

# **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

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CEQA requires that a reporting or monitoring program be adopted for the conditions of project approval that are necessary to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment (Public Resources Code 21081.6). This mitigation monitoring and reporting program is intended to track and ensure compliance with adopted mitigation measures during the project implementation phase. For each mitigation measure included in the Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration, specifications are made herein that identify the action required, the monitoring that must occur, and the agency or department responsible for oversight.

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency  
**Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant Sewer Line Project**

Mitigation Measure/ Condition of Approval	Action Required	Monitoring Timing	Monitoring Frequency	Responsible Agency	Compliance Verification Initial	Compliance Verification Date	Compliance Verification Comments
<b>Biological Resources</b>							
<b>BIO-1: Special Status Plant Surveys</b>							
<p>To avoid impacts to special-status plants, surveys for special-status plants shall be completed prior to any vegetation removal, grubbing, or other construction activity within this area. The surveys shall be floristic in nature, seasonally timed to coincide with the blooming period of the target species (club-haired mariposa lily, late-flowered mariposa lily, Plummer’s mariposa lily, Peirson’s morning glory, Parry’s spineflower, Ojai navarretia, and Piute Mountains navarretia), and be conducted by a qualified biologist.</p> <p>Special-status plant species identified on site shall be mapped onto a site-specific aerial photograph and topographic map. Surveys should be conducted in accordance with the most current protocols established by the CDFW and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A report of the survey results shall be submitted to SCV Water for review and approval.</p>	<p>Retain a qualified biologist to conduct special status plant surveys and prepare the accompanying report. Review and approve the report prepared by the qualified biologist.</p>	<p>Prior to vegetation removal, grubbing, or other construction activity within the area</p>	<p>Once</p>	<p>Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water)</p>			
<b>BIO-2: Special-Status Plant Avoidance Measures</b>							
<p>If special-status plants are detected during special-status plant surveys, avoidance of the special-status plants shall occur where feasible and vegetation clearing within 50 feet of any identified rare plant will be conducted by hand, if practicable. Any rare plant occurrence shall have bright orange protective fencing installed at least 50 feet beyond its extent, or other distance as approved by a qualified biologist, to protect it from harm.</p> <p>If avoidance is not feasible, SCV Water shall offset the proposed loss of individual plants at a</p>	<p>Implement resource relocation or avoidance (if necessary and feasible) as specified in Mitigation Measure BIO-3, including, implementation of a Special Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, and performance monitoring.</p>	<p>As needed</p>	<p>As needed</p>	<p>SCV Water</p>			

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<p>minimum 1:1 ratio by on-site restoration (salvage, replanting, and propagation) as described in Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan) below. The scrub and grassland habitats in the Study Area would be a suitable location for on-site restoration. Compensation for impacts to these species may also be accomplished by preservation of on-site populations or off-site populations in the vicinity of the site at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio if present.</p>							
<b>BIO-3: Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan</b>							
<p>If special-status plants are detected and would be impacted by project construction, a Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan that provides for the replacement of the species impacted by the project shall be developed by a qualified restoration specialist.</p> <p>The Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall specify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A summary of impacts;</li> <li>▪ The location of the mitigation site;</li> <li>▪ Methods for harvesting seeds or salvaging and transplanting individuals to be impacted;</li> <li>▪ Measures for propagating plants or transferring living plants from the salvage site to the mitigation site;</li> <li>▪ Site preparation procedures for the mitigation site;</li> <li>▪ A schedule and action plan to maintain and monitor the mitigation area;</li> <li>▪ Criteria and performance standards by which to measure the success of the mitigation, including replacement of impacted plants at a minimum 1:1 ratio;</li> </ul>	<p>Retain a qualified biologist to prepare a Special-Status Plant Mitigation Plan and annually review performance of the Plan over a 5-year period.</p>	<p>Prior to construction and annually for 5 years</p>	<p>Once and annually</p>	<p>SCV Water</p>			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Measures to exclude unauthorized entry into the mitigation areas; and</li> <li>▪ Contingency measures such as replanting or weeding in the event that mitigation efforts are not successful.</li> </ul> <p>The performance standards for the Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be at a minimum the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Within five years after introducing the plants to the mitigation site, the number of established, reproductive plants should equal the number lost to project construction, and</li> <li>▪ Restoration will be considered successful after the success criteria have been met for a period of at least 2 years without any maintenance or remediation activities other than invasive species control.</li> </ul> <p>The Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be initiated prior to development of the project and implemented over a five-year period. It can also be combined with the Restoration Plan described under Mitigation Measure BIO-9.</p> <p>Annual reports discussing the implementation, monitoring, and management of the Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to SCV Water. Five years after the start of the mitigation project, a final report shall be submitted, which should at a minimum discuss the implementation, monitoring, and management of the Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan over the five-year period, and indicate whether the Special-Status Plant Mitigation and Monitoring Plan has been successful based on established performance standards. Should the</p>							

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success criteria be met before Year Five, the mitigation effort can be deemed complete.							
<b>BIO-4: Worker Environmental Awareness Program</b>							
A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-project environmental education program for all personnel working at the site, which should be focused on conditions and protocols necessary to avoid and minimize potential impacts to biological resources. Prior to initiation of construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to aid workers in recognizing special-status biological resources potentially occurring in the project area. This training shall include information about the special-status species with potential to occur in the project area. The specifics of this program shall include identification of special-status species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of special-status resources, and review of the limits of construction and measures required to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information shall be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employees, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. All employees working at the project site shall sign a form provided by the trainer documenting they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The crew foreman shall be responsible for ensuring crew members adhere	Retain a qualified biologist to conduct a Worker Environmental Program.	Prior to and during construction if new personnel are added.	Once and as needed.	SCV Water			
	Ensure all employees working at the project site participate in the program.	During construction.	Ongoing				
	Ensure guidelines are followed during construction.						

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to the guidelines and restrictions designed to avoid impacts to special-status species.							
<b>BIO-5: General Best Management Practices</b>							
General requirements which shall be followed by construction personnel are listed below.	Include general biological resources best management practice requirements in the construction contract.	Prior to construction.	Once	SCV Water			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The contractor shall clearly delineate the construction limits and prohibit any construction-related traffic outside those boundaries.</li> </ul>	Ensure best management practices are implemented during construction.	During construction.	Ongoing				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project-related vehicles shall observe a 10-mile-per-hour speed limit within the unpaved limits of construction.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All open trenches or excavations shall be fenced and/or sloped to prevent entrapment of wildlife species.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps generated during proposed project construction shall be disposed of in closed containers only and removed daily from the project site.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No deliberate feeding of wildlife shall be allowed.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No pets shall be allowed on the project site.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If vehicle or equipment maintenance is necessary, it shall be performed in the designated staging areas.</li> </ul>							
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If construction must occur at night (between dusk and dawn), all lighting shall be shielded and directed downward to minimize the potential for glare or spillover onto adjacent properties and to reduce impacts on local wildlife.</li> </ul>							

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During construction, heavy equipment shall be operated in accordance with standard BMPs. All equipment used on-site shall be properly maintained to avoid leaks of oil, fuel, or residues. Provisions shall be in place to remediate any accidental spills.</li> <li>While encounters with special-status species are not anticipated, any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a special-status species or finds one dead, injured, or entrapped shall immediately report the incident to the construction foreman or biological monitor. The construction foreman or biological monitor should immediately notify SCV Water. SCV Water should follow up with written notification to USFWS and/or CDFW within five working days of the incident. All observations of state or federally listed species should be recorded on CNDDDB field sheets and sent to CDFW by SCV Water or the biological monitor.</li> </ul>							
<b>BIO-6: Pre-activity Survey</b>							
<p>Prior to commencement of ground or vegetation disturbing activities at the project site, a qualified biologist shall conduct two surveys for special status wildlife species. The first survey shall be conducted no more than fourteen (14) days prior to commencement of project activities and the second survey shall be conducted no more than three (3) days prior to the commencement of project activities. The survey shall incorporate methods to detect the special status wildlife species that could potentially occur at the site. To the extent feasible, special status species shall be avoided. If avoidance is not feasible, the species shall be</p>	<p>Retain a qualified biologist to complete pre-activity surveys for special status species. Review all findings of each survey and Species Protection Plan (if required), and implement all recommended avoidance or relocation measures, if required.</p>	<p>Prior to any ground or plant disrupting activities.</p>	<p>Once</p>	<p>SCV Water</p>			

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<p>captured and transferred to an appropriate habitat and location on-site where it would not be harmed by project activities. The biologist shall hold the requisite permits for the capture and handling of the species, if applicable. Prior to commencement of the proposed activity, the methods and results of the surveys and, if a special status species is found, the measures to be employed to avoid impacts to the species should be presented in a letter report to SCV Water.</p>							
<b>BIO-7: Qualified Biological Monitor</b>							
<p>A qualified biological monitor familiar with special-status species with potential to occur in the project site shall be present during initial ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities within suitable habitat, including California sagebrush scrub, holly leaf cherry chaparral, and wild oats and annual brome grasslands. The biological monitor shall have the authority to temporarily stop work if one or more special-status species are observed; the monitor shall then relocate these individuals to suitable undisturbed habitat, outside the areas directly and indirectly affected by ground disturbance activities. The biologist shall hold the requisite incidental take permits or authorizations for the capture and handling of the species, if applicable.</p> <p>The monitor shall recommend measures to ensure compliance with all avoidance and minimization measures and any conditions required by SCV Water. When the biological monitor is present on site, they shall be responsible for:</p>	<p>Retain a qualified biologist to monitor relevant special status species during construction activities.</p>	<p>During all initial ground disturbance or vegetation removal activities.</p>	<p>Once for each construction segment</p>	<p>SCV Water</p>			



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring procedures for verifying compliance with environmental mitigation are followed;</li> <li>▪ Lines of communication and reporting methods;</li> <li>▪ Daily and weekly reporting of compliance;</li> <li>▪ Construction crew WEAP training;</li> <li>▪ Authority to stop work; and</li> <li>▪ Action to be taken in the event of non-compliance.</li> </ul>							
<b>BIO-8: Nesting Birds</b>							
<p>Project-related activities should occur outside of the bird breeding season (February 1 to August 31) to the extent practicable. If construction must occur within the bird breeding season, then no more than seven 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-feet 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 during the nesting season.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>If nests are found, their locations shall be flagged. An appropriate avoidance buffer</p>	<p>For construction that occurs during the nesting bird season, retain a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys and establish exclusion zones, as needed, until a qualified biologist has determined that all young have fledged.</p>	<p>Seven days prior to initial ground disturbance, or re-initiation of construction following a one-week lapse, between February 1 and August 31.</p>	<p>Once and as needed</p>	<p>SCV Water</p>			

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<p>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. The nesting bird buffer zones may also be extended at the discretion of the qualified biologist based on field observations of nesting bird behavior. If no nesting birds are observed during pre-construction surveys, no further actions would be necessary.</p>							
<b>BIO-9: Sensitive Plant Community Restoration</b>							
<p>Temporary impacts to sensitive plant communities shall be avoided to the extent feasible. Where avoidance is not feasible, mitigation for impacts to sensitive plant communities shall be accomplished through on-site restoration at a minimum ratio of 1:1. A Restoration Plan shall be prepared and submitted to SCV Water prior to initiating impacts. At minimum, the Restoration Plan shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A description of the purpose and goals of the restoration</li> <li>▪ Identification of success criteria and performance standards</li> <li>▪ Methods of site preparation</li> </ul>	Retain a qualified biologist to develop and implement a sensitive plant community Restoration Plan.	Prior to, during, and after construction for up to 5 years.	Once and as needed	SCV Water			

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irrigation plan and schedule</li> <li>▪ Best Management Practices (BMPs)</li> <li>▪ Maintenance and monitoring program</li> <li>▪ Adaptive management strategies</li> <li>▪ Key stakeholders and responsible parties</li> <li>▪ Funding</li> <li>▪ Contingencies</li> </ul>							
<b>Cultural Resources</b>							
<b>CUL-1: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources</b>							
<p>In the event that archaeological resources are unexpectedly encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work within 50 feet of the find shall halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983) shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the resource. If the resource is determined by the qualified archaeologist to be prehistoric, then a Native American representative shall also be contacted to participate in the evaluation of the resource. If the qualified archaeologist and/or Native American representative determines it to be appropriate, archaeological testing for CRHR eligibility shall be completed. If the resource proves to be eligible for the CRHR and significant impacts to the resource cannot be avoided via project redesign, a qualified archaeologist shall prepare a data recovery plan tailored to the physical nature and characteristics of the resource, per the requirements of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C). The data recovery plan shall identify data recovery excavation methods, measurable objectives, and data thresholds to</p>	<p>If archaeological resources are encountered during construction, retain an archeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for archaeology to evaluate the unanticipated find(s). If the find is determined to be prehistoric, conduct testing. If the find is eligible for listing and significant impacts would occur, prepare a data recovery plan. Recover and document resources, as necessary.</p>	During construction.	As needed	SCV Water			

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reduce any significant impacts to cultural resources related to the resource. Pursuant to the data recovery plan, the qualified archaeologist and Native American representative, as appropriate, shall recover and document the scientifically consequential information that justifies the resource's significance. SCV Water shall review and approve the treatment plan and archaeological testing as appropriate, and the resulting documentation shall be submitted to the regional repository of the California Historical Resources Information System, per CCR Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C).							
<b>Geology and Soils</b>							
<b>GEO-1: Paleontological Resources Monitoring and Mitigation</b>							
<p><b>Qualified Professional Paleontologist.</b> Prior to excavation, SCV Water shall retain a Qualified Professional Paleontologist, as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP 2010), who shall direct all mitigation measures related to paleontological resources.</p> <p><b>Paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program.</b> Prior to excavation, the Qualified Professional Paleontologist or their designee shall conduct a paleontological Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training for construction personnel regarding the appearance of fossils and procedures for notifying paleontological staff should fossils be discovered by construction personnel.</p> <p><b>Paleontological Monitoring.</b> Initial part-time monitoring (i.e., spot-checking) shall be conducted for all ground-disturbing activities during trenching for the new sewer line to check for the presence/depth of previously undisturbed sediments. The monitor shall be</p>	Retain a qualified professional paleontologist as defined by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP 2010) to implement a paleontological WEAP training, monitor initial ground-disturbing activities, and evaluate unanticipated finds. Review and approve the Final Paleontological Mitigation Report.	Prior to excavation and during construction	Once and as needed	SCV Water			

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<p>present on the first day that trenching occurs within an area mapped as high paleontological sensitivity. If the monitor observes that only previously disturbed and/or artificial fill sediments are being impacted by trenching, then spot-checking shall continue on a weekly basis. If, during the initial spot-check or subsequent weekly spot-checks, the monitor observes that trenching is impacting previously undisturbed sediments assignable to the Saugus Formation or Quaternary older alluvium, then full-time paleontological monitoring shall ensue to ensure that potential impacts to paleontological resources remain less than significant. Paleontological monitoring shall be conducted by a paleontological monitor with experience with collection and salvage of paleontological resources and who meets the minimum standards of the SVP (2010) for a Paleontological Resources Monitor.</p> <p>In the event of a fossil discovery by the paleontological monitor or construction personnel, all construction activity within 50 feet of the find shall cease, and the Qualified Professional Paleontologist shall evaluate the find. If the fossil(s) is (are) not scientifically significant, then construction activity may resume. If it is determined that the fossil(s) is (are) scientifically significant, the following shall be completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fossil Salvage. The paleontological monitor shall salvage (i.e., excavate and recover) the fossil to protect it from damage/destruction. Typically, fossils can be safely salvaged quickly by a single paleontological monitor with minimal disruption to construction activity. In some</li> </ul>							

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<p>cases, larger fossils (such as complete skeletons or large mammal fossils) require more extensive excavation and longer salvage periods. Bulk matrix sampling may be necessary to recover small invertebrates or microvertebrates from within paleontologically sensitive deposits. After the fossil(s) is (are) salvaged, construction activity may resume.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fossil Preparation and Curation. Fossils shall be identified to the lowest (i.e., most-specific) possible taxonomic level, prepared to a curation-ready condition, and curated in a scientific institution with a permanent paleontological collection along with all pertinent field notes, photos, data, and maps. Fossils of undetermined significance at the time of collection may also warrant curation at the discretion of the Qualified Professional Paleontologist.</li> </ul> <p><b>Final Paleontological Mitigation Report.</b> Upon completion of ground-disturbing activities (or laboratory preparation and curation of fossils, if necessary), the Qualified Professional Paleontologist shall prepare a final report describing the results of the paleontological monitoring efforts. The report shall include a summary of the field and laboratory methods employed; an overview of project geology; and, if fossils were discovered, an analysis of the fossils, including physical description, taxonomic identification, and scientific significance. The report shall be submitted to SCV Water and, if fossil curation occurred, the designated scientific institution.</p>							

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<b>Tribal Cultural Resources</b>							
<b>TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources Construction Monitoring</b>							
<p>SCV Water shall retain a professional Tribal Monitor procured by the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FBTMI) to observe the first (5) days of ground-disturbing activities which include excavating, digging and/or trenching. Tribal Monitoring Services will continue until all (5) days, consecutive or non-consecutive, of ground-disturbing activities are completed. If the project’s scheduled activities require the Tribal Monitor to leave the project for a period of time and return, confirmation shall be submitted to the Tribe by SCV Water, in writing, upon completion of each set of scheduled activities and a minimum of 48 hours’ notice shall be submitted to the Tribe by SCV Water, in writing, prior to recommencement. If cultural resources are encountered, the Tribal Monitor will have the authority to request ground disturbing activities cease within 60-feet of the discovery to assess and document potential finds in real time. A qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards shall also assess the find.</p> <p>Should the find be deemed significant, as defined by CEQA (as amended, 2015), SCV Water shall retain a professional Tribal Monitor procured by the FTBMI to observe all remaining ground-disturbing activities including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, excavating, digging, trenching, plowing, drilling, tunneling, quarrying, leveling, driving posts, auguring, blasting, stripping topsoil or similar activity, and archaeological work.</p>	<p>Retain a Tribal Monitor to monitor the initial 5 days of ground-disturbing activities within the project site and document unanticipated finds.</p>	<p>During construction.</p>	<p>First 5 days of groundbreacking</p>	<p>SCV Water</p>			

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<b>TCR-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources</b>							
SCV Water shall, in good faith, consult with the FTBMI on the disposition and treatment of any Tribal Cultural Resource encountered during all ground disturbing activities.	Consult with FTBMI upon discovery of unanticipated tribal cultural resources.	During construction.	As needed	SCV Water			
<b>TCR-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains</b>							
If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and that code shall be enforced for the duration of the project. Inadvertent discoveries of human remains and/or funerary object(s) are subject to California State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and the subsequent disposition of those discoveries shall be decided by the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), as determined by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), should those findings be determined as Native American in origin.	Require in the construction contract that work be halted in the immediate area of unanticipated human remains or funerary objects, and that the contractor notify SCV Water of the find immediately.	Prior to start of construction	Once	SCV Water			
	Contact the County Coroner if human remains or funerary objects are encountered.	During construction	As needed				



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