

**RESOLUTION NO. SCV-213**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY WATER AGENCY  
ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE HONBY  
PIPELINE PROJECT (SCH NO. 2005011071)**

**WHEREAS**, the existing Honby Pipeline is currently operating over capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honby Pipeline is in need for an upsize to meet operational demands and flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honby Pipeline Project (Project) was divided into two phases for ease of construction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honby Phase 1 Project was a 2,500 linear foot that was constructed in 2006 as part of construction of the Golden Valley Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honby Pipeline Phase 2 Project needed to upsize an existing pipeline for operational demands and flexibility; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 13, 2005, the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA)'s Board of Directors adopted the 2005 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) as the Lead Agency for the Honby Pipeline Project by Resolution 2415; and

**WHEREAS**, in March 2021, an Addendum to the EIR was prepared to analyze changes to potential environmental impacts due to pipeline alignment modifications of the proposed Honby Pipeline Phase 2 Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency's Board of Directors needs to review the Addendum to the EIR attached as Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency's Board of Directors will need to adopt the Addendum to the EIR as the lead agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency's Board of Directors has determined that the proposed Project can be approved because there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agency and its Board of Directors have considered all of the information presented to it as set forth above and in this Resolution and action taken hereby is a result of the Board's independent judgment and analysis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the SCV Water Board does hereby find and determine as follows:

**SECTION 1. RECITALS.** SCV Water finds that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein as substantive findings of this Resolution.

**SECTION 2. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.** As a decision-making body for the Project, SCV Water has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Addendum to the EIR, comments received, and other documents contained in the administrative record for the Project. Based on SCV Water's independent review and analysis, SCV Water finds that the Addendum to the EIR and administrative record contain a complete and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the Project, and that the Addendum to the EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

**SECTION 3. FINDINGS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.** Based on the whole record before it, including the Addendum to the EIR, the administrative record, and all other written and oral evidence presented to SCV Water, SCV Water finds that all environmental impacts of the Project are either less than significant or can be mitigated to a level of less than significant under the mitigation measures outlined in the EIR and the MMRP. SCV Water finds that substantial evidence fully supports the conclusion that no significant and unavoidable impacts will occur and that, alternatively, there is no substantial evidence in the administrative record supporting a fair argument that the Project may result in any significant environmental impacts. SCV Water finds that the Addendum to the EIR contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the Project and reflects the independent judgment and analysis of SCV Water.

**SECTION 4. ADOPTION OF THE ADDENDUM TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT.** SCV Water hereby approves and adopts the Addendum to the EIR as the lead agency.

**SECTION 5. LOCATION AND CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS.** The documents and materials associated with the Project and the Addendum to the EIR that constitute the record of proceedings on which these findings are based are located at the offices of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Rd, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. The Custodian of Record is April Jacobs.

**SECTION 6. NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.** The SCV Water hereby directs staff to prepare, execute, and file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk's office and the Office of Planning and Research within five (5) working days of adoption of this Resolution.

  
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President

I, the undersigned, hereby certify: That I am the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, and that at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said Agency held on June 1, 2021, the foregoing Resolution No. SCV-213 was duly and regularly adopted by said Board, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended since the date of its adoption, and that it is now in full force and effect.

DATED: June 1, 2021

  
Secretary



**EXHIBIT "A"**

**ATTACHED  
ADDENDUM TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM  
FOR THE HONBY PIPELINE PROJECT**



## Honby Pipeline Project

Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report

SCH#2005011071

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**March 2021**



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# 1 Introduction

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This document was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the current (2020) *CEQA Guidelines*. This document is an Addendum to the previously certified 2005 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Honby Pipeline Project (Original Project). This EIR Addendum addresses changes to the Original Project that occurred after certification of the 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project; the project assessed in this EIR Addendum is heretofore referred to as the Modified Project. Section 2, *Project Description*, provides a detailed description of the Modified Project, including comparison to the Original Project.

Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) was the CEQA Lead Agency for the 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project. In 2018, CLWA and its Santa Clarita Water Division merged with Newhall County Water District and the Valencia Water Company, to form the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water), which is the CEQA Lead Agency for the environmental review in this EIR Addendum. This Addendum addresses the Modified Project in relation to the previous environmental review document prepared for the Original Project. Section 15164 of the 2019 *CEQA Guidelines* defines the function of an EIR Addendum as follows:

The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record.

## 1.1 Background

The Final EIR for the Original Project (SCH #2005011071) was certified by the CLWA Board of Directors on July 13, 2005. As noted above, CLWA is now SCV Water, which was formed in 2018 as a merger between CLWA and its Santa Clarita Water Division, Newhall County Water District, and the Valencia Water Company. This merger was enacted pursuant to Senate Bill 634, which also designated SCV Water as the successor in interest to CLWA's contract with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for an allocation of State Water Project (SWP) water. Accordingly, SCV Water is now the wholesale water agency for the Santa Clarita Valley, with a service area of approximately 195 square miles (124,000 acres), and a population of approximately 273,000 (expected to grow to approximately 420,000 at full build-out). SCV Water also provides wholesale SWP water to Los Angeles County Waterworks District #36.

The 2005 Final EIR evaluated the environmental effects of the Original Project. The 2005 Final EIR consists of the Draft EIR, responses to public and agency comments received during the review period, revised text to the Draft EIR based on responses to comments and other information, the Initial Study for the Original Project, and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). Technical analyses from the 2005 Final EIR are utilized or referenced throughout this Addendum, as applicable.

The 2005 EIR for the Original Project contained in-depth analyses of the following environmental issue areas: air quality; biological resources; noise; and population and housing. All other environmental issue areas were found to not be significant in the Initial Study prepared for the

Original Project and therefore were not assessed in detail in the EIR. Since certification of the 2005 Final EIR, the *CEQA Guidelines* have been updated to modify certain significance criteria, and to identify new issue areas that were not previously addressed in the Appendix G Environmental Checklist. For the purposes of this Addendum, all environmental issue areas and significance criteria identified in the current (2019) *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G Environmental Checklist are addressed for the Modified Project.

The Modified Project consists of the Original Project with design modifications that were incorporated after certification of the 2005 Final EIR, as described in Section 2, *Project Description*. This Addendum to the previously adopted 2005 Final EIR and has been prepared by SCV Water, as the CEQA Lead Agency, to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Modified Project. This Addendum has been prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of CEQA and Section 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.

## **Project Overview**

The Honby Pipeline Project (Original and Modified) includes two phases that would collectively replace an existing underground 33-inch-diameter pipeline with a new underground 60-inch-diameter pipeline, providing connection between an existing 84-inch-diameter Treated Water pipeline from the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant (Rio Vista WTP) to the existing Honby pipeline. The replacement pipeline that would be implemented under the Modified Project would have a slightly different alignment to that previously assessed. In addition, Phase 1 of the project has already been implemented, and therefore changes addressed in this EIR Addendum are specific to Phase 2 of the project. Detailed discussion of both project phases is provided in Section 2, *Project Description*.

The existing Honby pipeline requires replacement because its size is inadequate to meet the existing and future demand of the SCV Water (previously CLWA) service area, and because the existing alignment is within the Newhall Land and Farming Company's (Newhall) Riverpark residential development project. The portions of the existing Honby pipeline that interfere with the Riverpark project would be abandoned in place under the Modified Project, rather than removed by Newhall during construction of the Riverpark project, as proposed under the Original Project. The rest of the existing Honby pipeline would also be abandoned in place and left unaltered in its existing position. In addition, the need to increase conveyance capacity is independent of the existing pipeline's conflicts with the Riverpark project, and the proposed pipeline would therefore be constructed even if Newhall were not to abandon the existing pipeline.

## **Project Objectives**

As identified in the 2005 Final EIR, the objectives of the Honby Pipeline Project are as follows:

- Provide the required peak capacity to serve the current and projected population in the affected portion of the SCV Water service area until year 2050, as planned for in the SCV Water Capital Improvements Program.
- Accommodate changes required as a result of the Riverpark project, while ensuring access to the pipeline for maintenance and repairs.
- Be technically compatible with the Sand Canyon Pump Station.

The CLWA Capital Improvement Program (1988) that was in place at the time of preparation of the 2005 Final EIR for the project was updated and incorporated into the SCV Water Capital

Improvement Program with the formation of SCV Water in 2018. The objectives of the Modified Project remain consistent to as described in the 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.

The 2005 Final EIR determined that the increased pipeline capacity would be growth-inducing because it would remove an obstacle to growth, consistent with the objectives listed above. Because the same objectives are applicable to the Modified Project, it is anticipated that indirect effects, including but not limited to growth-inducement, would be the same under the Modified Project as under the Original Project. All potential impacts of the Modified Project are assessed in Section 3, *Impact Analysis*.

## 1.2 Basis for the Addendum

When an EIR has been certified and subsequently the project design is modified or project impacts are otherwise changed, such as due to changes in the environmental setting or baseline conditions, additional CEQA review may be necessary. The key considerations in determining the need for the appropriate type of additional CEQA review are outlined in Section 21166 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA) and Sections 15162, 15163 and 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*. An EIR Addendum is the appropriate level of CEQA documentation for the Modified Project, as discussed below.

Pursuant to Section 15164(a) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, an Addendum to an EIR may be prepared by the Lead Agency that prepared the original EIR, or by a responsible agency if some changes or additions are necessary. The conditions that require preparation of a Subsequent EIR, as described in Section 15162(a) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, are listed in Table 1, below, in comparison to the Honby Pipeline Project (Original and Modified), as evidence for the basis of this EIR Addendum.

**Table 1 Conditions Requiring Preparation of a Subsequent EIR**

CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)	Comparison to 2020 Honby Pipeline Project
1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.	The alignment for Phase 2 of the Modified Project has been slightly modified to reduce or avoid potential impacts, and microtunneling has been introduced as a potential construction technique to avoid or minimize impacts. These changes are not considered substantial such that major revisions to the EIR are necessary or environmental impacts would substantially change in type or severity.
2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.	Approximately 15 years have elapsed since certification of the 2005 Final EIR; during that time, development in the project area has continued, consistent with projected growth in the area. This does not represent substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project is undertaken, and the project objectives and need remain the same as addressed in the 2005 Final EIR.
3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete, shows any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;</li> <li>Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the</li> </ol>	Since certification of the 2005 Final EIR, the <i>CEQA Guidelines</i> have been revised; impact thresholds from the most current (2020) <i>CEQA Guidelines</i> have been applied to the impact analysis for this EIR Addendum, and no new information of substantial importance has been identified. The analysis provided in Section 3 of this EIR Addendum indicates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will not result in significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;</li> </ol>

CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)	Comparison to 2020 Honby Pipeline Project
<p>previous EIR;</p> <p>c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.</p>	<p>b. The project will not result in substantially more severe effects than identified in the previous EIR;</p> <p>c. No mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would now be feasible or able to reduce significant effects of the project. Potential impacts would be sufficiently reduced or avoided through mitigation measures identified in the previous EIR.</p>
<p>4) Mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.</p>	<p>No new or substantially different mitigation measures or alternatives have been identified or would be able to substantially reduce significant effects. The impact analysis provided in Section 3 of this EIR Addendum discusses how mitigation measures identified in the previous EIR would sufficiently reduce or avoid potentially adverse impacts.</p>

None of the conditions requiring a Subsequent EIR are met by the Modified Project and therefore, an EIR Addendum is the appropriate level of CEQA documentation for the project. An EIR Addendum must include a brief explanation of the Lead Agency’s decision not to prepare a Subsequent EIR and be supported by substantial evidence in the record as a whole (Section 15164[e]). The EIR Addendum need not be circulated for public review, but it may be included in or attached to the Final EIR (Section 15164[c]). The decision-making body must consider the Addendum to the EIR prior to making a decision on the project (Section 15164[d]). Once a project has been approved, the Lead Agency’s role in project approval is completed; therefore, as the Lead Agency for the Modified Project, SCV Water has discretionary approval over the Modified Project.

The Modified Project does not meet the conditions listed Section 15162(a) requiring preparation of a Subsequent EIR, as addressed above in Table 1. Accordingly, the proposed Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts related to: 1) substantial changes to the Original Project which requires major revisions to the certified Final EIR; 2) substantial changes to the circumstances under which the Original Project are being undertaken which will require major revisions to the certified Final EIR; or 3) new information of substantial importance showing significant effects not previously examined.

The certified Final EIR and this Addendum serve as informational documents to inform decision-makers and the public of the potential environmental consequences of approving the proposed Modified Project. This Addendum neither controls nor determines the ultimate decision for approval of the proposed Modified Project. The information presented in this Addendum to the certified Final EIR will be considered by SCV Water alongside the certified 2005 Final EIR prior to making a decision on the Modified Project.

## 2 Project Description

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As described in Section 1.1.1, *Project Overview*, the Honby Pipeline Project would replace an existing 33-inch-diameter pipeline with a new 60-inch-diameter pipeline, connecting an existing 84-inch-diameter Treated Water pipeline from the Rio Vista WTP to the existing Honby and Sand Canyon pipelines. The project is needed to increase conveyance capacity of the existing Honby pipeline to be able to meet existing and future demands, and to avoid development conflicts with Newhall's Riverpark project. The Modified Project presents revisions to the Original Project, which were introduced to facilitate construction access and to reduce the number of easements required for the project. This section provides details on the project design, including comparison of the Original Project and the Modified Project, which is assessed in this EIR Addendum.

No new water supply is associated with the Honby Pipeline Project, meaning that the project would not increase water demand or require a new water supply. The water that would be conveyed by the project is already part of SCV Water's existing and planned supply.

### 2.1 Location

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project is located within the Santa Clarita Valley and traverses along and within the Santa Clara River in the city of Santa Clarita, Los Angeles County, California. Please see Figure 1 for the regional project location. The Honby pipeline alignment that comprises the extent of the Modified Project begins at the north bank of the Santa Clara River, west of the above-ground Los Angeles Aqueduct. Crossing under the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the pipeline alignment traverses east along an existing bicycle path for approximately 1,500 LF. From there, the pipeline alignment crosses the Santa Clara River and turns east immediately north of Valley Center Drive, crossing under the Golden Valley Road flyover and Los Angeles Aqueduct Transmission Line, the latter of which is located on Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) property. The pipeline alignment then runs along Soledad Street, Reuther Avenue, and Santa Clara Street to the connection point near the Sand Canyon Pump Station.

#### General Plan and Land Use Zones

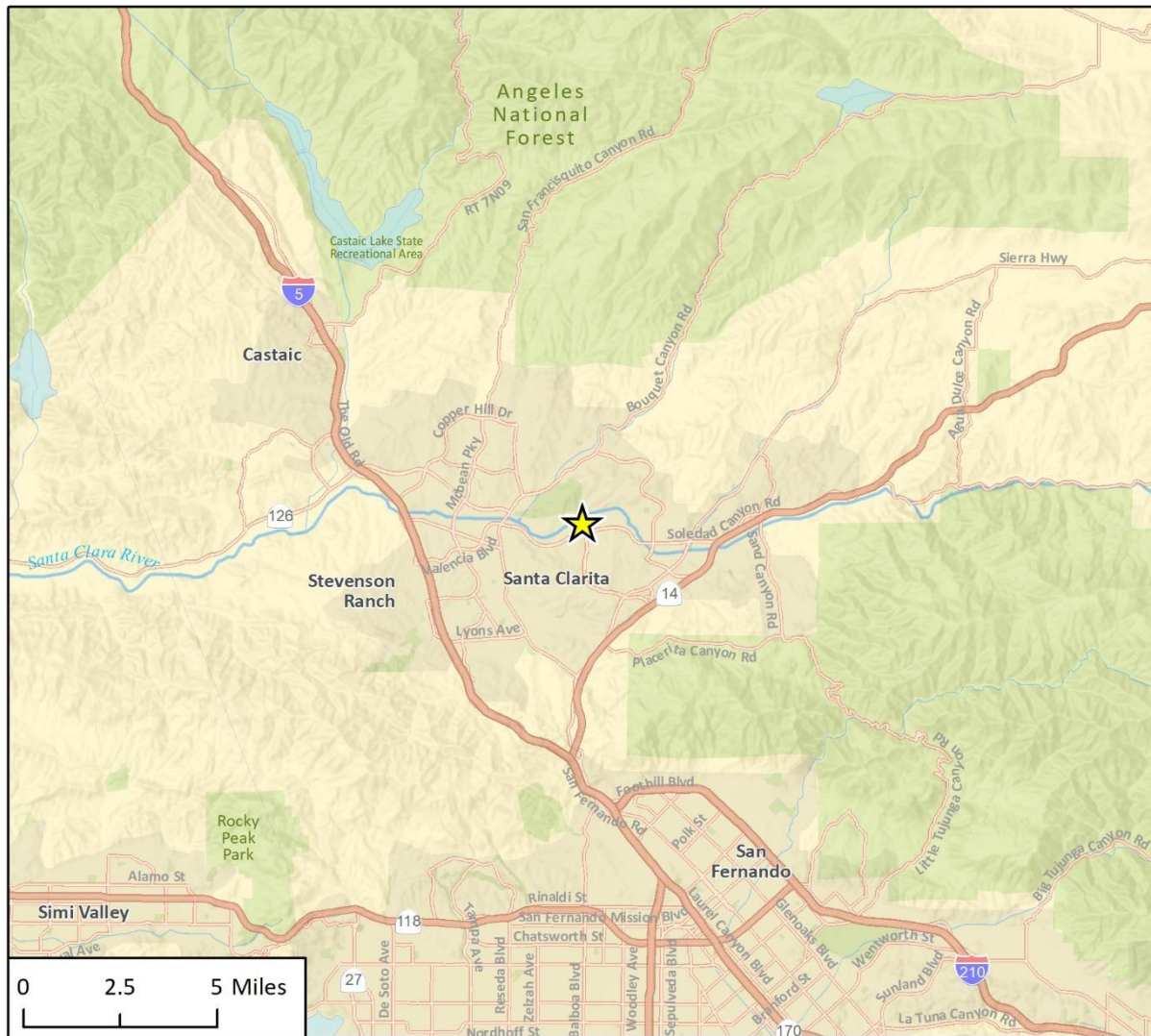
The current General Plan and land use designations are consistent with what was recorded in the 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project. These include: Open Space (OS), Urban Residential (UR3), Community Commercial (CC), the addition of Business Park (BP), and a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) overlay. No zone or general plan changes are required with the Modified Project.

### 2.2 Original Project Description

The Original Project was defined in two phases, as described in the 2005 Final EIR (CLWA 2005):

- **Phase 1** would consist of a new 2,500-foot-long segment of pipeline, connecting the existing 84-inch Treated Water pipeline that leads from the existing Rio Vista WTP to the existing Honby pipeline, via Newhall Ranch Road. Most of the Phase 1 pipeline alignment is within Newhall Ranch Road Right-of-Way, except for the eastern-most 550 feet of pipeline, which is south of Newhall Ranch Road within easements owned by SCV Water. At the time of preparation of this Addendum, Phase 1 of the Original Project has been constructed.

Figure 1 Regional Location



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★ Project Location



Fig 1 Regional Location

- **Phase 2** would consist of a new 7,000-foot-long segment of pipeline, replacing the existing Honby pipeline between the point of connection with the Phase 1 pipeline segment in Newhall Ranch Road, and the Sand Canyon Pump Station. The alignment of Phase 2 of the Original Project initiated at the north bank of the Santa Clara River, and crossed the river parallel to and on the western side of the above-ground First Los Angeles Aqueduct. On the south side of the river, the pipeline alignment turned east through the northern portion of the East Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, crossed the new Golden Valley Road flyover and under property owned by LADWP, and finally within the existing roadways along Soledad Street, Reuther Avenue, and Santa Clara Street to the connection point near the Sand Canyon Pump Station and the intersection of Santa Clara Street and Furnivall Avenue.

Newhall Land and Farming Company would keep the existing portion of Honby pipeline in Newhall Ranch Road in place; pipeline removal is not part of or required for implementation of the Phase 1 or Phase 2 pipeline segments, and leaving the existing pipeline in place does not alter potential impacts of the proposed project as discussed herein.

The pipeline capacity would be 139 cubic feet per second (cfs). The pipeline would be coated and lined with cement mortar and would conform to the requirements of American Water Works Association (AWWA). Appurtenances would be installed to provide access to the pipeline for maintenance activities, and to protect the pipeline from water hammer, collapse, and corrosion. These appurtenances would include air and vacuum relief valves, blowoff/pump-outs, flexible coupling, cathodic test stations, and manway vaults with air vents, as described below (CLWA 2005):

- **Air and vacuum relief valves (AVARs).** AVARs would be installed to release air from the pipeline during filling and normal operations, and to protect the pipeline from collapse due to vacuum conditions. AVARs would be spaced at intervals of not more than 1,500 feet, at high points along the pipeline. The pressure rating of the AVARs would be 150 pounds per square inch at a minimum.
- **Blow-off valves.** Blow-off valves would be strategically installed along the pipeline to provide pressure relief and dewatering during operation and maintenance activities. Blow-off valves would be installed at each low point and on the upstream side of any valve to provide dewatering.
- **Pump-out stations.** In addition to the blowoffs, three pump-out stations would be installed: one on the low point of the Santa Clara River crossing, and two at additional low points along the alignment. A submersible pump may also be required for complete dewatering. A butterfly valve would be installed at the proposed pipeline connection to the Treated Water pipeline to facilitate dewatering during an emergency or routine maintenance.
- **Flexible coupling.** Flexible coupling that allows movement with minimal or no damage would be installed on the upstream and downstream sides of the Santa Clara River crossing where changes in pipe bedding (concrete encasement) occur.
- **Cathodic test stations.** Pipeline corrosion would be monitored using cathodic test stations, spaced at intervals of approximately 1,000 feet along the alignment.
- **Manway vaults.** Manual access to the pipeline would be provided using manway vaults installed along the pipeline alignment. These vaults would provide access for inspection, routine maintenance, and repairs. Air vents would be installed near each manway vault to provide cross ventilation when the manholes are entered for maintenance or inspection.



Phase 1 of the Honby Pipeline Project (Original Project) has been implemented and, at the time of preparation of this EIR Addendum, Phase 1 is fully operational. Phase 2 of the Original Project has not been initiated.

## 2.3 Modified Project Description

Phase 1 of the Modified Project is the same as described for the Original Project, and has already been constructed. Phase 2 of the Modified Project has been modified from its design in the Original Project to allow for easier construction access and to reduce the number of easements required. These modifications include a revised alignment, as described below and shown on Figure 2.

Phase 2 of the Modified Project would be approximately 6,500 feet in length, 500 feet less than previously analyzed, and coated and lined with a cement mortar. The Phase 2 pipeline would initiate at the north bank of the Santa Clara River, instead of crossing the river parallel to the above-ground Los Angeles Aqueduct, and continue east for approximately 1,500 feet along the north bank of the Santa Clara River, within an existing bicycle path. After approximately 1,500 feet, Phase 2 of the Modified Project would cross under the Santa Clara River and turn east just north of Valley Center Drive. From that point, Phase 2 of the Modified Project would follow the same alignment as the Original Project. The pipeline would cross under the new Golden Valley Road flyover and property owned by the LADPW, within existing roadways including Soledad Street, Reuther Avenue, and Santa Clara Street. The Phase 2 pipeline would end near the Honby Pump Station.

All appurtenances associated with the Phase 2 pipeline would be the same under the Modified Project as described for the Original Project, including blow-off/pump-out facilities, cathodic test stations, and manway vaults. These features would provide access to the pipeline for maintenance purposes, and would protect the pipeline from water hammer, collapse, and corrosion.

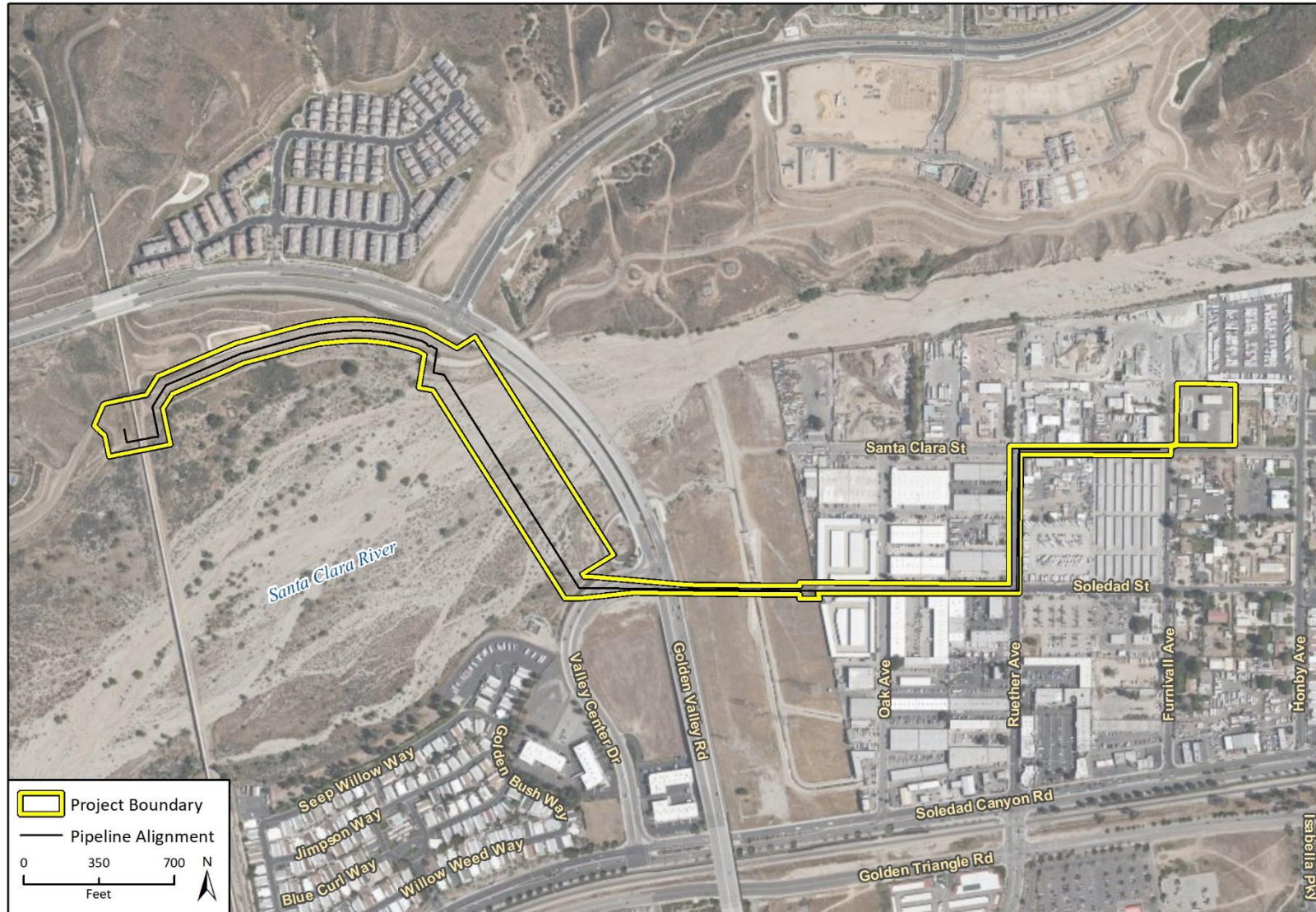
### Comparison to the Original Project

Table 2 below provides an overview of project design changes incorporated since certification of the 2005 Final EIR. The primary modifications, as relevant to the environmental impact analysis presented herein, include:

- Shorter length of Phase 2 pipeline (6,500 feet versus 7,000 feet under the Original Project);
- Phase 2 alignment would avoid disturbance and associated construction access restrictions to the East Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, which would be traversed by the Original Project;
- Phase 2 alignment would be within an existing bicycle pathway for 1,500 feet on the north bank of the Santa Clara River, requiring the bicycle pathway to be temporarily closed during the construction period for Phase 2;
- The Santa Clara River crossing of the Phase 2 pipeline would occur at a narrower point in the river, requiring less ground disturbance and reduced construction activities to install the pipeline under the river;
- Construction methods would include microtunneling instead in addition to traditional boring methods, reducing the area of ground disturbance during construction.

In addition to the project design revisions listed above and in Table 2, changes to the environmental setting in the project area have developed, and will be considered in the impact analysis for the Modified Project. These changes include the following:

Figure 2 Project Site and Modified Project Phase 2 Alignment



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Additional data provided by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, 2018.

- Newhall Ranch Road and the Golden Valley Road bridge have been constructed;
- The Riverpark housing development has been constructed (the Riverpark development is located south of Newhall Ranch Road and east of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, and was analyzed in an EIR prepared by the City of Santa Clarita);
- The Providence at River Village housing development has been constructed (the Providence development is located north of Valley Center Drive and north of Newhall Ranch Road).

These changes in the baseline environmental conditions were addressed in the 2005 Final EIR as cumulative projects. This Addendum assesses the Modified Project with respect to the current (2020) environmental setting, including those changes listed above. This Addendum also provides a significance determination for each threshold criterion, based upon the current baseline conditions and environmental setting, including with respect to Phase 1 and portions of the cumulative setting having been implemented since certification of the 2005 Final EIR.

**Table 2 Comparison of Original Project and Modified Project**

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Original Project</b>	<b>Modified Project</b>
Phase 1 pipeline	Same as defined in the 2005 Final EIR (CLWA 2005)	Same as Original Project; already constructed and currently operational.
Phase 2 pipeline length	7,000 feet	6,500 feet
Phase 2 pipeline alignment	Phase 2 begins at the north bank of the Santa Clara River and crosses the river parallel to and on the western side of the First Los Angeles Aqueduct. On the south bank of the Santa Clara River, pipeline crosses through East Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, the Golden Valley Road flyover, and LADWP property.	Phase 2 stays on the north bank of the Santa Clara River for 1,500 feet longer than the Original Project, within an existing bicycle path. Phase 2 then crosses the river at a narrower point than the Original Project, then joins the Original Project alignment. The Modified Project avoids the East Greenbrier Mobile Home Park and construction disturbance to residents there.
Construction method	Open-cut trenching	Open-cut trenching and microtunneling to reduce ground disturbance
Ancillary features	AVARs <sup>1</sup> ; blow-off and pump-out facilities; flexible couplings; cathodic test stations; manway vaults; butterfly valves	Same as Original Project
Total excavation	Not specified <sup>2</sup>	Approximately 16,850 cubic yards (3,900 cubic yards of which are for the Santa Clara River crossing)
Pipeline rate of construction	Not specified <sup>3</sup>	40 feet/day
Number of construction crew	1 open-cut crew	1 microtunneling (trenchless) crew + 1 open-cut crew

<sup>1</sup> AVARs = air and vacuum relief valves

<sup>2</sup> Although the 2005 Final EIR does not specify total quantity of excavation material associated with the Original Project, it is reasonably assumed that the Modified Project would require a substantially smaller quantity of excavation, due to the shortened length of the Phase 2 pipeline, as well as the use of microtunneling construction, which avoided the need for open trench construction.

<sup>3</sup> Although the 2005 Final EIR does not specify the length of pipeline construction to be completed per day, it is reasonably assumed that construction progress of the Original Project would be comparable to the Modified Project.

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would increase the capacity of the Honby pipeline in order to serve the affected portion of the SCV Water service area until 2050, as planned for in the Santa Clarita Valley 2015 Urban Water Management Plan and other regional planning documents. All mitigation measures identified for the direct and indirect impacts of the Original Project would also apply to the Modified Project.

## 2.4 Construction Activities

The Modified Project pipeline would be installed using a combination of “open cut” (trenching) and microtunneling construction. Open cut construction methods require a temporary construction easement to stockpile excavated native topsoil and install the pipeline; this temporary easement would measure approximately 300 feet by 1,200 feet.

Under the Modified Project, microtunneling would be used for the pipeline segment crossing the Golden Valley Road flyover and the LADWP property on the south side of the Santa Clara River. Microtunneling may also be used for the segment of the Phase 2 pipeline crossing the Santa Clara River. Construction-related impacts from microtunneling would be less than those identified for open-cut trenching as evaluated in the EIR due to the minimization of surface disturbance.

With either construction method (trenching or microtunneling), the Sand Canyon Pump Station and/or other existing disturbed area(s) along the project alignment would be used for construction staging and location for the Contractor’s office during the construction period. Five potential staging areas have been identified, all of which are either paved or previously disturbed, and set back from the Santa Clara River to avoid potential runoff-related impacts. Construction staging activities at Sand Canyon Pump Station and/or one of the other five potential sites would be temporary in nature and limited to the duration of the construction period. Any staging areas used during project construction would be restored to existing (pre-construction) conditions to the extent feasible, following completion of the construction period. All mitigation measures and BMPs that would be applied to avoid or minimize potential construction impacts of the project would be applied to the construction staging area(s) as applicable.

## 2.5 Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance activities would include remote monitoring and regular visual inspections of above-ground appurtenances. Repairs would be conducted as needed to maintain integrity of the overall system and its intended function. Operation and maintenance activities would be consistent with present operations and maintenance activities conducted for other SCV Water infrastructure in the area, including but not limited to Phase 1 of the Original Project, which is in place and operational.

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### 3 Environmental Impact Analysis

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A comparative analysis of the potential impacts associated with the proposed Modified Project and those of the approved Original Project analyzed in the certified 2005 Final EIR has been undertaken using a CEQA checklist approach. The checklist approach is consistent with the format of the certified 2005 Final EIR.

#### Impacts Identified in the 2005 Final EIR

As discussed in Section 2, *Project Description*, Phase 2 of the Modified Project has been modified from its design in the Original Project to allow for easier construction access and to reduce the number of easements required. These modifications trigger new analysis under CEQA. The environmental analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR remains relevant and applicable to the Modified Project in areas unaffected by changes in existing conditions and changes in the Modified Project for the environmental topics as listed below.

In the Initial Study prepared for the Original Project, direct impacts were found to be less than significant for the following issue areas: Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Cultural Resources; Geology and Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Public Services; Recreation; Transportation; and Utilities. As these issue areas were identified as less than significant in the Initial Study, they were not assessed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR. As described in Section 1.1, Background, the 2005 Final EIR analyzed four environmental issue areas for potential impacts:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing

All other environmental issue areas were screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project, which was provided as Appendix B to the certified 2005 Final EIR. The 2005 EIR included two tables that summarize the project's direct and indirect impacts, respectively, of the project as analyzed at that time: Table ES-1 addressed direct impacts, and Table ES-2 addressed indirect impacts, as summarized below.

Table ES-1 of the 2005 Final EIR provides a summary of the Original Project's direct environmental impacts, and the mitigation measures that were identified to reduce potential impacts of the project to a less-than-significant level. Those mitigation measures continue to be applicable to the Modified Project, and are presented in the impact analysis below where they would be implemented to minimize or avoid potential impacts. The 2005 EIR determined that direct noise impacts of the project as assessed at that time would be significant and unavoidable due to the potential for short-term exceedances of local noise significance thresholds at that time. This EIR Addendum will reassess all potential impacts of the project, given the current design and environmental setting, including as related to direct noise impacts that were previously determined to be significant and unavoidable.

Table ES-2 of the 2005 Final EIR provides a summary of the Original Project's indirect environmental impacts. The 2005 Final EIR determined that the Original Project would remove an obstacle to

future growth in the project area. This was determined to potentially require expansion of the water treatment capacity of the Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant at that time. It was further determined in the 2005 Final EIR that should expansion of this facility become necessary as a result of the Original Project's removal of an obstacle to future growth, such expansion could result in potentially significant unavoidable impacts to the following environmental issue areas:

- Aesthetic/Visual Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

However, as mentioned above and in Section 1.1, Background, the 2005 Final EIR analysis was specific to four environmental issue areas, which did not include Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Transportation/Traffic, or Utilities and Service Systems which are listed above. This EIR Addendum will provide analysis of all direct and indirect potential impacts of the project to all environmental issue areas in the current (2020) *CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist*, and make significance determinations for the Modified Project in order to determine if the Modified Project would result in any new or more substantial impacts than the Original Project.

The *CEQA Guidelines* have been updated several times since certification of the 2005 Final EIR, including revisions to the Environmental Checklist provided as Appendix G to the *CEQA Guidelines*. This included revisions to several significance thresholds, as well as the addition of three new issue areas that were not addressed as separate environmental issue areas in the previous *CEQA Guidelines*:

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Energy
- Wildfire

As mentioned above, this Addendum addresses all environmental topics identified in the 2020 *CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist*, so includes these three new issue areas.

## **Comparative Evaluation of Environmental Impacts**

For each environmental issue area assessed herein, a table is provided at the beginning of the issue area section that lists each significance threshold from the *CEQA Guidelines* (in rows), and poses a series of questions (in columns) that identifies the degree to which the issue was analyzed in the 2005 Final EIR. For each issue area assessed herein, the summary table also identifies whether the Modified Project constitutes new information of substantial importance relative to potential impacts of the project. The questions posed in each column are described below.

### *Where was impact analyzed?*

This column provides a cross-reference to the portions of the certified 2005 Final EIR where information and analyses can be found for to the respective threshold criterion. The cross-references identified in this column correspond with page numbers and section numbers of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project. This column also identifies thresholds that were not assessed in the 2005 Final EIR.



*Do proposed changes require major revisions to the certified EIR?*

In accordance with Section 15162(a)(1) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, this column indicates whether the proposed Modified Project would involve new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts that, in turn, would require major revisions of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.

*Do new circumstances require major revisions to the certified EIR?*

In accordance with Section 15162(a)(2) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, this column indicates whether changes to the circumstances under which the Modified Project is undertaken or implemented have occurred that would involve new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts that, in turn, would require major revisions of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.

*Is there any new information resulting in new or substantially more severe significant impacts?*

In accordance with Sections 15162(a)(3)(A) and 15162(a)(3)(B) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, this column indicates whether new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the Final EIR was certified, shows additional or substantially more severe significant impacts not discussed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.

*Do mitigation measures included in the certified EIR address and/or resolve impacts?*

In accordance with Sections 15162(a)(3)(C) and 15162(a)(3)(D) of the *CEQA Guidelines*, this column indicates whether new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time of certification of the 2005 Final EIR, shows that mitigation measures or alternatives in the certified 2005 Final EIR would now be feasible, or identifies new mitigation measures or alternatives not in the certified 2005 Final EIR that would reduce significant impacts, but which the applicant declines to adopt.

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## 3.1 Aesthetics

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes

Direct impacts to aesthetics were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to aesthetic resources, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Scenic Highways Element, Circulation policies 7 – 14; Conservation and Open Space Element, policies 18, 19, and 24
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Circulation Element, policies 4.1 – 4.3; Community Design Element, policies 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2 – 3.7

- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Community Design Element, policies 1.1 – 1.3, 2.1 – 2.6, 3.1 – 3.6, 4.1 – 4.4, 5.1 – 5.3, 6.1 – 6.8, 7.1 – 7.4, 8.1 – 8.5, 9.1 – 9.10, 10.1 – 10.5, and 11.1 – 11.9

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to aesthetics are assessed below.

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

The 2005 Final EIR determined the Original Project will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, substantially damage scenic resources, or substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the construction site or its surroundings because it will be placed underground in previously disturbed or developed areas and the ground surface will be restored to pre-construction condition after completion of construction. Impacts were determined to be less than significant.

Since the preparation of the 2005 Final EIR, there have been some changes to the aesthetics of Original Project site area. As discussed in Section 2, *Project Description*, these changes include the following:

- Newhall Ranch Road and the Golden Valley Road bridge have been constructed;
- The Riverpark housing development has been constructed (the Riverpark development is located south of Newhall Ranch Road and east of the Los Angeles Aqueduct);
- The Providence at River Village housing development has been constructed (the Providence development is located north of Valley Center Drive and north of Newhall Ranch Road).

These developments have slightly altered the visual conditions of the Modified Project site to be more urban than it was during the previous analysis. The western portion of the Modified Project site remains open space, as it was during the 2005 Final EIR analysis.

According to the City of Santa Clarita’s General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element (2011), “scenic resources” can include “natural open spaces, topographic formations, and landscapes that contribute to a high level of visual quality.” The General Plan describes scenic resources in the Santa Clarita Valley, including mountains and canyons, woodlands, water bodies, and Vasquez Rocks County Park. Soledad Canyon, in which the Original Project site and Modified Project site are located, is not specifically identified as a scenic resource in the General Plan. The nearest state scenic highway is Interstate-5, located approximately four miles west of the Modified Project site (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans] 2019). There are no County scenic highways within the vicinity of the Modified Project Site (Caltrans 2019).

Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project may temporarily obstruct or degrade scenic views of open space in the vicinity during construction of the proposed pipeline. Once construction of the pipeline is complete, the pipeline would not result in permanent aesthetic changes that would alter scenic vistas from their existing conditions because disturbed areas would be restored to pre-construction conditions upon completion of construction activities.

Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to scenic resources and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to aesthetics, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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 2005 Final EIR determined the Original Project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area. Impacts were determined to be less than significant.

Newhall Ranch Road and the Golden Valley Road bridge have introduced new sources of vehicular lighting and glare. The Riverpark housing development and the Providence at River Village housing development have also introduced new permanent lighting to the vicinity of the Modified Project site.

Similar to the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project may result in light and glare during due to the presence of construction vehicles and equipment. Construction activities would be temporary, lasting no more than a few days at any given location. Upon completion of construction, the pipeline segments would be located underground. As such, no impact would occur.

Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to light and glare and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to light and glare, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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## 3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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))?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A



	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to agriculture and forestry resources were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to agriculture and forestry resources, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Land Use Element, policies 7, 20, and 21

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to agriculture and forestry resources are assessed below.

- 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 2005 Final EIR determined no agricultural and forestry resources impacts associated with construction and operation of the Original Project will occur because the proposed pipeline will not be located in an area that contains Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance.

As with the Original Project, the revised pipeline alignment under the Modified Project would not be located on land currently in agricultural production or designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), or land with a Williamson Act contract. The Modified Project site is designated “Urban and Built-Up Land” or “Other Land” by the

California Department of Conservation (2019). No portion of the Modified Project site is located on forest land or timber land.

Due to the absence of agricultural land and forestry resources on the Modified Project site or surrounding area, the Modified project would not involve changes to the existing environment which could result in a new or substantially more severe impact related to conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses. Therefore, similar to the Original Project analyzed in the 2005 Final EIR, the Modified Project would result in no impact to agriculture and forestry resources.

Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to agriculture and forestry resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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### 3.3 Air Quality

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Pages 3.1-1 – 3.1-8 and 4-4	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Pages 3.1-1 – 3.1-8 and 4-4	No	No	No	N/A
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Pages 3.1-1 – 3.1-8 and 4-4	No	No	No	N/A
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	Pages 3.1-1 – 3.1-8 and 4-4	No	No	No	N/A

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to air quality, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element, policy 1
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Environmental Resources Management Element, policy 1.8
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Air Quality Element, policies 1.1, 1.2, 7.1, 8.1 – 8.3, 9.1, 14.1, 15.1, and 15.2. Mobile emissions are controlled by policies 1.1, 1.2, 12.1 – 12.3, 2.1 – 2.5, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 10.1, 10.2, 11.1, and 11.2

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to air quality are assessed below.

#### Thresholds of Significance

Thresholds of significance for the evaluation of air quality emissions have been revised since certification of the 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project. In order to accurately identify and characterize potential impacts of the Modified Project in comparison with the Original Project, the thresholds of significance that were applied for the 2005 Final EIR are also applied to this analysis. However, current or revised thresholds are discussed for background context where such

information helps to characterize potential impacts of the project. This approach is further discussed below, and is consistent with case law addressing standards adopted after certification of a CEQA document and before adoption of an addendum.

The SCAQMD provides numerical thresholds to analyze the significance of a project’s construction and operational impacts to regional air quality. These thresholds, which are listed in Table 3, are designed such that a project consistent with the thresholds would not have an individually or cumulatively significant impact to the air quality in the SCAB. At the time of preparation of the 2005 Final EIR, there were no standards in place for PM<sub>2.5</sub> or lead.

**Table 3 Current SCAQMD Regional Air Quality Significance Thresholds**

Pollutant	Mass Daily Thresholds	
	Construction Thresholds (pounds/day)	Operation Thresholds (pounds/day)
NO <sub>x</sub>	100	55
VOC	75	55
PM <sub>10</sub>	150	150
SO <sub>x</sub>	150	150
CO	550	550

NO<sub>x</sub>: nitrogen oxides; VOC: volatile organic compounds; PM<sub>10</sub>: particulate matter 10 microns or less in size; SO<sub>x</sub>: sulfur oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; SCAQMD = South Coast Air Quality Management District  
 Source: SCAQMD 2019

## Applicable SCAQMD Rules and Regulations

### *Rule 403 (Fugitive Dust)*

Rule 403 requires the implementation of best available dust control measures during active operations capable of generating fugitive dust.

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

A project may be inconsistent with the AQMP if it would generate population, housing, or employment growth exceeding the forecasts used in the development of the AQMP. The current (2016) AQMP relies on local city general plans and the Southern California Association of Governments’ current (2016) Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy forecasts of regional population, housing, and employment growth in its projections for managing air quality in the SCAB.

The purpose of the Original Project was to increase water conveyance capacity to accommodate planned future growth. As discussed in the 2005 Final EIR, the Original Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the AQMP. As discussed under Section 3.15, *Population and Housing*, the Modified Project would not result in acquisition of additional water supplies and would not expand service beyond areas presently served by existing infrastructure. The Modified Project would not increase the pipeline capacity beyond the capacity analyzed under the Original Project. As such, the Modified Project would not generate population, housing, or employment growth exceeding the forecasts used in the development of the AQMP.

## Effects and Mitigation Measures

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to the air quality plan, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## Conclusion

### NO IMPACT

*(Consistent with the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

Criteria pollutants include ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, sulfur oxides, and lead. At the time of the 2005 Final EIR, the SCAB was designated nonattainment for state and federal standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, and PM<sub>10</sub>. As discussed under *Air Quality Standards and Attainment*, the SCAB is currently a nonattainment area for the federal standards for ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and the state standards for ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The portion of the SCAB in which the Modified Project site is located is also designated nonattainment for lead (SCAQMD 2017). The SCAB is designated unclassifiable or in attainment for all other federal and state standards.

Consistent with the *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064(h)(3), SCAQMD's approach for assessing cumulative impacts is based on the AQMP forecasts of attainment of ambient air quality standards in accordance with the requirements of the federal and state Clean Air Acts. If the mass emissions calculated for the Modified Project exceed the applicable SCAQMD daily significance thresholds that are designed to assist the region in attaining the applicable NAAQS and CAAQS, emissions generated by the Modified Project would be considered cumulatively considerable. According to air quality modeling performed for the 2005 Final EIR, the Original Project will not exceed any SCAQMD significance threshold.

Similar to the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project would generate temporary air pollutant emissions. These emissions are primarily associated with fugitive dust and exhaust from heavy construction vehicles. Table 4 summarizes the estimated maximum daily emissions of pollutants during construction of the Original Project and the Modified Project.

**Table 4 Construction Emissions Compared to Thresholds**

	Estimated Maximum Daily Emissions (pounds/day)					
	VOC	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	SO <sub>x</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub> <sup>1</sup>
Original Project / Modified Project <sup>2</sup>	7.7	86.5	43.1	1.9	58.7	N/A
SCAQMD Thresholds	75	100	550	150	150	N/A
<b>Threshold Exceeded?</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>

<sup>1</sup> As previously described, SCAQMD's PM<sub>2.5</sub> threshold was not in effect at the time of the 2005 Final EIR, and is therefore not used for the purposes of this analysis.

<sup>2</sup> Original Project emissions shown are as modeled in the certified 2005 Final EIR. Modified Project emissions are assumed to be the same or less than emissions for construction of the Original Project, due to the construction of 500 feet less of pipeline.

VOC: volatile organic compounds; NO<sub>x</sub>: nitrogen oxides; CO: carbon monoxide; SO<sub>x</sub>: sulfur oxides; PM<sub>10</sub>: particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; PM<sub>2.5</sub>: particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter

As shown in Table 4, the Modified Project is assumed to result in equivalent or reduced air criteria pollutant emissions as compared to the Original Project, due to the construction of 500 feet less of underground pipeline for the Modified Project. The Modified Project's criteria pollutant emissions would not exceed the significance thresholds.

Like the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with SCAQMD Rule 403, which requires the implementation of best available dust control measures during active operations capable of generating fugitive dust. Construction equipment and duration of construction activities associated with the Modified Project would not be substantially different from the Original Project. Therefore, construction of the Modified Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the SCAB is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Similar to the Original Project, construction air quality impacts associated with the Modified Project would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would generate negligible operational emissions via routine maintenance trips. The Modified Project would not include any stationary sources of lead emissions. Additionally, implementation of the Modified Project would not result in substantial emissions of lead. Therefore, Modified Project operation would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the SCAB is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project's operational impacts to air quality would be less than significant. No mitigation is required.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to air criteria pollutants, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Same as the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*



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

Certain population groups, such as children, the elderly, and people with health problems, are particularly sensitive to air pollution. Sensitive receptors are defined as land uses that are more likely to be used by these population groups and include health care facilities, retirement homes, school and playground facilities, and residential areas. As described in the 2005 Final EIR, sensitive receptors in proximity to the Original Project site include residents in the East Greenbrier Mobile Park. Some residents in this neighborhood live within 125 feet of the Original Pipeline corridor. The 2005 Final EIR concluded that construction of the Original Project would not produce substantial criteria pollutant impacts at these sensitive receptors and that impacts would be less than significant.

Under the Modified Project, the Phase 2 pipeline alignment would not be located adjacent to the East Greenbrier Mobile Home Park. The nearest sensitive receptors to the Modified Project site would be the newly constructed Providence at River Village housing development, located approximately 180 feet north of the Modified Project site across Newhall Ranch Road. As discussed under item (b) above, the Modified Project's operational and construction emissions would not exceed the SCAQMD regional thresholds, which are designed to be protective of public health.

The following subsections discuss the potential for the Modified Project to expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentration of carbon monoxide and toxic air contaminants (TACs).

### **Carbon Monoxide Hotspots**

A carbon monoxide hotspot is a localized concentration of carbon monoxide that is above the state one-hour or eight-hour standards of 20.0 ppm and 9.0 ppm, respectively. Localized carbon monoxide hotspots generally occur at intersections with heavy peak hour traffic. Specifically, hotspots can be created at intersections where traffic volumes are high and there is heavy congestion. The entire SCAB is a federal carbon monoxide maintenance area and a state carbon monoxide attainment area. Concentrations of carbon monoxide have been reduced to low levels in the past 15 to 20 years such that most air quality monitoring stations in the SCAB no longer report carbon monoxide levels. No stations within the vicinity of the project site have monitored carbon monoxide in the last eight years.

As shown in Table 3.1-2 of the 2005 Final EIR, construction of the Original Project would generate maximum carbon monoxide emissions of approximately 43 pounds per day, which is well below SCAQMD regional threshold of 550 pounds per day. As discussed in the certified 2005 Final EIR, the Original Project's operational carbon monoxide emissions would be negligible and well below the SCAQMD regional operational thresholds. The Original Project would therefore not result in carbon monoxide hotspots on adjacent roadways or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

As discussed above, construction equipment and duration of construction activities associated with the Modified Project would not be substantially different from the Original Project. Based on ever-improving vehicle emissions standards for new cars in accordance with state and federal regulations, and the Modified Project's low level of operational carbon monoxide emissions, the Modified Project would not create new hotspots or contribute substantially to existing hotspots. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of carbon monoxide, and impacts would be less than significant.

## **Toxic Air Contaminants**

TACs are a diverse group of air pollutants that may cause or contribute to an increase in deaths or serious illness or that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. TACs include both organic and inorganic chemical substances that may be emitted from a variety of common sources, including gasoline stations, motor vehicles, dry cleaners, industrial operations, painting operations, and research and teaching facilities. TACs are different than the criteria pollutants previously discussed because ambient air quality standards have not been established for TACs. TACs occurring at extremely low levels may still cause health effects, and it is typically difficult to identify levels of exposure that do not produce adverse health effects. TAC impacts are described by carcinogenic risk and by chronic (i.e., of long duration) and acute (i.e., severe but of short duration) adverse effects on human health.

As discussed in the 2005 Final EIR, the main source of TACs from the Original Project's construction would occur as particulate matter (DPM) emissions from the use of off-road diesel equipment required for site grading and excavation, paving, and other construction activities as well as from on-road diesel equipment used to bring materials to and from the project site. The 2005 Final EIR concluded impacts related to TACs would be less than significant due to the mobile and transitory nature of pipeline construction.

According to SCAQMD methodology, health effects from carcinogenic air toxics are usually described in terms of individual cancer risk. "Individual Cancer Risk" is the likelihood that a person continuously exposed to concentrations of TACs over a 70-year lifetime will contract cancer based on the use of standard risk assessment methodology. Additionally, SCAQMD CEQA guidance does not require preparation of a health risk assessment for short-term construction emissions. Therefore, it is not necessary to evaluate long-term cancer impacts from construction activities that occur over a relatively short duration. In addition, there would be no residual emissions or corresponding individual cancer risk after construction is complete. Furthermore, with ongoing implementation of USEPA and California Air Resources Board (CARB) requirements for cleaner fuels; off-road diesel engine retrofits; and new, low-emission diesel engine types, DPM emissions from construction equipment would be substantially reduced when compared to the Original Project. Therefore, construction of the Modified Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of TACs, and impacts would be less than significant.

CARB's (2005) *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* provides recommendations regarding the siting of new sensitive land uses near potential sources of air toxic emissions (e.g., freeways, distribution centers, rail yards, ports, refineries, chrome plating facilities, dry cleaners, and gasoline dispensing facilities). SCAQMD adopted similar recommendations in its *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning* (2005). The Original Project and Modified Project entail water conveyance facilities, which are not included in the listed land uses emitting substantial TAC concentrations. The Modified Project does not include any stationary sources of TAC emissions. Therefore, like for the Original Project, operation of the Modified Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of TACs. This impact would be less than significant.

## **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to exposing sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Same as the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

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

The 2005 Final EIR acknowledged that construction of the Original Project will produce temporary odors related to the use of diesel fuel and paving activities, but determined that impacts would be less than significant because odor impacts on specific individuals would be limited to a few days before construction progresses along the alignment.

As with the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project 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 in the vicinity of a given site along the pipeline alignment. Furthermore, the Modified Project alignment is sited farther away from sensitive receptors than the Original Project (180 feet for the Modified Project compared to 125 feet for the Original Project). The Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe impact related to air quality during construction when compared to the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to other emissions, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Same as the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

## 3.4 Biological Resources

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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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? | Pages 3.1-8 - 3.2-28 and 4-7 | No | No | No | Yes |
| 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?   | Pages 3.1-8 - 3.2-28 and 4-7 | No | No | No | N/A |
| 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?   | Pages 3.1-8 - 3.2-28 and 4-7 | No | No | No | N/A |
| 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?   | Pages 3.1-8 - 3.2-28 and 4-7 | No | No | No | Yes |

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	Pages 3.1-8 - 3.2-28 and 4-7	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Pages 3.1-8 - 3.2-28 and 4-7	No	No	No	N/A

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to biological resources, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element, policies 8 and 13
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Land Use Element, policies 5.3 and 5.4; Environmental Resources and Management Element, policies 1.1 – 1.4, 1.9, and 2.1 – 2.3
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Land Use Element, policy 1.10; Open Space and Conservation Element, policies 1.1, 1.5 – 1.7, 3.1 – 3.7, 5.5, and 7.7

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to biological resources are assessed below. All mitigation measures identified for the Original Project in the certified 2005 Final EIR are applicable to the Modified Project and will be implemented accordingly. Several studies and technical reports have been prepared to support this EIR Addendum, and are provided as appendices, as listed below:

- Appendix A: Jurisdictional Delineation Report
- Appendix B: Rare Plant Survey Report
- Appendix C: Least Bell’s Vireo Focused Survey Report
- Appendix D: Mitigation Plan for the Modified Project

These reports are incorporated by reference and referred to as needed throughout this discussion of potential impacts of the Modified Project to biological resources.

- 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?*

Since certification of the Final EIR, the habitat type and vegetation on the project site has not substantially changed. Based on previous surveys, vegetation on the site comprises of eleven terrestrial vegetation community and land cover types, including arroyo willow thickets, big sagebrush scrub, thick leaf yerba santa scrub/scale broom scrub, deer weed scrub/California buckwheat scrub, Fremont cottonwood forest, ornamental, ruderal, scale broom scrub, developed, rip rap, and riverwash. The wetland and riparian communities are dominated by mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*). Other commonly encountered shrub species include big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), California yerba santa (*Eriodictyon californicum*), scale broom (*Lepidospartum squamatum*), and scattered black elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*). The herbaceous layer is sparse, and is dominated by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), short podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), red stem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), and popcorn flower (*Cryptantha* sp.). Lastly, there are large occurrences of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*).

No species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) have been identified in the Modified Project study area. Similarly, no CEQA special-status plants were found within the study area during the botanical surveys documented in Appendix B, *Rare Plant Survey Report*. All plant species observed were documented and a comprehensive floral compendium was prepared; no additional actions to avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-status or rare plant species are recommended.

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) conducted focused surveys for the federally and state endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; LBVI) on behalf of SCV Water for the Modified Project, in order to determine the presence/absence of the LBVI within the project site. No LBVIs were detected in the survey area during the 2020 focused surveys. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) has a total of three tracked occurrences for the LBVI within approximately five miles of the survey area, including three individuals to the northwest, one to the northeast, one to the east, and one to the southeast (in 1978, 2010, and 2016). The closest and most recent (2016) CNDDB occurrence is approximately three miles west of the project site. In addition, a search of *eBird online* (Sullivan et al. 2009) revealed no recorded observations within or adjacent to the survey area. The nearest observations recorded in *eBird* are located approximately 1.6 miles to the west of the project site near Bouquet Canyon Roa, and was recorded in 2018.

Given the existing site conditions observed in 2020 field visits and documented in Appendices A through C, the lack of species observance/detection during the 2020 breeding season surveys and known information of the region, Rincon concludes that the Modified Project site is unoccupied by LBVI. Additionally, no yellow-billed cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*) or southwestern willow flycatchers (*Empidonax trailii extimus*) were incidentally observed during the surveys. Avian activity and diversity were generally moderate during the surveys and common species expected to occur within riparian habitat were detected. Brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*), which are a nest parasite to LBVI and other avian species, were not observed on or in the vicinity of the site over the course of the surveys. One species listed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a Special Animal was observed within the survey area, the southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*).

Additionally, the discussion in Impacts 4.8-3 through 4.8-7 of the certified Final EIR addresses potential impacts to rare plants, special status species (such as western spadefoot, red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, western pond turtle), legally protected raptors, and loss of grassland habitat that could occur as a result of the Original Project. Because the Modified Project would occur in the same region and would result in a similar or smaller (due to the use of microtunneling) level of development than the Original Project, impact discussions and associated mitigation measures in the certified Final EIR would also apply to the Modified Project. Accordingly, Mitigation Measure BIO-1, Construction Best Management Practices, would ensure that appropriate BMPs are applied during construction to minimize disturbance and potentially adverse impacts associated with disturbance; Mitigation Measure BIO-2, Habitat Revegetation, Restoration, and Monitoring Program, would ensure that the construction area is returned to existing conditions for habitat quality and suitability; and Mitigation Measure BIO-3, Dry Season Construction, would avoid ground-disturbing activities during the wet season, thereby minimizing or avoiding potential adverse impacts associated with wet season disturbance. Compliance with mitigation measures from the certified Final EIR, presented in full below for reference, would ensure that the Modified Project would not create impacts to wildlife or associated habitats beyond those previously analyzed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to biological resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary. For reference, the mitigation measures identified on pages 3.2-25 through 3.2-27 of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, which would also be implemented for the Modified Project, are provided below.

#### *BIO-1 Construction Best Management Practices*

SCV Water will minimize disturbance to native habitats, and listed and unlisted sensitive species by implementation of the following measures at construction sites prior to and during construction. Where ground disturbances are required, SCV Water's construction program will include:

#### **RESTRICTING DISTURBANCE**

- Restriction of staging, construction activities, equipment storage, and personnel to existing disturbed areas (such as roads, pads, or otherwise disturbed areas) to the maximum extent feasible.
- Clearly marking and delineating the limits of the staging areas as well as the construction corridors/zones in the field and graphically on all final construction drawings or blueprints. Personnel or equipment in native habitats outside the construction limits will be prohibited.
- Using methods to minimize the construction corridor width to the maximum extent feasible in sensitive habitats, such as transporting and stockpiling excavated materials in disturbed areas off the ROW, or into other parts of the ROW, by truck or conveyor belt.

#### **ON-SITE MONITORING**

- Biological monitoring of habitat clearing activities and removal of sedentary animals, both common and sensitive, within the ROW prior to clearing. This will require a qualified biologist to be at the location of habitat removal prior to clearing to attempt to remove animals where visible and during removal activities to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to adjacent habitats

occur. Weekly inspections of the ROW perimeter near work areas will also reduce the potential for inadvertent impacts to adjacent habitat.

- No more than three days prior to initiation of ground disturbance and/or vegetation removal, a nesting bird pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within the disturbance footprint plus a 100-foot buffer (300-foot for raptors), where feasible. If the proposed project is phased or construction activities stop for more than one week, a subsequent pre-construction nesting bird survey will be required prior to each phase of construction. Pre-construction nesting bird surveys shall be conducted during the time of day when birds are active and shall factor in sufficient time to perform this survey adequately and completely. A report of the nesting bird survey results, if applicable, shall be submitted to SCV Water for review and approval prior to ground and/or vegetation disturbance activities.

If nests are found, their locations shall be flagged. An appropriate avoidance buffer ranging in size from 25 to 50 feet for passerines, and up to 300 feet for raptors depending upon the species and the proposed work activity, shall be determined and demarcated by a qualified biologist with bright orange construction fencing or other suitable flagging. Active nests shall be monitored at a minimum of once per week until it has been determined that the nest is no longer being used by either the young or adults. No ground disturbance shall occur within this buffer until the qualified biologist confirms that the breeding/nesting is completed and all the young have fledged. If project activities must occur within the buffer, they shall be conducted at the discretion of the qualified biologist. If no nesting birds are observed during pre-construction surveys, no further actions would be necessary.

- Dust control. All areas of mechanical ground disturbance, including dirt access roadways, will be consistently moistened to reduce the creation of dust clouds. The frequency of watering will be consistent with the desired goal and in accordance with regional standards and BMPs.
- Erosion control. Devices such as straw bails and "v" ditches will be installed in areas where construction activities may directly or indirectly cause increased erosion or sediment deposition on adjacent habitats.
- Removal of trash from construction areas routinely. All refuse, including non-construction materials such as paper and miscellaneous food packaging materials, will be removed from the ROW to prevent littering of the adjacent habitat areas outside of the ROW. At a minimum, site clean-ups will occur weekly.

#### *BIO-2 Habitat Revegetation, Restoration, and Monitoring Program*

SCV Water will develop a Habitat Revegetation, Restoration, and Monitoring Program, obtaining input from CDFW, for implementation in all habitat areas directly affected by construction activities. The program will include the following measures:

#### **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL**

- Where appropriate and feasible, the area to be disturbed will be treated to kill invasive exotic species and limit their seed production prior to initiating any earthmoving activity with the objectives of (1) preventing invasive species from spreading from the disturbance area, and (2) removing weed sources from the salvaged topsoil. Herbicides will be used only by a licensed herbicide applicator and may require notification to property owners or resource agencies. The treatment will be completed in advance of the earthmoving in order for this mitigation to have its intended effect (e.g., the treatment would need to occur prior to target species setting seed).



### **TOPSOIL SALVAGE AND REPLACEMENT**

- In areas where vegetation and soil are to be removed, the topsoil will be salvaged and replaced. This may be accomplished using two lifts, the first to salvage the seed bank, and the second to salvage soil along with soil biota in the root zone. Soil will be stockpiled in two areas near the Project site, with the seed bank labeled to identify it. Topsoil will be replaced in the proper layers after final reconfiguration of disturbed areas. Stockpiles will be covered if the soil is to be left for an extended period of time to prevent losses due to erosion and invasion of weeds.

### **HABITAT REHABILITATION AND REVEGETATION**

- Plans and specifications for replanting areas disturbed by the Project Replanting will be with native species propagated from locally collected seed or cuttings, and, if applicable, ' , will include seed of sensitive species that would be impacted during construction activities.
- Monitoring procedures and performance criteria will be developed to address revegetation and erosion control. The performance criteria will consider the level of disturbance and the condition of adjacent habitats. Monitoring will continue for 3-5 years, or until performance criteria have been met. Appropriate remedial measures, such as replanting, erosion control, or weed control, will be identified and implemented if it is determined that performance criteria are not being met.

#### *BIO-3 Dry Season Construction*

In order to eliminate the potential for impacts to the unarmored threespine stickleback and other sensitive aquatic species and to minimize impacts to wildlife movement corridors, construction within the Santa Clara River wash will be restricted to the dry season. This period will be from May 1 to September 15. No construction activities will be allowed to occur within the river wash outside of the designated dry period. In addition, surface elevations within washes will be returned to preconstruction conditions prior to the end of the dry season.

Because the portion of the Project within the Santa Clara River is in jurisdictional waters of the U.S. and some of the affected habitat is wetland, a permit from the Corps and the LARWQCB would be required under sections 404 and 401 of the CWA. Some areas are also subject to section 1600 of California Fish and Game Code. Additional impact minimization and mitigation measures may be identified by these agencies as part of the regulatory processes.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*
- 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?*

As noted above, a Jurisdictional Delineation Report was prepared for the Modified Project and is provided as Appendix A to this EIR Addendum. There are three hydrologic features in the project

area that are likely subject to USACE jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Los Angeles RWQCB pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and the California Water Code (Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act), and the CDFW pursuant to California Fish and Game Code 1600: the Santa Clara River, a concrete channel, and a detention basin. Each of these three hydrologic features in the study area is discussed below, with respect to potential impacts of the Modified Project.

- **Santa Clara River.** The portion of the Santa Clara River within the Modified Project study area potentially constitutes USACE non-wetland waters of the U.S., CDFW jurisdictional streambed, and RWQCB waters of the State. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would cross under the river, via open-cut trenching or microtunneling. If open-cut trenching is used to cross the river, as would occur under the Original Project, the project would be required to obtain a CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement, a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, and a RWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification. However, if the microtunneling approach is implemented, the jurisdictional areas of the river could be entirely avoided such that all potential impacts would be located outside CDFW jurisdiction, then regulatory permits may not be required. As such, potential impacts of the Modified Project could be less than the Original Project, which did not consider microtunneling as a construction technique.
- **Concrete Channel.** The concrete channel potentially constitutes RWQCB waters of the State. Although the channel is located within the project footprint, impacts to the channel would not occur under the Modified Project because the pipeline would be installed under the channel via microtunneling. Therefore, obtaining regulatory permits would not be needed for work conducted in this area, and potential impacts would be less than under the Original Project, which did not consider microtunneling as a construction technique.
- **Detention Basin.** The detention basin potentially constitutes RWQCB waters of the State. The Modified Project would not impact the basin; therefore, obtaining regulatory permits would not be needed. This is comparable to the Original Project.

To address potential impacts to jurisdictional areas, the Modified Project includes mitigation for the restoration of up to 11.36 acres of habitat within the Santa Clara River, as discussed in the Jurisdictional Delineation Report provided as Appendix A and in the Mitigation Plan provided as Appendix D. Restoration in the form of direct seeding, installing container plants, and weeding is included as part of the Modified Project design. The Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts on riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities, or wetlands beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

## **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to biological resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

As discussed on pages 3.2-10 and 3.2-11 of the certified 2005 Final EIR, the Santa Clara River represents a natural topographic feature that is likely to serve as a wildlife corridor. The effect of the river as a corridor for movement has become greater over time due to the increased urban development surrounding the river. As with the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project would include the installation of a new pipeline under the Santa Clara River, which would result in temporary disturbance on the river. Mitigation Measure BIO-3, Dry Season Construction, would be implemented to minimize or avoid these adverse impacts by restricting construction activities to the dry season, between May 1 and September 1. Additional impact minimization and mitigation measures may be identified by applicable regulatory agencies as part of the regulatory processes; as discussed under significance thresholds (b) and (c), above, if open-cut trenching is used to cross the river, as would occur under the Original Project, the project would be required to obtain a CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement, a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, and a RWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification. The Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts beyond those identified in the certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to biological resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary. Mitigation Measure BIO-3, Dry Season Construction, is presented in full above and is the same as proposed in the certified 2005 Final EIR.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Same as the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

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

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would be subject to all City of Santa Clarita established environmental protection guidelines, and the project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. The City of Santa Clarita has an Oak Tree Ordinance that includes restrictions on oak tree removal; however, no oak trees exist within the impact area of the Modified Project (or the Original Project), and therefore no conflicts with the Oak Tree Ordinance would occur.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to biological resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Same as the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

As with the Original Project, no habitat conservation plans have been developed for the Modified Project area. Therefore, no conflict with an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan would occur. A similar type of document, the *Natural River Management Plan* (Valencia Company 1998), was prepared by various state and federal agencies to provide a long-term master plan approach to development along the Santa Clara River; as a matter of regulatory compliance, and as would occur under the Original Project, the Modified Project would be developed in accordance with guidelines set forth in this document. The Modified Project would not conflict with an established conservation plan and would not create impacts beyond those previously analyzed in the certified Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to biological resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Same as the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

## 3.5 Cultural Resources

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to cultural resources, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element, policy 1
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Environmental Resources Management Element, policies 1.6 and 1.7
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Open Space and Conservation Element, policies 10.1 – 10.6

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to cultural resources are assessed below.

- a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?*
- b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?*
- c. Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

A Cultural Resources Assessment report has been prepared for the Modified Project, and is provided as Appendix E to this EIR Addendum. The cultural resources records search performed for the project identified eight previously recorded cultural resources within the 0.5-mile search radius, two of which were located within the APE for the Modified Project. The two resources located within the APE include the historic-period Los Angeles Aqueduct (P-19-002105/ CA-LAN-002105H) and the Los Angeles Aqueduct Transmission Line (P-19-002132/ CA-LAN-002132H). Both resources are considered significant historic-period resources and have been determined eligible for the National

Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and are listed in the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR).

The Modified Project pipeline for Phase 2 would be installed under the aqueduct and transmission line via microtunneling with construction activities designed to avoid any direct or indirect (e.g., noise, vibration, or visual) impacts to these historic-period built-environment resources. A pedestrian field survey and archival research was conducted and did not identify any additional previously recorded or unrecorded archaeological or built-environment resources within the APE. Although the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence, the proximity of the project alignment to the hydrologically active Santa Clara River suggests past flooding events likely eroded away, or deeply buried, any archaeological resources which may be present within the riverbed and low-lying terraces south of the river. The Modified Project alignment south of the river falls primarily within road right-of-way and has been disturbed by the construction of roadways and excavation for the placement of utilities. Given these findings, it may be concluded the central and eastern portions of the Modified Project alignment, which are comparable to the Original Project alignment, contain a relatively low sensitivity for buried cultural resources.

The Santa Clara River Trail, a section of the alignment along the northern portion of the river, was constructed around 2005 and built entirely on imported fill material approximately 25 feet in depth. As discussed above, the Modified Project pipeline alignment would be placed within this bicycle trail for approximately 1,500 feet on the northern bank of the Santa Clara River. Because the bicycle trail was constructed on imported fill and because trenching for the Modified Project would not exceed 15 feet in depth, no native ground disturbance would occur within this section. The presence of archaeological sites within the vicinity suggests a moderate sensitivity for buried cultural resources in this area; however, due to the previous disturbance to the area, lack of observed resources during the pedestrian survey, non-native soils and absence of any previously recorded cultural resources within the APE, Rincon deems archaeological testing to be unwarranted.

The results of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) records search investigation were negative. Five responses were received from contacts listed provided by the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Chairperson Anthony Morales of the Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians stated that the area is highly sensitive for archaeological resources and uncovering subsurface deposits during construction is likely due to the project's proximity to the Santa Clara River and the Los Padres National Forest. Mr. Morales recommends archaeological and Native American monitoring during all ground disturbing activities associated with the project. Tribal Historic and Cultural Preservation Officer Jairo Avila of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians stated the project site is highly sensitive for cultural resources and multiple Tataviam villages and a cemetery site containing eight burials are located within the vicinity of the project. Mr. Avila also stated the tribe requests consultation during the recovery process if cultural resources are located during project development.

Given the moderate potential to encounter subsurface archaeological deposits during construction within the western extent of the pipeline alignment and responses from NAHC-listed contacts, Rincon recommends archaeological and Native American monitoring be conducted for initial ground disturbance conducted at the western extent of the pipeline alignment where ground disturbing activities within native soil of moderate sensitivity would occur. Standard unanticipated discovery and avoidance measures, presented below, would be implemented with the Modified Project and are consistent with the measures identified in the 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project is also required to adhere to state health and safety codes

regarding the unanticipated discovery of human remains. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts on historical resources, archaeological resources, or human remains beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR.

## **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to cultural resources. The certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project includes Table 4.2-1, *Summary of Mitigation Measures from Plans and Policies*, on pages 4-4 and 4-5, which indicates that cultural resources mitigation measures were not identified for the Original Project because compliance with the Los Angeles County General Plan, the Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan, and the City of Santa Clarita General Plan would sufficiently reduce or avoid potential impacts. These plans are still applicable to the Modified Project, and compliance with them would reduce or avoid potential impacts in the same ways as would occur for the Original Project. However, due to the slightly modified Phase 2 alignment, and to ensure that appropriate monitoring and compliance actions are implemented to provide consistency with the aforementioned plans, three standard construction mitigation measures for cultural resources are listed below for the Modified Project. These activities were not specifically called out as mitigation measures in the 2005 Final EIR; however, they do not represent substantially new or different information, because in order for the Original Project to comply with the plans listed above, comparable monitoring and compliance activities would have also been implemented during construction.

### *CR-1 Archaeological and Native American Monitoring*

Archaeological and Native American monitoring of initial project-related ground disturbing activities shall be conducted at the western extent of the pipeline alignment. Archaeological monitoring shall be performed under the direction of the qualified archaeologist, defined as an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983). The qualified archaeologist, in consultation with SCV Water and the Native American monitor, may recommend the reduction or termination of monitoring depending upon observed conditions (e.g., no resources encountered within the first 50 percent of ground disturbance). If archaeological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work within a minimum of 50 feet of the find must halt and the find evaluated for CRHR and NRHP eligibility. Should an unanticipated resource be found as CRHR or NRHP eligible and avoidance is infeasible, additional analysis (e.g., testing) may be necessary to determine if project impacts would be significant.

### *CR-2 Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources*

If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (National Park Service 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR, additional work may be warranted, such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation to treat the find.

### *CR-3 Human Remains*

If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin

and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code 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 will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD has 48 hours from being granted site access to make recommendations for the disposition of the remains. If the MLD does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the land owner shall reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from subsequent disturbance.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*



## 3.6 Energy

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	N/A	No	No	No	N/A
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	N/A	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to energy were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was not identified in the *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G Environmental Checklist as a separate environmental issue area. Potential impacts of the Modified Project to energy are assessed below.

### Energy Background

Energy use relates directly to environmental quality because it can adversely affect air quality and can generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that contribute to climate change. Fossil fuels are burned to create electricity that powers residences and commercial/industrial buildings, heats and cools buildings, and powers vehicles. Transportation energy use is related to the fuel efficiency of cars, trucks, and public transportation; choice of different travel modes such as auto, carpool, and public transit; and miles traveled by these modes. Construction and routine operation and maintenance of transportation infrastructure also consume energy.

California is one of the lowest per capita energy users in the United States, ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation, due to its energy efficiency programs and mild climate (United States Energy Information Administration [EIA] 2020). The single largest end-use sector for energy consumption in California is transportation (39.8 percent), followed by industry (23.2 percent), commercial (18.1 percent), and residential (18.1 percent) (EIA 2020).

California consumed 284,436 gigawatt-hours of electricity and 12,666 million U.S. therms of natural gas in 2018 (California Energy Commission [CEC] 2020a). Most of California’s electricity is generated in-state with approximately 32 percent imported from the Northwest and Southwest in 2018 (CEC 2019). In addition, approximately 31 percent of California’s electricity supply comes from renewable energy sources, such as wind, solar photovoltaic, geothermal, and biomass (CEC 2019). Adopted on September 10, 2018, Senate Bill 100 accelerates the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standards Program, codified in the Public Utilities Act, by requiring electricity providers to increase procurement from

eligible renewable energy resources to 33 percent of total retail sales by 2020, 60 percent by 2030, and 100 percent by 2045.

Californians presently consume over 17 billion gallons of motor vehicle fuels per year (CEC 2020b). Though California's population and economy are expected to grow, gasoline demand is projected to decline from roughly 15.6 billion gallons in 2017 to between 12.1 billion and 12.6 billion gallons in 2030 (a 19 percent to 22 percent reduction) in response to both increasing vehicle electrification and higher fuel economy for new gasoline vehicles (CEC 2018). To reduce statewide vehicle emissions, California requires all motorists use California Reformulated Gasoline, which is sourced almost exclusively from in-state refineries. Both gasoline and diesel are primarily petroleum-based, and their consumption releases GHG emissions, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides. The transportation sector is the single largest source of GHG emissions in California, accounting for 41 percent of all inventoried emissions in 2017 (CARB 2019).

- 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?*

The Original Project was approved in 2005, before the *CEQA Guidelines* were revised in 2019 to address Energy in a separate environmental issue area, and the 2005 Final EIR did not address Energy or make a determination regarding the Original Project's energy impacts. However, as previously discussed, this EIR Addendum addresses each significance threshold in the current (2020) *CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist*, to provide characterization of all potential impacts of the Modified Project. Qualitative discussion is provided to compare effects of the Modified Project and the Original Project to provide comparison between the two, even though this was not addressed as an environmental issue area in 2005.

## **Construction Energy Demand**

The Modified Project would not require significantly increased construction activity as compared to the Original Project. As compared to the Original Project, the Modified Project would install a shorter length of pipeline (6,500 feet versus 7,000 feet under the Original Project) and would implement microtunneling methods, where applicable, to reduce the area of ground disturbance.

Similar to the Original Project, energy would be consumed during construction of the Modified Project in the form of petroleum-based fuels used to power off-road construction vehicles and equipment on the Modified Project site, construction worker travel to and from the Modified Project site, and vehicles used to deliver materials to the site.

Energy use during construction would be temporary in nature, and construction equipment used would be typical of similar-sized construction projects in the region. In addition, construction contractors would be required to comply with the provisions of 13 California Code of Regulations Sections 2449 and 2485, which prohibit diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles and off-road diesel vehicles from idling for more than five minutes, which would minimize unnecessary fuel consumption. Construction equipment would be subject to the United States EPA Construction Equipment Fuel Efficiency Standard (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1039, 1065, and 1068), which would minimize inefficient fuel consumption. In addition, due to increased fuel efficiency standards since 2005, the Modified Project's Phase 2 construction equipment would be more fuel-efficient than the 2005 Final EIR anticipated. Furthermore, in the interest of cost efficiency, construction contractors would not utilize fuel in a manner that is wasteful or unnecessary.

Therefore, construction of the Modified Project would not result in a potential impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, and no construction-related energy impact would occur as a result of the Modified Project. Although Energy was not assessed as an issue area in the 2005 Final EIR, it is assumed that potential energy-related construction impacts of the Original Project were comparable to the Modified Project, due to the same project type, purpose, general location, applicable management plans, and equipment used during construction.

### **Operational Energy Demand**

Similar to the Original Project, electricity from the regional grid would be used to pump water through the pipelines proposed under the Modified Project. The purpose of the Original Project is to increase conveyance capacity to serve the current and projected population in the SCV Water service area. The Modified Project would not increase the pipeline capacity beyond that previously identified under the Original Project. Energy usage would be consistent with other water infrastructure in the region.

Therefore, energy demand associated with the Modified Project would not be wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary. No impact would occur.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to energy use, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Not analyzed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

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

SCV Water does not have any specific renewable energy or energy efficiency plans. In 2012, the City of Santa Clarita adopted its Climate Action Plan (CAP), a document identifying strategies the City can adopt to reduce the amount of GHGs produced in the community. The City of Santa Clarita's CAP also includes measures to reduce energy consumption, including installing higher efficacy public street lighting and encouraging the use of solar power throughout the community. The CAP specifically identifies water efficiency measures to reduce electricity required to pump, treat, and distribute water, including low-flow water fixtures and water-efficient landscape irrigation systems (City of Santa Clarita 2012).

Neither the Original Project nor the Modified Project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the water efficiency measures identified in the City of Santa Clarita's CAP. Increased user-end efficiency and conservation measures would improve the energy efficiency of the water infrastructure system as a whole.

Senate Bill (SB) 100 mandates 100 percent clean electricity for California by 2045. Because both the Original Project and Modified Project would be powered by the existing electricity grid, either project would eventually be powered by renewable energy mandated by SB 100 and would not conflict with the State plan for renewable energy.

As such, the Modified Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. No impact would occur.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to renewable energy or energy efficiency plans, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Not analyzed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

## 3.7 Geology and Soils

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
2.	Strong seismic ground shaking?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
3.	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
4.	Landslides?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
b.	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to geology and soils, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Land Use Element, policies 7, 25, 26, and 28; Safety Element, policies 1 – 7, 8, and 10; Conservation and Open Space Element, policy 17
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Land Use Element, policies 4.1 and 4.2; Safety Element, policies 3.3 and 4.2; Environmental Resources Management Element, policy 3.3
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Open Space and Conservation Element, policies 2.2 and 5.1; Safety Element, policies 1.3 – 1.6, 1.8, 1.12, 1.13

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to geology and soils are assessed below. In addition, the 2020 CEQA Guidelines addresses paleontological resources under significance criterion 3.7(f); accordingly, paleontological resources are assessed below.

- a. *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:*
  - a.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?*
  - a.2 *Strong seismic ground shaking?*
  - a.3 *Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*
  - a.4 *Landslides?*

Potential risks and susceptibility to earthquakes and seismicity is site-specific and related to proximity of the project site to faults. The Modified Project would implement a revised alignment for the Phase 2 pipeline; however, this revised alignment would be situated in the same geologic and seismic environment as assessed for the Original Project. Since analysis of the Original Project for the certified 2005 Final EIR, no major geologic or seismic events have occurred that have altered the environmental setting in the project area.

As discussed in the certified 2005 Final EIR, the project area is subject to liquefaction, which is most likely to occur in areas that are saturated at very shallow depths, such as adjacent to the Santa Clara River. The Modified Project includes a revised alignment for the Phase 2 pipeline, which would cross under the Santa Clara River approximately 1,500 feet downstream of where the Original Project pipeline would cross the river; however, this realignment would not alter the potential for geologic impacts to occur, because the environmental setting and associated hazards are the same as described in the certified 2005 Final EIR. There have been no substantial changes in information regarding seismic risk in the area since certification of the 2005 Final EIR.

Therefore, the proximity to known earthquake faults and the potential for fault rupture, seismic ground shaking, liquefaction, and landslides at the project site described for the Original Project in the certified Final EIR would also be applicable to the Modified Project. The Modified Project would not increase the intensity of use of the project site relative to the Original Project. Therefore, the Modified Project would not substantially increase the number of people or structures potentially exposed to seismic risks relative to the Original Project. The Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to geologic and seismic hazards, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- b. *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*
- 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 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?*

As with the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project would involve soil-disturbing activities that could result in soil erosion, and best management practices would be implemented during construction activities to minimize or avoid the potential for adverse impacts to occur. The Phase 2 pipeline for the Modified Project is approximately 500 feet shorter than under the Original Project, and the potential for soil erosion or impacts associated with soil characteristics to occur is therefore also less. In addition, the Modified Project would cross under the Santa Clara River at a more narrow point than under the Original Project, and would use a combination of open-cut trenching and microtunneling; corresponding ground disturbance associated with the Modified Project would therefore be less than the Original Project.

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project is subject to County review for the issuance of a grading permit, and the same types of erosion control measures included as a condition of approval for the Original Project are also anticipated for the Modified Project. The potential for the Modified Project to result in unstable soils or to be damaged from expansive soils would be the same as the Original Project. The Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts related to unstable or expansive soils beyond those previously identified for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to soil hazards, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not construct new wastewater disposal systems and would not involve the construction of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems on the project site. The Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts related to the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater systems beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.



## Conclusion

### NO IMPACT

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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

Paleontological resources were assessed in the Initial Study for the Original Project, which is attached to the certified 2005 Final EIR as Appendix A. As discussed therein, paleontological resources are generally found in sedimentary rock units, including Pliocene and Pleistocene strata. Vertebrate fossils typically have more paleontological value than invertebrate fossils, which are fairly common throughout Southern California. Most vertebrate fossils are found in non-marine sedimentary deposits in Southern California. Exposures of non-marine fossils occur along incised river terraces or within continental terraces of late Pleistocene age. Vertebrate fossils are somewhat randomly scattered throughout, and most bone material is discovered by chance exposure.

As with the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project would have potential to damage or destroy unique paleontological resources in the underlying Saugus Formation, which is considered to have high paleontological sensitivity. The Modified Project would have a slightly lower potential to encounter paleontological resources than the Original Project, due to the construction of 500 feet less of new pipeline, as well as abandoning existing pipeline in place rather than removing it as proposed under the Original Project, and the use of microtunneling to construct portions of the pipeline. The Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts to unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

## Effects and Mitigation Measures

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to paleontological resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary. For reference, the mitigation measure identified in the Initial Study for the Original Project and on pages ES-6 through ES-7 of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, which would also be implemented for the Modified Project, is provided below.

### *GEO-1 Paleontological Resources*

In the event paleontological fossils are encountered during excavation, work will be stopped immediately and temporarily redirected until a qualified paleontologist is retained to determine the potential significance of the find. If the fossils are found to be significant, they will be removed and curated at the proper repository. A preconstruction workshop will be conducted by a qualified paleontologist to ensure that any new discoveries are adequately recorded, evaluated, and, if significant, mitigated. The workshop minimally will address the following: review the types of paleontological resources that may be uncovered; provide examples of common paleontological fossils to examine; what makes a paleontological resource significant; what would temporarily stop construction and for how long; procedures that would be used to record, evaluate, and mitigate new discoveries with a minimum of delay; and describe reporting requirements and the responsibilities of the construction supervisor and crew.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

## 3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Pages 4.5-29 through 4.5-34	No	No	No	Yes
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Pages 4.5-29 through 4.5-34	No	No	No	Yes

Direct impacts to greenhouse gas emissions were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was not identified in the *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G Environmental Checklist as a separate environmental issue area. Potential impacts of the Modified Project to greenhouse gas emissions are assessed below.

### Climate Change Background

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 of time. The baseline against which these changes are measured originates in historical records identifying temperature changes that have occurred in the past, such as during previous ice ages. The global climate is continuously changing, as evidenced by repeated episodes of substantial warming and cooling documented in the geologic record. The rate of change has typically been incremental, with warming or cooling trends occurring over the course of thousands of years. The past 10,000 years have been marked by a period of incremental warming as glaciers have steadily retreated across the globe. However, scientists have observed acceleration in the rate of warming during the past 150 years. Per the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2007), the understanding of anthropogenic warming and cooling influences on climate has led to a high confidence (95 percent or greater chance) that the global average net effect of human activities has been the dominant cause of warming since the mid-twentieth century.

GHGs are gases that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation in the atmosphere. The gases widely seen as the principal contributors to human-induced climate change include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases such as hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. Water vapor is excluded from the list of GHGs because it is short-lived in the atmosphere and its atmospheric concentrations are largely determined by natural processes, such as oceanic evaporation.

GHGs are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. Of these gases, CO<sub>2</sub> and methane are emitted in the greatest quantities from human activities. Emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> are largely by-products of fossil fuel combustion, whereas methane results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills. Anthropogenic GHGs, many of which have greater heat-absorption potential than CO<sub>2</sub>, include fluorinated gases and sulfur hexafluoride (United States Environmental Protection Agency 2020).

The accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates Earth's temperature. Without the natural heat-trapping effect of GHGs, Earth's surface would be about 34 degrees Celsius cooler (California Environmental Protection Agency 2006). However, emissions from human activities, particularly the consumption of fossil fuels for electricity production and transportation, have elevated the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere beyond the level of naturally occurring concentrations. Scientific modeling predicts that continued GHG emissions at or above current rates would induce more extreme climate changes during the 21<sup>st</sup> century than were observed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some of the potential impacts of climate change in California may include loss of snowpack, sea level rise, more extreme heat days per year, more high ozone days, more large forest fires, and more drought years (State of California 2018). While these potential impacts identify the possible effects of climate change at a statewide level, in general, scientific modeling tools are currently unable to predict what impacts would occur locally.

## **Significance Thresholds**

The majority of individual projects do not generate sufficient GHG emissions to create significant project-specific environmental effects. However, the environmental effects of a project's GHG emissions can contribute incrementally to cumulative environmental effects that are significant, contributing to climate change, even if an individual project's environmental effects are limited (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064[h][1]). As such, the issue of a project's environmental effects and contribution towards climate change typically involves an analysis of whether or not a project's contribution towards climate change is cumulatively considerable. Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064[h][1]).

*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.4 recommends that lead agencies quantify GHG emissions of projects and consider several other factors that may be used in the determination of significance of GHG emissions from a project, including: the extent to which the project may increase or reduce GHG emissions; whether a project exceeds an applicable significance threshold; and the extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions. *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.4 does not establish a threshold of significance for GHG emissions; rather, lead agencies have the discretion to establish significance thresholds for their respective jurisdictions, and in establishing those thresholds, a lead agency may appropriately look to thresholds developed by other public agencies, or suggested by other experts, as long as any threshold chosen is supported by substantial evidence (see *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.7[c]). The *CEQA Guidelines* also clarify that the effects of GHG emissions are cumulative and should be analyzed in the context of CEQA's requirements for cumulative impact analysis (see *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15130[f]).

SCV Water has not adopted a numerical significance threshold for assessing impacts related to GHG emissions. In 2012, the City of Santa Clarita adopted a CAP for the purposes of achieving identified GHG emission reduction goals by 2020 as outlined in AB 32. However, as the Modified Project would

be operational post-2020, the CAP was not utilized for the purposes of evaluating the significance of the Modified Project's GHG emissions. This analysis qualitatively compares the GHG-generating activities associated with the Original Project against the GHG-generating activities associated with the Modified Project.

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

The Original Project was approved in 2005 before the March 2010 amendment to CEQA added GHGs to the Appendix G checklist of the *CEQA Guidelines*. The 2005 Final EIR did not analyze the Original Project's GHG emissions.

As previously described, the Modified Project would not require significantly increased construction activity as compared to the Original Project. As compared to the Original Project, the Modified Project would install a shorter length of pipeline (6,500 feet versus 7,000 feet under the Original Project) and would implement microtunneling methods, where applicable, to reduce the area of ground disturbance. In addition, due to increased fuel efficiency standards since 2005, the Modified Project's Phase 2 construction equipment would be more fuel-efficient than the 2005 Final EIR anticipated. Therefore, GHG emissions associated with the Modified Project would be equivalent to or less than those associated with the Original Project.

The Modified Project would not increase operation and maintenance activities associated with the proposed pipeline as compared to the Original Project. As with the Original Project, operational GHG emissions associated with the Modified Project would be negligible. Accordingly, the Modified Project would not result in a new or substantially more severe impact related to GHG emissions.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur to GHG emissions and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Not analyzed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

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### 3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to hazards and hazardous materials were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to hazards and hazardous materials, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element, policy 29; Safety Element Wildland and Urban Fire Hazards, policies 15 – 19; Hazardous Materials, policies 20 – 24; Emergency Response, Preparedness, and Recovery, policies 25 – 35; Research and Safety Information Systems, policies 36 – 38
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Public Services and Facilities Element, policies 1.1, 1.2, 3.3, and 4.1
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Safety Element, policies 2.1, 3.1 – 3.10, and 4.1 – 4.5

The City of Santa Clarita developed a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from natural and man-made hazards, including wildfire (City of Santa Clarita 2015). The plan includes emergency response and emergency evacuation protocols. Potential impacts of the Modified Project to hazards and hazardous materials are assessed below.

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

As described in the Initial Study for the Original Project (included as Appendix A to the 2005 Final EIR), during construction, heavy equipment and vehicles would be present in the project area, and all contractors would be required to adhere to mandatory federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations for the handling, transport, storage, and use of hazardous or potentially hazardous materials. The use of construction equipment would require several



petroleum products such as fuel, hydraulic fluids, and lubricants for effective operation. Lubricant and hydraulic fluid changes and replenishment would be required infrequently. Typically, service trucks deliver these types of fluids to the site and then perform the necessary fuel and oil transfers. The risk of small fuel or oil spills is considered possible but small and would be immediately cleaned up in accordance with permit conditions. Therefore, any potential accidental spill or release of hazardous materials have a negligible potential impact on public health.

During off working hours, heavy equipment and vehicles in areas that could be accessed by the public would be secured in a general contractor's staging area that would not pose a safety hazard. Furthermore, because the Modified Project would install 500 feet less of new pipeline, the potential for accident or spill conditions to occur is also less than under the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to hazardous materials, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

Except for fuel and associated materials required to operate construction equipment and vehicles, the project would not include the handling, use, or storage of hazardous materials. There are no public schools within 0.25 mile of the Modified Project alignment. There are two private specialty schools located near the northwestern intersection of Soledad Canyon Road and Golden Valley Road, near the Greenbriar Mobile Estates. Both are more than 0.25 mile of the Modified Project alignment. In addition, the Original Project alignment for Phase 2 was located closer to Greenbriar Mobile Estates than the Modified Project; therefore, although the Modified Project already would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials or waste within 0.25 mile of a school, it also would have less potential to affect existing schools than the Original Project. The Modified Project would not substantially change the use or transport of hazardous materials on or around the site, and would not result in new or more severe impacts than the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to hazardous materials and the proximity of local schools, and no new mitigation measures would be necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

The Modified Project alignment is not included on the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) list of hazardous materials sites (Cortese list) compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (DTSC 2020). There are no known open case hazardous material sites on lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 within 0.25 mile of the project site. Therefore, consistent with the findings of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, the Modified Project would have no new or more severe impacts related to contaminated sites.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to hazardous materials sites, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

The Modified Project, as with the Original Project, is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Air traffic associated with local airports would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise on or around the project site. Consistent with the findings of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, the Modified Project would have no impact.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to airport land use plans or the proximity of a public use airport, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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

Most of the pipeline alignment would be constructed in areas that have no vehicular access, and construction of the project pipeline in these areas would therefore have no potential to conflict with emergency response or evacuation plans. For portions of the pipeline that would be constructed in roadways, temporary access restrictions would be employed as needed to maintain safety of workers and the public. As with the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project would include the temporary closure of one lane of a two-lane street to provide the space required for underground installation of the proposed pipeline segments. The other lane would be open at all times, such that access to and from the surrounding areas would be maintained. In addition, alternate access roads are present in the area. Therefore, although slow-moving construction-related traffic may temporarily reduce optimal traffic flows in the area, this would not significantly delay emergency vehicles traveling through the area; any delays would be minor and would only affect short segments of roadways. The Modified Project would have no new or more severe impacts than the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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 would occur under the Original Project, some construction equipment that would be used for construction of the Modified Project contain fuel tanks with capacity of up to 500 gallons, and it is possible that accidental ignition could occur during equipment operation, potentially resulting in a fire which, depending on the location, could spread to the surrounding area. However, all such equipment is required to have fire suppression features on board or at the work site. In addition, in accordance with City of Santa Clarita Fire Code, an adequate on-site supply of water with all-weather access for fire-fighting equipment and emergency vehicles would be maintained during construction activities (City of Santa Clarita 2020). Additionally, emergency fire services are located near the project site. The Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts related to exposure to wildland fire hazards than the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to wildland fires, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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## 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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:	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
(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	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to hydrology and water quality were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant direct impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to water quality, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Open Space Element, policies 4 - 6 and 26; Safety Element, policies 11 – 14
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Public Services and Facilities Element, policies 1.1, 1.2, 3.3, and 4.1
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Open Space and Conservation Element, policies 5.1 – 5.3, 5.6, and 7.1 – 7.15; Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element, policies 1.2 – 1.8; Public Safety Element, policy 1.10
- Los Angeles RWQCB Basin Plan and Santa Clara River Basin Plan.

In addition, compliance with the federal Clean Water Act (Section 404) would require the development and implementation of a project-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) during construction, as did the Original Project.

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

The Modified Project would be subject to the same water quality standards and waste discharge requirements as the Original Project. As with the Original Project, construction activity associated with the Modified Project, including grading, could have the potential to degrade water quality due to sediment erosion or the presence of contaminants located within the soils. The quantity of ground disturbance associated with construction was not provided in the 2005 Final EIR; however, based upon the use of microtunneling instead of traditional boring, as well as the shorter length of the Phase 2 pipeline, it is reasonably determined that the Modified Project would result in less ground disturbance than the Original Project. The potential for violation of water quality standards

or waste discharge requirements to occur as a result of ground disturbing activities during construction would also be less under the Modified Project.

The Modified Project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade water quality. The Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts related to water quality and wastewater discharge requirements.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to water quality, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

As with the Original Project, construction of the Modified Project would require a temporary water supply during construction, primarily for dust control. This would be provided from existing SCV Water supply and would not decrease groundwater supplies due to the minimal and temporary nature of construction water use. Neither the Modified Project nor the Original Project would introduce new areas of impermeable surfaces such that groundwater recharge could be affected, as the pipeline would primarily be situated within existing paved roadways. The Modified Project would result in no increases in long-term water demand. Impacts on groundwater supplies and groundwater recharge would, as with the Original Project, be less than significant. No new or more severe significant impacts would occur as a result of the Modified Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to groundwater supply or recharge, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- c. *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:*
- i. *Result in substantial erosion or situation on- or off-site?*
  - ii. *Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*
  - iii. *Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*
  - iv. *Impede or redirect flood flows?*

Neither the Modified Project nor the Original Project would change the course of any stream or river. The Modified Project would cross under the Santa Clara River at a narrower point than the Original Project would, reducing the area of ground disturbance and associated potential to result in erosion or siltation. The disturbance area would be restored after construction, and existing drainage patterns would be maintained. After construction, the pipeline would be underground, and would not affect drainage patterns. The Modified Project would not introduce new impermeable surfaces, create or contribute to runoff water, or impede or redirect flood flows. Standard construction BMPs would be implemented in accordance with a project-specific SWPPP. Therefore, the Modified Project would have no new or more severe significant impacts related to erosion, runoff, or drainage pattern alterations than the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to drainage pattern alterations, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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

The Modified Project would be located on the same area as the Original Project, which is not subject to inundation by tsunami or seiche. The proposed pipeline is located in the flood hazard area associated with the Santa Clara River; however, as with the Original Project, the pipeline would be underground, and would not introduce hazards associated with flooding inundation. The Modified Project would therefore have no new or more severe significant impacts related to potential release of pollutants in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to flood hazards, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.



## Conclusion

### LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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

This significance threshold was not included in the *CEQA Guidelines* in effect at the time of preparation of the 2005 EIR for the Original Project. Nonetheless, as discussed throughout this section of the Addendum, the Modified Project would have no new or more severe significant impacts related to water quality or groundwater than the Original Project.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 requires the preparation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for groundwater basins throughout California, with each GSP developed and administered by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The project site is within the management jurisdiction of the Santa Clarita Valley GSA, which is currently developing a GSP for the area. Completion of the Santa Clarita Valley GSP is anticipated by January 2022. The Modified Project would not result in adverse impacts to water quality or groundwater supply, as discussed above, and would not impede the implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

## Effects and Mitigation Measures

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to wildland fires, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## Conclusion

### NO IMPACT

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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## 3.11 Land Use and Planning

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Physically divide an established community?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Land use were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to land use, including all Land Use Element policies identified in the Los Angeles County General Plan, the Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan, and the City of Santa Clarita General Plan.

*a. Would the project physically divide an established community?*

As discussed in Section 3.10, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, above, under significance threshold (f), most of the pipeline alignment would be constructed in areas that have no vehicular access, and the pipeline would be installed below ground. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not change the circulation pattern of the area and would not physically divide an established community. The Modified Project would therefore result in no new or more severe impacts related to dividing established communities beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR.

### Effects and Mitigation Measures

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to the potential to physically divide existing communities, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### Conclusion

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

The Modified Project would be located at the same general area with the same land uses as the Original Project. Development throughout the area has continued to expand since the certified 2005 Final EIR; such expansion has been consistent with General Plan projections for the area, which are acknowledged throughout the 2005 Final EIR as well as this 2020 EIR Addendum. Therefore, the Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts related to consistency with applicable land uses plans, ordinances, and policies beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to land use plans, policies, or regulations, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

## 3.12 Mineral Resources

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to mineral resources were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. In addition, the Initial Study (provided as Appendix A to the certified 2005 Final EIR), addressed mineral resources under “Geology and Soils” because the CEQA Environmental Checklist at that time did not call out a separate issue area for mineral resources, as done here for consistency with the 2020 *CEQA Guidelines*. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to mineral resources, which are addressed above in Section 3.8, *Geology and Soils*. Potential impacts of the Modified Project to mineral resources are assessed below.

- 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?*

The 2005 Final EIR determined the Original Project will have no impact to mineral resources because the area affected by pipeline construction is not suitable for mineral resource extraction and the pipeline only requires a narrow corridor. The Modified Project site is located in the same river wash as the Original Project site. As discussed in the 2005 Final EIR, most of the Santa Clara River wash is zoned as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ-2), indicating that significant mineral deposits are present or that a high likelihood for their presence exists. Natural sand and gravel deposits suitable for construction aggregate are found in the Santa Clara River within the vicinity of the Original Project site and Modified Project site. However, as discussed in the 2005 Final EIR, this section of the Santa Clara River is identified by the City of Santa Clarita as a Significant Ecological Area (SEA), which limits construction and development within the 100-year floodplain where extraction would occur.

Similar to the Original Project, implementation of the Modified Project would not inhibit potential future oil and gas extraction beneath the site because the Modified Project only requires a narrow corridor, and modern directional drilling techniques are capable of extracting oil and gas from great lateral distances. Furthermore, the Modified Project would not affect any ongoing mineral resource recovery operations in the vicinity of the Modified Project site. Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to mineral resources and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur to mineral resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Same as the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

### 3.13 Noise

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Generate 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?	Pages 3.3-1 – 3.3-4 and 4-12	No	No	No	Yes
b. Generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Pages 3.3-1 – 3.3-4 and 4-12	No	No	No	N/A
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, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	Pages 3.3-1 – 3.3-4 and 4-12	No	No	No	N/A

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to noise, including the following:

- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Noise Element, policies 1 - 16
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Noise Element, policies 1.2 and 1.3
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Noise Element, policies 1.2 and 1.4, 2.1 – 2.8, and 3.1 – 4.3

Potential impacts of the Modified Project related to noise are assessed below.

- 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?*

Consistent with the City of Santa Clarita noise ordinance, construction activities would not occur between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on Saturdays, anytime on Sunday and major holidays. In addition, construction noise above 65 decibels (dBA) into 70 dBA are permitted for up to 15 minutes an hour and up to 75 dBA for up to 5 minutes an hour in residential areas. As discussed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, construction activities would occur during the hours and days allowed by the City of Santa Clarita. Pipeline construction would require a variety of equipment depending on the conditions along the route, potentially including a hydraulic excavator, trucks, paving equipment crane, and gas welding machine. The certified 2005 Final EIR determined that as a worst-case scenario, construction of the Original Project would generate a maximum hourly noise level of approximately 89 dBA at 100 feet from the construction site, and noise would decrease by 6 dBA for every doubling of the distance, such that construction noise would be reduced to approximately 77 dBA at 400 feet from the construction site. During the construction period, these temporary noise levels would potentially expose residents of the East Greenbrier Mobile Home Park to noise levels that could exceed City of Santa Clarita standards.

The Modified Project would move the Phase 2 pipeline farther away from the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, by continuing on the northern bank of the Santa Clara River for approximately 1,500 feet away from the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park prior to crossing under the river. There are no new receptors along the realigned section of the Phase 2 pipeline that were not previously identified in the 2005 Final EIR. In addition to reducing the levels of temporary construction noise experienced at the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, the alignment revision would not expose new sensitive noise receptors to temporary construction noise. Accordingly, while the certified 2005 Final EIR found that the Original Project would result in significant noise impacts due to the potential for temporary construction noise to exceed local City of Santa Clarita noise thresholds for residents of the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, this EIR Addendum finds that the Modified Project would result in less than significant noise impacts due to being situated farther away from residents of the Greenbrier Mobile Home Park.

During operation and maintenance of the project, ambient noise levels would be the same as existing conditions, as no operational noise is associated with the pipeline. Therefore, the Modified Project would not have any new or more severe significant impacts related to substantial temporary or permanent increases in ambient noise levels beyond those identified in the certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to noise, and no new mitigation measures are necessary. For reference, the mitigation measures identified on pages 3.3-4 and 3.3-5 of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, which would also be implemented for the Modified Project, are provided below.

#### *NOI-1 Notice of Construction Noise*

Advance notice of construction activities will be provided to nearby residents and businesses.



## *NOI-2 Noise Reduction Measures*

When construction activities occur sufficiently close to residential, commercial, and industrial uses to exceed City of Santa Clarita noise standards, one or more of the following noise reduction measures will be implemented:

- All internal combustion engine-powered equipment will be properly muffled and in good repair;
- Machines will not be left idling;
- Electric power will be used in lieu of internal combustion engine power whenever possible;
- Noisy activities will be scheduled to minimize their duration at the site;
- If noise complaints are received, the contractor will conduct monitoring of noise levels, with corrective actions taken in response to excessive noise levels.

Such measures could include constructing a temporary acoustic barrier between the noise source and the sensitive receptor.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Less than the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

#### *b. Would the project generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

The Initial Study for the Original Project determined that the project would not have the potential to result in impacts related to groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. As stated in the Initial Study, which is included as Appendix A to the certified 2005 Final EIR, although some groundborne vibration could result from construction of the Original Project, the project would not require the use of equipment that created excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise either during construction or operations. The Modified Project would construct 500 feet less of pipeline than would the Original Project, and would use a combination of open-cut trenching and microtunneling to reduce the construction disturbance area. Accordingly, the potential for the Modified Project to result in groundborne vibration or groundborne noise would be less than described for the Original Project. The Modified Project would not result in new sources of groundborne vibration and would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to vibration beyond those identified in the certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

## **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur due to groundborne vibration and noise, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

- c. *Would the project be 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, and expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?*

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or airport land use plan. The Modified Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts related to airport noise beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur due to the vicinity of an airstrip or airport land use plan, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

### 3.14 Population and Housing

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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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)?	Pages 3.4-1 through 3.4-2	No	No	No	N/A
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Pages 3.4-1 through 3.4-2	No	No	No	N/A

The 2005 Final EIR determined the Original Project will not directly induce population growth or displace people or housing, but would remove an obstacle to future population growth by allowing SCV Water to serve the anticipated future population of a portion of its service area. Direct impacts to population and housing were determined to be less than significant. As discussed in Section 1.1, *Background*, the certified 2005 Final EIR found that the Original Project would result in significant unavoidable indirect impacts to population and housing by removing an obstacle to growth and thereby facilitating population growth. As described in the Project Description, the purpose of the project is to accommodate service for planned growth within SCV Water’s service territory; that remains the purpose with the Modified Project. Therefore, the indirect impacts of the project from removing an obstacle to growth are the same as previously described for the Original Project, and are considered significant and unavoidable. This EIR Addendum assesses whether the Modified Project would result in new or substantially different impacts, as discussed below.

The Modified Project would not increase the pipeline capacity beyond the capacity analyzed under the Original Project. The Modified Project would not result in acquisition of additional water supplies and would not expand service beyond areas presently served by existing infrastructure. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would not include construction of new homes or businesses and would therefore not directly induce population growth in the service area, nor would it indirectly induce population growth as a result of new employment opportunities. However, as mentioned above, and as would occur under the Original Project, the Modified Project would remove an obstacle to growth, and therefore indirect impacts to population growth are considered significant and unavoidable, consistent with the certified 2005 Final EIR.

The Modified Project would avoid disturbance and associated construction access restrictions to the East Greenbrier Mobile Home Park, which would be traversed by the Original Project. Similar to the

Original Project, the Modified Project does not propose the demolition of housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to population and housing and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur to population and housing, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Same as the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

## 3.15 Public Services

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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Would the project:

- a. 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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes
2	Police protection?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
3	Schools?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
4	Parks?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
5	Other public facilities?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to public services were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to public services, including the following:

- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Land Use Element, policy 7.1
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Land Use Element, policies 1.2 – 1.5; Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element, policies 1.2 – 1.5, 1.14, 1.16 – 1.18, 2.1, and 2.2

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to public services are assessed below.

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:*

1. *Fire protection?*
2. *Police protection?*
3. *Schools?*
4. *Parks?*
5. *Other public facilities?*

The 2005 Final EIR determined the Original Project would have no impact to public services.

Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would 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 Santa Clarita and the surrounding area, and construction would not generate new population growth. The existing SCV Water workforce would operate the Modified Project. In addition, the Modified Project would not change existing demand for public services because population growth would not result from construction of the Modified Project.

Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to public services and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur to public services, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

## 3.16 Recreation

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to recreation were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to recreation, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element, policies 4 – 6, and policy 26
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Environmental Resources Management Element, policies 5.1 – 5.8; Trails, policies 6.1 – 6.6; Bikeways, policies 7.1 – 7.6
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Parks and Recreation Element, policy 4.1

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to recreation are assessed below.

- a. *Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?*
- b. *Would 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 Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, nor does it include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The Modified Project alignment for Phase 2 would continue on the north bank of the Santa Clara River for 1,500 feet beyond where the Original Project would cross the river. This alignment modification would avoid the East Greenbriar Mobile Home Park, including the greenbelt and paved storage area maintained within the mobile home park for recreational vehicles that would have been temporarily closed or limited by access restrictions during construction of the Original Project. This alignment modification would also place the Phase 2 pipeline within an existing bicycle pathway for approximately 1,500 feet, requiring the pathway to be temporarily closed or limited by access restrictions during construction of the Modified Project.

As such, construction of the Modified Project would temporarily limit public access to the bicycle pathway that would not have been affected by the Original Project alignment. However, this effect would be temporary, and the bicycle pathway would be restored to existing conditions following project construction. Neither alignment would include new recreational facilities or increase the use of existing facilities or opportunities such that facility deterioration or replacement and associated environmental impacts would occur. Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce significant impacts related to recreation and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the certified 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new significant impacts would occur to recreation, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*



## 3.17 Transportation

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the IS-MND?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the IS-MND?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the IS-MND?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do IS-MND Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
Would the project:					
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	Yes
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible use (e.g., farm equipment)?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to transportation were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to transportation, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Transportation Element, Circulation policies 1 – 41; Plan of Bikeways, policy 2
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Circulation Element, policies 1.1 – 1.7, and 2.1 – 2.3
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Land Use Element, policies 1.1, 1.8, and 1.9

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to transportation are assessed below.

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

The certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project determined that the project would not conflict with programs, plans, ordinances, or policies addressing the circulation system, and potential impacts would be less than significant. The Modified Project would place the Phase 2 pipeline within an existing bicycle lane for approximately 1,500 feet on the northern bank of the Santa Clara River, before traversing under the river and rejoining the Original Project alignment. This would require the bicycle lane to be temporarily restricted to through-traffic during the construction period for safety purposes; following the completion of pipeline construction within the bicycle lane, it would be restored to existing conditions.

The existing bicycle lane was not present at the time of preparation of the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, and the Original Project alignment for Phase 2 would cross the Santa Clara River at an earlier point than the Modified Project, thereby avoiding the need to temporarily restrict the present bicycle lane during construction. However, construction-related public access restrictions on the bicycle land would be temporary and limited to the construction period, and are necessary to provide public safety during construction activities. In addition, access along the bicycle lane would only be restricted during construction on that portion of the Modified Project; the bicycle lane would not be closed for the duration of the construction period.

Due to the temporary nature of construction-related access restrictions, this potential impact would be less than significant. The Modified Project would not result in new significant or more severe impacts related to transit service, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, or conflicts with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new significant or substantially more severe effects would occur to the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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

*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) was added to the *CEQA Guidelines* as part of the update adopted by the State in November 2018, after certification of the 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project, and therefore was not addressed in the 2005 Final EIR. This criterion defines acceptable criteria for analyzing transportation impacts under CEQA, and states that land use projects with vehicle miles traveled (VMT) exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact, and that projects that decrease VMT compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact.

On April 6, 2016, Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Regional Council adopted the *2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy: Towards a Sustainable Future* (2016-2040 RTP/SCS). Between 2015 and 2040, the SCAG region, including the City of Santa Clarita, is anticipated to increase in population, households, and jobs. The 2016-2040 RTP/SCS includes land use strategies based on local general plans and input from local governments, to achieve the AB 32 state-mandated reductions in GHG emissions through decreases in regional per capita VMT (SCAG 2016). As part of the 2016-2040 RTP/SCS, transportation network improvements would be included, and more compact, infill, walkable and mixed-use development strategies to accommodate new region's growth would be encouraged to accommodate increases in population, households, employment, and travel demand (SCAG 2016).

The Modified Project would be located in the same area and use the same access roads as the Original Project. Due to the construction of 500 feet less of new pipeline for Phase 2 under the Modified Project, the number of project-related construction vehicles and equipment that would be traveling to and from the project work area would be accordingly less as well. Similarly, it is assumed that the number and type of operational trips would be the same for the Modified Project as the Original Project. Therefore, the Modified Project would have comparable transportation-related impacts, including with respect to VMT, as the Original Project. The Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts related to its potential to conflict with or be inconsistent with *CEQA Guidelines* section 15064.3, subdivision (b) beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

## **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to VMT, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Not addressed in the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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 Modified Project would be carried out in the same general area as the Original Project and would not alter existing roadways or introduce hazardous geometric design features or incompatible uses to the project area. Following the temporary construction period, operation and maintenance activities would be the same under the Modified Project as the Original Project and also would not alter or introduce new road design features. No hazards from incompatible uses would occur. Therefore, the Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts related to safety risks pertaining to hazardous design features or incompatible uses beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to hazardous design features, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

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

The Modified Project would be carried out in the same general area as the Original Project. Emergency access and evacuation plans are addressed in Section 3.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, under significance threshold (f), which addresses whether the project would impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. As discussed above, potential impacts of the Modified Project would be the same as potential impacts of the Original Project, with respect to emergency access. The Modified Project's impact on emergency access would therefore be less than significant, and the Modified Project would not result in new or more severe impacts related to inadequate emergency access beyond those identified in the previously certified Final for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to emergency access, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **NO IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

### 3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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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), or	N/A	No	No	No	N/A
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.	N/A	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to tribal cultural resources (TCR) were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was not included in the *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G Checklist prior to the 2019 update of the *CEQA Guidelines*. As discussed in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, a Cultural Resources Assessment report has been prepared for the Modified Project and is included as Appendix E to this EIR Addendum; this report includes discussion and analysis of TCR. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with all applicable laws and regulations for cultural resources, including those specific to TCR.

As of July 1, 2015, California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) was enacted and expands CEQA by defining TCR as a new resource category. It further states that the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter the significant characteristics of a TCR, when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3).

PRC Section 21074(a)(1)(A) and (B) defines TCRs as “sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe” and requires that they meet either of the following criteria:

- 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).
- 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 subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1. In applying these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California tribes regarding TCRs. The consultation process must be completed before a CEQA document can be certified. 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 that have requested notice of projects proposed in the jurisdiction of the lead agency are to be included in the process. AB 52 consultation is not being conducted for the Modified Project, as it was initiated prior to July 1, 2015.

The APE for the Modified Project is within three Native American tribal territories occupied by the Tataviam, Gabrieleño-Tongva and Ventureño Chumash; although the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project did not assess tribal cultural resources, the Original Project and the Modified Project are in the same area and the same Native American tribal territories. Potential impacts of the Modified Project to TCR are assessed below.

*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), or*
- 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?*

Rincon Senior Archaeologist Kyle Knabb, Ph.D., R.P.A., contacted the NAHC on May 11, 2020, to request an updated search of the SLF and a contact list of Native Americans culturally affiliated with the APE. A response was received from the NAHC on May 19, 2020, stating the SLF search had been completed with “negative” results. On May 20, 2020, Rincon sent letters to fifteen Native American contacts identified by the NAHC in the area to request information on potential cultural resources in the project vicinity that may be impacted by project development. Follow up calls were conducted on June 23 and July 9, 2020. This outreach does not constitute formal AB 52 consultation; however, as stated above, the project does not require AB 52 consultation because it was initiated prior to July 1, 2015. The full results of the outreach effort conducted for the Modified Project are included in the Cultural Resources Assessment report provided as Appendix E to this Addendum.

## **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

The mitigation measures identified in Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, are also applicable to tribal cultural resources. These include Mitigation Measures CR-1, *Archaeological and Native American Monitoring*, CR-2, *Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources*, and CR-3, *Human Remains*. No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to tribal cultural resources, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Not addressed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

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## 3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
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?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Appendix B, Initial Study	No	No	No	N/A

Direct impacts to utilities and service systems were not analyzed in detail in the 2005 Final EIR, as this issue area was screened out in the Initial Study for the Original Project as having less than significant impacts. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to utilities and service systems, including the following:

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Public Facilities Element, policies 1 – 10, 12 – 15, 17 – 20, and 25
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Public Services and Facilities Element, policies 2.1 and 2.2; Land Use Element, policy 7.1
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Public Services, Facilities, and Utilities Element, policies 1.2 – 1.5, 1.14, 1.16 – 1.18, 2.3, 2.6, 2.7, 5.1, and 5.6

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to utilities and service systems are assessed below.

- 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?*
- 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?*

The Modified Project would occur in the same general project area as the Original Project and would not increase the total amount of development on the site or in the surrounding area. As with the Original Project, neither construction nor operation of the Modified Project would generate wastewater requiring treatment, and the project would not require the construction of other utility facilities. Water used to test the proposed pipeline prior to operation could be discharged into the local storm drain system, but this would not require the construction of new storm drainage facilities or their expansion.

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project pipeline for Phase 2 would cross under both the above-ground Los Angeles Aqueduct and the below-ground Los Angeles Aqueduct which are operated and maintained by LADWP. The pipeline also would run parallel to or cross several other above-ground and below-ground utilities that are owned and operated by LADWP. The exact location of any utilities present in the pipeline corridor would be identified prior to construction, and in coordination between SCV Water and LADWP to avoid any conflicts with existing pipelines; LADWP requirements to avoid disruptions to existing utilities would be incorporated into the final project design, as applicable.

No disruption of utilities and service systems is anticipated from the Modified Project because, as with the Original Project, the exact location of any utilities present in the pipeline corridor would be identified prior to construction, and impacts to utilities would be avoided through spatial separation and compliance with all applicable standards. In the unlikely event that disruption of water service would occur during project construction, such disruption would be coordinated with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) to ensure that alternate water sources are provided for fire protection during the temporary service disruption.

The Original Project, as assessed in the 2005 Final EIR, included removal of some portions of existing pipeline by the Newhall Land and Farming Company; as proposed in 2005, the removed pipelines would be disposed of in an appropriate landfill in accordance with regulatory requirements. Under

the Modified Project, the existing pipelines would not be removed, and instead would be abandoned in place, in their present positions within existing roadways. Because the Modified Project does not include removal of the existing pipelines, the potential for utility disruptions to occur during construction would be less than the Original Project. This potential is the same for the Modified Project as assessed for the Original Project. The Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to utility connections or wastewater treatment, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

As with the Original Project, the Modified Project would replace and expand existing water distribution infrastructure, to provide conveyance of SCV Water's existing water supply. The Modified Project would not increase development in the area compared to the Original Project, and thus would not increase water demand beyond what was analyzed in the Original Project. Therefore, the Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts related to water supply availability.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to water supply, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*

The Modified Project is in the same general project area, would have the same capacity as the Original Project, and would not increase development in the project area or generate increased amounts of solid waste compared to the Original Project. As discussed above for thresholds (a) and (c), the Original Project proposed that Newhall Land and Farm Company would remove some portions of existing pipeline within local roadways; in comparison, the Modified Project would abandon existing pipelines in place, and would therefore not generate solid waste from the existing pipelines that would need to be disposed of at an approved waste disposal facility. Small amounts of solid waste generated during construction would be disposed of at one of Los Angeles County's several permitted landfills that serve the SCV Water service area. The Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur related to solid waste, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Less than the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

## 3.20 Wildfire

	Where was Impact Analyzed in the EIR?	Do Proposed Changes Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Do New Circumstances Require Major Revisions to the EIR?	Any New Information Resulting in New or More Severe Significant Impacts?	Do EIR Mitigation Measures Address and/or Resolve Impacts?
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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?	N/A	No	No	No	N/A
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?	N/A	No	No	No	N/A
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?	N/A	No	No	No	N/A
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?	N/A	No	No	No	N/A

This environmental issue area was not included in the *CEQA Guidelines* Appendix G Environmental Checklist at the time of preparation of the 2005 Final EIR, and therefore was not assessed as a separate issue area in the 2005 Final EIR. However, the 2005 Final EIR addressed potential for impacts associated with public exposure to wildland fires in the hazards and hazardous materials analysis, and that information and analysis has been used to inform this analysis as applicable. The Modified Project would comply with existing plans and policies related to wildfire, which are identified in Section 3.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, and listed below.

- Los Angeles County General Plan: Conservation and Open Space Element, policy 29; Safety Element Wildland and Urban Fire Hazards, policies 15 – 19; Emergency Response, Preparedness, and Recovery, policies 25 – 35
- Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Area Plan: Public Services and Facilities Element, policies 1.1, 1.2, 3.3, and 4.1
- City of Santa Clarita General Plan: Safety Element, policies 2.1, 3.1 – 3.10, and 4.1 – 4.5

Potential impacts of the Modified Project to wildfire are assessed below.

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

- a. *Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*
- b. *Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*
- c. *Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*
- d. *Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

Recent fires in the vicinity of the Santa Clarita Valley include the Lake Fire and the Holser Fire in August 2020. Post-fire conditions leave exposed mountain slopes and hillsides vulnerable to surface erosion and runoff. Debris flows during post-fire rainy seasons can pose a risk to life and property and occur with little warning. In southern California, as little as 0.3 inch of rain in 30 minutes can produce debris flows on post-fire landscapes (United States Geological Survey 2018).

Neither the Original Project site nor Modified Project site are located in a designated Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) or a State Responsibility Area (SRA), but are located adjacent to the VHFHSZ in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA). The nearest VHFHSZ is located on the northern side of Newhall Ranch Road, approximately 200 feet from the Modified Project site (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2011). As discussed in Section 3.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, construction equipment with large fuel tanks could accidentally ignite and result in a fire. All such equipment is required to have fire suppression equipment on board or at the work site and to ensure the availability of an adequate on-site supply of water with all-weather access for fire-fighting equipment and emergency vehicles. With regulatory compliance, fire hazards associated with the Original Project were determined not to be significant.

- 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?*

As discussed in the 2005 Final EIR, slow-moving construction traffic may temporarily reduce optimal traffic flows in the Original Project area, but this would not significantly delay emergency vehicles traveling through the areas, and any delays would only affect short segments of these roadways. Additionally, delays would occur only infrequently when construction vehicles or construction

materials are delivered to the site. One lane of traffic would be open at all times; thus, emergency access would be maintained.

The Modified Project site is located near lands classified as VHFHSZ. As discussed in Section 3.9, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*, the City of Santa Clarita developed a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from natural and man-made hazards, including wildfire (City of Santa Clarita 2015). The plan includes emergency response and emergency evacuation protocols.

Like the Original Project, slow-moving construction traffic associated with the Modified Project could temporarily reduce traffic flows in the area but would not significantly delay emergency vehicle access in an emergency response scenario. One lane of traffic would be open at all times to maintain emergency and evacuation access to and through the project work area. Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to impairment of an emergency response or evacuation plan and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur to wildfire hazards, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Consistent with the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*

- 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?*
- 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?*

The Modified Project site is located near lands classified as VHFHSZ. Like the Original Project, heavy duty equipment used during construction of the Modified Project may produce sparks with the potential to ignite vegetation. However, California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4442 mandates the use of spark arrestors, which prevent the emission of flammable debris from exhaust, on earth-moving and portable construction equipment with internal combustion engines operating on any forest-covered, brush-covered, or grass-covered land. Furthermore, 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. Therefore, with compliance with applicable PRC provisions, Modified Project construction would not exacerbate wildfire risk compared to the Original Project.

Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would not include housing or new permanent structures and would not accommodate occupants. The pipeline would be located underground. Therefore, the Modified Project would not exacerbate wildfire risk and would not expose people or structures to significant risks as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. The Modified Project would not require associated infrastructure such as fuel breaks or emergency water sources resulting in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. In addition, the Modified Project would improve fire flow throughout the pipeline network.

Accordingly, the Modified Project would not introduce new impacts or substantially increased impacts related to wildfire risk and would be consistent with the impact analysis provided in the 2005 Final EIR.

## **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur to wildfire hazards, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

## **Conclusion**

### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Not addressed in the Initial Study for the Original Project.)*



## 3.21 Cumulative Impacts

CEQA requires the analysis of impacts due to cumulative development that would occur independent of, but during the same timeframe as, the project under consideration, or in the foreseeable future. By requiring an evaluation of cumulative impacts, CEQA attempts to minimize the potential that largescale environmental impacts would be ignored due to the project-by-project nature of project-level analyses contained in EIRs.

As described above in Sections 3.1 through 3.20 above, the Modified Project would not result in new or more severe direct or indirect impacts beyond those identified in the previously certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project. In addition, potential impacts of the Modified Project would be less than anticipated for the Original Project under several issue areas, due to the construction of 500 feet less of Phase 2 pipeline, the realignment to cross under the Santa Clara River at a narrower point than proposed for the Original Project, and the use of microtunneling in combination with open-cut trenching to reduce construction disturbance. Therefore, the cumulative contribution of the Modified Project impacts would be the same as or less than analyzed in the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.

Cumulative projects that have been constructed since analysis of the Original Project include the Newhall Land and Ranch Company's Riverpark residential development, which Phase 1 of the Original Project would partially serve. No new reasonably foreseeable future projects have been identified within proximity to the project site that were not previously considered in the cumulative impact analysis in the certified Final EIR. Therefore, no new or more severe cumulative impacts would result from the Modified Project beyond those identified in the certified Final EIR.

### **Effects and Mitigation Measures**

No new or substantially more severe effects would occur or contribute to the cumulative scenario, and no new mitigation measures are necessary.

### **Conclusion**

#### **LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

*(Less than the certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project.)*

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## 4 Other CEQA Required Discussions

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The Modified Project would not substantially change the discussion and findings presented for the Original Project in Section 5, *CEQA Considerations*, of the certified 2005 Final EIR. These other required discussions include the following: significant and unavoidable impacts, growth inducing effects, and irreversible environmental effects, each of which is addressed below.

### 4.1 Growth Inducing Impacts

An EIR must discuss the ways in which a proposed project could foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing in the vicinity of the project and how that growth would in turn, affect the surrounding environment (*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126 [g]). Growth can be induced through the elimination of obstacles to growth, including the removal of infrastructure limitations or regulatory constraints that could result in growth unforeseen at the time of project approval. The certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project determined that the Original Project would eliminate an obstacle to growth by providing improved water conveyance infrastructure to the area, and the Original Project would thereby result in growth-inducing impacts. The certified 2005 Final EIR further found that growth-inducing impacts of the Original Project would be significant because they could cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing load and capacity of the street system and could cause an exceedance of an established level of service standard.

As assessed in Section 3, above, the Modified Project would result in comparable impacts to the Original Project and would have slightly less intensive impacts due to constructing 500 feet less of new pipeline for Phase 2. The Modified Project would not result in new or more substantial impacts than the Original Project, including as related to growth inducing impacts.

### 4.2 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts

According to *CEQA Guidelines* [Sections 15126(b) and 21000(b)], a Draft EIR must include a description of project impacts identified as significant and unavoidable. The certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project determined that the Original Project would result in significant unavoidable impacts related to growth inducement from the removal of an obstacle to growth, in the form of providing improved water conveyance infrastructure. As discussed above, the Modified Project would not result in new or more substantial impacts than the Original Project, including as related to significant and unavoidable impacts.

### 4.3 Significant Irreversible Environmental Effects

Under CEQA, an EIR must analyze the extent to which a project's primary and secondary effects would commit resources to uses that future generations will probably be unable to reverse [*CEQA Guidelines* Section 15126.2(c); 15127]. As described above in Sections 3.1 through 3.21, the Modified Project would result in no new or more severe direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts beyond those identified in the previously certified 2005 Final EIR for the Original Project. Therefore, the Modified Project would also result in no new or more severe significant and unavoidable

impacts, growth inducing effects, or irreversible environmental effects beyond those previously discussed in the certified Final EIR.

## 5 Comparison of Alternatives

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The Modified Project would not significantly change the alternatives analysis and comparison of alternatives in the certified Final EIR. As described in Section 3, *Impact Analysis*, of this Addendum, the Modified Project would result in no new or more severe impacts beyond those identified in the previously certified Final EIR for the Original Project. Therefore, the potential impacts of the Modified Project are within the scope of the impact comparison among the alternatives already considered in the certified Final EIR. These alternatives include: No Project Alternative; Alternative Pipeline Alignment 1; and Alternative Pipeline Alignment 3. As no new or more severe impacts have been identified as a result of the Modified Project, the Modified Project would not require comparison of any new alternatives or alternatives which are considerably different from or inconsistent with those already analyzed in the certified Final EIR. Therefore, no additional alternatives or further comparison of alternatives is required.

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## 6 Conclusion

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As established in the discussions above regarding the potential effects of the Modified Project, substantial changes are not proposed to the Original Project nor have substantial changes occurred that would require major revisions to the certified Final EIR prepared for the Original Project. Impacts beyond those identified and analyzed in the certified Final EIR would not be expected to occur as a result of the Modified Project. Overall, the proposed modifications to the Original Project that constitute the Modified Project would not result in new information of substantial importance that would have new, more severe impacts, new mitigation measures, or new or revised alternatives from what was identified for the Original Project in the certified Final EIR. Therefore, SCV Water concludes that the analyses conducted and the conclusions reached in the 2005 Final EIR remain valid. As such, the Modified Project would not result in conditions identified in *CEQA Guidelines* Section 15162, and supplemental environmental review or a Subsequent EIR is not required for the proposed modifications to the Project. Again, it should be noted that the Modified Project would be subject to all previously required mitigation measures from the certified Final EIR for the Original Project. The MMRP adopted for the Original Project would be applicable to the Modified Project. Based on the above analysis, this Addendum to the previously certified EIR for the project has been prepared in accordance with Section 15164 of the *CEQA Guidelines*.

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