Tank and Pump Station site adjacent to Fairview Road, facing west.



Photograph 9. View of Private Drive in developed, residential neighborhood, facing west.



Photograph 10. View of Foothill Road in developed, residential neighborhood, facing south.



Photograph 11. View of the Ojai Water System (OWS) Wellfield laydown yard (west of San Antonio Creek) with standalone coast live oak trees, facing west.



Photograph 12. View of the OWS Wellfield laydown yard (west of San Antonio Creek) with standalone coast live oak trees, facing west.



Photograph 13. View of road culvert at OWS Wellfield laydown yard (west of San Antonio Creek), facing south.



Photograph 14. View of additional road culvert at OWS Wellfield laydown yard (west of San Antonio Creek), facing south.



Photograph 15. View of retention basin at OWS Wellfield laydown yard (west of San Antonio Creek), facing northeast. Standing water present at time of the survey, supplied by artificial input.



Photograph 16. View of retention basin at OWS Wellfield laydown yard (west of San Antonio Creek), facing southeast. Standing water present at time of the survey, supplied by artificial input.



Photograph 17. View of modified oak woodland in the 50-foot buffer of the APE at the OWS Wellfield site (west of San Antonio Creek), outside of the project footprint, facing southwest.



Photograph 18. View of mulefat thickets vegetation community in San Antonio Creek, facing west. San Antonio Creek was dry at the time of the survey.



Photograph 19. View of existing tank at OWS Wellfield laydown yard (east of San Antonio Creek), facing south.



Photograph 20. View of retention basin at OWS Wellfield laydown yard (east of San Antonio Creek), facing north. Standing water present at time of survey (not pictured, see Photograph 20), supplied by artificial input.



Photograph 21. View of retention basin at OWS Wellfield laydown yard (east of San Antonio Creek), facing southeast. Standing water present at time of the survey, supplied by artificial input.



Photograph 22. View of existing Ojai East Tank with oak woodland behind the fenced facility, facing southwest.

Attachment 4

Floral and Faunal Compendium



Plant Species Observed within the Area of Potential Effects

Scientific Name	Common Name	Native/Nonnative	Cal-IPC rating
Trees and Shrubs			
–	citrus trees	–	–
<i>Acacia</i> spp.	acacia	Nonnative	–
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	chamise	Native	–
<i>Agave</i> spp.	agave	Nonnative	–
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	Native	–
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush	Native	–
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	mule fat	Native	–
<i>Ceanothus megacarpus</i>	bidgpod ceanothus	Native	–
<i>Cotoneaster pannosus</i>	cotoneaster	Nonnative	moderate
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive (ornamental)	Nonnative	limited
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Native	–
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	blue gum eucalyptus	Nonnative	limited
<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom	Nonnative	high
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	Native	–
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	laurel sumac	Native	–
<i>Melia azedarach</i>	China berry tree	Nonnative	–
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	tree tobacco	Nonnative	moderate
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	date palm	Nonnative	–
<i>Pinus</i> spp.	pine tree	–	–
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	western sycamore	Native	–
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak	Native	–
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry (ornamental)	Native	–
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	castor bean	Nonnative	limited
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i>	rosemary (ornamental)	Nonnative	–
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	Gooding's willow	Native	–
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	black sage	Native	–
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian pepper tree	Nonnative	limited
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison oak	Native	–
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	bay laurel (ornamental)	Native	–
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm (ornamental)	Nonnative	moderate
Herbs			
<i>Chasmanthe floribunda</i>	African cornflag	Nonnative	–
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	false bindweed	Nonnative	–
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	tall cyperus	Native	–
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	jimsonweed	Native	–
<i>Diplacus aurantiacus</i>	orange bush monkeyflower	Native	–
<i>Dipterostemon capitatus</i>	blue dicks (ornamental)	Native	–
<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	panic veldtgrass	Nonnative	moderate
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy (ornamental)	Native	–



Scientific Name	Common Name	Native/Nonnative	Cal-IPC rating
<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	petty spurge	Nonnative	–
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	short podded mustard	Nonnative	moderate
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	sweet allysum	Nonnative	limited
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	white horehound	Nonnative	limited
<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	annual yellow sweetclover	Nonnative	–
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda buttercup	Nonnative	moderate
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	English plantain	Nonnative	limited
<i>Polycarpon tetraphyllum</i>	four-leaved all seed	Nonnative	–
<i>Pseudognaphalium californicum</i>	ladies tobacco	Native	–
<i>Salsola tragus</i>	Russian thistle	Nonnative	limited
<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	tumble mustard	Nonnative	–
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	common cattail	Nonnative	–
<i>Vinca major</i>	greater periwinkle	Nonnative	moderate
Grasses			
<i>Avena fatua</i>	wild oats	Nonnative	moderate
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	ripgut brome	Nonnative	moderate
<i>Bromus rubens</i>	red brome	Nonnative	–
References: Calflora 2025, Cal-IPC 2025			

Wildlife Species Observed within the Area of Potential Effects

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Native or Introduced
Birds			
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	California scrub-jay	None	Native
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	red-tailed hawk	None	Native
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	red-shouldered hawk	None	Native
<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California quail	None	Native
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna’s hummingbird	None	Native
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	turkey vulture	None	Native
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow	None	Native
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	house finch	None	Native
<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	acorn woodpecker	None	Native
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee	None	Native
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	spotted towhee	None	Native
<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	yellow-rumped warbler	None	Native
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	mourning dove	None	Native
Reptiles			
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	western fence lizard	None	Native
Mammals			
<i>Canis latrans</i>	coyote*	None	Native
<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	skunk	None	Native



Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Native or Introduced
<i>Sylvilagus bachmani</i>	western brush rabbit	None	Native
*Only scat observed			

Attachment 5

Special Status Species Evaluation Tables



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
Plants and Lichens				
<i>Abronia maritima</i> red sand-verbena	None/None G4/S3? 4.2	Perennial herb. Coastal dunes. Dune plant. Elevations: 0-330ft. (0-100m.) Blooms Feb-Nov.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal dunes) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Acanthoscyphus parishii</i> var. <i>abramsii</i> Abrams' oxythecca	None/None G4?T1T2/S1S2 1B.2	Annual herb. Chaparral. Shale or sandy places. Elevations: 3750-6750ft. (1143-2057m.) Blooms Jun-Aug.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE at the Running Ridge site but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Alisma triviale</i> northern water plantain	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Perennial herb. Sagebrush scrub, mixed evergreen forest, valley grassland, wetland-riparian. Elevations: 5250ft. (<1600m.) Blooms July-Nov.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (sagebrush scrub) occurs within the APE at the Running Ridge Tank site but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods.
<i>Allium howellii</i> var. <i>clokeyi</i> Mt. Pinos onion	None/None G3G4T2/S2 1B.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Great basin scrub, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevations: 4265-6070ft. (1300-1850m.) Blooms Apr-Jun.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (great basin scrub, meadows and seeps, pinyon, and juniper woodland) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Allium monticola</i> San Bernardino mountain onion	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Perennial grass. Forest/woodland, conifer, bare rock/talus/scree, forests. Elevations: 4593-10498ft. (1400-3200m.) Blooms May-July.	Not Expected	The APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Allium praecox</i> early onion	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Perennial grass. Southern oak woodland, chaparral. Elevations: 2624ft. (800m.) Blooms Mar-May.	Not Expected	The APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Allophyllum gillioides</i> spp. <i>gillioides</i> straggling gilia	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual herb. Open, sandy, generally damp or grassy areas. Elevations: 656-6233ft. (200-1900m.) Blooms May-June.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (open, sandy, generally damp or grass areas) present within the APE.
<i>Alopecurus saccatus</i> Pacific foxtail	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual grass. Meadows, wetland-riparian. Elevations: <5577ft. (<1700m.) Blooms Mar-May.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (meadows and wetland-riparian) present within the APE.
<i>Amaranthus californicus</i> California amaranth	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual herb. Wetland-riparian. Elevations: <9186ft. (<2800m.) Blooms Jul-Oct.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (wetland-riparian) present within the APE.
<i>Ammannia coccinea</i> long-leaved or purple ammannia	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual herb. Wetland-riparian. Elevations: <984ft. (<300m.) Blooms Jun-Aug.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (wetland-riparian) present within the APE.
<i>Amsinckia eastwoodiae</i> elegant fiddleneck	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual herb. Open valleys, hills. Elevations: 32-4921ft. (10-1500m.) Blooms Mar-May.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (open valleys, hills) present within the APE.
<i>Amsinckia douglasiana</i> Douglas' fiddleneck	None/None G4/S4 4.2	Annual herb. Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Dry. Elevations: 0-6400ft. (0-1950m.) Blooms Mar-May.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Andropogon glomeratus</i> var. <i>scabriglumis</i> southwestern bushy bluestem	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Perennial grass. Coastal sage scrub, creosote bush scrub, chaparral, wetland-riparian. Elevations: <1968ft. (<600m.) Blooms Sep-Mar.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE at the Running Ridge Tank site but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods.
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i> aphanisma	None/None G3G4/S2 1B.2	Annual herb. Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. Gravelly (sometimes), sandy (sometimes). Elevations: 5-1000ft. (1-305m.) Blooms Feb-Jun.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub) present in the APE.
<i>Aphyllon validum</i> ssp. <i>validum</i> Rock Creek broomrape	None/None G4T2/S2 1B.2	Chaparral, Pinyon and juniper woodland. Granitic 1030-2000m. Blooms May-Sep.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE at the Running Ridge site but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i> Pacific madrone	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Tree. Redwood forest, Douglas-fir forest, mixed evergreen forest, oak woodlands, foothill woodland. Elevations: 328-4925ft. (100-1500m.) Blooms Mar-May.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (woodlands) occurs within the APE but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i> ssp. <i>incompta</i> white sagebrush	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Perennial herb. Shrubland, woodland, conifer forest. Elevations: <11,482ft. (<3500m.) Blooms Jul-Sept.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (shrubland and woodlands) present but the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i> Miles' milk-vetch	None/None G5T2/S2 1B.2	Annual herb. Coastal scrub. Clay soils. Elevations: 65-295ft. (20-90m.) Blooms Mar-Jun.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal scrub) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i> Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	FE/SE G2T1/S1 1B.1	Perennial herb. Coastal dunes, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps. Within reach of high tide or protected by barrier beaches, more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs. Elevations: 5-115ft. (1-35m.) Blooms (Jun)Aug-Oct.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal dunes, coastal scrub, marshes, swamps) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Atriplex coulteri</i> Coulter's saltbush	None/None G3/S2 1B.2	Perennial herb. Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Alkaline (sometimes), clay (sometimes). Elevations: 10-1510ft. (3-460m.) Blooms Mar-Oct.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland) present in the APE.
<i>Atriplex pacifica</i> south coast saltscale	None/None G4/S2 1B.2	Annual herb. Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, playas. Alkali soils. Elevations: 0-460ft. (0-140m.) Blooms Mar-Oct.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, playas) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Baccharis plummerae</i> ssp. <i>plummerae</i> Plummer's baccharis	None/None G3T3/S3 4.3	Perennial deciduous shrub. Broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Rocky. Elevations: 15-1395ft. (5-425m.) Blooms May-Oct.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Calandrinia breweri</i> Brewer's calandrinia	None/None G4/S4 4.2	Annual herb. Chaparral, coastal scrub. Burned areas, disturbed areas, loam (sometimes), sandy (sometimes). Elevations: 35-4005ft. (10-1220m.) Blooms (Jan)Mar-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE at the Running Ridge site but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing tank, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>clavatus</i> club-haired mariposa lily	None/None G4T3/S3 4.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Clay, Rocky, serpentinite (usually). Elevations: 100-4265ft. (30-1300m.) Blooms (Mar)May-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed area within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i> late-flowered mariposa-lily	None/None G3/S3 1B.3	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland. Serpentinite (sometimes). Elevations: 900-6250ft. (275-1905m.) Blooms Jun-Aug.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are multiple CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, primarily in the Los Padres National Forest, north of the APE. The closest occurrence is along the Pratt Canyon Trail, approximately 0.3 mile north of the Running Ridge site. However, the occurrence is historical (1963).
<i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i> Palmer's mariposa-lily	None/None G3T2/S2 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. Mesic. Elevations: 2330-7840ft. (710-2390m.) Blooms Apr-Jul.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (lower montane coniferous forest, meadows, seeps) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Calochortus plummerae</i> Plummer's mariposa-lily	None/None G4/S4 4.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Granitic, rocky. Elevations: 330-5580ft. (100-1700m.) Blooms May-Jul.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDDB occurrence near Foothill Trail from 2008, approximately 1.4 miles northeast of the Running Ridge site.
<i>Calystegia peirsonii</i> Peirson's morning-glory	None/None G4/S4 4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Chaparral, chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland. Often in disturbed areas or along roadsides or in grassy, open areas. Elevations: 100-4920ft. (30-1500m.) Blooms Apr-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Castilleja attenuata</i> valley tassels	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual herb. Coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, chaparral, wetland-riparian. Elevations: <11,4825ft. (<1600m.) Blooms Mar-May.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Caulanthus heterophyllus</i> San Diego wild cabbage	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual herb. Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, weed, disturbed places. Elevations: <4593ft. (<1400m.) Blooms Mar-May.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Caulanthus lemmonii</i> Lemmon's jewelflower	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Annual herb. Pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 260-5185ft. (80-1580m.) Blooms Feb-May.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland) present in the APE.
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i> Orcutt's pincushion	None/None G5T1/S1 1B.1	Annual herb. Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. Sandy sites. Elevations: 0-330ft. (0-100m.) Blooms Jan-Aug.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i> small-flowered morning-glory	None/None G4/S4 4.2	Annual herb. Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Clay, seeps, serpentine. Elevations: 100-2430ft. (30-740m.) Blooms Mar-Jul.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, but the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>purpureum</i> Mt. Pinos larkspur	None/None G4T4/S4 4.3	Perennial herb. Chaparral, Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland. Elevations: 3280-8530ft. (1000-2600m.) Blooms May-Jun.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (Mojavean desert scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i> umbrella larkspur	None/None G3/S3 1B.3	Perennial herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Mesic sites. Elevations: 1310- 5250ft. (400-1600m.) Blooms Apr-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed area within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE. The APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Eriogonum elegans</i> elegant wild buckwheat	None/None G4G5/S4S5 4.3	Annual herb. Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Usually in sandy or gravelly substrates; often in washes, sometimes roadsides. Elevations: 655- 5005ft. (200-1525m.) Blooms May-Nov.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Frasera neglecta</i> pine green-gentian	None/None G4/S4 4.3	Perennial herb. Lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, upper montane coniferous forest. Dry, open woodlands. Elevations: 4595-8205ft. (1400-2500m.) Blooms May-Jul.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (lower and upper montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i> Ojai fritillary	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Rocky sites. Sometimes on serpentine; sometimes along roadsides. Elevations: 740-3275ft. (225-998m.) Blooms Feb-May.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are multiple CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, primarily in the Los Padres National Forest, north of the APE. The closest occurrence is in Stewart Canyon, approximately 1.6 miles north of the Running Ridge site. However, this occurrence is historical (2004).
<i>Garrya elliptica</i> silk-tassel bush	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Shrub. Coastal scrub, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral. Elevations: <2624ft. (<800m.) Blooms Jan-Mar.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Gilia leptantha</i> ssp. <i>pinetorum</i> pine gilia	None/None G4T4/S4 4.3	Annual herb. Lower montane coniferous forest. Bare summits, open, rocky or sandy, with pines. Elevations: 4920-9185ft. (1500-2800m.) Blooms May-Jul.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (lower montane coniferous forest) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Gilia ochroleuca</i> ssp. <i>lanosa</i> sisquoc gilia	None/None G4T3/S3 4.3	Annual herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland. Gravelly (rarely), sandy, streambanks (sometimes). Elevations: 1475-4855ft. (450-1480m.) Blooms (Apr)May-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE. The APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Heuchera abramsii</i> Abrams' alumroot	None/None G3/S3 4.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Upper montane coniferous forest. Rock crevices. Elevations: 9185-11485ft. (2800-3500m.) Blooms Jul-Aug.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (upper montane coniferous forest) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Heuchera caespitosa</i> urn-flowered alumroot	None/None G3/S3 4.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian forest, upper montane coniferous forest. Rocky sites. Elevations: 3790-8695ft. (1155-2650m.) Blooms May-Aug.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE. The APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> mesa horkelia	None/None G4T1/S1 1B.1	Perennial herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy or gravelly sites. Elevations: 230-2660ft. (70-810m.) Blooms Feb-Jul(Sep).	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are two CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, with the closest occurrence approximately 0.8 miles south of the Running Ridge site (exact location unknown). However, these occurrence are historical (1929 and 1935).
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i> California satintail	None/None G3/S3 2B.1	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Chaparral, coastal scrub, meadows and seeps, mojavean desert scrub, riparian scrub. Mesic sites, alkali seeps, riparian areas. 3-. Elevations: 0-3985ft. (0-1215m.) Blooms Sep-May.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are two known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, with the closest occurrence from 2010 approximately 2.2 miles northwest of the Running Ridge site.
<i>Juglans californica</i> Southern California black walnut	None/None G4/S4 4.2	Perennial deciduous tree. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland. Slopes, canyons, alluvial habitats. Elevations: 165-2955ft. (50-900m.) Blooms Mar-Aug.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE. However, the species was observed in the APE during the 2019 Biological Resources Assessment. The species was not observed within the APE during the May 21, 2025 reconnaissance survey.
<i>Juncus acutus</i> ssp. <i>leopoldii</i> southwestern spiny rush	None/None G5T5/S4 4.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Coastal dunes, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps. Moist saline places. Elevations: 10-2955ft. (3-900m.) Blooms (Mar)May-Jun.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal dunes, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps) present in the APE.
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i> Coulter's goldfields	None/None G4T2/S2 1B.1	Annual herb. Marshes and swamps, playas, vernal pools. Usually found on alkaline soils in playas, sinks, and grasslands. 1-. Elevations: 5-4005ft. (1-1220m.) Blooms Feb-Jun.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (marshes and swamps, playas, vernal pools) present in the APE.
<i>Layia heterotricha</i> pale-yellow layia	None/None G2/S2 1B.1	Annual herb. Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Alkaline or clay soils; open areas. Elevations: 985-5595ft. (300-1705m.) Blooms Mar-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within the existing facilities, or within the residential property. There is one CNDDDB occurrence in Stewart Canyon, approximately 1.7 miles north of the Running Ridge site. However, this occurrence is historical (2001).
<i>Lepechinia fragrans</i> fragrant pitcher sage	None/None G3/S3 4.2	Perennial shrub. Chaparral. Elevations: 65-4300ft. (20-1310m.) Blooms Mar-Oct.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within the existing tank, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences.
<i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>robinsonii</i> Robinson's pepper-grass	None/None G5T3/S3 4.3	Annual herb. Chaparral, coastal scrub. Dry soils, shrubland. 4-. Elevations: 5-2905ft. (1-885m.) Blooms Jan-Jul.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within the existing tank, or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDDB occurrence approximately 1.1 miles northeast of the Ojai East Tank site. However, the occurrence is historical (2003).

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Lessingia tenuis</i> spring lessingia	None/None G4/S4 4.3	Annual herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Openings. Elevations: 985-7055ft. (300-2150m.) Blooms May-Jul.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed areas within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i> ocellated Humboldt lily	None/None G4T4?/S4? 4.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland. Yellow-pine forest or openings, oak canyons. Elevations: 100-5905ft. (30-1800m.) Blooms Mar-Jul(Aug).	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed areas within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within the existing tank, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Malacothrix phaeocarpa</i> dusky-fruited malacothrix	None/None G3/S3 4.3	Annual herb. Chaparral, closed-cone coniferous forest. Openings, burned, or disturbed areas. Elevations: 330-4595ft. (100-1400m.) Blooms Apr-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within the existing tank, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Marsilea vestita</i> ssp. <i>vestita</i> hairy pepperwort	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Perennial fern. Shadscale scrub, creosote bush scrub, Joshua Tree woodland. Elevations: <7217ft. (<2200m.) Blooms Apr-Oct.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (shadscale scrub, creosote bush scrub, Joshua Tree woodland) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas for the existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>hypoleuca</i> white-veined monardella	None/None G4T3/S3 1B.3	Perennial herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Dry slopes. Elevations: 165-5005ft. (50-1525m.) Blooms (Apr)May-Aug(Sep-Dec).	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas for the existing tank, or within the residential property. There are multiple CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, with the closest occurrence from 2007 near Thacher School, approximately 1.4 miles northeast of the Ojai East Tank site. Furthermore, dry slopes are not present within the APE.
<i>Monardella linoides</i> ssp. <i>oblonga</i> Tehachapi monardella	None/None G5T2/S2 1B.3	Perennial rhizomatous herb. Lower montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland, upper montane coniferous forest. On dry slopes of yellow pine forest, decomposed granitic soils; also in roadside disturbed areas. Elevations: 2955-8105ft. (900-2470m.) Blooms (May)Jun-Aug.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (lower or upper montane coniferous forest, pinyon and juniper woodland) present and the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> spreading navarretia	FT/None G2/S2 1B.1	Annual herb. Freshwater marsh and vernal pools. Elevations: 30-1300ft. (10-400m). Blooms Apr-June.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (freshwater marsh, vernal pools) present in the APE.
<i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i> Ojai navarretia	None/None G2/S2 1B.1	Annual herb. Chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Openings in shrublands or grasslands. Elevations: 900-2035ft. (275-620m.) Blooms May-Jul.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are multiple CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, with the closest occurrence from 1948 at an unknown location near California Prep School, approximately 0.20 miles east of the Foothill Drive site.
<i>Navarretia peninsularis</i> Baja navarretia	None/None G3/S2 1B.2	Annual herb. Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, pinyon and juniper woodland. Wet areas in open forest. Elevations: 4920-7545ft. (1500-2300m.) Blooms (May)Jun-Aug.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. However, the APE occurs outside of the species' known elevation range.
<i>Nolina cismontana</i> chaparral nolina	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Perennial evergreen shrub. Chaparral, coastal scrub. Primarily on sandstone and shale substrates; also known from gabbro. Elevations: 460-4185ft. (140-1275m.) Blooms (Mar)May-Jul.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are two known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE. However, both occurrences are near Santa Ana Creek in the Los Padres National Forest, approximately 5 miles west of the Running Ridge site.
<i>Orcuttia californica</i> California Orcutt grass	FE/SE G1/S1 1B.1	Annual grasslike herb. Vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands, primarily in southern California and northern Baja California. Elevations: 165-2300ft. (50-700m.) Blooms Apr-Aug.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (vernal pools) present in the APE.
<i>Plagiobothrys undulatus</i> wavy-stemmed popcornflower	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Annual herb. Foothill Woodland, Chaparral, Valley Grassland, wetland-riparian. Elevations: <1312ft. (<400m.) Blooms Mar-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed sites within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i> white rabbit-tobacco	None/None G4/S2 2B.2	Perennial herb. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland. Sandy, gravelly sites. Elevations: 0-6890ft. (0-2100m.) Blooms (Jul)Aug-Nov(Dec).	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed areas within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Rhinotropis cornuta</i> var. <i>fishiae</i> Fish's milkwort	None/None G5T4/S4 4.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Riparian woodland. Scree slopes, brushy ridges, and along creeks; often with oaks. 100-1000m. Blooms May-Aug.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (oak woodland) occurs within the APE but the habitat does not occur within the project footprint (area of impact) and the project footprint is generally located in developed areas within existing facilities, or in residential neighborhoods. Suitable habitat (scrub) also occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Rorippa gambellii</i> Gambel's watercress	FE/ST G1/S1 1B.1	Perennial herb (emergent). Marshes, swamps, wetlands. In slow-moving freshwater water bodies, marshes, and ditches. Elevations: 0-1150ft. (0-350m.) Blooms May-Oct(Nov).	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (marshes and swamps) present in the APE.
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> Sanford's arrowhead	None/None G3/S3 1B.2	Perennial rhizomatous herb (emergent). Marshes and swamps. In standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches. Elevations: 0-2135ft. (0-650m.) Blooms May-Oct(Nov).	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (marshes and swamps) present in the APE.
<i>Schoenoplectiella saximontana</i> Rocky Mountain bulrush	None/None G5/S2 2B.1	Marshes and swamps (margins), Vernal pools. Sandy (often) 45-720m. Blooms (Mar-May)Jun-Sep(Oct).	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (marshes and swamps) present in the APE.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i> salt spring checkerbloom	None/None G4/S2 2B.2	Perennial herb. Chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, mojavean desert scrub, playas. Alkali springs and marshes. Elevations: 50-5020ft. (15-1530m.) Blooms Mar-Jun.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (scrub) occurs within the APE, specifically at the Running Ridge site, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDB occurrence in Oak View, approximately 5 miles south of the Running Ridge site. However, the occurrence is historical (1962).
<i>Stuckenia striata</i> broadleaf pondweed	None/None G3G4Q/S2S3 2B.3	Marshes and swamps. Lakes, ponds, rivers, and drainage canals. - -70-2135m. Blooms (Jun)Jul-Aug.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (marshes and swamps) present in the APE.
<i>Suaeda taxifolia</i> woolly seablite	None/None G4/S3S4 4.2	Perennial evergreen shrub. Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, marshes and swamps. Margins of salt marshes. Elevations: 0-165ft. (0-50m.) Blooms Jan-Dec.	Not Expected	No suitable habitat (coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, marshes and swamps) present in the APE.
Invertebrates				
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT/None G3/S3	Currently found in 32 counties across California's Central Valley, central coast, southern California and Jackson County, in southern Oregon. Variety of vernal pool habitats.	Not Expected	No suitable vernal pool habitat within the APE.
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch's bumble bee	None/SCE G2/S2	Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Food plant genera include Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia, and Eriogonum.	Moderate Potential (transit) Low Potential (nesting and foraging)	Suitable nectar source observed within the APE (California buckwheat at OSW Wellfield site) during the May 21, 2025, survey. However, the nectar source is behind a fenced area, outside the project footprint, and the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within residential property. The species may transit through the scrub habitat at the Running Ridge Tank and OWs Wellfield sites. Multiple CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE. The most recent occurrence is from 2017, approximately 0.4 mile southeast of the APE (East Ojai Tank site). The species is not expected to forage, nest, or overwinter in the project footprint at the Running Ridge and OSW Wellfield sites based on prior development, existing disturbances, and lack of suitable nesting substrate and host plants.
<i>Coelus globosus</i> globose dune beetle	None/None G1G2/S1S2	Inhabitant of coastal sand dune habitat; erratically distributed from Ten Mile Creek in Mendocino County south to Ensenada, Mexico. Inhabits foredunes and sand hummocks; it burrows beneath the sand surface and is most common beneath dune vegetation.	Not Expected	No suitable coastal sand dune habitat within the APE.
<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i> pop. 1 monarch - California overwintering population	FPT/None G4T1T2Q/S2	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	Not Expected	Some emergent eucalyptus present within the APE. However, no suitable eucalyptus groves for overwintering present within the APE. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Haplotrema caelatum</i> slotted lancetooth snail	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Oak woodlands. Under rocks and woody debris. If there are wildfires, being deep under rocky habitats such as talus slopes can offer some protection. Areas with few rocks here and there can provide suitable habitat for estivation, but do little against wildfires. Has been found near Matilija Hot Springs, Pine Creek Canyon (tributary to Sespe Creek), and Fillmore.	Not Expected	Somewhat suitable habitat (oak woodlands) occurs within the APE, but the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Helminthoglypta phlyctaena</i> Zaca shoulderband snail	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	California montane chaparral and woodlands ecoregion. Adults are most likely hidden away deep in rock crevices and piles of bark, as well as near creeks during rainstorms and after dark. If there are wildfires, being deep under rocky habitats such as talus slopes can offer some protection. Areas with few rocks here and there can provide suitable habitat for estivation, but do little against wildfires California montane chaparral and woodlands ecoregion. Has been found in Castias Pass, LPNF.	Not Expected	Somewhat suitable habitat (woodlands and scrub) occurs within the APE, but the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Helminthoglypta salviae</i> Sage shoulderband snail	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Oak woodlands and near streams under rocks and woody debris. If there are wildfires, being deep under rocky habitats such as talus slopes can offer some protection. Areas with few rocks here and there can provide suitable habitat for estivation, but do little against wildfires. Northwestern portion of the County in the Cuyama Badlands. Apache and Quatal Canyon Lockwood Valley and surrounding mountains.	Not Expected	Somewhat suitable habitat (woodlands) occurs within the APE, but the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Helminthoglypta willetti</i> Matilija shoulderband snail	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Chaparral, coast live oak woodlands, riparian woodlands; mountainous areas. Talus slopes, near streams, and oak woodlands under rocks, woody debris, and deep leaf litter. If there are wildfires, being deep under rocky habitats such as talus slopes can offer some protection. Areas with few rocks here and there can provide suitable habitat for estivation, but do little against wildfires. Has been found in mountainous areas in the county.	Not Expected	Somewhat suitable habitat (woodlands and scrub) occurs within the APE, but the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Linderiella occidentalis</i> California linderiella	None/None G2G3/S2S3	Seasonal pools in unplowed grasslands with old alluvial soils underlain by hardpan or in sandstone depressions. Water in the pools has very low alkalinity, conductivity, and total dissolved solids.	Not Expected	No suitable seasonal pool habitat within the APE.
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> Riverside fairy shrimp	FE/None G1G2/S2	Generally live in vernal pools, and other non-vegetated ephemeral pools, that last for short periods of time.	Not Expected	No suitable seasonal pool habitat within the APE.
<i>Timema monikensis</i> Santa Monica Mountains timema	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Endemic to the Transverse Ranges in scrub habitats. Has been found in the Santa Monica Mountains. Vegetation it has been found on includes <i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> , <i>Quercus dumosa</i> , <i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i> , and <i>Ceanothus spinosus</i> .	Not Expected	APE is outside of species' habitat range.
Fish				
<i>Catostomus santaanae</i> Santa Ana sucker	FT/None G1/S1 SSC	Endemic to Los Angeles Basin south coastal streams. Habitat generalists, but prefer sand-rubble-boulder bottoms, cool, clear water, and algae.	Not Expected	No suitable aquatic habitat within the APE.
<i>Cottus asper</i> prickly sculpin	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Found in a wide range of fresh and saltwater habitats including river drainages from Seward, Alaska south to the Ventura River.	Not Expected	No suitable aquatic habitat within the APE.
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> tidewater goby	FE/None G3/S3 SSC	Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego County to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water and high oxygen levels.	Not Expected	No suitable aquatic habitat within the APE.
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i> unarmored threespine stickleback	FE/SE G5T1/S1 FP	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small Southern California streams. Cool (<24 C), clear water with abundant vegetation.	Not Expected	No suitable aquatic habitat within the APE.
<i>Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni</i> partially armored stickleback	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Weedy pools, backwaters, and among emergent vegetation at the stream edge in small Southern California streams. Cool (<24 C), clear water with abundant vegetation. Have been found in the Santa Clara and Ventura Rivers and tributaries including Sespe Creek.	Not Expected	No suitable aquatic habitat within the APE.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Gila orcuttii</i> arroyo chub	None/None G1/S2 SSC	Native to streams from Malibu Creek to San Luis Rey River basin. Introduced into streams in Santa Clara, Ventura, Santa Ynez, Mojave and San Diego river basins. Slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms. Feeds heavily on aquatic vegetation and associated invertebrates.	Not Expected	No suitable aquatic habitat within the APE.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10 steelhead - southern California DPS	FE/SCE G5T1Q/S1	Federal listing refers to populations from Santa Maria River south to southern extent of range (San Mateo Creek in San Diego County). Southern steelhead likely have greater physiological tolerances to warmer water and more variable conditions.	Not Expected	No suitable aquatic habitat within the APE.
Amphibians				
<i>Aneides lugubris</i> arboreal salamander	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Native to California and Baja California. Prefers oak and sycamore woodlands and thick chaparral.	Low Potential	Some elements of suitable habitat (woodlands and scrub) are present within the APE, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property.
<i>Anaxyrus californicus</i> arroyo toad	FE/None G2G3/S2 SSC	Semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill and desert riparian, desert wash, etc. Rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores; loose, gravelly areas of streams in drier parts of range.	Not Expected	Although San Antonio Creek is within the APE boundary at the OWS Wellfield site, it lacks the presence of suitable habitat elements, such as aquatic areas with sandy banks. Furthermore, the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Rana boylei</i> pop. 6 foothill yellow-legged frog - south coast DPS	FE/SE G3T1/S1	Southern Coast Ranges from Monterey Bay south through San Gabriel Mountains; west of the Salinas River in Monterey Co, south through Transverse Ranges, and east through San Gabriel Mountains. Historically may have ranged to Baja California. Partly shaded shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Needs at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying and at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	Not Expected	Although San Antonio Creek is within the APE boundary at the OWS Wellfield site, it lacks the presence of suitable habitat elements, such as partly shaded shallow streams and riffles. Furthermore, the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDDB occurrence within the Los Padres Nation Forest near Wheeler Springs, approximately 3.7 miles north of the APE (Running Ridge Tank site). However, the occurrence is historical (1932).
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	FT/None G2G3/S2S3 SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	Low Potential	Although San Antonio Creek is within the APE boundary at the OWS Wellfield site, it lacks the presence of suitable habitat elements, such as permanent sources of deep water with dense, riparian vegetation. Furthermore, the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are three known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, including one occurrence from 2013 in San Antonio Creek, approximately 1.7 miles downstream from the APE (OWS Wellfield site).
Reptiles				
<i>Actinemys pallida</i> southwestern pond turtle	FPT/None G2G3/SNR SSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying. Occurs in southern California from Monterey County south to Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego Counties into northern Baja California, Mexico.	Low Potential	Although San Antonio Creek is within the APE boundary at the OWS Wellfield site, it lacks the presence of suitable habitat elements, such as permanent sources of water or sandy banks for basking. Furthermore, the project footprint is primarily located in developed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are multiple known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE, including four occurrences within San Antonio Creek, greater than 3.5 miles downstream of the APE (OWS Wellfield site).
<i>Anniella</i> spp. California legless lizard	None/None G3G4/S3S4 SSC	Contra Costa County south to San Diego, within a variety of open habitats. This element represents California records of <i>Anniella</i> not yet assigned to new species within the <i>Anniella pulchra</i> complex. Variety of habitats; generally in moist, loose soil. They prefer soils with a high moisture content.	Moderate Potential	Some elements of suitable habitat (moist, loose soil), but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are two known CNDDDB occurrences from 2017 and 2018 within 5 miles of the APE, with the closest occurrence along Reeves Creek, approximately 350 feet northeast of the APE (East Ojai Tank site).
<i>Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri</i> coastal whiptail	None/None G5T5/S3 SSC	Found in deserts and semi-arid areas with sparse vegetation and open areas. Also found in woodland and riparian areas. Ground may be firm soil, sandy, or rocky.	Moderate Potential	Some elements of suitable habitat (semi-arid areas), specifically the scrub areas associated with the Running Ridge Tank site within the APE. However, the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Diadophis punctatus modestus</i> San Bernardino ringneck snake	None/None G5T2T3/S2?	Most common in open, relatively rocky areas. Often in somewhat moist microhabitats near intermittent streams. Avoids moving through open or barren areas by restricting movements to areas of surface litter or herbaceous veg.	Low Potential	Some elements of suitable habitat (woodland and scrub areas), but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are two known CNDDDB occurrences from 2015 within 5 miles of the APE, with the closest occurrence in a modified coast live oak woodland area near McAndrews Road, approximately 0.8 miles north of the APE (East Ojai Tank site).
<i>Lampropeltis zonata pulchra</i> San Diego mountain kingsnake	None/None Ventura County Locally Important Species	Found in coniferous forest, woodland, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and canyon bottoms in coastal areas. Use riparian corridors in mountains and foothills, needs rocky piles.	Not Expected	Some elements of suitable habitat (woodland and scrub areas), but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. No riparian corridors in mountains or foothills are present within the APE.

Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	None/None G4/S4 SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	Low Potential	Suitable sandy washes are not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDB occurrences from 2002 within 5 miles of the APE, just north of the Los Robles Diversion Canal, approximately 3.2 miles west of the APE (Running Ridge Tank site).
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgulata</i> coast patch-nosed snake	None/None G5T4/S3 SSC	Brushy or shrubby vegetation in coastal Southern California. Require small mammal burrows for refuge and overwintering sites.	Moderate Potential	Some elements of suitable habitat (brushy or shrubby vegetated areas), specifically the scrub areas associated with the Running Ridge Tank site within the APE. However, the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are two known CNDDB occurrences from 2016 within 5 miles of the APE, both in the Los Padres National Forest near Highway 33, approximately 3.4 miles northwest of the APE (Running Ridge Tank site).
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	None/None G4/S3S4 SSC	Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea to about 7,000 ft elevation. Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (permanent fresh water) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are multiple known CNDDB occurrences from 2013 and 2016 within 5 miles of the APE, all within Matilija Creek in the Los Padres National Forest, approximately 3.2 miles north of the APE (Running Ridge Tank site).
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis pop. 1</i> south coast gartersnake	None/None G5T1T2/S1S2 SSC	Southern California coastal plain from Ventura County to San Diego County, and from sea level to about 850 m. Marsh and upland habitats near permanent water with good strips of riparian vegetation.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (marsh and upland habitat near permanent water) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
Birds				
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	None/ST G1G2/S2 SSC	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (open water) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	None/SCE G4/S2 SSC	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation. Subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (open, dry grasslands, deserts, and scrublands) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i> western snowy plover	FT/None G3T3/S3 SSC	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT/SE G5T2T3/S1	Riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow, often mixed with cottonwoods, with lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (riparian forest) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> white-tailed kite	None/None G5/S3S4 FP	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (foothills and valley margins) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> southwestern willow flycatcher	FE/SE G5T2/S3	Riparian woodlands in Southern California.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (riparian woodlands) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDB occurrence from 2009 within 5 miles of the APE, approximately 3.8 miles northwest of the APE (Running Ridge Tank site).
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> California condor	FE/SE G1/S2 FP	Require vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude. Deep canyons containing clefts in the rocky walls provide nesting sites. Forages up to 100 miles from roost/nest.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (mountain ranges with deep canyons) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i> coastal California gnatcatcher	FT/None G4G5T3Q/S2 SSC	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft in Southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	Low Potential (foraging and nesting)	Somewhat suitable habitat (coastal sage scrub) is present within the APE (Running Ridge Tank), but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Riparia riparia</i> bank swallow	None/ST G5/S3	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting hole.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (riparian and lowlands with vertical banks) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Setophaga petechia</i> yellow warbler	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests in Cascades and Sierra Nevada. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	Low Potential (foraging only)	Somewhat suitable foraging habitat (riparian) is present within the APE (OWS Wellfield site). However, the riparian habitat is outside of the project footprint, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE. There are recorded eBird sightings from 2025 within 5 miles of the APE, at the Pratt Trail and Soule Park.



Scientific Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur	Habitat Suitability/Observations
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	FE/SE G5T2/S3	Summer resident of Southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, Baccharis, mesquite.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (riparian) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDDB occurrence from 2009 within 5 miles of the APE, along Matilija Creek, approximately 3.8 miles northwest of the APE (Running Ridge Tank site).
Mammals				
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	None/None G4/S3 SSC	Found in a variety of habitats including deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts in crevices of rock outcrops, caves, mine tunnels, buildings, bridges, and hollows of live and dead trees which must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (forests and woodlands) is present within the APE, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i> Mexican long-tongued bat	None/None G3G4/S1 SSC	Common throughout Mexico, this species is occasionally found in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Feeds on nectar and pollen of night-blooming succulents. Roosts in desert canyons, caves, and rock crevices. Also uses abandoned buildings, canyons, deep caves, mines, or rock crevicesdesert canyons, deep	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (desert canyons, caves, and rock crevices) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	None/None G4G5T4/S3S4 SSC	Occurs in open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including coniferiferous and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces and caves, and buildings. Roosts typically occur high above ground.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (forests and woodlands) is present within the APE, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> hoary bat	None/None G3G4/S4	Typically roosts in trees in deciduous and coniferous forests and woodlands but occasionally roosts in rocks crevices. Forages in open areas, typically along riparian corridors or over water. Diet primarily consists of moths.	Low Potential	Suitable habitat (forests and woodlands) is present within the APE, but the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There is one known CNDDDB occurrence within 5 miles of the APE, approximately 2.5 miles north of the APE (Running Ridge Tank site). However, the occurrence is historical (1905).
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	None/None G5/S3 SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	Not Expected	Suitable habitat (drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitat with friable soils) is not present within the APE, and the project footprint is generally located in disturbed areas within existing facilities, or within the residential property. There are no known CNDDDB occurrences within 5 miles of the APE.

FE = Federal Endangered
 FT = Federal Threatened
 SE = State Endangered
 FP = CDFW Fully Protected
 SSC = California Species of Special Concern

CRPR (CNPS California Rare Plant Rank)

1B = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere
 2B = Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
 3 = Rare or threatened in California, but lack sufficient information to make a definitive determination.
 4 = Not currently rare or threatened, but limited distribution and could become more at risk if threats increase.

CRPR Threat Code Extension

.1 = Seriously threatened in California (> 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
 .2 = Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
 .3 = Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

CDFW Rare

G1 or S1 = Critically Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
 G2 or S2 = Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
 G3 or S3 = Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or Subnationally (state)
 G4/5 or S4/5 = Apparently secure, common and abundant

Attachment 6

Resumes



Kendra Bonsall

Biologist IV/Lead Author

Kendra is a biologist with over five years of professional experience as a general biologist in the environmental consulting field. She has extensive experience conducting special status species surveys, construction monitoring, and reporting for environmental compliance. She has prepared technical biological reports including Biological Resource Assessments. Kendra is familiar with field techniques and protocols for nesting birds and a variety of special status species, including tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), southwestern pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). Kendra also has experience conducting protected tree monitoring during active construction for various projects throughout the County of Santa Barbara and Ventura.

EDUCATION

MS, Environmental Management, University of Stirling, Scotland

BS, Biology, Concentration in Marine Biology and Conservation, California Polytechnic State University

CERTIFICATIONS/ REGISTRATIONS

TWIC Card

BNSF Railway/eRailSafe Certified

PERMITS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Permit for tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) #ESPER3640597, 2025 - Present

CDFW Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) Scientific Collecting Permit (S-210270004-23108-001)

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

5

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Biologist, Caltrans – State Route (SR) 217 San Jose Bridge Replacement Bat and Bird Exclusion, Goleta

Kendra is an approved California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Designated Biologist for the State Route (SR) 217 San Jose Bridge Replacement Project. Kendra provided environmental compliance support during bird and bat exclusion installation and conducted daily spot checks following the exclusion installation to inspect, maintain, and repair the exclusion devices and ensure no wildlife entrapments or nesting activity were present. Kendra displayed excellent communication and coordination between the client, project manager, and team of biologists to ensure daily spot checks were performed. Kendra also supported the fish relocation activities prior to diversion and dewatering activities for the project. Tasks included installing block nets, water quality measurements, identifying and handling native and non-native fish species, documenting fish species, and daily checks of block nets to ensure proper installation (i.e., no gaps or tears).

Biologist, City of Santa Barbara – Defensible Space On-call Support Project, Santa Barbara

Kendra managed and led the on-call services during vegetation management activities at 16 park property locations for the City of Santa Barbara. Kendra conducted surveys on foot to confirm the presence/absence of special status plant and wildlife species and nesting birds. On-call services included flagging riparian and/or sensitive resources, monitoring active nests and other sensitive biological resources, and working with the grazing contractor during sheep grazing activities. Kendra displayed excellent communication and coordination between the client, contractors, and team of biologists to ensure the project was consistent with the City's Community Wildlife Protection Plan Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) Mitigation Monitoring and reporting program (MMRP).

Biological Monitor, Casitas Municipal Water District – West Ojai Pipeline Replacement, Ojai

Kendra provided arborist support and biological monitoring for the pipeline replacement in Ojai, California. Tasks included navigating City and County tree protection ordinance requirements, client and internal communication to coordinate monitoring needs, providing tree protection recommendations, and daily reporting of tree impacts. Kendra also conducted nesting bird surveys prior to construction.

Biologist, Montecito Water District – Fox Creek Emergency Repair Project, Los Padres National Forest

Kendra supported the emergency work associated with the damaged pipeline from the January 2023 storms in southern California. Prior to the start of construction activities, Kendra supported the rare plant and noxious weeds survey. The survey detected one rare plant species, umbrella larkspur (*Delphinium umbraculorum*). Following the preconstruction surveys, Kendra provided biological monitoring services to oversee all emergency repair operations that occur in sensitive habitat during project activities. Kendra worked with the crew and Los Padres National Forest biologists to ensure the project remained in compliance with the various emergency permits. Species of special concern included, nesting birds, two-striped garter snake, California red-legged frog, and arroyo toad. Kendra identified and monitored over ten different active nests throughout the duration of the project, including Pacific slope flycatcher, olive-sided flycatcher, black-chinned hummingbird, Anna's hummingbird, and dark eyed-junco nests.

Biologist, City of Goleta – San Pedro Emergency Storm Drain Removal Project, Goleta

Kendra supported the emergency work associated with the San Pedro storm drain that was dislodged from the January 2023 storms in Goleta. Tasks included emergency environmental permitting and biological monitoring. Kendra provided the emergency environmental permitting notifications under the Regional General Permit 63 (RGP 63) and supported the submittal to various agencies. In addition, Kendra provided the biological monitoring during project activities. Kendra conducted a pre-activity survey for nesting birds, California red-legged frog, and southern California steelhead. Kendra provided a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training and recommendations for permit compliance during work activities. Kendra managed and led the environmental compliance associated with the construction of the storm drain, which included coordinating with the biological monitor, ongoing communication with the client, and project completion reporting.

Biological Monitor, City of Santa Barbara – Las Positas and Modoc Roads Multi-Use Pathway, Santa Barbara

Kendra provided arborist and environmental compliance services as the construction compliance monitor for the construction of a 2.6-mile multi-use pathway in Santa Barbara, CA. She assisted in compliance with permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB), Coastal Commission (CCC), and City of Santa Barbara, and supports arborist services. Tasks included conducting daily clearance sweeps, environmental compliance monitoring, providing a WEAP training, and preparation of daily monitoring reports. Species of interest included California red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake, monarch butterfly roosts, western pond turtle, Bryant's woodrat and coast live oak/arroyo willow/California sycamore trees. In addition, Kendra documented tree impacts during construction activities and provided tree protection recommendations under the direction of the certified arborist.

Lead Author, Various Clients – Various Biological Resource Assessments, Various Counties/Cities, California

Kendra served as the lead technical writer for Biological Resources Assessments (BRAs) on a variety of projects in Santa Barbara and Ventura County. Kendra conducted the literature and database review, utilizing CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database, Information for Planning and Consulting tool, Critical Habitat Mapper, National Wetland Inventory, National Hydrography Dataset, and other relevant data sources to thoroughly characterize existing biological resources onsite prior to the field surveys. Kendra then performed the reconnaissance survey to assess habitat suitability and characterize vegetation communities. Based on findings, Kendra developed recommendations for avoidance and minimization measures to reduce potential impacts to sensitive and protected biological resources associated with the project.

- T.Y. Lin International, Union Pacific Railroad Los Patos Bridge and Shoofly Component BRA – 2023
- Ventura County Harbor Department, Silver Strand and Hollywood Beaches BRA – 2022
- Ventura Ports District, Ventura Harbor Dredging BRA – 2022
- Granite Construction Company, Bee Rock Quarry BRA – 2022
- Central Balance Company LLC, Cannabis Cultivation at 7369 Highway 246 BRA – 2021





Robin Murray

Supervising Biologist

Robin is a biologist with 16 years of experience as an environmental consultant, and is certified as an arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture (WE-12768A). Her qualifications include conducting and overseeing field surveys, project planning and management, CEQA environmental analysis, aquatic resource permitting, and technical report preparation and review. Robin's technical emphases include botany, aquatic resource delineation and functional assessment, and habitat restoration. Her technical expertise has led to the efficient completion of numerous biological resources constraints analyses, protocol rare plant surveys and vegetation mapping, complex and large-scale wetland and waters determinations, and successful completion of large-scale restoration projects including installation and adaptive maintenance. Robin also has extensive experience preparing biological resources assessments to meet local, state, and federal requirements and address CEQA, NEPA, and the Endangered Species Act, as well as acquiring Federal and State waters permits including Clean Water Act Section 404, 401, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1602 agreements. Robin's project experience includes the transportation, water utility, transmission, renewable energy, residential/commercial development, and infrastructure sectors.

EDUCATION

BS, Botany; Biology,
Concentration in
Environmental Biology;
Humboldt State University

CERTIFICATIONS/ REGISTRATIONS

Certified Consulting Botanist
(CCB #0053)

ISA Certified Arborist
(WE-12768A)

California Rapid Assessment
Method (CRAM) Practitioner

PERMITS

California Endangered Plant
Species Voucher Collecting
Permit 2081(a)-23-012-V

AFFILIATIONS

California Native Plant
Society, Member

The Wildlife Society, Member
International Society of
Arboriculture, Member

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

16

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Supervising Biologist, Palmdale Water District (subconsultant to Hazen and Sawyer) – Palmdale Ditch Conversion Project, Los Angeles County

Robin is a regulatory and biological technical lead for the Palmdale Ditch Conversion project, which proposes to underground approximately 7 miles of the Palmdale Ditch from Little Rock Reservoir in the Angeles National Forest to Lake Palmdale on the desert floor. She collaborates with a diverse team of biologists conducting fieldwork along the length of the alignment; preparing analyses including survey reports, CEQA-Plus Biological Resources Assessment to satisfy CEQA review and United States Bureau of Reclamation (federal action agency) requirements for NEPA review, Palmdale Water District 2023 Strategic Water Resources Plan Update Programmatic Environmental Impact Report's project-specific biological resources analysis, and United States Forest Service Biological Evaluation; and developing regulatory permitting packages. Technical analyses and fieldwork include vegetation mapping, jurisdictional delineation, California Rapid Assessment Method for functional analysis of wetlands and waters, special-status plant surveys, and protocol surveys for western Joshua tree and Crotch's bumble bee across the 390-acre project area. She also guides permitting strategy in support of the project's tight environmental review and funding schedules.

Supervising Botanist, Las Virgenes-Triunfo Joint Powers Authority – Pure Water Project, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties

Robin coordinated a rare plant survey and vegetation community mapping effort within three sites in Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, and Thousand Oaks, totaling over 40 acres. The intent of the surveys was to inform the preparation of a Programmatic EIR. Surveys were conducted in accordance with United States Fish and Wildlife Service, CDFW and California Native Plant Society protocols. Robin led the preparation of a Rare Plant Survey Report which supported the PEIR existing conditions and impact analysis. Rare plants documented during survey efforts included Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) and Ojai navarretia (*Navarretia ojaiensis*), among others.

Senior Botanist, Southern California Edison – Protocol Botanical Studies, Del Valle Substation Project, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Robin coordinated a rare plant survey and vegetation community mapping effort within an existing SCE utility corridor between SCE's existing Saugus and Fillmore Substations, extending approximately 11 miles in Ventura County and four miles in Los Angeles County. Surveys were conducted in accordance with United States Fish and Wildlife Service, CDFW and California Native Plant Society protocols. Robin coordinated the preparation of a Rare Plant Survey Report to document findings. Rare plants documented during survey efforts included San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*), Peirson's morning glory (*Calystegia peirsonii*), slender mariposa lily (*Calochortus clavatus* var. *gracilis*), white rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*), and Hubby's phacelia (*Phacelia hubbyi*).

Permitting Specialist, Comstock Homes – Hitch Ranch Specific Plan Project, Moorpark

Robin is supporting the jurisdictional waters permitting effort for the development of a 277.3-acre mixed-density residential community that incorporates land uses for housing, recreational, and open space purposes. Robin supervised the preparation of jurisdictional permitting packages (USACE Section 404 Nationwide Permit, RWQCB Section 401 Individual Permit and Tier 3 Alternatives Analysis, CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement) and is currently leading coordination with jurisdictional agencies to secure required permits. Robin is also supporting the preparation of a USFWS Section 10 Habitat Conservation Plan, including development of a Native Habitat Restoration Plan in support of on-site coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) habitat mitigation.

Senior Biologist, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – Honby Pipeline Project, Santa Clarita

Robin prepared jurisdictional permitting packages (United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit, RWQCB Section 401 Individual Permit, CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement) and coordinated with jurisdictional agencies to secure required permits. Prepared associated documentation, including an Alternatives Analysis in support of RWQCB Section 401 Individual Permit.

Senior Biologist, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – Well 205 Groundwater Treatment Project, Santa Clarita

Robin prepared a Biological Resources Assessment (BRA) to provide SCV Water with an assessment of the potential impacts to biological resources associated with implementation of the Well 205 Groundwater Treatment Project (project) in Santa Clarita, California. The report documented the existing conditions of the project site and evaluated the potential for impacts to species, sensitive communities, jurisdictional waters, wildlife movement near the proposed project, and locally protected resources such as native trees. The biological evaluation included the results of a background literature review and field reconnaissance surveys conducted by Robin.

Senior Botanist, Caltrans District 7 Central (CH2M Hill/Jacobs) – Caltrans District 7 On-Call: 210 San Gabriel River Bridge Rehabilitation, Los Angeles County

As Senior Botanist, Robin prepared a Biological Constraints Analysis for the subject project. Rincon Consultants' bat specialist conducted onsite field visits to identify habitat type(s) present at the project site and determine the presence / absence of potentially suitable habitat for threatened / endangered species that could be present, with special focus given to bats and roosting habitat within the bridge structure. Robin performed rare plant surveys and authored rare plant survey report.

Senior Botanist, Caltrans District 7 (GPA Consulting) – Environmental Generalist Services On-Call Contract, Various Counties/Cities, California

Robin serves as a Senior Botanist from Rincon's team as part of the GPA Consulting team under contract with Caltrans to perform professional and technical services required for Environmental Generalist Services, on an "as-needed" basis to support Caltrans District 7 in the development and construction of proposed transportation facilities. Specifically, Robin led a rare plant survey effort along SR-27 of a steep, unstable cliff face prone to rock fall. Due to hazardous conditions for standard pedestrian surveys, Robin coordinated with Caltrans to develop rare plant survey methods using Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Virtual Reality technology and conducted rare plant surveys for the project using these innovative methods. Robin documented populations of Plummer's baccharis (*Baccharis plummerae*) and authored the rare plant survey report.

Senior Botanist, City of Los Angeles – Atwater Bridge Restoration Project, Los Angeles

Robin managed the implementation of a restoration project within the Los Angeles River, including site preparation, container plant installation, ongoing maintenance and monitoring, and invasive species management.





Steven J. Hongola

Principal Biologist

Steven serves as a Principal Biologist with more than 23 years of professional experience in the environmental field. His areas of expertise include biological resource assessments, focused surveys for special status species, jurisdictional waters and wetlands delineations, habitat restoration and management, conservation planning, regulatory permitting, and biological compliance monitoring. Steven has authored and overseen numerous technical reports in support of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and regulatory permit compliance. He serves as the Principal-in-Charge of quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) and leads many of Rincon's public works and water client programs. As a Principal within the biological resources group, Steven also co-manages Rincon's team of biologists and oversees the technical aspects of the program, among other responsibilities.

EDUCATION

BS, Evolution and Ecology
(Minor - History), University of
California, Davis

CERTIFICATIONS/ REGISTRATIONS

Wetland Training Institute:
Difficult Situations, Arid West
Supplement, and Wetland
Delineation Manual

SCCWRP, California Rapid
Assessment Method: Riverine
Module

CLE: Wetlands Regulations,
Endangered Species Act
Regulations

PERMITS

Federal 10(a)(1)(A) Permit -
Coastal California
Gnatcatcher, TE 091463-4

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

23

SELECT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Principal-in-Charge, United Water Conservation District – Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, Freeman Diversion Fish Passage Project, Ventura County

Steven oversees Rincon's assistance with development of the United Water Conservation District's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for modification of the Freeman Diversion on the Santa Clara River. Rincon was tasked with the development of the impact analysis and mitigation program for terrestrial wildlife species covered by the Plan, among other chapters. The Rincon team has also provided jurisdiction waters and wetlands delineation and regulatory permitting support. Steven provides QA/QC review of Rincon's deliverables and contract oversight.

Principal Biologist, United Water Conservation District – Environmental Services On-Call, Ventura County

Rincon provides various environmental consulting services to United Water Conservation District under an environmental services on-call contract. Steven provides QA/QC and technical oversight of biological resource surveys, reports, and plans for this contract. Specific recent projects include: As Needed Field Staff Support, Iron and Manganese Project CEQA/NEPA Documentation; CEQA/NEPA Support for Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project; and Recycled Water Pipelines Project Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Principal-in-Charge, Ventura County Public Works Agency, Watershed Protection – Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project, Environmental Offset Plan, Ventura County

Ventura County Public Works Agency - Watershed Protection enlisted Rincon to develop a programmatic Environmental Offset Plan (Plan) for the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project (MDERP) to illustrate and quantify the ecological impacts and benefits of the MDERP activities (dam removal and downstream projects). The MDERP is a multi-component ecosystem restoration project that will be implemented over several years, and the Plan is intended to document how the benefits of dam removal and restoration activities will offset project impacts over the long-term. The Plan addresses the atypical impacts and out-of-kind benefits of the MDERP, treating project components collectively rather than individually. It also supplements the forthcoming mitigation and monitoring program (MMRP) in the MDERP Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR). Steven provides contract oversight and QA/QC review for the work program.

Principal Biologist, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California – Environmental Services On-Call, Various Counties/Cities, California

Since 2011, Rincon has provided environmental consulting services to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Steven oversees preparation of all biological resource surveys, reports, and plans for this contract, including CEQA/NEPA compliance documentation, biological resource surveys and reports, pre-activity surveys (e.g., protected nesting birds), regulatory compliance field assessments and inspections, and wetland delineations and habitat restoration. The Foothill Feeder Repair and Future Inspections Project in Los Angeles County is representative of Steven's experience. Rincon managed this complex environmental compliance program for the shutdown and dewatering of the approximate 15-mile Foothill Feeder pipeline to support routine inspection, maintenance, and repair on the Santa Clara River. Steven oversaw Rincon's team in providing guidance for the acquisition of state and federal regulatory permits. He also provided Principal-level technical oversight and QA/QC of deliverables, including management plans and pre-construction survey reports for sensitive fish, reptiles, amphibians, and nesting birds. In addition, Steven oversaw Rincon's team in conducting around-the-clock environmental monitoring at seven dewatering locations, final reporting to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), successful documentation of compliance with all Incidental Take Permit provisions, and avoidance of project-related take of sensitive species.

Principal Biologist, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – Honby Pipeline Phase 2 Project Regulatory Permitting, Los Angeles County

Steven oversaw Rincon's biological studies and regulatory permit acquisition in support of the Honby Pipeline Phase 2 Project crossing the Santa Clara River. Rincon biologists completed rare plant surveys, least Bell's vireo surveys and a jurisdictional waters delineation that informed preparation of a Biological Resources Assessment. Rincon also prepared a cultural resource study, which along with the biological study supported preparation of a CEQA Addendum for the project. In addition, Rincon regulatory specialists prepared jurisdictional permitting packages (United States Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit, RWQCB Section 401 Permit, CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement) and coordinated with agencies regarding permit acquisition.

Principal Biologist, Casitas Municipal Water District – Environmental Services On-Call, Ventura County

Rincon provides various environmental consulting services to Casitas Municipal Water District under an environmental services on-call contract. Steven oversees preparation of biological resource surveys, reports, and plans for this contract. For the Forebay Restoration Project, which is representative of Steven's experience, Rincon supported Casitas with acquisition of regulatory permits and authorizations (United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service) and environmental compliance monitoring for this restoration project at the Robles Diversion. The project involved clean-out of the forebay to improve water diversion capacity. The project was successfully executed under tight timeframes and recognized with an American Public Works Association project of the year award for 2019. Steven provided oversight and technical QA/QC for the work program.

Principal-in-Charge, City of Ventura – Foster Park Fish Passage Project, Ventura County

Steven is the Principal-in-Charge of Rincon's support for the City of Ventura's Foster Park Fish Passage Improvement Project. The project is intended to clear sediment and debris from behind a diversion dam structure and restore fish passage within the Ventura River. Rincon has completed numerous technical studies for the project, including Biological Resource Assessments, federal Biological Assessments, and CEQA planning documents. Rincon also supports with project in coordinating acquisition of regulatory permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Rincon has worked closely with the construction management team, the City of Ventura, and the project's fish passage engineer to design an effective and least environmentally damaging project. Steven provides contract oversight and technical QA/QC review of all submittals.

Principal Biologist, Calleguas Municipal Water District – Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Pipeline Phases 3 & 4, Ventura County

Steven oversaw the biological resources analysis of the CEQA documentation for the proposed project, which involves an extension of the existing Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Pipeline to convey brine discharge from potable water reuse treatment facilities and brackish groundwater desalters. Rincon was responsible for preparing environmental technical studies as well as a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report. As Principal Biologist, Steven advised on biological resources impact analysis and mitigation and provided QA/QC of biological resources deliverables.



Appendix C

Construction Noise Modeling

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date 5/29/2025

Case Descr Arbolada Tank

---- Receptor #1 ----

Baselines (dBA)

Description Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
Receptor Residential	65	60	55

Equipment

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Spec	Actual	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)		
Backhoe	No		40	80	50	0
Concrete Saw	No		20	90	50	0
Crane	No		16	85	50	0
Grader	No		40	85	50	0
Excavator	No		40	85	50	0

Results

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)				
	*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Day Leq	Evening Lmax	Evening Leq	Night Lmax
Backhoe	80	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Concrete Saw	90	83	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crane	85	77	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grader	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	90	87.4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date 5/29/2025

Case Descr Foothill Road Pipeline

---- Receptor #1 ----

Baselines (dBA)

Description Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
Receptor Residential	65	60	55

Equipment

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Spec	Actual	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)		
Paver	No		50	85	50	0
Roller	No		20	85	50	0
Concrete Mixer Truck	No		40	85	50	0
Roller	No		20	85	50	0
Excavator	No		40	85	50	0

Results

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)				
	*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Day Leq	Evening Lmax	Evening Leq	Night Lmax
Paver	85	82	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roller	85	78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Concrete Mixer Truck	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roller	85	78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	85	87.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date 5/29/2025

Case Descr Ojai East Balancing Tank

---- Receptor #1 ----

Baselines (dBA)

Description	Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
Residence	Residential	65	60	55

Equipment

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Spec	Actual	Receptor	Estimated
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)	Distance (feet)	Shielding (dBA)
Backhoe	No	40	80		50	0
Compactor (ground)	No	20		83.2	50	0
Crane	No	16	85		50	0
Excavator	No	40	85		50	0
Generator	No	50	82		50	0

Results

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)				
	*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Day Leq	Evening Lmax	Evening Leq	Night Lmax
Backhoe	80	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compactor (ground)	83.2	76.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crane	85	77	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Generator	82	79	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	85	85.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date 5/29/2025

Case Descr OWS Chloramine and Conversion and Piping Optimization

---- Receptor #1 ----

Baselines (dBA)

Description Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
Residence Residential	65	60	55

Equipment

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Spec	Actual	Receptor	Estimated
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)	Distance (feet)	Shielding (dBA)
Backhoe	No		40	80	50	0
Concrete Mixer Truck	No		40	85	50	0
Compactor (ground)	No		20	80	50	0
Excavator	No		40	85	50	0
Dump Truck	No		40	84	50	0

Results

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)				
	*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Day Leq	Evening Lmax	Evening Leq	Night Lmax
Backhoe	80	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Concrete Mixer Truck	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compactor (ground)	80	73	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dump Truck	84	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	85	86.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date 5/29/2025

Case Descr Private Drive Pipeline

---- Receptor #1 ----

Baselines (dBA)

Description Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
Receptor Residential	65	60	55

Equipment

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Spec	Actual	Receptor	Estimated
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)	Distance (feet)	Shielding (dBA)
Paver	No		50	85	50	0
Roller	No		20	85	50	0
Front End Loader	No		40	80	50	0
Compressor (air)	No		40	80	50	0
Dump Truck	No		40	84	50	0

Results

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)				
	*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Day Leq	Evening Lmax	Evening Leq	Night Lmax
Paver	85	82	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roller	85	78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Front End Loader	80	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Compressor (air)	80	76	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dump Truck	84	80	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	85	86	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM),Version 1.1

Report date 5/29/2025

Case Descr Running Ridge

---- Receptor #1 ----

Baselines (dBA)

Description Land Use	Daytime	Evening	Night
Receptor Residential	65	60	55

Equipment

Description	Impact Device	Usage(%)	Spec	Actual	Receptor Distance (feet)	Estimated Shielding (dBA)
			Lmax (dBA)	Lmax (dBA)		
Concrete Mixer Truck	No	40	85	85	50	0
Concrete Saw	No	20	90	90	50	0
Crane	No	16	85	85	50	0
Dozer	No	40	85	85	50	0
Excavator	No	40	85	85	50	0

Results

Equipment	Calculated (dBA)		Noise Limits (dBA)				
	*Lmax	Leq	Day Lmax	Day Leq	Evening Lmax	Evening Leq	Night Lmax
Concrete Mixer Truck	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Concrete Saw	90	83	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Crane	85	77	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dozer	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Excavator	85	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	90	88	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

*Calculated Lmax is the Loudest value.

Component	Noise Level @ 50 ft	Residential (Private)	Residential (Foothill)
Distance		10	10
Private Drive	86	99.979	99.979
Foothill Road	87.3	101.279	101.279
Arbolada	87.4	101.379	101.379
Running Ridge	88	101.979	101.979
Ojai East	85.3	99.279	99.279
OWS Wellfield	86.2	100.179	100.179

Residential (Arbolada)	Residential (Running Ridge)	Residential (Ojai East)	Residential (OWS Wellfield)
130	170	160	210
77.701	75.370	75.897	73.535
79.001	76.670	77.197	74.835
79.101	76.770	77.297	74.935
79.701	77.370	77.897	75.535
77.001	74.670	75.197	72.835
77.901	75.570	76.097	73.735

Construction Equipment Distance	Vibration @ 25 ft	Residential (Private)	Residential (Foothill)
		15	15
Impact Pile Driver	1.518	3.266	3.266
Clam shovel	0.202	0.002	0.002
Vibratory Roller	0.21	0.452	0.452
Hoe Ram	0.089	0.191	0.191
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.191	0.191
Caisson Drilling	0.089	0.191	0.191
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.164	0.164
Jackhammer	0.035	0.075	0.075
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.006	0.006

MTSJ-02 Phase 2	Vibration @ 25 ft	Residential Area to E (600)	Vet Hospital (475)
		600	475
Clam shovel	0.202	0.002	0.002
Vibratory Roller	0.21	0.002	0.003
Hoe Ram	0.089	0.001	0.001
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.001	0.001
Caisson Drilling	0.089	0.001	0.001
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.001	0.001
Jackhammer	0.035	0.000	0.000
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.000	0.000

MTSJ-02 Phase 3	Vibration @ 25 ft	Residential Area to E (600)	Vet Hospital (975)
		600	975
Clam shovel	0.202	0.0017	0.0008
Vibratory Roller	0.21	0.0018	0.0009
Hoe Ram	0.089	0.0008	0.0004
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.0008	0.0004
Caisson Drilling	0.089	0.0008	0.0004
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.0006	0.0003
Jackhammer	0.035	0.0003	0.0001
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.0000	0.0000

MTSJ-02 Phase 4	Vibration @ 25 ft	Residential Area to E (90)	Vet Hospital (1500)
		90	1500
Clam shovel	0.202	0.0296	0.0004
Vibratory Roller	0.21	0.0307	0.0005
Hoe Ram	0.089	0.0130	0.0002
Large Bulldozer	0.089	0.0130	0.0002
Caisson Drilling	0.089	0.0130	0.0002
Loaded Trucks	0.076	0.0111	0.0002
Jackhammer	0.035	0.0051	0.0001
Small Bulldozer	0.003	0.0004	0.0000

Residential (Arbolada)	Residential (Running Ridge)	Residential (Ojai East)	Residential (OWS Wellfield)
67	50	25	30
0.346	0.537	1.518	1.155
0.000	0.000	0.039	#DIV/0!
0.048	0.074	0.210	0.160
0.020	0.031	0.089	0.068
0.020	0.031	0.089	0.068
0.020	0.031	0.089	0.068
0.017	0.027	0.076	0.058
0.008	0.012	0.035	0.027
0.001	0.001	0.003	0.002

Residential Area to NE (1800)	Santa Rosa APTS (1550)	Phase 1 Buildings (75)
1800	1550	75
0.000	0.000	0.039
0.000	0.000	0.040
0.000	0.000	0.017
0.000	0.000	0.017
0.000	0.000	0.017
0.000	0.000	0.015
0.000	0.000	0.007
0.000	0.000	0.001

Residential Area to NE (1175)	Santa Rosa APTS (2500)	Phase 1,2 Buildings (75)
1175	2500	75
0.0006	0.0002	0.0389
0.0007	0.0002	0.0404
0.0003	0.0001	0.0171
0.0003	0.0001	0.0171
0.0003	0.0001	0.0171
0.0002	0.0001	0.0146
0.0001	0.0000	0.0067
0.0000	0.0000	0.0006

Residential Area to NE (2300)	Santa Rosa APTS (2000)	Phase 1-3 Buildings (450)
2300	2000	450
0.0002	0.0003	0.0026
0.0002	0.0003	0.0027
0.0001	0.0001	0.0012
0.0001	0.0001	0.0012
0.0001	0.0001	0.0012
0.0001	0.0001	0.0010
0.0000	0.0000	0.0005
0.0000	0.0000	0.0000