

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST FORM
CITY OF PASO ROBLES**

1. PROJECT TITLE: City of Paso Robles Tertiary Treatment Facilities Project

2. LEAD AGENCY: City of Paso Robles

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3. PROJECT LOCATION:

3200 Sulphur Springs Road in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California.

4. GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:

Public Facility/Salinas River Overlay (refer to Figure 3)

5. ZONING:

Commercial/Light Industrial (refer to Figure 4)

6. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Paso Robles (City) proposes to construct Tertiary Treatment Facilities (project) at its existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), as described in detail below. The WWTP property consists of four parcels (Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 008-021-006, 008-051-002, 008-051-004, and 008-051-026) totaling approximately 69 acres, located at 3200 Sulphur Springs Road in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, California. The property is developed with approximately 52 acres of existing WWTP facilities. The project impact area (PIA) associated with the proposed project encompasses approximately 341,375.8 square feet (7.84 acres) within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP.

The City owns, maintains, and operates the 4.9 million gallons per day (mgd) advanced secondary WWTP permitted under Waste Discharge Requirements Order No. R3-2011-0002 and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CA0047953. These Orders permit operation of the WWTP and the discharge of treated wastewater into the Salinas River. Current flows treated at the WWTP average 2.7 mgd. Approximately 3,300 acre-feet per year (afy) of treated effluent from the WWTP is currently discharged into the Salinas River system.

The City currently relies mostly on groundwater to supply treated water to its customers. Persistent drought conditions in California have resulted in depressed groundwater basin levels in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, especially in the Estrella Subarea, which is immediately beneath and to the east of the city. The City has greatly reduced its per capita demand for water through water conservation programs, but additional measures are needed to restore balance to the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. The use of recycled water is an important and integral component of the City's long-term water management plan, including use of recycled water for irrigation, other non-potable water uses, and basin recharge. The proposed WWTP facilities would produce tertiary 2.2 quality recycled water, as defined by California's Title 22 recycled water regulations, to provide for recycling of some or all of the water currently being discharged to the Salinas River in an effort to support the use of recycled water and facilitate groundwater recharge in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin.

Project Objectives

The City has the following objectives for the proposed project:

- Upgrade the wastewater treatment facilities to produce tertiary 2.2 quality recycled water, as defined by California's Title 22 recycled water regulations, to provide for recycling of some or all of the water, instead of discharging it to the Salinas River;
- Improve the quality of water the City discharges to the Salinas River, so that the City is prepared to comply with any more stringent discharge requirements prescribed by the State of California;
- Advance goals identified in the City's Water Resources Plan Integration and Capital Improvement Program (February 2007);
- Help with the City's compliance with the State of California 20 by 2020 Water Conservation Requirements; and,
- Implement the City's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (2011a), which forecasts recycled water for direct uses within the city and potential uses outside the city (users are currently pumping groundwater for irrigation).

Existing Facilities

The 52-acre WWTP is located on the northern end of Paso Robles, bordered by U.S. Highway 101 (US 101) to the west and the Salinas River to the east (refer to Figures 1 and 2). The WWTP property is designated as Public Facility/Salinas River Overlay in the City of Paso Robles General Plan and is zoned Commercial/Light Industrial (refer to Figures 3 and 4). The WWTP was first built in 1954 and was expanded and upgraded with additional clarifiers and rock trickling filters in 1972. In the mid-1980s, the WWTP was expanded to include additional trickling filter and clarifier capacity and chlorination facilities. In 2009, the City initiated a comprehensive upgrade to allow compliance with State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) discharge requirements. These improvements included replacement of the trickling filter treatment process with activated sludge process configured for biological nutrient removal; improvements to ancillary processes; generation of electricity with biogas, equipment, and facilities for the receipt of septage; and construction of an effluent polishing channel mimicking a creek, that discharges into the Salinas River. Construction of these improvements is scheduled to be completed in fall 2015.

Proposed Facilities

The proposed project includes the addition of cloth media filtration and ultraviolet (UV) disinfection facilities, which would produce up to 4.9 mgd of tertiary 2.2 quality recycled water for unrestricted reuse. In the time period of 1 to 10 years after completion of the project, up to approximately 650 afy (or less than 20% of the annual volume that is currently discharged to the Salinas River) may be diverted from the secondary clarifiers in the existing treatment system (which currently discharges to the Salinas River), to the tertiary treatment system in the WWTP to be recycled. After 10 years, the percentage of wastewater discharged to the river would gradually decrease, depending on the growth of demand for recycled water. Within approximately 20 years, up to 90% of the annual volume of wastewater treated by the City may be recycled. The existing polishing channel would remain in place to allow for continued permitted discharge of treated wastewater into the Salinas River when the plant influent flow is greater than the recycled water demand or during the wet season when there is no demand for recycled water.

The demand for recycled water is expected to grow in stages. Therefore, the project would be designed as a 3.7 mgd recycled water facility for initial operation, expandable to the ultimate maximum month flow of 4.9 mgd. The primary project components would consist of a flow diversion box, flow equalization tanks, cloth media filtration, UV disinfection, a recycled water pump station, and a recycled water storage pond.

Each of the proposed facilities is described below and shown in Figures 5 and 6.

- *Flow Diversion Box.* A new flow diversion box would be utilized to hydraulically connect the secondary clarifiers to the tertiary treatment facilities. The flow division box would be a partially buried concrete structure (approximately 12 feet long, 9 feet wide, and 10 feet deep) adjacent to the existing secondary clarifiers.
- *Flow Equalization Tanks.* Two existing circular secondary clarifiers, which were previously planned to be demolished under the previous WWTP Upgrade Project, would be converted to flow equalization tanks. The repurposed facility would consist of two 65-foot-diameter circular concrete basins. The two concrete basins would provide an equalization capacity up to 497,000 gallons for the tertiary treatment system.
- *Cloth Media Filtration.* High rate cloth media filtration technology has been selected for the filtration process. A new concrete structure would be constructed to house the three filter units, and provide space for backwash pumps and associated piping. The new structure would be approximately 57 feet wide by 27 feet long and 11 feet deep.
- *UV Disinfection.* UV disinfection technology has been selected for the disinfection process as this technology is capable of providing disinfection without potential formation of stringently regulated disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The UV system would be configured with two concrete channels to house the UV lamp modules. The entire UV facility, including the concrete channels, UV control, cleaning equipment, UV module lifting crane, and other accessories, would be enclosed within a metal building (approximately 80 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet above finished grade) on the north or west side of the existing chlorine contact basins.
- *Recycled Water Pump Station.* A new recycled water pump station would be required to transfer the recycled water from the WWTP to the distribution system. The pump station would be a partially buried concrete structure (approximately 44 feet long, 22 feet wide, and 13 feet deep) with four vertical turbine pumps, and provisions for two more pumps to be added in the future.
- *Recycled Water Storage Pond.* A new recycled water storage pond with a storage volume of 0.852 million gallons would be provided to balance the recycled water demand and the plant effluent flow. The pond would be constructed in the existing WWTP Pond No. 1 area lined with a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) geo-membrane system.

Construction

Construction activities for the proposed project would be limited to the Project Impact Area (PIA), which is shown on Figure 2. The total area of the PIA is 341,375.8-square-foot (7.84-acre) and accounts for all project impacts, including permanent facilities, and temporary impacts from staging and laydown of materials. At the time of this analysis, the PIA has almost entirely disturbed as a result of approved project activities associated with the WWTP Upgrade Project. Those areas that have not been disturbed by the WWTP Upgrade, but may be impacted from the proposed project, are limited to areas of low quality ruderal habitat and areas that are already developed (paved, etc.).

The total area of disturbance associated with the development of the proposed facilities would be 73,981 square feet (1.7 acres), including a total of 3,065 cubic yards of cut and 155 cubic yards of fill, as shown on Figure 5. The construction phase would require the import of approximately 750 cubic yards of soil, resulting in approximately 50 round trips. The project would not require dismantling or removal of any major structures or equipment. Less than 50 cubic yards of demolished yard piping would be hauled offsite, requiring two round trips to an approved landfill.

The proposed project would result in the disturbance of approximately 10,000 square feet in the area between the existing chlorine contact basins and clarifiers to construct the cloth media filtration structure and UV disinfection building, and installation and replacement of piping. An approximately 95-foot-long retaining wall would be required along the backside of the UV building to accommodate the grade changes. For the cloth media filtration structure, approximately 1,090 cubic yards of cut and 50 cubic yards of fill would be required. For the UV building, approximately 1,975 cubic yards of cut and 105 cubic yards of fill would be required. There would be approximately 60,000 square feet of disturbance near WWTP Pond No. 1 for the construction of the recycled water pump station and recycled water storage pond to be constructed. All proposed project components are shown on Figure 5.

Minimal new paving would be required, as most areas of disturbance would be outside of the pavement placed during construction in 2014–2015. Minimal vegetation removal may be required at the ponds where the storage facilities and recycled water pump station would be located and where the cloth media filters and the UV building would be located. Typical plant species observed within these ruderal areas include short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), prickly-lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), white sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), rancher's fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*), yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), and hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*).

Construction of the tertiary treatment facilities would commence in approximately 2017 and extend 12 months, to be completed by approximately 2018. During construction, the existing WWTP operation would continue at all times, 24 hours a day, except for scheduled shutdowns for tie-in of the new facilities. The construction work would be conducted in a manner that would not impair the operational capabilities of the existing facilities. Equipment used during this approximately 52-week phase would consist of backhoes, excavators, concrete crusher, dump trucks, bull dozer, high lift crane, flatbed delivery trucks, asphalt pavers, vibratory compactors, water trucks, concrete trucks, and various passenger vehicles.

Operation

The proposed improvements would facilitate production of tertiary 2.2 quality recycled water, suitable for use on public lands such as parks, golf courses, agricultural lands, and for other non-potable uses. The proposed tertiary treatment facilities would not increase the potential for odor formation at the WWTP. As discussed previously, during operation, the proposed project would facilitate a gradual reduction of wastewater volume that is currently discharged to the Salinas River, effectively reducing the quantity of discharge by approximately 20% during the first 10 years and by up to 90% during the first 20 years following completion of construction activities to be recycled.

The impact of this reduced volume of discharge to the river would be offset by the reduced need to pump groundwater, which contributes base flow to the river. Increasing recycled water use could also minimize the need to import surface water from Lake Nacimiento. Reduced discharge of wastewater to the Salinas River would generally improve the water quality of the river, especially with regards to salts (sodium, chloride, etc.) and nutrients (nitrate, phosphorus, etc.). Spreading recycled water over a large land area is a best practice for managing the salt and nutrients contained in treated wastewater/recycled water. In some cases, users of recycled water may utilize the residual nutrients in recycled water for fertigation, which can reduce the need for application of supplemental fertilizer.

The WWTP is currently operated by nine on-site employees. Operation of the proposed project is expected to require two to three additional employees. Implementation of this project is not expected to create a significant increase in traffic during plant operations.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

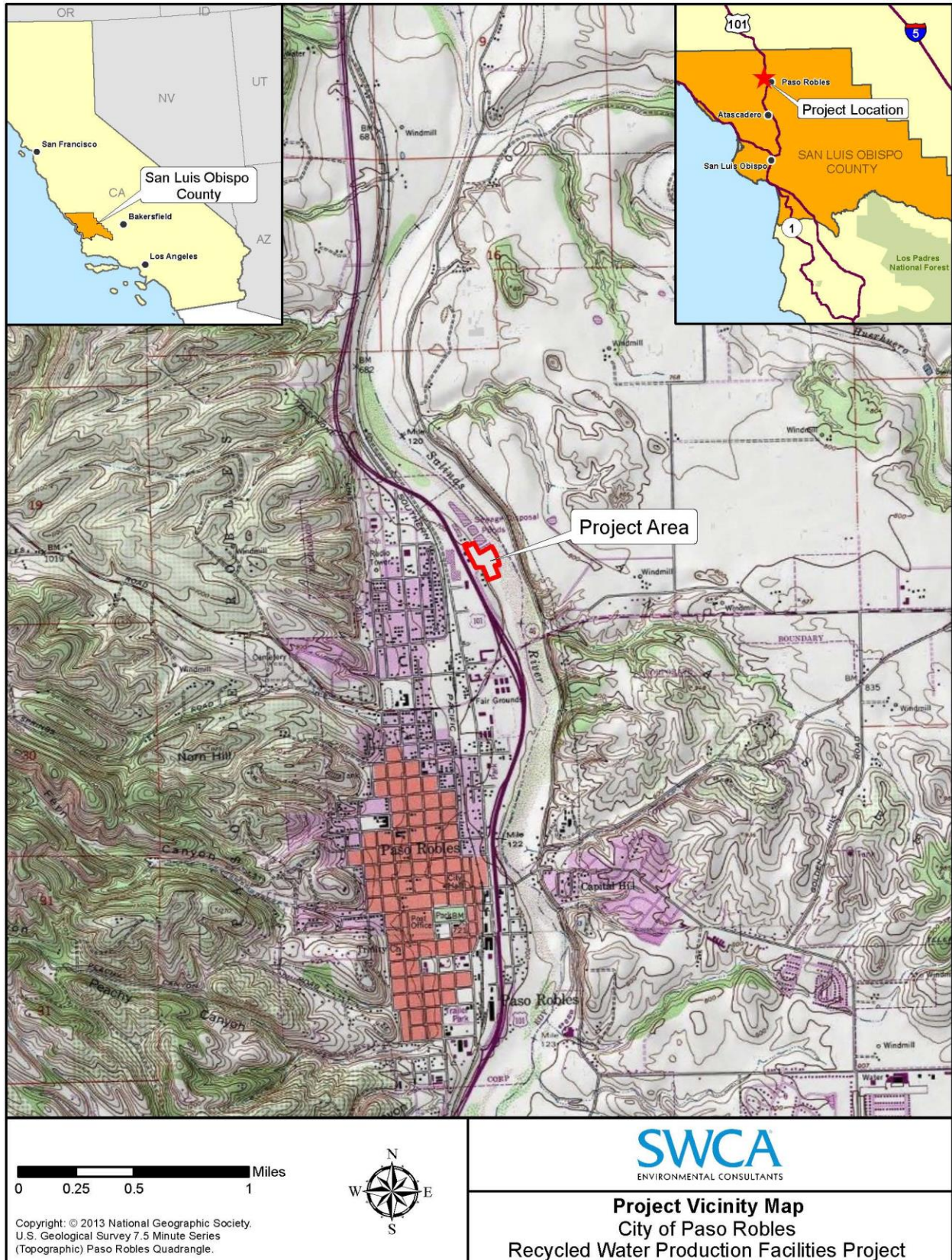


Figure 2. Project Location Map



Figure 3. Land Use Category Map

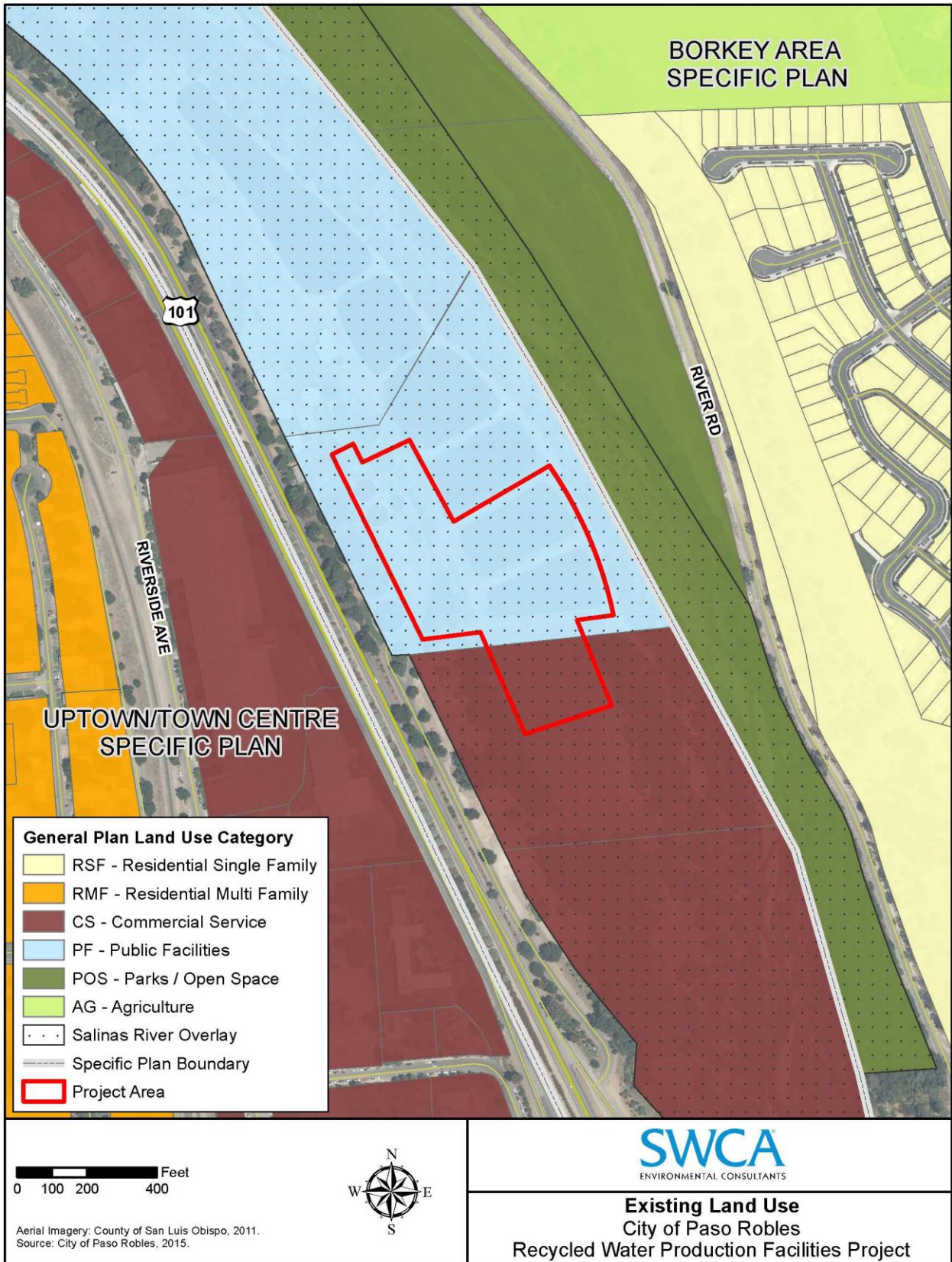


Figure 4. Zoning Map

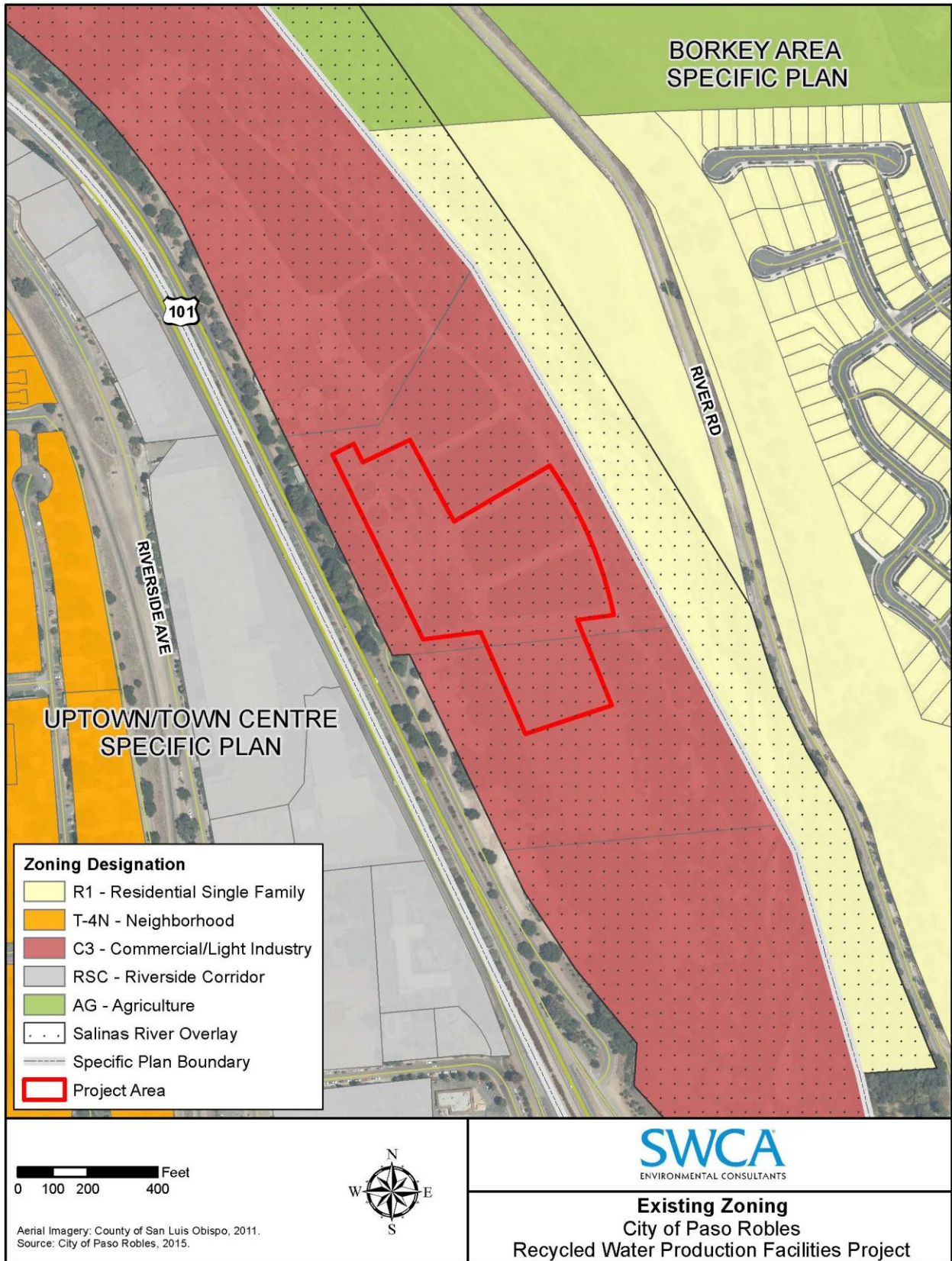


Figure 5. Proposed Facilities

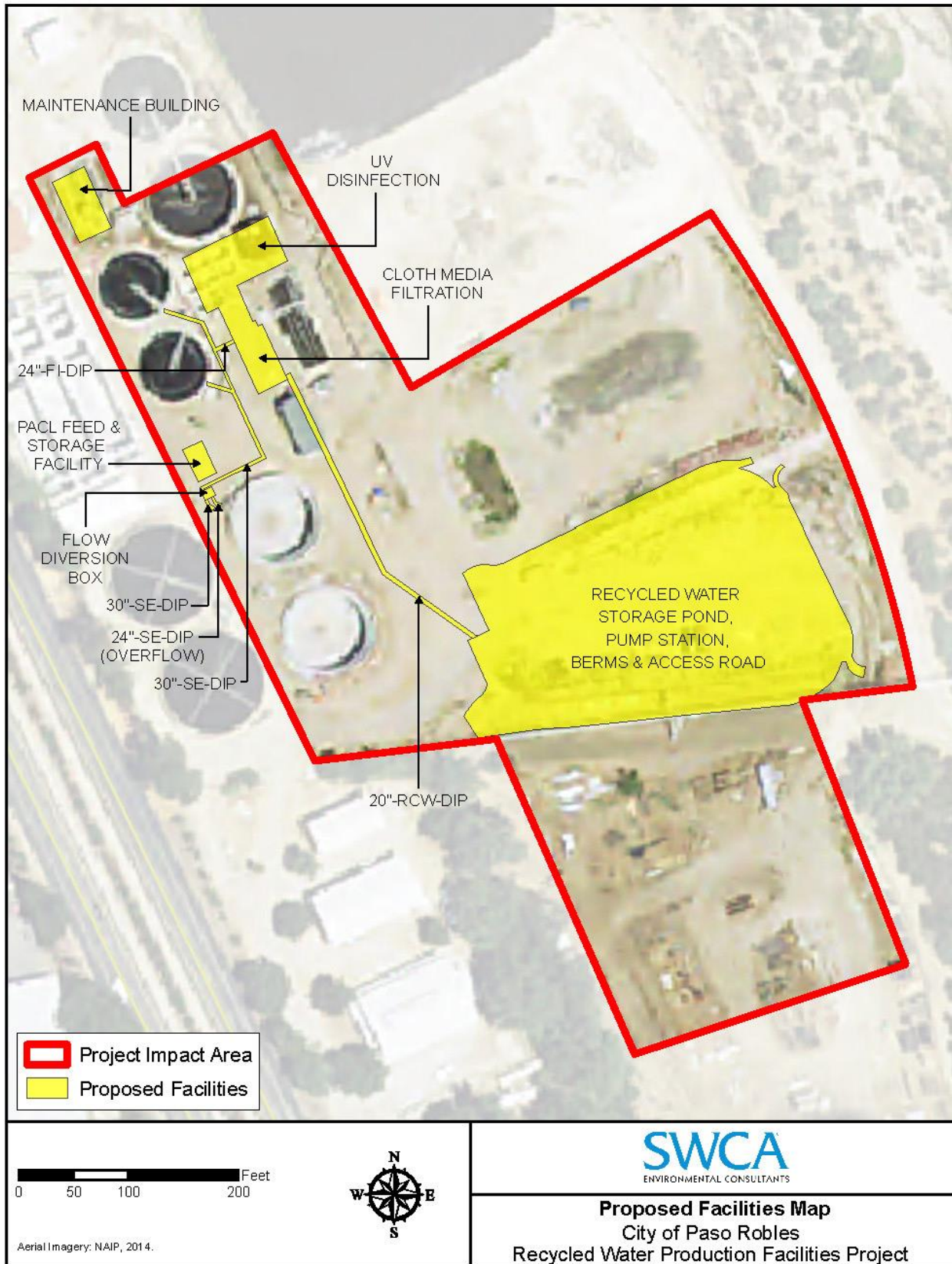


Figure 6. Project Impact Area

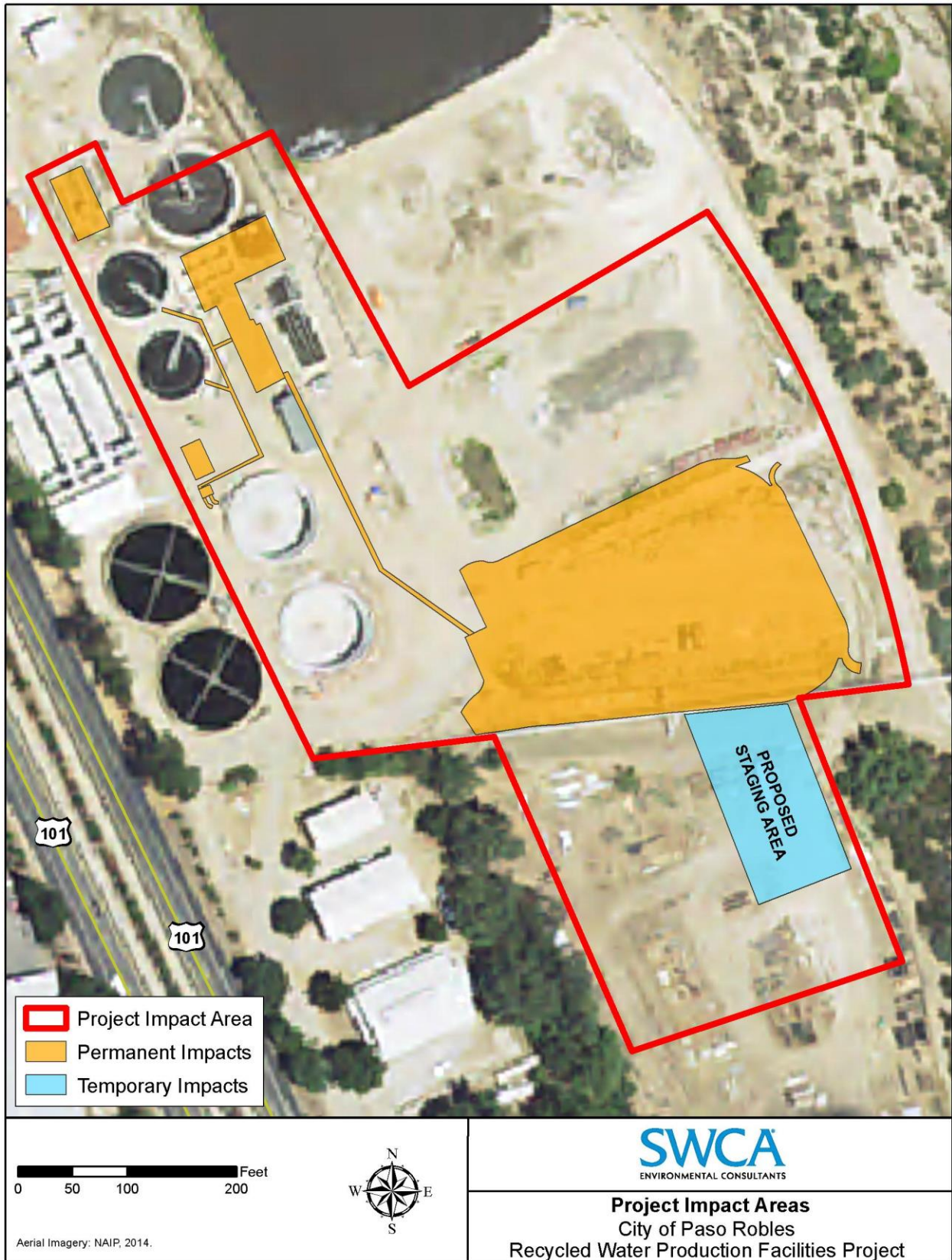


Figure 7. Habitat Map



7. SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING:

Surrounding uses include commercial and residential areas to the west and open areas associated with the riparian corridor of the Salinas River to the south, north and east.

8. OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (e.g., PERMITS, FINANCING APPROVAL OR PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT):

Additional subsequent approvals and other permits that may be required from local, regional, state, and federal agencies are identified below:

- City of Paso Robles for approval of grading/building permits
- State Water Resources Control Board

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION: (to be completed by the lead agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved. Answers should address off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. “Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from “Earlier Analyses,” as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project impact area (PIA) is currently developed with the existing WWTP facilities. The 52-acre WWTP is located on the northern end of the city of Paso Robles, bordered by US 101 to the west and the Salinas River to the east. The WWTP is accessed from Sulphur Springs Road. Areas to the north and south of the WWTP consist of level-to-steeply sloping areas of open space. The Salinas River lies approximately 250 feet to the east of the PIA. The immediate area consists of US 101, commercial developments, and open space associated with the Salinas River.

The primary new project components would consist of a flow diversion box, flow equalization tanks, cloth media filtration, UV disinfection, a recycled water pump station, and a recycled water storage pond. These proposed facilities would be designed consistent with the surrounding WWTP facilities and would be similar in height, structure, materials, and color and would be constructed within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP. Any additional lighting that would be required for the new facilities would be consistent with the existing lighting at the site and would have full cutoff hoods to minimize the potential for light pollution.

Views of the PIA are partially screened by existing vegetation along the east shoulder of the northbound lanes of US 101. Views of the WWTP as seen from River Road are screened by existing vegetation along the Salinas River corridor. Because the proposed project would not significantly change the appearance of the existing WWTP, the proposed project is considered compatible with the surrounding uses. The project would not have a significant impact on a scenic vista because the site is located below the grade of US 101 and would not interfere with scenic views of the Salinas River or distant ridges. The proposed project would not significantly alter the existing visual character at the property; therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

US 101 is currently classified by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as an “Eligible State Scenic Highway – Not Currently Designated” (Caltrans 2015). All project components and construction activities would be located on ground that is already disturbed and developed within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP. No rock outcroppings or unique geologic features would be affected. Construction of the project, as well as staging areas adjacent to Sulphur Springs Road, would be partially visible from the northbound lanes of US 101 and the northbound US 101 onramp; views would be partially blocked by existing vegetation. Visual impacts associated with the presence of construction equipment at the PIA would be limited to the construction phase of the proposed project and would be temporary and minor in nature. Long-term visual impacts associated with the development of the new permanent facilities would be consistent with the existing visual character of the WWTP property; therefore, impacts are expected to be less

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
than significant.				
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

The existing visual character of the site ranges from urban/industrial near US 101, to rural/agricultural within and northeast of the Salinas River. The PIA is currently developed with the existing WWTP. The existing facilities include the operations building, equipment and facilities for the receipt of septage, an effluent polishing channel, headworks (preliminary treatment with screening and aerated grit chambers), two primary clarifier tanks, secondary treatment with two plastic media and two rock media trickling filters, four secondary clarifiers, and disinfection by sodium hypochlorite. Solids are treated with three digesters, belt press facilities, and concrete drying beds.

The primary project components would consist of a flow diversion box, flow equalization tanks, cloth media filtration, UV disinfection, a recycled water pump station, and a recycled water storage pond. Based on the urban character of the area, these facility additions would not be visually inconsistent with the setting. During construction activities, the presence of equipment and materials would affect the visual character of the property; however, construction areas would be partially screened from view by existing vegetation and impacts would be temporary. Operation of the proposed project would be consistent with the existing visual character of the site which is already developed with the WWTP facility. Impacts to the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings are expected to be less than significant.

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? (Sources: 1, 2, 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion:

The existing WWTP facilities are a source of light and glare in the project area. The proposed project could contribute additional light and glare to the site with the development of the additional facilities. Generation of new lighting would increase the potential for glare visible from US 101 and adjacent areas. Measures to reduce light and glare, such as downcast hooded and shielded light fixtures, would be implemented to reduce this impact to be less than significant.

- AES-1: Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall develop an exterior lighting plan, which shall include the height, location, and intensity of all proposed exterior lighting. All light poles, fixtures, and hoods shall be dark (non-reflective) colored. Lighting shall be designed to eliminate any off-site glare. All exterior site lights shall utilize full cut-off, "hooded" lighting fixtures to prevent off-site light spillage and glare.

Finding. Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, potential impacts to aesthetic and visual resources would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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 Department 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 the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Discussion:

The project site is currently occupied by the existing WWTP; no agricultural uses occur onsite. Underlying soils include Hanford and Greenfield gravelly sandy loams (2 to 9 percent slopes), Still clay loam (2 to 9 percent slopes), and Xerofluvents-Riverwash association. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) does not rate the project site as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, Farmland of Local Potential, or Grazing Land (California Department of Conservation 2012). The project site is designated as Urban and Built-Up Land based on the Important Farmland Map for San Luis Obispo County (California Department of Conservation 2012). Therefore, no impact to important farmland would occur.

- b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Discussion:

The project site is not zoned for agricultural use within San Luis Obispo County and is not under Williamson Act contract. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

- 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))?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

The project site and surrounding areas are not zoned for forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

There are no existing forest lands located on the project site or in the vicinity of the site. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project would not encroach upon or convert any active farmland or existing forest land on the project site or in the project vicinity. The proposed project would divert up to 650 acre-feet per year (afy) of treated wastewater into the tertiary treatment facilities (as opposed to discharging this water into the Salinas River) during the first ten years after project completion and up to 90% of the annual volume of wastewater treated by the City within 20 years. This water would be available for irrigation, thus, potentially reducing the use of treated potable water and pumped groundwater for irrigation use. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts to agriculture and forest resources would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? (Source: 11) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The 2001 Clean Air Plan (CAP) includes land use management strategies to guide decision makers on land use approaches that result in improved air quality (San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District [APCD] 2001). Implementation of the proposed project is not anticipated to conflict with the 2001 CAP because the project is limited to improvement of the existing WWTP to provide an additional source of recycled water for irrigation purposes. Proposed improvements would not increase population predictions estimated in the CAP for the city of Paso Robles. Construction of the

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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proposed project would temporarily increase the number of vehicle trips for the 12-month duration of the proposed construction phase. Operation of the proposed project would require approximately two to three additional employees; however, implementation of the project is not expected to create a significant increase in vehicle trips or traffic during plant operations. The project is located within an urban area, and would address existing demands for wastewater treatment. Due to the nature of the project, the proposed land use of the site would not change or require transportation control measures. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? (Source: 11)

Discussion:

San Luis Obispo County is a non-attainment area for the state standards for ozone and suspended particulate matter. The APCD administers a permit system to ensure that stationary sources do not collectively create emissions, which would cause local and state standards to be exceeded. Implementation of the proposed project has the potential to generate emissions during construction of the project (short-term emissions) and during operation of the proposed facilities (long-term emissions).

SHORT-TERM EMISSIONS

Heavy equipment and earth-moving construction activities generate fugitive dust and combustion emissions. These may have substantial temporary impacts on local air quality. Fugitive dust emissions would result from land clearing, demolition, ground excavation, cut and fill activities, and equipment traffic over temporary roads at the WWTP. Combustion emissions, such as nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and particulate matter less than or equal to 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀), are most significant when using large diesel fueled scrapers, loaders, bulldozers, haul trucks, compressors, generators, and other types of equipment. As discussed previously, construction of the proposed project would include the use of backhoes, excavators, a concrete crusher, dump trucks, a bulldozer, a high lift crane, flatbed delivery trucks, asphalt pavers, vibratory compactors, water trucks, concrete trucks, and various passenger vehicles, which could generate combustion emissions.

Estimated construction air emissions were calculated for the proposed project using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod). The results of the CalEEMod are included in Appendix A. The results of the unmitigated estimated construction emission calculations for the proposed project are shown in Table 1 below. It should be noted that the results are based on conservative estimations provided by the City and by the CalEEMod defaults; therefore, it is possible that actual project construction emissions may vary based on the finalized design and construction plans.

Potentially Significant Impact
 Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
 Less Than Significant Impact
 No Impact

Table 1. CalEEMod Results: Estimated Construction Emissions (Unmitigated)

Pollutant	APCD Threshold Daily (lbs/day)	APCD Threshold Quarterly Tier 1 (tons/quarter)	APCD Threshold Quarterly Tier 2 (tons/quarter)	Estimated Construction Emissions (Unmitigated) ¹	
				Project Maximum Daily Emission ² (lbs/day)	Project Quarterly Emission (tons/quarter)
ROG* + NO _x (combined)	137 lbs	2.5 tons	6.3 tons	67.97 lbs	0.91 tons
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	7 lbs	0.13 tons	0.32 tons	6.34 lbs	0.08 tons
Carbon monoxide (CO)	--	--	--	55.45 lbs	--
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀), Dust ³	--	2.5 tons	--	8.02 lbs	0.07 tons

¹ Construction emissions are estimated based on information from the City as well as the defaults used by CalEEMod. These are conservative estimations and may not be accurate based on the final design and construction plans for the proposed project.

² Showing Maximum Daily Emission from construction year 2017.

³ No APCD threshold identified for construction emissions.

⁴Any project with a grading area greater than 4.0 acres of worked area can exceed the 2.5 ton PM₁₀ quarterly threshold.

*ROG = reactive organic gases.

Source: CalEEMod 2015.

Based on the results shown in Table 1, even under the worst-case scenario conditions, construction air emissions would be in compliance with the APCD thresholds for all pollutants during construction year 2017. Descriptions of the pollutants are provided below.

Combustion Emissions (ROG and NO_x)

Combustion emissions are most significant when using large diesel-fueled scrapers, loaders, bulldozers, haul trucks, compressors, generators, and other heavy equipment. Emissions can vary substantially from day to day, depending on the level of activity and the specific type of operation. Reactive organic gases (ROG) and NO_x are the critical pollutants caused by construction work because of the high output of these pollutants by heavy diesel equipment normally used in grading operations. Based on proposed grading estimates, construction emissions would not result in an exceedance of significance thresholds for ROG or NO_x (refer to Table 1). All equipment used for the construction of the proposed project would meet the APCD tier 2 standard or better to ensure construction activities would not exceed the APCD threshold for ROG and NO_x.

Diesel Particulate Matter

Although construction activities would not exceed daily thresholds for diesel particulate matter, the proposed project would occur in a developed area with existing single-family residences located approximately 800 feet to the immediate east, resulting in the potential for exposure to humans from diesel particulate matter. Implementation of standard APCD measures would mitigate this impact.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Materials Containing Asbestos

The project would not require dismantling or removal of any major structures or equipment. Less than 50 cubic yards of demolished yard piping would be hauled offsite, requiring two round-trips to an approved landfill. Equipment used during this approximately 52-week phase would consist of backhoes, excavators, a concrete crusher, dump trucks, a bulldozer, a high lift crane, flatbed delivery trucks, asphalt pavers, vibratory compactors, water trucks, concrete trucks, and various passenger vehicles. The possibility exists that the demolished yard piping could include asbestos-containing building materials or other hazardous building materials. Demolition and remodeling activities are subject to the requirements stipulated in the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40CFR61, Subpart M - asbestos NESHAP). These requirements include but are not limited to: 1) notification requirements to the APCD, 2) asbestos survey conducted by a Certified Asbestos Inspector, and, 3) applicable removal and disposal requirements of identified asbestos-containing material (ACM). Implementation of these mitigation measures would ensure that construction activities do not result in significant impacts associated with exposure to asbestos-containing materials.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) have been identified as a toxic air contaminant by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Under the CARB Airborne Toxics Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations, prior to any grading activities, a geologic evaluation should be conducted to determine if NOA is present within the area that will be disturbed. If NOA is not present, an exemption request must be filed with the APCD. If NOA is found at the site, the City must comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM. This may include development of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan and an Asbestos Health and Safety Program for approval by the APCD.

Based on Technical Appendix 4.4 of the APCD’s CEQA Handbook, which indicates APCD Naturally Occurring Asbestos Zones within San Luis Obispo County, the PIA is within Urban and Village Reserve (URL/VRL) Boundaries in an area where NOA has been found and geological evaluation is required prior to any grading (APCD 2012). Therefore, compliance with the Asbestos ATCM and standard APCD mitigation would apply.

Fugitive Dust

Heavy equipment performing construction activities would generate fugitive dust, resulting in substantial temporary impacts. Fugitive dust emissions would result from land clearing; excavation, and equipment traffic over temporary dirt roads. Impacts from fugitive dust emissions would be significant because they could potentially cause a public nuisance or exacerbate the existing PM₁₀ non-attainment status in the northern areas of the county, including the city; therefore, standard dust control mitigation measures are included to ensure that impacts to sensitive receptors are less than significant.

LONG-TERM EMISSIONS

Estimated operational air emissions were calculated for the proposed project using the CalEEMod. The results of the CalEEMod are included in Appendix A. The results of the unmitigated estimated operational emission calculations for the proposed project are shown in Table 2 below. It should be noted that the results are based on conservative estimations provided by the City and by the CalEEMod defaults; therefore, it is possible that project operation emissions may vary based on the

Potentially Significant Impact **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** **Less Than Significant Impact** **No Impact**

finalized design and construction plans.

The threshold criteria established by the APCD to determine the significance and appropriate mitigation level for long-term operational emissions (i.e., vehicular and area source emissions) from the project are presented in Table 2. Emissions that equal or exceed the designated threshold levels are considered potentially significant and should be mitigated. As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the level of analysis and mitigation recommended follows a tiered approach, based on the overall amount of emissions generated by the project. For projects requiring air quality mitigation, the APCD has developed a list of both standard and discretionary mitigation strategies tailored to the type of project being proposed (i.e., residential, commercial, or industrial).

Table 2. CalEEMod Results: Estimated Operational Emissions (Unmitigated)

Pollutant	APCD Threshold Daily (lbs/day)	APCD Threshold Annual (tons/year)	Estimated Operation Emissions (Unmitigated) ¹	
			Project Maximum Daily Emission ² (lbs/day)	Project Annual Emission (tons/year)
ROG + NO _x (combined)	25 lbs	25 tons	5.71 lbs	0.92 tons
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	1.25 lbs	--	.01 lbs	.001 tons
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	550 lbs	--	6.52 lbs	0.75 tons
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀), Dust ³	25 lbs	25 tons	.001 lbs	.0001 tons

¹ Construction emissions are estimated based on information from the City as well as the defaults used by CalEEMod. These are conservative estimations and may not be accurate based on the final design and construction plans for the proposed project.

² Showing Maximum Daily Emission from operational year 2018.

Source: CalEEMod 2015.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS

Based on the results shown in Table 2, even under the worst-case scenario conditions, operational air emissions would be in compliance with the APCD thresholds for all pollutants during operational year 2018. Operational emissions and activities are not anticipated to create a nuisance for surrounding sensitive receptors. Therefore, operational impacts would be less than significant and mitigation measures are not required for long-term operational emissions associated with the proposed project.

- AQ-1: Prior to issuance of construction permits, the following measures shall be incorporated into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable plans. All of the following measures shall be implemented during construction of the proposed project.

Construction Equipment

- a. Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications;
- b. Fuel all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, including but not

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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limited to bulldozers, graders, cranes, loaders, scrapers, backhoes, generator sets, compressors, and auxiliary power units with California Air Resources Board-certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road);

- c. Maximize, to the extent feasible, the use of diesel construction equipment meeting the California Air Resources Board’s Tier 2 certified engines or cleaner off-road, heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State Off-Road Regulation;
- d. Use on-road, heavy-duty trucks that meet the California Air Resources Board’s 2007 or cleaner certification standard for on-road, heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State On-Road Regulation;
- e. Construction or trucking companies with fleets that do not have engines in their fleet that meet the engine standards identified in the above two measures (i.e., captive or nitrogen oxide [NOx]-exempt area fleets) may be eligible by proving alternative compliance;
- f. All on- and off-road diesel equipment shall not idle for more than 5 minutes. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and or job sites to remind drivers and operators of the 5-minute idling limit;
- g. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors shall be avoided to the maximum extent feasible;
- h. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors to the maximum extent feasible;
- i. Electrify equipment when feasible;
- j. Substitute gasoline-powered in place of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible; and,
- k. Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on-site where feasible, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane or biodiesel.

Diesel Idling Restrictions for Construction Phases

The following idle-restricting measures shall be required for the construction phase of the proposed project near sensitive receptors for both on- and off-road equipment:

- a. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors, to the maximum extent feasible;
- b. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors shall be prohibited to the maximum extent feasible;
- c. Use of alternative fueled equipment is recommended whenever possible; and,
- d. Signs that specify the no idling requirements must be posted and enforced at the construction site.

The following idle-restricting measures shall be required for the construction phase of the proposed project for on-road vehicles.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Section 2485 of Title 13, the California Code of Regulations limits diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles that operate in the State of California with gross vehicular weight ratings of greater than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:

- a. Shall not idle the vehicle’s primary diesel engine for greater than 5 minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,
- b. Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 100 feet of a restricted area, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,
- c. Signs must be posted in the designated queuing areas and job site to remind driver of the 5 minute idling limit.

The following idle restricting measures shall be required for the construction phases of the proposed project for off-road equipment.

- a. Off-road diesel equipment shall comply with the 5-minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(d)(3) of the California Air Resources Board’s In-Use Off-Road Diesel regulation:
www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/ordiesl07/frooal.pdf; and,
- b. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and job sites to remind off-road equipment operators of the 5-minute idling limit.

Naturally Occurring Asbestos and Asbestos Material in Demolition

- a. Prior to demolition or relocation of existing structures or pipes, the Construction Contractor shall comply with the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40CFR61, Subpart M – asbestos NESHAP). These requirements include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Written notification, within at least 10 business days of activities commencing, to the APCD;
 - 2. Asbestos survey conducted by a Certified Asbestos Consultant; and,
 - 3. Applicable removal and disposal requirements of identified asbestos-containing material (ACM).
- b. Prior to ground disturbance and construction, the Construction Contractor shall ensure a geologic evaluation is conducted to determine if the area disturbed is exempt from the Air Resources Board Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations (93105). If the site is not exempt from the ATCM requirements, the Construction Contractor shall comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM, which may include development of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan and an Asbestos Health and Safety Program for approval by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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AQ-2: Prior to ground disturbance, construction plans shall include the following notes, and the contractor shall comply with the following standard mitigation measures for reducing fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District’s 20% opacity limit (San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Rule 401) and do not impact off-site areas prompting nuisance violations (San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Rule 402) as follows:

- a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible;
- b. Use water trucks, or sprinkler systems, or a San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District-approved dust suppressant in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph). Recycled (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
- c. All dirt stockpile areas should be sprayed daily as needed;
- d. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible, following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
- e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive, grass seed and watered until vegetation is established;
- f. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District;
- g. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;
- h. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114;
- i. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible; and,
- j. The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust off-site. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition.

AQ-3: Prior to ground disturbance and construction, the Construction Contractor shall obtain all required permits for the use of portable equipment, 50 horsepower or

Potentially Significant Impact **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** **Less Than Significant Impact** **No Impact**

greater, from the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. Upon application for construction permits, all required PM₁₀ measures shall be shown on all applicable grading or construction plans, and implemented during all applicable grading and construction activities.

With implementation of these mitigation measures, the estimated emissions associated with construction of the proposed project would be further reduced below established APCD thresholds and would ensure that potential impacts so sensitive receptors would be less than significant during construction of the proposed project. As shown in Table 3 below, mitigated construction emissions would be further reduced below the APCD thresholds.

Table 3. CalEEMod Results: Estimated Construction Emissions (Mitigated)

Pollutant	APCD Threshold Daily (lbs/day)	APCD Threshold Quarterly Tier 1 (tons/quarter)	APCD Threshold Quarterly Tier 2 (tons/quarter)	Estimated Construction Emissions (Unmitigated) ¹	
				Project Maximum Daily Emission ² (lbs/day)	Project Quarterly Emission (tons/quarter)
ROG* + NO _x (combined)	137 lbs	2.5 tons	6.3 tons	51.38 lbs	0.74 tons
Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM)	7 lbs	0.13 tons	0.32 tons	2.86 lbs	0.04 tons
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀), Dust ³	--	2.5 tons	--	4.66 lbs	0.06 tons

¹ Construction emissions are estimated based on information from the City as well as the defaults used by CalEEMod. These are conservative estimations and may not be accurate based on the final design and construction plans for the proposed project.

² Showing Maximum Daily Emission from construction year 2017.

³Any project with a grading area greater than 4.0 acres of worked area can exceed the 2.5 ton PM₁₀ quarterly threshold.

Source: CalEEMod 2015.

As shown in Table 3, with implementation of mitigation, impacts to air quality during construction would be less than significant.

- c. 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? (Source: 11)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

Refer to discussion under Impact III(b) above. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? (Source: 11) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project site is located approximately 800 feet from a residential area. As discussed above, construction and operation of the project would generate emissions including diesel particulate matter and fugitive dust. These emissions would not exceed APCD thresholds; however, due to the proximity of sensitive receptors, mitigation would be implemented to reduce the potential for a nuisance, and exposure to diesel particulate matter. With implementation of the mitigation measures provided under Impact III(b) above, potential impacts would be less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? (Source: 11) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

An odor characteristically has three significance thresholds. The first threshold is the detection threshold, which is the minimum amount of odor-free dilution air needed to prevent an individual from detecting the odor. The detection threshold is the point where an individual detects an odor; this threshold varies for each individual. The second threshold, the recognition threshold, occurs at lower dilutions (higher concentrations). At the recognition threshold, other odor parameters, such as odor character and relative pleasantness, are noticeable. The third threshold is called the annoyance threshold. The annoyance threshold is at or above the recognition threshold. At the annoyance threshold, people complain about an odor; this can even occur when the odor is pleasant. For example, a person passing by an industrial bakery or chocolate factory may experience the odor as pleasant; however, individuals living near these facilities and constantly subjected to the odor may consider it a nuisance. Based on the proposed tertiary level of treatment, implementation of the proposed project could not result in significant odors affecting the surrounding area. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

Finding. Implementation of mitigation measures identified above would ensure that potential impacts associated with air quality would be less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Discussion:

The WWTP is located at the northern end of the city, bordered by US 101 to the west and the Salinas River to the east. The existing WWTP facilities cover approximately 52 acres of the 69-acre property. Elevation of the WWTP is approximately 700 feet above msl. The proposed project includes the construction of new tertiary treatment facilities at the existing WWTP. New facilities that would be constructed within the WWTP site include a flow diversion box, flow equalization tanks, cloth media filtration, UV disinfection, a recycled water pump station, and a recycled water storage pond. All of the proposed facilities would be located within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP. The area of disturbance associated with the proposed facilities would result in approximately 73,981 square feet (1.7 acres) of permanent direct impacts within the 7.84-acre PIA. Indirect impacts would occur from the reduction in discharge of wastewater to the Salinas River. In the time period of one to 10 years after completion of the project, up to approximately 650 afy of wastewater may be diverted from the secondary clarifiers in the existing treatment system to the tertiary treatment system in the WWTP to be recycled. After 10 years, the percentage of wastewater discharged to the river would gradually decrease, depending on the growth of demand for recycled water. Within approximately 20 years, up to 90% of the annual volume of wastewater treated by the City may be recycled.

The biological study area (BSA) for this project encompasses approximately 17 acres, including the PIA and surrounding areas, and extends approximately one mile along the west bank of the Salinas River (refer to Figure 7). The BSA consists of landscaped/developed, ruderal, seasonal wetland, windrow, central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, central coast riparian scrub, and riverine plant communities. Of these plant communities, central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, and central coast riparian scrub are considered sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Soil types within the BSA include Hanford and Greenfield gravelly sandy loams (2–9 percent slopes), Still clay loam (2 to 9 percent slopes), and Xerofluvents-Riverwash association (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2015). The soils are well-drained and permeable.

Although adjacent habitats within the BSA may provide suitable habitat for a number of species, the proposed PIA is limited to approximately 7.84 acres within the developed footprint of the WWTP and contains no natural habitat features. Habitat types within the PIA are limited to landscaped/developed and ruderal habitat within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP (Figure 7). However, the eastern boundary of the PIA is adjacent to central coast arroyo willow riparian forest habitat, and the western boundary of the PIA is adjacent to oak woodland. Both of these habitat types provide suitable habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Descriptions of the habitat types located within the PIA are provided below.

METHODS

The PIA has been intensively surveyed and monitored over the last three years in support of the WWTP Upgrade Project. These surveys and monitoring events were conducted by SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) between 2012 and 2015, encompassed the entire BSA, including the PIA. Several previous surveys, including targeted special-status species surveys have been conducted within the BSA. These surveys included protocol-level surveys for least Bell’s vireo (SWCA 2012), pre-activity surveys for San Joaquin kit fox and California red-legged frog (2013),

Potentially Significant Impact **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** **Less Than Significant Impact** **No Impact**

and migratory bird surveys during the nesting season 15 March through 15 September (2013, 2014). A reconnaissance-level biological survey of the BSA was conducted on June 3, 2015 to survey for species and update information regarding the existing conditions. Table 4 summarizes survey efforts conducted by SWCA within the BSA.

Table 4. Survey tasks, dates, and personnel

Date	Surveyor(s)	Survey Task
2/19/2009	Jon Claxton, Fabio Fortunat, Sarah Millus, and Barrett Holland	General biological survey
5/13/2009	Jon Claxton, Fabio Fortunat, Sarah Millus, and Barrett Holland	General biological survey
7/8/2009	Jon Claxton, Fabio Fortunat, Sarah Millus, and Barrett Holland	General biological survey
07/19/2009	Dan Cordova	California red-legged frog pre-activity survey
8/10/2009	Jon Claxton, Fabio Fortunat, Sarah Millus, and Barrett Holland	General biological survey
4/20/2012–7/27/2012	Jackie Hancock	least Bell's vireo presence-absence surveys
3/15/2013	Jackie Hancock	San Joaquin kit fox pre-activity survey
4/04/2013–9/13/2013	Jackie Hancock	Breeding bird activity monitoring
3/7/2014–9/12/2014	Jackie Hancock	Breeding bird activity monitoring
6/3/2015	Jackie Hancock	General biological survey

Spring and summer field surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming period for all plant species determined to have the potential to occur within or immediately adjacent to the project work areas. No suitable habitat or special-status plant species were observed within the PIA during the survey efforts in 2009 or in 2015.

HABITAT TYPES

Landscaped/Developed

Landscaped/developed portions of the PIA occur primarily within the WWTP boundaries, along the east side of Sulphur Springs Road and at the entrance to the WWTP (refer to Figure 7). Landscaped trees observed throughout the PIA include Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*), London plane tree (*Platanus acerifolia*), myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*), oleander (*Nerium oleander*), white alder, pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), olive (*Olea europaea*), and Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). Other plants observed in the landscaped areas include English ivy (*Hedera helix*), periwinkle (*Vinca major*), and honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.). Landscaped and developed areas have limited wildlife habitat value other than roosting and nesting habitat for various bat, bird, and raptor species.

The majority of the direct impacts associated with construction and operation of the proposed project would occur within the landscaped/developed areas. This is not considered a natural habitat and is not considered suitable for special-status plants or animals. Due to the existing level of disturbance, project impacts to this area are not expected to be significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Ruderal

Ruderal vegetation is found in disturbed areas that have been significantly altered by construction, landscaping, or other types of land-clearing activities within the PIA. Plant species found within this habitat are typically introduced Mediterranean species that exhibit clinging seeds, adhesive stems, and rough leaves that assist their invasion and colonization of disturbed lands. Areas with ruderal vegetation within the PIA include the disked area located south of the WWTP ponds and the stockpile area located on the east side of Sulphur Springs Road (refer to Figure 7). The disked area is maintained regularly for non-native plant control and was historically used for agricultural purposes. Plant species observed in ruderal areas on the PIA include short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), prickly-lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), white sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), rancher’s fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii* var. *intermedia*), yellow star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), and hoary cress (*Lepidium draba*).

Overall, ruderal habitats within the PIA receive regular disturbance and are expected to provide only minimal habitat values for wildlife. Wildlife found in ruderal areas includes species tolerant of disturbance such as coyote (*Canis latrans*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), western toad (*Bufo boreas*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), and gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*).

Project-related impacts to ruderal habitat would primarily occur from the temporary staging of construction equipment in the southern portion of the project area. Due to the existing level of disturbance within this habitat type, project impacts are not expected to be significant.

Seasonal Wetland

A single, small, seasonal, 0.06-acre wetland feature was observed within the ruderal vegetation located within the southern portion of the PIA (refer to Figure 7). The seasonal wetland area is most likely a function of a leaking water pipeline and ponded rain water during the rainy season. The area is not considered jurisdictional. This wetland feature was dry during the field surveys conducted in 2009 and 2015; however, wetland vegetation was present. Plants observed in this area include cattail (*Typha latifolia*), short-pod mustard, poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), and tall flat-sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*). The boundaries of this wetland area were mapped using a Trimble® Pathfinder Global Positioning System (GPS) capable of sub-meter accuracy. In periods of high rainfall, this feature may provide potential breeding habitat for western toad and western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondi*). Several western fence lizards were observed in the seasonal wetland during surveys of the BSA in 2009; however, none were observed during the 2015 survey.

Potential project impacts associated with the seasonal wetland habitat would be limited to inadvertent, indirect impacts, such as erosion, sedimentation, or hazardous materials contamination, associated with the temporary staging of construction equipment during the construction phase of the proposed project. Based on the location of the seasonal wetland outside of areas proposed for permanent facility improvements, the potential sensitive habitat would be avoided during construction and operation of the project by restricting staging locations. Mitigation measures are provided to ensure that this potentially sensitive habitat is avoided and that inadvertent impacts do not occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Storage Pond

Pond habitat within the BSA is limited to standing water from the WWTP. These pond areas are located outside of the PIA for the proposed project (refer to Figure 7). Vegetation surrounding the ponds consists of ruderal vegetation such as white sweet-clover (*Melilotus albus*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), Australian saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*), and tobacco (*Nicotiana* sp.). Birds observed utilizing these areas during surveys of the study area include killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), American coot (*Fulica americana*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), and Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*). Approximately 10 western pond turtles (*Emys marmorata*) were observed in the storage ponds during the 2009 survey of the BSA; however, none were observed during the 2015 survey.

There is currently no natural habitat located within the pond areas of the PIA. The WWTP polishing Pond Nos. 1 and 2 are currently utilized for staging purposes for the WWTP Upgrade Project. These ponds have been maintained for over 40 years, which included only occasional filling with water, dewatering, scraping, and spraying for vegetation control. There are no direct project impacts associated with work within ponds located within the PIA. However, due to the adjacency of active ponds within the WWTP, there is potential sensitive species that utilized these ponds, or the new effluent polishing channel (formerly Pond 3), may transect the PIA.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

SWCA biologists initiated a review of potentially occurring special-status plant species using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC), the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Additional species were considered based on the knowledge and experience of SWCA biologists in the area and special-status animal species included on the CDFW Special Plants List (CDFW 2015) with potential for occurrence in the region. Through these databases, a list of special-status plant species for the Paso Robles U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles (Bradley, San Miguel, Ranchito Canyon, Estrella, Creston, Templeton, York Mountain, and Adelaida) in which the BSA occurs, was generated (July 24, 2015; Appendix B of this IS/MND).

Based on the literature review, a total of 32 sensitive plant species and one natural community of concern have been documented within the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles evaluated for this project (Paso Robles quad and eight surrounding quads) by the CNDDDB. Because the plant species list is considered regional, the range and habitat preferences of those species was analyzed to identify which special-status plant species have the potential to occur within the project area; this analysis considered existing habitat conditions, elevation, and soil types found within the site for the potential to support each listed plant species (Appendix B of this IS/MND).

Based on this preliminary evaluation of habitat requirements and the known site conditions within the PIA, it was determined that no habitat occurs for special-status plants within the PIA. Additionally, no special-status plants were observed within the BSA during 2009 or 2015 field surveys. Therefore, no impacts to special-status plant species would occur as a result of the proposed project. No mitigation measures are necessary.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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SPECIAL-STATUS ANIMALS

SWCA biologists initiated a review of potentially occurring special-status animals using the USFWS IPaC and the CNDDDB databases. Additional species were considered based on the knowledge and experience of SWCA biologists in the area and special-status animal species included on the CDFW Special Animals List (CDFW 2015) with potential for occurrence in the region. Through these databases, a list of special-status animal species with documented occurrences on the Paso Robles quad and eight surrounding quads, was generated (July 24, 2015; Appendix B of this IS/MND).

Based on the desktop review of existing literature, a total of 37 special-status animal species and 17 migratory bird species were investigated for the potential to occur within the BSA; however, presence within the PIA is most likely limited to a transitory occurrence due to the lack of habitat. A total of 25 special-status wildlife species were determined to have potentially suitable habitat conditions in the BSA. Suitable habitat was also considered to be present in the BSA for nesting migratory bird species, which are protected under Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918.

As discussed previously, the approximately 17-acre BSA consists of landscaped/developed, ruderal, seasonal wetland, windrow, central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, central coast riparian scrub, and riverine plant communities; however, the PIA is limited to approximately 7.84 acres consisting only of landscaped/developed and ruderal habitat within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP (refer to Figure 7). The following special-status animal species were determined to have the potential to occur in the BSA: South-Central California Coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), coast range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*), silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), purple martin (*Progne subis*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechial*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), migratory birds, nesting raptors, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma macrotis luciana*), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), and roosting bats. The special-status species with the potential to occur within the BSA, as well as the potential impacts associated with the proposed project, are discussed below.

South-Central California Coast Steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss)

All populations of steelhead occurring within the South-Central California Coast ESU (Evolutionary Significant Unit) Region, which is defined as that geographic region north of the Santa Maria River, northward to (and including) the Pajaro River (and its tributaries), were listed as Federally Threatened by NOAA Fisheries in August 1997. South-central California coast steelheads (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are also considered a California Species of Special Concern (SSC) by CDFW. NOAA Fisheries lists habitat deterioration due to sedimentation and flooding related to land management practices, and potential genetic interaction with hatchery rainbow trout, as risk factors to steelhead within this ESU. Optimal habitat for steelhead throughout its entire range on the Pacific coast can be characterized by clear, cool water with abundant instream cover (i.e., submerged branches, rocks, logs), well-vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and a 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio (Raleigh, et al. 1984); however, steelhead are occasionally found in reaches of streams containing habitat that would be considered less than optimal.

South-central coast steelhead was not included on the IPaC; however, it is known to occur within Salinas River during periods of high flow. The Salinas River is considered critical habitat for this

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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species by NOAA Fisheries. No suitable migration or spawning habitat for steelhead is present within the PIA. However, steelhead may migrate up the Salinas River during periods of high flow and spawn in upper reaches of the Salinas or its tributaries. The species is not expected to occur within the reach adjacent to the WWTP. No steelhead, or evidence of steelhead, were observed during any surveys or monitoring events conducted between 2013 and 2015. Although the PIA completely lacks suitable habitat for this species, the long-term effects to steelhead as a result of reduced discharges to the Salinas River are discussed below.

As discussed in the project description, in the time period of 1 to 10 years after completion of the project, up to approximately 650 afy (or less than 20% of the annual volume that is currently discharged to the Salinas River) may be diverted from the secondary clarifiers in the existing treatment system (which currently discharges to the Salinas River), to the tertiary treatment system in the WWTP to be recycled. After 10 years, the percentage of wastewater discharged to the river will gradually decrease, depending on the growth of demand for recycled water. Within approximately 20 years, up to 90% of the annual volume of wastewater treated by the City may be recycled.

Although the reduction of flow is substantial over the 10 and 20 year terms, the existing flows from the WWTP currently do not provide sufficient discharge to support a continuous live stream during dry periods of the years to support steelhead. Flows within the Salinas River are intermittent during the dry periods of the year, and the river is only identified as suitable for migration during periods of high flows. Suitable spawning habitat within the portion of the Salinas River that runs adjacent to the WWTP is likely inhospitable due to high temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, and lack of deep pools.

During the dry period, flows from the existing discharge have a minimal influence on the Salinas River as the flows from the discharge pool up within the thalweg (the line of the lowest elevation) of the river and then percolate into the groundwater basin. The influences of the discharge become inconsequential during periods of flow within the Salinas River.

The long-term impact of this reduced volume of discharge to the river would be offset by the reduced need to pump groundwater, which contributes base flow to the river. Increasing recycled water use will also minimize the need to import surface water from Lake Nacimiento. Reduced discharge of wastewater to the Salinas River will generally improve the water quality of the river, especially with regards to salts (sodium, chloride, etc.) and nutrients (nitrate, phosphorus, etc.).

Mitigation measures are not required, as the existing conditions do not provide suitable spawning habitat. Migratory habitat would only be present during periods of high flow, when discharge flows from the WWTP would be inconsequential due to high flows of water in the Salinas River.

California Red-Legged Frog (Rana draytonii)

The California red-legged frog was listed as federally threatened by the USFWS in 1996, and is also considered a SSC by the CDFW. Riparian habitat degradation, urbanization, predation by bullfrogs, and historic market harvesting have all reportedly contributed to population declines in this species. The California red-legged frog occurs in various habitats during its life cycle. Breeding areas include aquatic habitats such as lagoons, streams and ponds, and siltation and irrigation ponds. California red-legged frogs prefer aquatic habitats with little or no flow, the presence of surface water to at least early June, surface water depths to at least 0.7 meters (2.3 feet), and the presence of fairly sturdy underwater supports such as cattails (*Typha* spp.). The largest densities of California red-legged frog are typically associated with dense stands of overhanging willows and an intermixed fringe of sturdy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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emergent vegetation. The closest recorded California red-legged frog occurrence is located approximately eight miles south of the BSA adjacent to the Salinas River (CNDDDB OCC #617 and #618).

California red-legged frog was not observed during surveys conducted by SWCA in 2009 or 2015. In order to evaluate the potential for California red-legged frog to occur within the BSA, SWCA conducted a USFWS California Red-Legged Frog Site Assessment (SWCA 2009). As a result of this study, it was determined that this species does not occur within a one-mile radius of the BSA; however, potentially suitable breeding and foraging habitat is present within the BSA within the riparian corridor of the Salinas River. The Salinas River riparian corridor provides marginally suitable breeding and foraging habitat for California red-legged frog. With regards to breeding habitat, there are no suitable breeding ponds identified within the PIA. The PIA itself is highly disturbed and contains no suitable foraging or breeding habitat. The PIA completely lacks natural aquatic habitat or moist areas where frogs may temporarily seek cover. Wastewater ponds to the north of the PIA are not considered suitable due to the complete lack of cover and vegetation. It is unlikely that the species would occur within the seasonal wetland feature located within the southern portion of the property since it lacks appropriate cover from predators, pool depth, and the presence of surface hydrology during the dry season. Due to the proximity of potentially suitable habitat, presence of California red-legged frog within the PIA is possible, but limited to a transitory occurrence due to the existing level of disturbance. Due to the potential for California red-legged frog to occur within the PIA, albeit low, this analysis assumes presence of California red-legged frog during all project activities within proximity to suitable habitat, and construction-related mitigation measures are identified to ensure potential impacts (i.e., disturbance, harm) are less than significant.

As stated previously, WWTP Pond No. 1 and Pond No. 2 do not currently contain water or habitat that would be suitable for this species. Due to the lack of suitable habitat within the PIA, as well as the negative findings of the USFWS California Red-Legged Frog Site Assessment, direct impacts to this species as a result of the proposed project are not expected.

If California red-legged frogs are present within the effluent polishing channel or within the Salinas River adjacent to the WWTP, the proposed project could result in indirect impacts to this species during long-term operation of the proposed project by reducing the amount of wastewater discharged to the Salinas River through this channel. As discussed in the project description, the reduction in wastewater discharge into the effluent polishing channel would be gradual over the first twenty years following completion of the construction phase of the proposed project. The gradual reduction in discharge of wastewater, combined with the availability of more suitable habitat in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the Salinas River, indirect impacts to this species associated with the reduction of discharge are expected to be less than significant. Mitigation measures for long-term operational impacts to this species are not required.

Coast Range Newt (Taricha torosa torosa)

The coast range newt is considered a SSC by the CDFW. Coast range newts prefer grassland, woodland, and forest upland habitats. They occur in hardwood forest, mixed forest, woodland, grassland, savanna, shrubland, and chaparral. When breeding, coast range newts occur in ponds, reservoirs, streams, riparian habitats, creeks, rivers, and temporary pools. Coast range newts can migrate up to two miles between nonbreeding upland habitats and aquatic breeding sites. There are no recorded occurrences within a 10-mile radius of the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence of this

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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species is located approximately 12 miles south of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #54).

Potentially suitable habitat is present within the riparian and forested habitats within the BSA. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the PIA. It is possible for coast range newt to occur within the PIA as transients; however, it is highly unlikely due to the existing level of disturbance. Although the likelihood of this occurrence is low, if present, this species may be directly or indirectly impacted by the temporary staging of construction equipment in the ruderal habitat in the southern portion of the project area during the construction phase of the proposed project. Mitigation measures are included to ensure that construction activities would not result in significant impacts to this species.

If coast range newts are present within the effluent polishing channel, or within the Salinas River directly adjacent to the WWTP, the proposed project could result in indirect impacts to this species during long-term operation of the proposed project by reducing the amount of wastewater discharged to the Salinas River through this channel. As discussed in the project description, the reduction in wastewater discharge into the effluent polishing channel would be gradual over the first twenty years following completion of the construction phase of the proposed project. The gradual reduction in discharge of wastewater, combined with the availability of more suitable habitat in the immediate vicinity adjacent to the Salinas River, indirect impacts to this species associated with the reduction of discharge are expected to be less than significant. Mitigation measures for long-term operational impacts to this species are not required.

Silvery Legless Lizard (Anniella pulchra pulchra)

The silvery legless lizard is considered a SSC by the CDFW. Silvery legless lizard occurs in riparian, sand dune, chaparral, hardwood forest and mixed woodland habitats. Silvery legless lizard burrows in loose soil found in stabilized sand dunes, vegetated oak or pine-oak woodland, chaparral, and along wooded stream edges and occasionally in desert scrub habitat. Typically found in leaf litter or under rocks, logs, and driftwood. The nearest recorded occurrence of this species is located approximately 5.5 miles northwest of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #85).

Potentially suitable habitat is present within the riparian and forested habitats within the BSA. There is no suitable habitat for this species within the PIA. It is possible for the silvery legless lizard to occur within the PIA as a transient; however, it is unlikely due to the existing level of disturbance. Although the likelihood of this occurrence is low, if present, this species may be directly or indirectly impacted by the temporary staging of construction equipment in the ruderal habitat in the southern portion of the project area during the construction phase of the proposed project. Protective measures are included to ensure that construction activities would not result in significant impacts to this species.

Western Pond Turtle (Emys marmorata)

The western pond turtle is considered a SSC by the CDFW. Pond turtles prefer quiet waters of ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes. This subspecies inhabits reaches of streams that contain deep pools, from 3.0 to 5.2 feet in depth. The ponds favored by turtles typically support emergent and floating vegetation such as cattails and algal mats. The southwestern pond turtle historically has been present in most Pacific slope drainages between the Oregon and Mexican borders. It is mostly aquatic, leaving its aquatic site to reproduce, estivate, and over-winter. Pond turtles also bask on half-submerged logs, rocks, or flat shorelines close to the edge of water. In warmer areas along the central and southern California coast, pond turtles may be active all year. Nesting sites may be more than 400 meters from the aquatic site, but most nests are within 200 meters. The nearest recorded

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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occurrence of this species is located approximately 1.7 miles south of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #1159).

Currently, Pond No. 1 and Pond No. 2 located within the PIA do not contain water or habitat suitable for this species; however, approximately ten western pond turtles were observed directly within the WWTP ponds outside of the PIA during field surveys conducted in 2009. No pond turtles were observed during the 2015 survey. Due to potentially suitable habitat that is available in the adjacent WWTP ponds, there is a potential direct impacts to this species could result, should this species should transect the PIA to seek refuge within surrounding areas. Implementation of mitigation measures would ensure that potential impacts to this species, if present when construction activities commence, would be less than significant.

Coast Horned Lizard (Phrynosoma blainvillii)

The coast (California) horned lizard is considered a SSC by the CDFW. This species is a relatively large horned lizard, less rounded than other species, with numerous pointed scales along the sides of the body and over the back. Only the horns around the head are rigid. The range of the species extends from northern California to the tip of Baja California, distributed throughout foothills and coastal plains in areas with abundant, open vegetation such as chaparral or coastal sage scrub. The species typically occupies open country, especially sandy areas, washes, flood plains and wind-blown deposits in a wide variety of habitats. The coast horned lizard is a ground dweller, and does not climb shrubs or trees. Egg-laying in southern California extends from late May through June with a mean clutch size of 13 eggs. Coast horned lizards feed on ants and other small insects. The nearest recorded occurrence for this species is located approximately 8 miles north of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #727).

One coast horned lizard was identified during the June 2009 survey within sandy riverine habitat located in the vicinity of, within the BSA, but not within the proposed PIA. This species was not observed during the 2015 survey. Due to the presence of sandy soils surrounding the PIA, there is a potential that this species may be present within the undeveloped ruderal habitat located in the southern portion of the PIA, or may transect the PIA while foraging. As a result, coast horned lizard may be directly impacted by temporary staging of construction equipment in this area through injury, mortality, or habitat modification during the construction phase of the proposed project, if present. The likelihood of this occurrence is considered low due to the disturbed nature of this habitat and the presence of more suitable habitat nearby in the immediate vicinity of the Salinas River. Implementation of mitigation measures would ensure that potential impacts to this species, if present when construction activities commence, would be less than significant.

Cooper’s Hawk (Accipiter cooperi)

Cooper’s hawks are protected by the MBTA and are found in dense stands of live oak (*Quercus* spp.), riparian or other forest habitats, near water. Cooper’s hawk forages in broken woodland and habitat edges, where they capture small birds and mammals in the air, on the ground, and in vegetation. This species nests in deciduous trees, usually six to 15 meters above the ground; breeding occurs March through August, with peak activity May through July. The BSA provides both nesting and foraging habitat for Cooper’s hawk. There are no recorded occurrences of this species within a 10-mile radius of the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence of this species is located over 22 miles southwest of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #24).

Cooper’s hawks are known to occur within the undeveloped riparian and forested habitat within the

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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BSA; however, occurrence within the PIA is likely to be limited to infrequent foraging due to the lack of habitat and existing level of disturbance within this area. Therefore, direct impacts to potential nesting habitat would not occur as a result of the proposed project. Indirect impacts to Cooper’s hawks, if present, could occur during the construction phase of the proposed project in the form of noise pollution and construction activities. Mitigation measures are included to ensure that potential indirect impacts to Cooper’s hawks would be less than significant.

Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

The bald eagle was listed as federally and state endangered in 1971 and then proposed for delisting in 1999. Currently, the species is state listed as endangered and recognized as a Fully Protected species by the CDFW. The bald eagle is a large, dark brown raptor that weighs about eight to 14 pounds and has a wingspan of 6.5 to eight feet. Adults have a white head and tail. They are rare or uncommon to locally fairly common winter visitor from October to late March and early April. The breeding range is mainly in mountainous habitats of northern California and the Central Coast Range near reservoirs, lakes and rivers. Nests are built in the upper canopy of large trees, usually conifers. In most of California, the breeding season lasts from about January through July or August. Bald eagles winter throughout the state in areas that have medium to large bodies of water where their main food source is from fish. The BSA provides potential wintering opportunities for bald eagles. Based on personal communication with WWTP Plant Manager, Chris Slater (July 8, 2009), this species has been observed as an infrequent forager within the BSA. However, the WWTP does not contain any fish species for the bald eagle to prey upon. The nearest recorded occurrence of this species is located approximately 10.7 miles northwest of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #253).

Although bald eagles are known to occur within the undeveloped riparian habitat within the BSA; occurrence within the PIA is not expected due to the lack of habitat and prey and existing level of disturbance within this area. Therefore, direct impacts to potential nesting habitat would not occur as a result of the proposed project. Indirect impacts to bald eagles, if nesting within ¼ mile from the project site, could occur during the construction phase of the proposed project in the form of noise pollution and construction activities. Mitigation measures are included to ensure that potential indirect impacts to bald eagles would be less than significant.

Purple Martin (Progne subis)

Purple martin is federally protected by the MBTA and is considered a SSC by the CDFW. Purple martins occupy a variety of habitat types including herbaceous wetland, riparian, cropland/hedgerow, desert, grassland, savanna, chaparral, suburban/orchard, coniferous woodland, and hardwood woodland habitats. Purple martins are typically found near water or around towns. Nest in tree cavities and abandoned woodpecker holes, and crevices in rocks. There are no recorded occurrences for this species within a 10-mile radius of the BSA. The nearest recorded occurrence is located approximately 12.5 miles south of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #26)

Purple martins were not observed during 2009 or 2015 field surveys; however, potentially suitable habitat is present within the Salinas River riparian corridor and forested areas within the BSA. Occurrence within the PIA is likely to be limited to infrequent foraging due to the lack of habitat and existing level of disturbance within this area. Therefore, direct impacts to potential nesting habitat would not occur as a result of the proposed project. Indirect impacts to purple martins, if present, could occur during the construction phase of the proposed project in the form of noise pollution and construction activities. Mitigation measures are included to ensure that potential indirect impacts to

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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purple martins would be less than significant.

Yellow Warbler (Setophaga petechia)

Yellow warblers are federally protected by the MBTA. Yellow warblers are migratory and are broadly distributed throughout North America, though their California distribution is largely restricted to the northern and coastal portions of the State, and the Sierra Nevada foothills. Within San Luis Obispo County, this species is a fairly common summer transient of deciduous riparian habitats. Breeding and nesting of yellow warbler typically occurs from mid-April to early August, with peak activity occurring in June. Eggs (typically three to six) are incubated for approximately 11 days, and young fledge approximately nine to 12 days thereafter. The nesting lifestage of yellow warbler is considered a SSC by CDFW. Brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds has reportedly reduced numbers of this species statewide, though predation and destruction/clearing of riparian habitat is also implicated in population declines of this species. This species was not observed or heard during surveys; however, due to the presence of suitable habitat this species has a potential to occur within the BSA. There are no recorded occurrences for this species within a 10-mile radius of the BSA. The nearest occurrence for this species is located approximately 16 miles northwest of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #59).

Yellow warblers were not observed during 2009 or 2015 surveys of the BSA; however, they have the potential to occur within the undeveloped riparian and forested habitat within the BSA. Occurrence within the PIA is likely to be limited to infrequent foraging due to the lack of habitat and existing level of disturbance within this area. Therefore, direct impacts to potential nesting habitat would not occur as a result of the proposed project. Indirect impacts to yellow warblers, if present, could occur during the construction phase of the proposed project in the form of noise pollution and construction activities. Mitigation measures are included to ensure that potential indirect impacts to yellow warblers would be less than significant.

Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus)

Least Bell's vireo is a state and federally listed endangered species. This species primarily occurs in association with low, dense riparian growth in the vicinity of water or dry river bottoms. Nesting usually occurs along the margins or on twigs of various shrubs including low-growing species of willow. Breeding and nesting of the species primarily occurs in May and June. The nearest known documented occurrence of least Bell's vireo was observed over the Salinas River in 1983 upstream and downstream of the Bradley Bridge. This species was not observed or heard during surveys. Although riparian vegetation is present within the BSA, this vegetation is only considered marginally suitable habitat for nesting least Bell's vireo due to the high level of disturbance that has resulted in very sparse, low-density vegetation. Although unlikely, this species has the potential to occur within the riparian corridor of the Salinas River. The nearest recorded occurrences for this species are located approximately 1.2 miles southwest of the BSA and 1.6 miles north of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #127 and #323, respectively).

Least Bell's vireo was not observed during 2009 or 2015 surveys of the BSA; however, it is possible for least Bell's vireo to nest within the riparian corridor along the Salinas River, a known habitat corridor for this species. Occurrence within the PIA would likely be limited to infrequent foraging due to the lack of habitat and existing level of disturbance. Therefore, direct impacts to potential nesting habitat would not occur as a result of the proposed project. Indirect impacts to least Bell's vireo, if present, could occur during the construction phase of the proposed project in the form of noise pollution and construction activities. Mitigation measures are included to ensure that potential

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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indirect impacts to least Bell’s vireo would be less than significant.

Nesting Birds (Class Aves)

A number of other bird species have the potential for nesting within the BSA, and are protected during their nesting period under the provisions of the federal MBTA and CDFW Code Section 3503. Birds may nest in urban habitats (such as buildings, bridges, and landscaped ornamental vegetation), windrows, riparian forest and scrub areas and ruderal habitats. During the survey, several bird species protected under MBTA were observed within the BSA. It is likely that these species are utilizing the BSA for nesting. A single cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nest was observed on one of the existing buildings within the WWTP footprint during the 2015 survey of the BSA. Tree removal and large building demolition are not required for the proposed project. Therefore, direct impacts to potential nesting habitat would not occur as a result of the proposed project. Indirect impacts to nesting birds, if present, could occur during the construction phase of the proposed project in the form of noise pollution and construction activities. Mitigation measures are included to ensure that indirect impacts to nesting birds would be less than significant.

Monterey Dusky-Footed Woodrat (Neotoma macrotis luciana)

The Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is considered a SSC by the CDFW. It occurs in coastal central California and is considered a SSC by the CDFW. This subspecies prefers habitats that exhibit a moderate vegetative canopy, with a brushy understory. Dusky-footed woodrats primarily breed in the spring; however, breeding activities may continue throughout the year during favorable conditions. This species can have multiple litters during the year. Nests (middens) are typically built of sticks and leaves at the base of, or within, a tree or shrub, or at the base of a hill. Middens may measure up to eight feet in height and diameter. This nocturnal species forages on the ground and primarily feeds on woody plants, but also eats fungi, flowers, grasses, and acorns. The nearest recorded occurrence for this species is located approximately 7.4 miles northwest of the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #1).

This species was not observed during the 2009 or 2015 surveys of the BSA; however, woodrat middens were observed within the forested habitats located within the BSA during 2009 and 2015 surveys. Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is known to occur within the central coast live oak riparian forest adjacent to the project site. The construction activities and proposed facilities associated with the proposed project would avoid the coast live oak riparian forest habitat entirely. Mitigation measures are provided to ensure inadvertent impacts to woodrats and middens would not occur as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, no impacts to this species, woodrat mittens, or coast live oak riparian forest would occur as a result of the proposed project. Despite the low likelihood of impacts to this species, due to the known presence of middens, mitigation measures are recommended to reduce the potential for impacts to this species.

San Joaquin Kit Fox (Vulpes macrotis mutica)

The San Joaquin kit fox is listed as federally endangered by the USFWS and state threatened by the CDFW. San Joaquin kit fox utilizes the Salinas River as a wildlife corridor for the purposes of foraging. Based on the existing footprint of facility use areas, implementation of the project would not result in a loss of habitat. Although suitable habitat is present for this species within the undeveloped riparian, forested, and ruderal habitats within the BSA, it is unlikely to occur due to the low population numbers, and lack of recent observations within the area. In addition, due to the location of the project site, payments of San Joaquin kit fox mitigation fees are not required. The nearest recorded occurrences for this species are located approximately 2.6 and 2.9 miles southeast of

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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the BSA (CNDDDB OCC #941 and #945, respectively).

This species was not observed during the 2009 or 2015 surveys of the BSA. Although unlikely, due to the suitable habitat within the riparian corridor of the Salinas River, San Joaquin kit fox has the potential to transect the PIA. If present, direct and indirect impacts to this species, such as injury, mortality, or habitat modification, could occur as a result of temporary staging of construction equipment within this habitat during the construction. Despite this low likelihood of occurrence, mitigation measures are recommended to reduce the potential impact to this species.

Roosting Bat Species

Roosting bats are protected under CESA and CEQA. CDFW is responsible for administering these Acts relative to roosting bats. Large trees adjacent to the PIA have the potential to support unknown bat species, including the Townsend’s big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), and hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*). The nearest recorded occurrences for these species are 9.8 miles northwest of the BSA for the Townsend’s big-eared bat (CNDDDB OCC #341), 7.4 miles north of the BSA for pallid bat (CNDDDB OCC #104), and 107 miles northwest of the BSA for hoary bat (CNDDDB OCC #111).

No roosting bats were observed during surveys conducted in 2009 or 2015. Tree removal and large building demolition are not required for the proposed project. Therefore, direct impacts to potential roosting habitat for bats would not occur as a result of the proposed project and potential indirect impacts associated with light and noise would be temporary and less than significant.

In conclusion, no special-status plants occur within the BSA or the PIA; however, 14 special-status animals and migratory birds have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the PIA. The proposed project has the potential to result in direct and indirect impacts to these species, if present, through direct injury, mortality and habitat modification associated with proposed construction and operation activities. Implementation of proposed mitigation measures would reduce the potential impacts to these species to be less than significant.

BIO-1: Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-authorized biologists will conduct activities involving San Joaquin kit fox, least Bell’s vireo, and California red-legged frog. No site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities will commence until the EPA or its designated agent has received written authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of those specific biologists they wish to conduct those activities.

BIO-2: Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the City will retain a biologist to prepare and deliver a worker orientation and training program for all construction staff. This program will include information on the protection oak trees, riparian and wetland habitat, California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), coast range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*), silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), Cooper’s hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), purple martin (*Progne subis*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), migratory birds, nesting raptors, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma macrotis luciana*), San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), and roosting bats. The training shall also include any applicable regulatory policies and provisions regarding species protection

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and minimization measures to be implemented. The point of contact appointed by the City will be identified. Any employee or contractor who might detect the presence of or inadvertently injure or kill a special-status species or who finds a dead, injured, or entrapped animal will report their observation to this point of contact. The name and contact information for this person will also be provided to the EPA and applicable agencies.

- BIO-3: Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the City will demonstrate to the EPA that it is in possession of all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from regulatory agencies.

- BIO-4: Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the perimeter of these activity areas will be delineated with construction fencing to avoid inadvertent egress into habitat intended to remain undisturbed. Verification that this fencing has been installed will be conveyed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the contractor. The contractor will be responsible for fence maintenance throughout the entire construction process.

- BIO-5: Prior to construction, the City shall prepare and submit to the Regional Water Quality Control Board or State Water Resources Control Board a Notice of Intent (NOI) and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with the requirements of the State General Order related to construction projects. The SWPPP shall identify the selected stormwater management procedures, pollution control technologies; spill response procedures, and other means that will be used to minimize erosion and sediment production and the release of pollutants to surface water during construction. The City shall ensure that sedimentation and erosion control measures are installed prior to any ground disturbing activities.

- BIO-6: Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the City will identify its Best Management Practices on all construction plans. These practices will be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities as necessary to ensure their intended efficacy. Measures will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the placement of silt fencing along the down-slope side of the construction zone, onsite storage of a spill and clean-up kit at all times, and employment of both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control measures (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles).

- BIO-7: During all phases of project construction, any trash that may attract predators will be properly contained and removed from the work site regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.

- BIO-8: Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall ensure preparation and implementation of a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan that includes provisions for avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to sensitive habitat areas, including wetland and riparian areas and water bodies due to equipment-related spills during project implementation. The City of Paso Robles shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the City of Paso Robles shall ensure that the plan allows a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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the appropriate measure to take should a spill occur. The plan shall include the following provisions:

- a. All equipment fueling shall be conducted within the designated staging areas of the project site (see Figure 6). Such areas shall consist of roadway or ruderal habitat. At no time shall any equipment fueling be conducted within 100 feet of any wetland and riparian habitat area, or water body;
- b. An overview of the containment measures to appropriately store and contain all fuels and associated petroleum products during the project shall be included in the plan. This shall include provisions for equipment staging areas, such as the need for drip pans underneath parked equipment and designated storage areas for fuel dispensing equipment with visqueen lining or similar and secondary containment; and,
- c. A description of the response equipment that would be on-site during construction and exact procedures for responding to any inadvertent spills including miscellaneous fuel and/or lubricant spills from construction equipment and vehicles during operations. Final specifications of the Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City of Paso Robles prior to project implementation.

BIO-9: During site preparation, ground-disturbing, and construction activities, a biologist will be onsite at that frequency necessary to ensure compliance with all avoidance and minimization measures for special-status and other migratory bird species. This biologist will have the authority to halt any activity that has the potential to result in adverse effects or take that exceed the levels anticipated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If work is stopped, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be notified immediately to determine the appropriate response.

BIO-10: During all site disturbance and construction activities, work will cease each day at sunset, which is defined by the point at which the sun is no longer visible from the local horizon.

BIO-11: To the maximum extent possible, site preparation, ground-disturbing, and construction activities will be conducted outside of the breeding season (considered to be March 15 through September 15, annually). If such activities are required during this period, the City will ensure that surveys are conducted to identify any nesting birds included on the current list of avian species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Surveys will be conducted on a weekly basis throughout the breeding season by a biologist for the purpose of identifying potential bird nesting activity. If active nests or nesting activity are identified during the preconstruction survey process, the following measures will be implemented:

- a. The project will be either modified or delayed such that take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young is avoided.
- b. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be contacted to determine an appropriate biological buffer distance around active nest sites. Construction activities within zone will be prohibited until a biologist determines that

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young have fledged the nest and achieved independence.

- c. All active nests will be documented by the biologist in a letter report submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and City in order to demonstrate compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

- BIO-12: If site preparation, ground-disturbing, construction, or polishing channel maintenance activities that necessitate trimming or disturbance of riparian habitat are to occur between March 15 and September 15 annually, the City will ensure that a biologist conducts morning surveys at the beginning of each work week to determine if the least Bell’s vireo or other special-status or migratory birds are present in any riparian habitat within the action area. If the least Bell’s vireo or other special-status birds are detected during these surveys or at any other time, work in the area will stop until the biologist can assess its behavior. If breeding or nesting behavior is detected within the action area during pre-project surveys, the biologist will establish a buffer zone that is deemed sufficient to avoid the disruption of this behavior or abandonment of any nest by the adults. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service generally recommends a minimum 500-foot (152-m) buffer around nests where no work is to occur; however, a smaller buffer can be established if deemed sufficiently protective by the biologist and approved, in advance, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- BIO-13: Prior to and during construction, if nests are identified, the biologist must monitor the nests during all project activities that are being conducted immediately adjacent to the buffer zone to determine if there are effects on the nesting species. The biologist will have the authority to stop work if deemed necessary to protect the nests and nesting birds.
- BIO-14: Prior to commencement of any ground-disturbing, site preparation, and/or construction activities, all riparian and wetland areas will be identified on the construction plans with special attention directed to those areas where vegetation will be altered or removed.
- BIO-15: Prior to, and during, construction activities a biologist will permanently remove from the project area any exotic aquatic wildlife species (e.g., bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), centrarchid fishes) to the maximum extent possible. This work must be in compliance with the relevant provisions of the California Fish and Game Code.
- BIO-16: Site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities within 100 feet (30.5 m) of the Salinas River will be conducted during the dry season to minimize adverse effects to California red-legged frogs and other special status species that may be using the Salinas River and its associated riparian/riverine habitat as a movement or dispersal corridor. The City will ensure that pre-activity surveys for California red-legged frogs (all life stages) are conducted in these areas by a biologist at the beginning of each work day during the time period during which these activities are being performed. If California red-legged frogs are found, the biologist will capture and move them out of harm’s way into the nearest suitable habitat. If a possible California red-legged frog is observed by work personnel, work in that area will

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cease until the frog moves out of harm's way or is identified to that level needed to determine if it represents the listed entity. If so, it will be captured and moved by a biologist out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat. Work in the area will not commence until the biologist has had sufficient time to conduct this activity if needed.

- BIO-17: The City will ensure that a pre-activity survey for California red-legged frogs is conducted by a biologist no more than 24 hours before start of work. If California red-legged frogs, of any life stage, are found the biologist will capture and move them out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat. If a possible California red-legged frog is observed by work personnel, work in that area will cease until the frog moves out of harm's way or is identified to that level needed to determine if it represents the listed entity. If so, it will be captured and moved by a biologist out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat. Work in the area will not commence until the biologist has had sufficient time to conduct this activity if needed.
- BIO-18: During site preparation or construction activities, if the work area is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes will be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than 0.05 inch (5 millimeters) to prevent California red-legged frogs and other aquatic species from entering the pump system. Water will be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any barriers to flow will be removed in a manner that allows the reestablishment of natural flow with the least amount of disturbance to the substrate. If a California red-legged frog is identified at any time during this process, a biologist will capture and move the species out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat.
- BIO-19: To ensure that disease or pathogens (e.g., chytrid fungus) are not transferred between riparian and aquatic habitat during the course of surveys or handling of the California red-legged frogs, the biologist conducting these activities will at all times follow the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force.
- BIO-20: Biologists will not use soaps, oils, creams, lotions, repellants, or solvents of any sort on their hands before and during periods when they are capturing and moving California red-legged frogs and other special status species. Nets or bare hands may be used to capture the species.
- BIO-21: During site preparation, ground disturbing, or construction activities, all excavations, steep-walled holes, and trenches in excess of 2 feet (0.6 m) in depth will be covered at the close of each working day using plywood or similar materials. Trenches will also be inspected for trapped California red-legged frogs each morning prior to onset of field activities and immediately prior to covering at the end of each working day. Before any excavations, holes, or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped individuals.
- BIO-22: Any and all construction equipment or building materials staged within 100 feet (30.5

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m) from riparian habitat will be inspected by a biologist for California red-legged frogs at the beginning of each work day. If an individual is found, it will be captured by a biologist and moved out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat.

- BIO-23: To the extent practicable, construction activities adjacent to the Salinas River shall be conducted during the dry season (May 1 through November 1), or as specified by resource agency permits and authorizations. This would reduce potential impacts to aquatic and semi-aquatic species that might be using the Salinas River and associated riparian vegetation as a movement/dispersal corridor.
- BIO-24: Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall submit the name(s) and credentials of biologists to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who would conduct activities in support of the proposed project, including but not limited to environmental monitoring, capture and re-location of special-status species.
- BIO-25: The City of Paso Robles shall obtain a letter of permission from California Department of Fish and Wildlife to relocate any special-status animals (i.e., southwestern pond turtles, coast horned lizards, etc.) that are present within the project impact area. In the event that special-status species are observed, qualified specialists shall perform a capture and relocation effort. If present, the qualified specialists shall capture and relocate any special-status species to safe locations outside of the area of impact, pursuant to California Department of Fish and Wildlife conditions. Observations of California Species of Special Concern or other special-status species shall be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion.
- BIO-26: Unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits, at least 7 days prior to onset of activities, an approved specialist shall survey the work site for the presence of special-status species. If special-status species, including mature individuals, tadpoles, or eggs are found, the approved specialist shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine if moving any of these life-stages is appropriate. In making this determination, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall consider if an appropriate relocation site exists. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife approves moving animals, the approved specialist shall be allowed sufficient time to move special-status species from the work site before work activities begin. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved specialists shall participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs, unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits.
- BIO-27: A qualified biologist shall monitor the work site pursuant to the approved Mitigation and Monitoring Program and resource agency permits. The qualified biologist shall be on-site to perform pre-construction surveys, instruct workers, monitor activities within sensitive habitat areas, and during relocation of special-status species. The qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt any action that might result in impacts that exceed the levels anticipated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife during

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review of the proposed action. If work is stopped, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be notified immediately by the qualified biologist. The qualified biologist shall also submit a report to the City documenting the implementation of mitigation measures.

BIO-28: During construction, in order to reduce the potential for amphibious species and other wildlife species entering the construction area, standing water shall not be created as a result of construction activities.

BIO-29: Prior to construction, the project site shall be surveyed by a qualified specialist for identification of woodrat middens. In the event woodrat middens are observed, and the middens cannot be avoided during project activities, then the middens shall be removed as follows, under supervision of the specialist. Due to the health risks surrounding this activity, removal by hand is not recommended.

- a. Upon completion of clearing the vegetation surrounding the woodrat shelter, the operator shall gently nudge the intact middens with equipment or long handled tools. The operators shall place their equipment within the previously cleared area and not within the undisturbed woodrat shelter area. The objective is to alarm the woodrats so that they evacuate the midden and scatter away from the equipment and into the undisturbed habitat.
- b. Once the woodrats have evacuated the midden, the operator shall gently pick up portions of the structure with a front loader and move it to the undisturbed adjacent habitat. The objective of moving the structure is to provide the displaced woodrats with a stockpile of material to scavenge while they build a new midden. Jeopardizing the integrity of the structure is not an issue.

BIO-30: To prevent inadvertent harm to San Joaquin kit fox, prior to construction, a qualified specialist shall perform the following monitoring activities:

- a. Within 14 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, the specialist shall conduct a pre-activity (i.e. pre-construction) survey for known or potential kit fox dens and sign. Subsequent pre-construction surveys shall be completed if construction is halted for 30 days or more. If a known or potential den or any other sign of the species is identified or detected within the project area, work in the immediate area will cease and the biologist will contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately. No work will commence or continue until such time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife determine that it is appropriate to proceed. Under no circumstances will a known or potential den be disturbed or destroyed without prior authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Within 7 days of survey completion, a report will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the City. The report will include, at a minimum, survey dates, field personnel, field conditions, survey methodology, and

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survey results.

- b. During site preparation, ground disturbing, or construction activities, all excavations, steep-walled holes, and trenches in excess of 2 feet (0.6 m) in depth will be covered at the close of each working day using plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks in order to prevent entrapment of the San Joaquin kit fox. Trenches will also be inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit fox each morning prior to onset of field activities and immediately prior to covering with plywood at the end of each working day. Before any excavations, holes, or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit fox. If a San Joaquin kit fox is observed, all work will stop and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife contacted to determine how to proceed.
- c. During ground-disturbing and/or construction activities, all pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches (10 centimeters; cm) or greater that have been stored overnight at the project site will be thoroughly inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit fox before these materials are buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a San Joaquin kit fox is found, work will stop immediately and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife contacted to determine how to proceed.
- d. If incidental take of kit fox during project activities is possible, before project activities commence, the City of Paso Robles must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The results of this consultation may require the City of Paso Robles to obtain a federal and/or state permit for incidental take during project activities. The City of Paso Robles should be aware that the presence of kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens at the project site could result in further delays of project activities.

In addition, the qualified specialist shall implement the following measures:

- 1. Within 30 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, fenced exclusion zones shall be established around all known and potential kit fox dens. Exclusion zone fencing shall consist of either large flagged stakes connected by rope or cord, or survey laths or wooden stakes prominently flagged with survey ribbon. Each exclusion zone shall be roughly circular in configuration with a radius of the following distance measured outward from the den or burrow entrances:
 - a) Potential kit fox den: 50 feet
 - b) Known kit fox den: 100 feet
 - c) Kit fox pupping den: 150 feet
- 2. All foot and vehicle traffic, as well as all construction activities,

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including storage of supplies and equipment, shall remain outside of exclusion zones. Exclusion zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated, and then shall be removed.

3. If kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens are found on site, daily monitoring during ground disturbing activities shall be required by a qualified specialist.
- e. Prior to, during, and after the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, use of pesticides or herbicides shall be in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. This is necessary to minimize the probability of primary or secondary poisoning of endangered species utilizing adjacent habitats, and the depletion of prey upon which San Joaquin kit foxes depend.
 - f. Prior to final inspection, should any long internal or perimeter fencing be proposed or installed around natural habitat areas, the City of Paso Robles shall do the following to provide for kit fox passage:
 1. If a wire strand/pole design is used, the lowest strand shall be no closer to the ground than 12 inches.
 2. If a more solid wire mesh fence is used, 8 × 12-inch openings near the ground shall be provided every 100 yards.
 3. Upon fence installation, the contractor shall notify the City of Paso Robles to verify proper installation. Any fencing constructed after issuance of a final permit shall follow the above guidelines.

BIO-31: A qualified specialist shall conduct roosting bat surveys prior to any trimming or removal of trees. If roosting bats are present, work activities shall not occur within 100 feet of the active roost. If trees that provide bat roosting habitat are removed, the City of Paso Robles shall consult with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the appropriate means of mitigation for loss of the roosting habitat. Removed trees shall be replaced by native trees that provide roosting habitat for bats.

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

Discussion:

The approximately 17-acre BSA consists of landscaped/developed, ruderal, seasonal wetland, windrow, central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, central coast riparian scrub, and riverine plant communities. Of these plant communities, central coast live oak riparian forest, central coast arroyo willow riparian forest, and central coast riparian scrub are considered sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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While sensitive plant communities are present within the BSA for this project, the PIA is limited to approximately 7.84 acres consisting only of landscaped/developed and ruderal habitat within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP. Tree removal is not required for the proposed project and impacts to the seasonal wetland would be avoided. All project-related construction activities would occur within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP within landscaped/developed and ruderal habitats. Therefore, no direct impacts to sensitive habitats would occur as a result of the construction of the proposed project.

As discussed previously, operation of the proposed project would result in a reduction of discharged wastewater through the effluent channel into the Salinas River. During the first ten years after completion of the project, up to approximately 650 acre feet per year (or less than 20% of the annual volume that is currently discharged to the Salinas River) may be diverted from the secondary clarifiers in the existing treatment system (which currently discharges to the Salinas River), to the tertiary treatment system in the WWTP to be recycled. After ten years, the percentage of wastewater discharged to the river would gradually decrease, depending on the growth of demand for recycled water. Within approximately 20 years, up to 90% of the annual volume of wastewater treated by the City may be recycled.

The impact of this reduced volume of discharge to the river would be offset by the reduced need to pump groundwater, which contributes base flow to the river. Increasing recycled water use will also minimize the need to import surface water from Lake Nacimiento. Reduced discharge of wastewater to the Salinas River will generally improve the water quality of the river, especially with regards to salts (sodium, chloride, etc.) and nutrients (nitrate, phosphorus, etc.). Long-term impacts to the Salinas River, and associated habitats and species from the proposed project would be enhanced and less than significant, since the project would improve the quality and reduce the quantity of wastewater effluent currently discharged into the river. Therefore, impacts to riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities in the vicinity of the project site are expected to be less than significant with the implementation of the mitigation measures included under Impact IV(a) above in addition to the following mitigation measures.

- BIO-32: Prior to commencement of grading and construction activities, the perimeter of the Project Impact Area shall be delineated (construction fencing, flagging, rope, etc.) to avoid inadvertent impacts to sensitive habitats and/or sensitive species. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction activities and shall be maintained by the contractor. The construction boundaries shall be shown on all applicable construction plans.
- BIO-33: Before grading and/or construction activities commence, a qualified specialist shall establish exclusion zones around known boundaries of confirmed sensitive habitat areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion adjacent habitats, including a 50-foot buffer zone around the delineated boundaries of the seasonal wetland feature located within the southern portion of the Project Impact Area. The seasonal wetland area shall be avoided during all construction and operation activities. Grading, structures, landscaping, and other project-related activities including equipment staging shall occur a minimum of 50 feet away from the seasonal wetland habitat. Exclusionary fencing shall remain in place throughout project activities. The areas to be protected shall be shown on all applicable construction plans.
- BIO-34: Prior to and during construction, the contractor shall implement erosion control best

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management practices. To reduce the potential for inadvertent release of sediment from construction areas to adjacent stream, drainage, wetland, or other sensitive resource areas, the contractor shall install appropriate erosion control devices (i.e., straw wattles, silt fence) around the perimeter of each work site, and other areas experiencing disturbance of the ground surface. Storm drains and gutters leading to drainage and wetland areas shall be protected by installation of erosion control measures or shall be blocked to prevent water entry. Erosion control devices shall be checked on a daily basis to ensure proper function.

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| c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion:

All of the proposed WWTP facility tertiary treatment facilities and associated construction activities would occur within the existing ruderal/disturbed and developed areas within the WWTP site. Temporary staging of construction equipment is proposed within the undeveloped ruderal habitat in the southern portion of the PIA, in the vicinity of the seasonal wetland habitat (refer to Figure 7). This wetland feature is a result of a leaky pipe and may puddle in rain events. It is not a state or federal jurisdictional feature. Regardless, all construction activities and staging equipment would be located outside of the designated wetland habitat. No direct impacts to existing wetland or other potentially jurisdictional features are proposed or expected to occur as a result of the proposed project; however, indirect impacts such as sedimentation or habitat degradation in the form of a hazardous materials release could occur as a result of construction activities occurring in the vicinity of this habitat. Implementation of mitigation measures included under Impact IV(b) above, would ensure than inadvertent impacts to these features do not occur and impacts would be less than significant.

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| d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion:

The proposed project is adjacent to the Salinas River, a known wildlife corridor for San Joaquin kit fox and least Bell’s vireo and critical habitat for the South-Central Coast steelhead, but the PIA does not contain habitat for these species nor serve as an important connection between habitat areas. No impacts to the Salinas River wildlife corridor would occur as a result of the proposed project

No active nests were noted during surveys conducted in 2009 or 2015. However, due to the transient nature of the bird species that have the potential to occur in the BSA, project impacts, such as noise pollution associated with operation of construction equipment, could have the potential to indirectly impact a variety of nesting migratory bird species, including state and federally protected species. The potential for these impacts to occur are considered to be very low, considering the construction activities would take place within the existing disturbed areas at the WWTP site that are already subject to the noise and disturbance associated with ongoing operations. Mitigation measures are recommended to avoid or minimize impacts to nesting migratory bird species within the BSA. No roosting bats were observed during surveys conducted in 2009 or 2015; however, pre-activity surveys are recommended to ensure that project construction activities do not impact nesting birds or roosting bat species. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

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| e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Discussion:

Several live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) trees protected by the City of Paso Robles Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance are present within the BSA. As discussed previously, all of the proposed facilities and construction activities would take place within the existing landscaped/developed and ruderal areas within the WWTP site. Tree-removal is not required for the proposed project; therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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| f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Refer to impact discussions IV (a) through (e) above. There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans that apply to the project site. The project would comply with the City’s adopted Oak Tree Ordinance. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Finding. Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, potential impacts to biological resources would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The cultural resources setting information provided in this section is based on the results of the Cultural Resources Survey for the Paso Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, prepared by SWCA in 2009 (SWCA 2009). The WWTP property was used for farming until the mid-1950s. In addition to its use as a farm, the property was also reportedly used as a trash dump between the 1930s and 1950s and used as the Schauf residence and farm until it began to transition into the El Paso de Robles Wastewater Treatment Plant, beginning in the late 1940s. The Schauf residence is no longer extant. Early facilities included construction of the office building and first clarifier, both constructed circa 1954. By 1959, aerial photographs depict the office building and first clarifier, as well as dirt roads leading to the plant (replaced in 1970). From 1959 to the late 1980s, the plant was expanded and improved.

The remaining extant buildings and structures on the subject property were constructed between approximately 1954 and 2004, in support of the wastewater treatment facility. The office building, constructed in 1954, is a typical example of a utilitarian building. Neither the property, nor any of the individual buildings, structures, sites, or features is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), either separately or as a contributor to a larger historic district.

The property is not associated with any significant event or trend in American history. The property has not been directly associated with persons significant in our past. The buildings and structures on the property are utilitarian resources that are ubiquitous to industrial operations; they do not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, nor do they represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. Lastly, the property is not expected to yield important information about prehistory or history. Therefore the property is not considered a historic property, as defined in Section 106 of the National Register of Historic Places, nor does it qualify as a historical resource under the California Environmental Quality Act. Therefore, no impact would occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

The project area is considered moderately sensitive for the discovery of prehistoric or ethnohistoric period archaeological deposits, as well as for the discovery of historic material or deposits related to the numerous hot springs scattered throughout the Paso Robles area. Research conducted for the project indicates that people have continuously inhabited the region since the prehistoric period. The potential for the existence of buried archaeological materials within native soils is considered high. However, the project site has been impacted by human activities associated with the farming operation dating back to the 1930s, prior to the WWTP operation.

The proposed project would result in the disturbance of approximately 10,000 square feet in the area between the existing chlorine contact basins and clarifiers to construct the cloth media filtration structure, UV disinfection building and installation and replacement of piping. For the cloth media filtration structure, approximately 1,090 cubic yards of cut and 50 cubic yards of fill would be required. For the UV Building location, approximately 1,975 cubic yards of cut and 105 cubic yards of fill would be required. There would be approximately 60,000 square feet of disturbance near Pond No. 1 for the construction of the recycled water pump station and recycled water storage pond to be constructed. Based on proposed construction plans, all of the construction work would be performed within the existing footprint of the WWTP site within disturbed soils; no work within native soils is proposed. Therefore, no impacts to archaeological resources would occur as a result of the proposed project.

- c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Discussion:

The project site is located within the alluvial plain of the Salinas River, and has been fully developed by the existing facilities. As discussed previously, all of the construction work would be performed within the existing footprint of the WWTP site which has been impacted by human activities associated with the farming operation dating back to the 1930s, prior to the WWTP operation. Therefore, no impacts to paleontological resources or unique geologic features would occur as a result of the proposed project.

- d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Discussion:

As discussed previously, all of the construction work would be performed within previously disturbed soils within the existing footprint of the WWTP site. Therefore, no impacts to human remains would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, impacts to cultural resources would not occur as a result of the proposed project; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. (Sources: 1, 2, & 3) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

There are two known fault zones on either side of the Salinas River valley. The Rinconada Fault system runs on the west side of the valley and grazes the city on its western boundary. The San Andreas Fault is on the east side of the valley and is situated about 30 miles east of Paso Robles. The City recognizes these geologic influences in the application of the Uniform Building Code to all new development within the city. Soils and geotechnical reports and structural engineering in accordance with local seismic influences would be applied in conjunction with the proposed project. Based on standard conditions of approval, the potential for fault rupture and exposure of persons or property to seismic hazards is not considered significant. There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones within city limits; therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? (Sources: 1, 2, & 3) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project would be constructed in compliance with current California Building Codes. The City's General Plan identifies impacts resulting from ground shaking in the area to be less than significant with the incorporation of mitigation measures including adequate structural design and prohibiting construction over active or potentially active faults. These mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the project design. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? (Sources: 1, 2 & 3) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

Liquefaction is a phenomenon in which the strength and stiffness of a soil is reduced by earthquake shaking. Soils transform from a solid to a liquid state as a result of rapid loss of shear strength and increased pore water pressure induced by earthquake vibrations.

Based on review of the existing geotechnical data, the project site is underlain by a variable thickness of artificial fill and overlying alluvium over the Paso Robles Formation. It appears that the overlying alluvium may contain layers of potentially liquefiable soils under strong ground motion shaking or at levels used for design under the 2013 California Building Code (CBC).

The proposed structure would be constructed to current CBC codes. Impacts resulting from ground shaking and liquefaction hazards would be mitigated to less than significant through compliance with existing codes, including engineered site preparation, and adequate structural design. Any proposed construction would require the adoption of appropriate engineering design in conformance with geotechnical standards for construction. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- iv. Landslides?

Discussion:

Slope instability may result from natural processes, such as the erosion of the toe of a slope by a stream, or by ground shaking caused by an earthquake. Slopes can also be modified artificially by grading, or by the addition of water or structures to a slope. Areas that are generally prone to landslide hazards include: previous landslide locations, the bases of steep slopes, the bases of drainage channels, and developed hillsides where leach-field septic systems are used. The project site is not located within an area known to be prone to landslides. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

- b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? (Sources: 1, 2, & 3)

Discussion:

Onsite soils are considered to be moderately erodible (NRCS, 2015). Due to the gentle slope of the topography, significant erosion is not expected; however, due to the presence of the Salinas River immediately to the east, construction best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to avoid and minimize soil loss and erosion with a construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in conjunction with project's final design and grading plan. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant with mitigation. Implementation of mitigation measure BIO-5 would be sufficient to mitigate this potential impact to be less than significant.

- 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?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

Refer to impact discussion VI(a), above. Potential impacts are considered less than significant.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Refer to impact discussion VI(a), above. Potential impacts are considered less than significant.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

No new septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are proposed as part of the project. No impact would occur.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts to geology and soil resources would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are any gases that absorb infrared radiation in the atmosphere, and are different from the criteria pollutants discussed in Section III, Air Quality, above. The primary GHGs that are emitted into the atmosphere as a result of human activities are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated gases. These are most commonly emitted through the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), agricultural practices, decay of organic waste in landfills, and a variety of other chemical reactions and industrial processes (i.e., the manufacturing of cement).

CO₂ is the most abundant GHG and is estimated to represent approximately 80–90% of the principal GHGs that are currently affecting the earth’s climate. According to the CARB, transportation (vehicle exhaust) and electricity generation are the main sources of GHG in the state.

The passage of Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006), recognized the need to reduce GHG emissions and set the GHG emissions reduction goal for the State

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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of California into law. The law required that by 2020, State emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels. This is to be accomplished by reducing GHG emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. Subsequent legislation (i.e., Senate Bill 97 [SB 97], Greenhouse Gas Emissions bill) directed the CARB to develop statewide thresholds.

In March 2012, the APCD approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated into the APCD’s CEQA Air Quality Handbook (APCD 2012). The APCD determined that a tiered process for land use development projects was the most appropriate and effective approach for assessing the GHG emission impacts. The tiered approach includes three methods, any of which can be used for any given project:

1. Qualitative GHG Reduction Strategies (i.e., Climate Action Plans): A qualitative threshold that is consistent with AB 32 Scoping Plan measures and goals; or,
2. Bright-Line Threshold: Numerical value to determine the significance of a project’s annual GHG emissions; or,
3. Efficiency-Based Threshold: Assesses the GHG impacts of a project on an emissions per capita basis.

For most projects, the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 Metric Tons CO₂/year (MT CO₂e/year) will be the most applicable threshold. In addition to the land use development threshold options proposed above, a bright-line numerical value threshold of 10,000 MT CO₂e/year was adopted for stationary source (industrial) projects.

It should be noted that projects that generate less than the above-mentioned thresholds will also participate in emission reductions because air emissions, including GHGs, are under the purview of the CARB (or other regulatory agencies) and will be “regulated” by the CARB, Federal Government, or other entities. For example, new vehicles will be subject to increased fuel economy standards and emission reductions, large and small appliances will be subject to more strict emissions standards, and energy delivered to consumers will increasingly come from renewable sources. Other programs that are intended to reduce the overall GHG emissions include Low Carbon Fuel Standards, Renewable Portfolio standards, and the Clean Car standards. As a result, even the emissions that result from projects that produce fewer emissions than the threshold will be subject to emission reductions.

Under CEQA, an individual project’s GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation.

California has passed several pieces of legislation in the past few years aimed at dealing with GHG emissions and climate change. Executive Order S-3-05 set a goal to reduce California’s GHG emissions to: (1) 2000 levels by 2010; (2) 1990 levels by 2020; and (3) 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. These goals were reinforced in 2006 with the passage of AB 32, which set forth the same emission reduction goals and further mandated that the CARB create a plan, including market mechanisms, and develop and implement rules to achieve “real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases.” Executive Order S-01-07 set forth California’s low carbon fuel standard, which requires the carbon intensity of the state’s transportation fuels to be reduced by 10% by 2020. In addition, SB 97 required amendments to the State CEQA Guidelines to address GHG emissions;

Potentially Significant Impact **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** **Less Than Significant Impact** **No Impact**

the amendments were put into effect on March 18, 2010.

As discussed previously under Section III. Air Quality, the CalEEMod was used to calculate estimated project construction and operational emissions. Based on the results of the CalEEMod, as shown in Table 5 below, operation of the proposed project is expected to have a maximum annual CO₂e emission (unmitigated) of approximately 224.28 MT CO₂e/year. This estimate includes operational emissions (206.27 MT) and amortized construction emissions (18.01 MT based on a 25-year life span for a conservative estimate). Therefore, operation emissions are not expected to generate GHG emissions that would exceed the established APCD threshold of 1,150 MT CO₂e/year.

Table 5. CalEEMod Results: Estimated Construction Emissions (Unmitigated)

Pollutant	Annual MT CO ₂ e/year	
	APCD Threshold	Estimated Operational and Amortized Construction Emissions ¹
Greenhouse Gases (CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O, HFC, CFC, F ₆ S)	1,150 MT CO ₂ e	224.28 MT CO ₂ e

¹ Construction emissions are estimated based on information from the City as well as the defaults used by CalEEMod. These are conservative estimations and may not be accurate based on the final design and construction plans for the proposed project.

² Showing Maximum Daily Emission from construction year 2016, which represents the highest daily emission (worst case scenario) between 2016 and 2017.

Source: CalEEMod 2015.

The project would not exceed adopted GHG thresholds applied by the APCD and is not anticipated to generate significant GHG emissions due to the minimal traffic generated and limited energy use. The project would not conflict with the statewide regulations listed above. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses?

Discussion:

Refer to Impact Assessment VII(a) above. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts associated with the generation of GHGs would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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materials?

Discussion:

Heavy equipment related to trenching, grading, and construction of the proposed project would require the use of fuel and petroleum based lubricants, and would require regular maintenance of equipment. Both the frequency of maintenance and the large volumes of fluids required to service the equipment increase the risk of accidental spillage. However, as discussed in Section VI (Geology and Soils), statutorily required standard measures, including the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that meets the requirements of the Statewide General Construction Permit will ensure that potential impacts from accidental leaks or spills are less than significant.

Operation of the project would involve the transport, storage, use or disposal of hazardous materials including diesel fuel. The project would be required to conform to local, state and federal laws regarding the transport, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials. In addition, the City is required to comply with local laws, and submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan to the County Environmental Health Department. Based on compliance with existing standards, operational impacts would be less than significant.

HM-1: Prior to initiation of construction activities, the Contractor shall prepare and submit to the City of Paso Robles a contingency plan for handling hazardous materials, whether found or introduced on-site during construction. This plan shall include standard construction measures as specified in local, state and federal regulations for hazardous materials, removal of on-site debris, and confirmation of presence of pipelines on-site. At a minimum, the following measures shall be included in the contingency plan:

- a. If contaminated soils or other hazardous materials are encountered during any soil moving operation during construction (e.g., trenching, excavation, grading), construction shall be halted and the Hazardous Material Control Plan (HMCP) implemented.
- b. Instruct workers on recognition and reporting of materials that may be hazardous.
- c. Minimize delays by continuing performance of the work in areas not affected by hazardous materials operations.
- d. Identify and contact subcontractors and licensed personnel qualified to undertake storage, removal, transportation, disposal, and other remedial work required by, and in accordance with, laws and regulations.
- e. Forward to engineer, copies of reports, permits, receipts, and other documentation related to remedial work.
- f. Notify such agencies as are required to be notified by laws and regulations within the time stipulated by such laws and regulations.
- g. File requests for adjustments to contract time and contract price due to the finding of hazardous materials in the work site in accordance with conditions of contract.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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HM-2: Prior to operation, the Contractor shall complete and submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan to City of Paso Robles staff or their designee, and the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Environmental Health. As a component of the Hazardous Materials Business Plan, detailed procedures for handling and storage of hazardous materials used on site, and response to emergency or accidental releases of hazardous materials used on site shall be included.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

During any earth-moving operations (grading, trenching, etc.) within the existing facility areas, there is a possibility that unexpected hazardous materials could be encountered or unearthed. Hazardous materials in the construction area could create a risk to workers and the general public during excavation and transport. If contaminated soil is encountered and has to be removed from the construction area, it must be transported according to State and Federal regulations and be replaced with imported soil approved for backfilling if necessary. In these cases, the contractor must comply with all applicable regulations.

Accidental releases of hazardous materials used on-site during operation of the wastewater treatment plant (i.e., fuels, lubricants, and disinfecting compounds such as chlorine) would have the potential to adversely affect onsite workers, public health, and/or the environment. Spillage of fuels or chemicals could result in a threat of fire or explosion or other situations that may pose a threat to human health and/or the environment. Releases could occur as a result of vehicular accidents, equipment malfunction, or improper storage. The San Luis Obispo County Department of Community Health, Environmental Division, requires a Hazardous Materials Business Plan for operation of the WWTP. Cal/OSHA requires construction projects to implement safe hazardous material handling, transfer, storage, and maintenance. Projects are required to have designated staging/maintenance areas, standard operating procedures, and emergency response planning for the use of hazardous materials onsite. Based on compliance with existing standards and implementation of proposed mitigation included under Impact VIII(a) above, impacts are considered less than significant.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project is not located within 0.25 mile of a school. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

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Significant
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Incorporated | Less Than
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Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (California Department of Toxic Substances Control Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List – Site Cleanup [Cortese List]; accessed July 2015). Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of the proposed project.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The project site is not located within the Airport Safety Zones established in the Airport Land Use Plan for the Paso Robles Municipal Airport (City of Paso Robles 2007b). No impacts would occur.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impact would occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project would not impair the implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impact would occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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intermixed with wildlands?

Discussion:

The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. The project site is located in an urbanized area primarily designated as having a low wildlife hazard (City of Paso Robles 2005). Open land that may be subject to wildland fire is located east of the project site, on the opposite side of the Salinas River. The river may act as a buffer for any wildland fires that may occur in this area. All proposed construction activities and facilities would be located within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP in an area designated as being a low fire hazard; therefore, impacts associated with wildfire resulting from the proposed project are considered less than significant.

Finding. Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, potential impacts associated with hazards and hazardous materials would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Discussion:

SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

The PIA is located within the Salinas River Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 8: 18060005) in the Paso Robles Creek-Lower Salinas River Sub-Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 10: 1806000504). The Paso Robles Creek-Salinas River watershed encompasses approximately 143,654 acres in San Luis Obispo’s north county region. This watershed includes the majority of the city of Paso Robles. The peak elevation within this watershed is approximately 2,460 feet above mean sea level, located at the western boundary. The headwaters of this watershed originate in the Coast Ranges, east of the city of Paso Robles, and flow to the Salinas River and to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (SLO Watershed Project 2015). As of 2010, the Salinas River (upper, confluence of Nacimiento River to Santa Margarita Reservoir) was listed as an impaired waterbody by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (EPA 2010). This waterbody is listed as impaired for the following uses: agricultural supply, municipal and domestic supply, non-contact water recreation, and water contact recreation. The causes of impairment include chloride, sodium, and pH, with the following probably sources contributing to impairment: agriculture, livestock (grazing or feeding operations), managed pasture grazing, natural sources, unspecified urban stormwater, and urban runoff/storm sewers (EPA 2010).

The Salinas River is located adjacent to and east of the project site. The City’s current NPDES permit authorizes the WWTP to discharge up to 4.9 mgd of treated wastewater to the Salinas River. Storm water drainage at the WWTP generally flows from southwest to northeast. The site drainage conveyance system consists of various channels, catch basins, pipes, and storm drains that direct storm water flows from the plant to the effluent holding ponds. Underdrain flow from the sludge drying beds is collected at the decant pump station and pumped to the headworks. Stormwater runoff from some areas of the plant may be pumped to the head of the plant for treatment.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Currently, the City relies entirely on groundwater as its source for water supply. Groundwater is drawn from a large aquifer known as the Paso Robles Basin and the Salinas River Underflow. More than half of the city’s water is supplied by seven relatively shallow wells located along the Salinas River corridor. Twelve additional deeper wells located throughout the city supply the remainder of the city’s water. The City is also a participant in the Lake Nacimiento Water Project and has secured a water entitlement for 6,000 acre-feet of water per year (City of Paso Robles 2015). The City discharges approximately 4,000 acre-feet of water per year of raw Lake Nacimiento water upstream of the City’s Thunderbird Wells to recharge the water supply. The City has nearly completed construction of a water treatment plant (WTP) to treat surface water received from Lake Nacimiento, located approximately 15 miles northwest of the project site (City of Paso Robles 2015). With the completion of the new WTP, the city’s drinking water will be a combination of these three sources. However, the initial benefits from Lake Nacimiento water would be minimal due to the phased implementation of the WTP project.

The PIA is located within the Estrella sub-area of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (Basin). Encompassing an area of approximately 505,000 acres (760 square miles), the basin extends from the Garden Farms area south of Atascadero to San Ardo in Monterey County, and from the US 101 corridor to east of Shandon. It is the primary, and in many places, the only source of water available to property owners throughout the North County, providing water for 29 percent of the County of San Luis Obispo’s population and approximately 40 percent of the agricultural production in the County (City of Paso Robles 2011).

Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Management Plan

The Paso Robles Basin Groundwater Management Plan (City of Paso Robles 2011b) was developed to establish a framework for coordinating management activities associated with surface water and groundwater to maintain and enhance groundwater levels and water quality while minimizing inelastic land subsidence. The Groundwater Management Plan confirmed that groundwater levels within the Estrella Subarea have steadily declined during the period from 1981 to 2009 by over 70 feet, with the largest decline in groundwater level (50 feet) occurring between 1997 and 2009. This decline is attributed to the below-average precipitation and correlated increased demand on groundwater supplies. The goal established for this sub-area aims to return the groundwater level to the level present in 2009.

County of San Luis Obispo Resource Capacity Study

In January 2007, the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors directed the preparation of a Resource Capacity Study (RCS) for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin in accordance with the County’s Resource Management System (RMS). The RMS is a mechanism for ensuring a balance between land development and the resources necessary to sustain such development. When a resource deficiency becomes apparent, efforts are made to determine how the resource might be expanded, whether conservation measures could be introduced to extend the availability of unused capacity, or whether development should be limited or redirected to areas with remaining resource capacity. The RMS is designed to avoid adverse impacts from depletion of a resource.

The RMS describes a resource in terms of its “level of severity” (LOS) based on the rate of depletion and an estimate of the remaining capacity, if any. In response to a resource issue or recommended LOS, the Board of Supervisors may direct a Resource Capacity Study (RCS) be conducted. An RCS provides additional details that enable the Board of Supervisors to certify a LOS and adopt whatever

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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measures are needed to eliminate or reduce the potential for undesirable consequences.

- **LOS I:** Level I is reached for a water resource when increasing water demand projected over nine years equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply.
- **LOS II:** Level II for a water resource occurs when water demand projected over seven years (or other lead time determined by a resource capacity study) equals or exceeds the estimated dependable supply.
- **LOS III:** A Level of Severity III exists when water demand equals the available resource; the amount of consumption has reached the dependable supply of the resource.

In February 2011, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (RCS), which links the state of the basin to land use policy, basin monitoring and water conservation. The RCS concludes that the groundwater basin is approaching or has reached its “perennial yield” – the amount of usable water of a groundwater basin that can be withdrawn and consumed economically each year for an indefinite period of time. The RCS established an LOS III for the main basin and a separate LOS I for the Atascadero sub-basin. The County Board of Supervisors, after considering a number of studies about this groundwater basin and approving related documents [i.e., Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study (RCS), February, 2011; Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Management Plan (GMP), March 2011, have concluded the following conditions exist:

- Groundwater levels are generally dropping throughout the basin.
- Pumping of groundwater from the basin has reached or is quickly approaching the basin’s “perennial yield.”

California law does not allow the County to limit how much water a property owner pumps from the ground. The County must use only the authority it has to address this issue.

Basin-wide Supply and Demand

The main basin has an estimated perennial yield of approximately 97,700 afy (Fugro 2005) and the Atascadero sub-basin has a perennial yield of approximately 16,400 afy (Fugro 2000). The most recent pumping estimate shows total outflows of 91,838 afy to 96,723 afy in the main basin and 15,255 afy to 16,012 in the Atascadero sub-basin as of 2009 (Fugro 2010). Although more recent water balance estimates are not presently available, the RCS includes several water balance projections or scenarios that forecast the status of the basin to the year 2025. Based on these scenarios, total basin outflows in the year 2013 would range from 83,407 afy to 107,018 afy. Under the “reasonable worst case” scenario, the basin outflows (107,018 afy) would exceed perennial yield (97,700 afy) by about 10 percent in 2013. Table 2 compares the assumptions used in each of these scenarios. The scenarios that exhibit the greatest effect on when perennial yield is reached are those that reduce the vineyard water use factor.

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 Less Than Significant Impact
 No Impact

Table 6. Comparison of RCS Water Balance Scenarios for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin

RCS Scenario	Low (# 4)	Mid (# 3)	High (#2)
Estimated 2013 Outflows	83,407 afy	92,547 afy	107,018 afy
Perennial Yield Reached	2025	2019	2011
Agricultural Groundwater Pumping	+1.5%/year	+1.5%/year	+3%/year
Rural/Small Community Groundwater Pumping	+1.5%/year	+1.7%/year	+3.4%/year
Small Commercial Pumping	+4%/year	+ 4%/year	+ 8%/year
Vineyard Water Use	0.75–1.00 afy/year	1.00–1.25 afy/year	1.25–1.50 afy/year
Rural Pumping	1.7 afy/acre	1.7 afy/acre	1.7 afy/acre

Monitoring Wells

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District maintains monitoring well locations throughout the groundwater basin. Measurements are conducted twice a year to determine groundwater levels. The latest measurements taken in May 2015 are related in “hydrographs” which are geographic representations of changes in groundwater levels over time along with yearly rainfall. Hydrographs are developed for four areas of the main basin. According to these hydrographs graphically show that groundwater levels have recently fallen in all four areas:

- Estrella – water levels have dropped approximately 30 feet from 2013 to 2015.
- Creston – water levels have dropped approximately 3 feet from 2013 to 2015.
- San Juan – water levels have dropped approximately 25 feet from 2013 to 2015.
- Shandon – water levels have dropped approximately 10 feet from 2013 to 2015.

Estimated Basin Pumping by User – Main Basin

There are five different groups of groundwater users in the basin: agriculture; commercial; rural; small community systems; and, small commercial (e.g. golf courses, wineries, institutional uses). Table 3 shows the estimated amount of pumping by each user group. In 2006, Agriculture and rural users accounted for 83% of water use in the basin. Urban users accounted for the remaining 17% of pumping.

Table 7. Total Groundwater Pumping by User (1997, 2000, and 2006) (afy)

Groundwater User	1997	2000	2006
Net Agriculture	49,683	56,551	56,680
Urban	13,513	14,629	15,665
Rural	9,400	9,993	10,891
Small Community ¹	---	---	594
Small Commercial	1,465	1,465	2,323
Total	74,061	82,638	88,153

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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¹ Small Community was included in Rural in 1997 and 2000

Source: Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Resource Capacity Study 2011.

RCS Implementation – Water Conservation Requirements

In addition to certifying levels of severity for the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and Atascadero sub-basin, the 2011 RCS recommended several land use measures to curtail water demands in the basin. This included a recommendation to adopt water conservation requirements for development projects located in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. On September 25, 2012, the County Board of Supervisors carried out this recommendation by amending Article 9 of the Land Use Ordinance, Title 22 of the County Code, to establish water conservation requirements for projects located in the following areas:

- Rural portions of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, except for the Atascadero sub-basin;
- Whitley Gardens and Creston village reserve lines; and
- The unincorporated Paso Robles urban reserve line.

The water conservation requirements:

- Require new discretionary development to offset its net new water demand for non-agricultural purposes;
- Require that offsets conserve water used or potentially used for non-agricultural purposes;
- Exempt agricultural processing uses from the offset requirements;
- Prohibit general plan amendments that would result in a net increase in the use of water for non-agricultural purposes until a Level of Severity I is certified by the Board of Supervisors;
- Prohibit the approval of new land divisions until a Level of Severity (LOS) I is certified by the Board of Supervisors; and
- Include conservation measures for outdoor water use by discretionary development.

Urgency Ordinance

On August 27, 2013, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a 45-day urgency ordinance establishing a moratorium on new or expanded irrigated crop production and new development dependent upon a well in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin unless such uses qualify for an exemption or offset their total projected water use. It does not apply in the Atascadero sub-basin. On October 8, 2013, the Board continued the urgency ordinance for a period of two years. The purpose of the ordinance is to cap water demand while the County conducts studies and reports required to consider a comprehensive ordinance and/or general plan amendment addressing water shortages within the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. The urgency ordinance includes an exemption for “new ponds, reservoirs and dams constructed to regulate or store a supply of water for frost protection, seasonal irrigation, or livestock purposes.” Although they are exempt from the urgency ordinance, agricultural ponds with a storage capacity of more than one acre-foot are subject to environmental review under CEQA.

Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Groundwater Management Plan (AB 3030)

On March 18, 2014, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution directing County staff to begin drafting amendments to the March 2011 Groundwater Basin Management Plan that was originally adopted on March 27, 2012. The amendments are currently in process, and are intended to

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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refine the plan based on updated information and recommendations regarding the basin.

Project Impacts to Groundwater

As discussed in the project description, the proposed improvements would facilitate production of tertiary 2.2 quality recycled water, suitable for use on public lands such as parks, golf courses, agricultural lands, and for other non-potable uses. During operation, the proposed project would facilitate a gradual reduction of wastewater volume that is currently discharged to the Salinas River, effectively reducing the quantity of discharge by approximately 20% during the first 10 years and by up to 90% during the first 20 years following completion of construction activities to be recycled.

The impact of this reduced volume of discharge to the river would be offset by the reduced need to pump groundwater, which contributes base flow to the river. Increasing recycled water use would also minimize the need to import surface water from Lake Nacimiento. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any existing regulations, goals or objectives relating to groundwater use and impacts to groundwater resources are expected to be less than significant.

WWTP Influent Water Quality

Influent water quality data for the WWTP is shown in Table 8. Numbers are based on data collected from 2006 through 2008. Currently, the City’s raw water source of drinking water consists solely of groundwater with a TDS of 530 mg/L. Widespread use of water softeners by residential, industrial, and commercial increases the concentration of TDS, sodium and chloride of influent water to WWTP. Decrease use of water softeners may decrease influent TDS.

Table 8. Influent Water Quality

Parameter	Average	Standard Deviation
Temperature	70 °F	4.8
pH	7.6	0.2
Composite biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)	302 mg/L	58
Total suspended solids (TSS)	299 mg/L	44.
Grab Sample BOD	288 mg/L	57
Grab Sample TSS	297 mg/L	34
Grab Sample chemical oxygen demand (COD)	623 mg/L	157
Grab Sample total ammonia (as N)	32 mg/L	10
Grab Sample total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN)	43.7 mg/L	3.7

Source: Black and Veatch, 2009

Potentially Significant Impact **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** **Less Than Significant Impact** **No Impact**

WWTP Effluent Quality

Effluent water quality is shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Summary of Paso Robles WWTP Effluent Quality

Problem and Related Constituent	Paso Robles WWTP Effluent ⁽⁷⁾	Water Quality Guidelines		
		No Problems	Increasing Problems	Severe Problems
Salinity⁽¹⁾				
Electrical Conductivity (EC _w) of irrigation water (millimhos/centimeter (mmhos/cm))	1.8	<0.75	0.75-3.0	>3.0
TDS (milligrams per Liter (mg/L))	1,000-1,200	<450	450-2000	>2000
Permeability⁽²⁾				
EC _w of irrigation water (mmhos/cm) adj. sodium absorption ratio(SAR)	1.8	<6.0	6.0-9.0	>9.0
Specific Ion Toxicity from root absorption⁽³⁾				
Sodium (evaluated by adj. SAR)	14	<3.0	3.0-9.0	9.0 ⁽⁴⁾
Chloride (mg/L)	260-380	<142	142-355	>355
Boron (mg/L)	0.61	<0.5	0.5-2.0	2.0-10.0
Specific Ion Toxicity from foliar absorption⁽⁵⁾				
Sodium (mg/L)	200-260	<69	>69	--
Chloride (mg/L)	260-380	<106	>106	--
Miscellaneous⁽⁶⁾				
Total Nitrogen (NH ₄ -N and NO ₃ -N) (mg/l) for sensitive crops	5.4-8.1 (NO ₃ -N)	<5	5-30	>30
Bicarbonate (HCO ₃) (mg/l)	--	<90	90-520	>520
pH	7.1-7.3	6.5-8.4		

Notes:

¹ Assumes water for crop plus needed water for leaching requirement will be applied. Crops vary in tolerance to salinity.

² Adjusted sodium absorption ratio (adj. SAR) is calculated from a modified equation developed by U.S. Salinity Laboratory to include added effects of precipitation or dissolution of calcium in soils and related to CO₃ + HCO₃ concentrations. Permeability problems, related to low EC or high adj. SAR of water, can be reduced if necessary by adding gypsum.

³ Most tree crops and woody ornamentals are sensitive to sodium and chloride. Most annual crops are not sensitive.

⁴ Shrinking-swelling type soils (montmorillonite type clay materials; higher values apply for others).

⁵ Leaf areas wet by sprinklers may show a leaf burn due to sodium or chloride absorption under low-humidity/high-evaporation conditions. (Evaporation increases ion concentration in water films on leaves between rotations of sprinkler heads.)

⁶ Excess N may affect production of quality crops, i.e. sugar beets, citrus, avocados, apricots and grapes. HCO₃ with overhead sprinkler irrigation may cause a white carbonate deposit to form on fruit and leaves.

⁷ Based on 2004 plant data.

Source: Black and Veatch, 2009

Flooding

The Salinas River watershed is periodically subject to major flooding. Intense but infrequent winter

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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storms can result in significant watershed runoff. Flooding conditions are caused when preceding rains have saturated the watershed. Surging flood flows usually peak within hours and may last several days. These flood events have caused extensive damage to agricultural land, infrastructure, public and private buildings and properties.

The National Flood Insurance Program 100-year floodplain is considered to be the base flood condition. This is defined as a flood event of a magnitude that has a 1% chance of occurring each year. Floodways are defined as stream channels plus adjacent floodplains that must be kept free of encroachment as much as possible so that 100-year floods can be carried without substantial increases (no more than one foot) in flood elevations.

Floodplains near the WWTP include Salinas River, which flows in a northern direction along the eastern edge of the WWTP property (refer to Attachment C Floodplain Maps). The existing effluent polishing ponds lie within the 100-year floodplain. The WWTP facilities lie just outside the floodplain. The proposed project includes the addition of a flow diversion box, flow equalization tanks, cloth media filtration, UV disinfection, a recycled water pump station, and a recycled water storage pond. All of these facilities would be located within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP and all of the facilities would be located outside of the FEMA 100-year flood zone of the Salinas River, with the exception of the recycled water storage pond and pump station which would be constructed within the existing Pond 1 located within the FEMA 100-year flood zone of the Salinas River. The existing Pond 1, which would be constructed with the recycled water storage pond, and pump station are located within the AE 100-year flood zone designation associated with the Salinas River (FIRM Numbers 06079C0389G and 06079C0393G) (FEMA 2012a and 2012b). The top of the recycled water storage pond and pump station will be elevated at least one foot higher than the 100-year flood elevation.

During project construction, grading operations on-site would remove and replace existing WWTP infrastructure, would result in ground disturbance activities for the development of new facilities, and would result in minor vegetation removal, disturb erosive soil layers, and create temporary stockpiles of bare soil. These activities would expose small areas of soil within the project site to the erosive forces of rainfall and runoff as stormwater flows through the project site to Salinas River. In addition, during construction, the use of equipment and storage of materials may result in the incidental leak or spill of fuels or oils, or the discharge of pollutants related to equipment and materials into the Salinas River. As discussed in Sections IV and VI (Biological Resources and Geology and Soils, respectively), statutorily required standard measures, including the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP that meets the statutory requirements of the Statewide General Construction Permit, would ensure that impacts from site alteration, grading and construction are less than significant. BMP examples generally include an effective combination of erosion and sediment controls. Erosion and sediment control measures include barriers such as silt fences, drain inlet protection, gravel bags, etc. Existing vegetation should be preserved as much as possible. Areas of existing vegetation to be preserved would be identified and delineated on project plan sheets in the required SWPPP. All disturbed areas would be stabilized with vegetation or hard surface treatments upon completion of construction in any specific area. All inactive disturbed soil areas would be stabilized with both sediment and temporary erosion control prior to the onset of the rainy season (October 15–April 15).

Operation of any wastewater treatment plant has the potential to violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements through improper facility design. Equipment within the plant is designed to accommodate peak flow conditions. Compliance with the WDR and NPDES permit for

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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the WWTP, and implementation of mitigation measure BIO-5 would ensure that the water quality operational impacts are less than significant.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., Would the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?
Would decreased rainfall infiltration or groundwater recharge reduce stream baseflow? (Source: 7)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The City currently relies mostly on groundwater to supply treated water to its customers. Persistent drought conditions in California have resulted in depressed groundwater basin levels in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, especially in the Estrella Subarea, which is immediately beneath and to the east of the city of Paso Robles. The City has greatly reduced its per capita demand for water through water conservation programs, but additional measures are needed to restore balance to the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin. The use of recycled water is an important and integral component of the City’s long-term water management plan, including use of recycled water for irrigation, other non-potable water uses, and basin recharge.

As discussed under Impact discussion IX(a), the proposed project would facilitate a gradual reduction in wastewater volume that is currently discharged to the Salinas River. The impact of this reduced volume of discharge to the river would be offset by the reduced need to pump groundwater, which contributes base flow to the river. The project would not negatively affect groundwater quality since this project would not directly extract groundwater or otherwise affect these resources, and the proposed uses do not utilize materials or methods that would result in reduced groundwater quality. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Construction and implementation of the project would not significantly alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, result in a significant increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff, or result in flooding exceeding existing conditions during rainfall, because development would occur within existing facility areas. Based on the location and design of the project, impacts are expected to be

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
less than significant.				
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? (Source: 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

Construction and implementation of the project would not significantly alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, result in a significant increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff, or result in flooding exceeding existing conditions during rainfall, because development would occur within existing developed facility areas. The project site would continue to utilize the existing drainage pattern on the site during operation of the proposed project. The proposed project would not result in an increase in impervious space or an increase in runoff. Based on the location and design of the project, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

e. 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? (Source: 10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion:

Construction and implementation of the project would not significantly alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, result in a significant increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff, or result in flooding exceeding existing conditions during rainfall, because development would occur within existing facility areas and would not create a substantial new impervious surface. Based on the location and design of the project, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion:

As discussed in Sections IV and VI (Biological Resources, Geology and Soils) and in Impact discussion IX(a) above, construction and implementation of the project has the potential to result in discharges, potentially degrading the quality of waters within the Salinas River. Implementation of existing regulations, including a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (including BMPs), and compliance with the revised waste discharge permit issued by the RWQCB would mitigate the potential for adverse effects. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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hazard delineation map?

Discussion:

The project does not propose housing within the 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map. No impact would occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The old effluent polishing ponds and new effluent polishing channel associated with the existing WWTP are located within the 100-year flood zone for the Salinas River. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood designation is AE (1% annual chance flood hazard), with a base flood elevation ranging from 676 to 683 feet (FEMA 2015). Currently, the effluent storage ponds are situated within the base flood elevation zone at approximately 670 feet above msl. The proposed project includes a new recycled water storage pond with a storage volume of 0.852 million gallons to balance the recycled water demand and the plant effluent flow. The pond would be constructed in the existing Pond No. 1 area, located within an area designated as zone AE within the 100-year flood zone of the Salinas River. The storage pond would be lined with a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) geo-membrane system. Based on the location of proposed improvements within the existing facility area, stormwater runoff rates and flooding patterns of the Salinas River during and following storm events would not differ significantly from current conditions. In addition, the construction of facilities within flood hazard zones is subject to design standards incorporated in the City Municipal Code. Based on the location of the project, and compliance with existing standards, this impact is considered less than significant.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

As discussed above, implementation of the project would not significantly affect existing flood patterns of the Salinas River and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| j. Inundation by mudflow? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project site is not located in a coastal zone, where there would be risk of tsunami, nor near a large body of water, where there would be risk of seiche. The landslide/mudflow risk is considered low. Based on the location of the project site, and negligible to low probability of these hazards, the impact is considered less than significant.

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| k. Conflict with any Best Management Practices found within the City's Storm Water Management Plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

As discussed previously, prior to construction, the City would prepare and submit to the RWQCB or SWRCB a Notice of Intent (NOI) and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with the requirements of the State General Order related to construction projects. The SWPPP would be consistent with the best management practices found within the City's Storm Water Management Plan and shall identify the selected stormwater management procedures, pollution control technologies; spill response procedures, and other means that will be used to minimize erosion and sediment production and the release of pollutants to surface water during construction. The City would ensure that sedimentation and erosion control measures are installed prior to any ground disturbing activities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measure BIO-5.

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| l. Substantially decrease or degrade watershed storage of runoff, wetlands, riparian areas, aquatic habitat, or associated buffer zones? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

As discussed previously, based on the location of proposed improvements within the existing facility area, stormwater runoff rates and flooding patterns of the Salinas River during and following storm events would not differ significantly from current conditions. Implementation of the proposed project has the potential to result in pollutant discharge into the waters of the Salinas River during construction and operation of the proposed facility. Implementation of statutorily required standard measures, including the preparation and implementation of BMPs and a SWPPP would reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3, and BIO-5 would be sufficient to reduce the potential impact to hydrology and water resources to be less than significant.

Finding. Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, potential impacts to hydrology and water resources would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The PIA is occupied by the existing WWTP, including effluent polishing ponds, a pump station, operations buildings, access roads, parking area, chain link fencing and utilities. Surrounding uses include commercial and residential areas to the west and open areas associated with Salinas River to the south, north and east. The project would occur within the existing WWTP footprint and would

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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not physically divide an established community. Therefore, no impact would occur.

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|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. | Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project site has a Public Facility/Salinas River Overlay land use designation and is zoned Commercial/Light Industrial (refer to Figures 3 and 4, respectively). Implementation of the proposed project and WWTP recycled water system improvements would not be inconsistent with any General Plan Policies. The project would not conflict with the land use designation or allowable uses in the Zoning Code. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| c. | Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans that apply to the project site. The project would comply with the City’s adopted Oak Tree Ordinance. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are necessary.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts related to land use would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

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? (Source: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The PIA does not support known mineral resources. The proposed project would not result in impacts to native soils, mineral resources, or the loss of availability of known mineral resources. Additionally, all project components would be located on previously disturbed land within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP site. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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? (Source: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

There are no known locally-important mineral resource recovery sites located within the PIA. The proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. Additionally, all project components would be located on previously disturbed land within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP site. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of the proposed project.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, no impacts to mineral resources would occur as a result of the proposed project; therefore, no mitigation is required.

XII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? (Source: 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Discussion:

The proposed project site is located in the city of Paso Robles at the existing WWTP. Surrounding uses include US 101 and commercial and residential uses to the west, and open areas associated with Salinas River to the north, south and east. The existing WWTP is located on a 52-acre parcel within the Commercial/Light Industrial land use category. Noise resulting from the existing treatment plant operations and traffic noise from US 101 are the primary sources of noise in the immediate project area.

The closest residences are located approximately 800 feet to the east and west. Residences to the east are separated from the PIA by the Salinas River and associated open space and rest on a bluff approximately 100 feet upslope from the property. Residences to the west are separated from the PIA by US 101 and commercial development.

The project area is currently subject to significant vehicle traffic noise associated with US 101 throughout the day. Operation of the WWTP is not considered to generate significant daily traffic volumes that would produce noise impacts at any of the existing sensitive noise receptors within an approximately one-mile radius of the project site. The increased traffic volumes which could result from the proposed project would be insignificant when compared to existing traffic volumes. Operation of the new facilities associated with the proposed project would require 2-3 additional employees, which is estimated to result in approximately three additional round trips (six trips total) per workday. Employee trips are the only source of long-term traffic associated with the operation of the proposed project and would generate a minimal increase to existing traffic noise. Operation and

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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maintenance of the proposed facilities is not expected to produce significant traffic volumes that would increase vehicular traffic noise levels.

CONSTRUCTION RELATED NOISE

Development of the tertiary treatment facilities would create temporary increases in the ambient noise level during construction. Construction noise, and how it is perceived, would differ among the various phases of construction, depending on the particular activities, equipment used, and its proximity to sensitive noise receptors. During the initial phases of construction, it is estimated that most of the construction noise would be generated by grading and earthwork operations, using various heavy machinery. Once the site work is finished, construction noise would shift to that typically encountered when building structures (e.g., air compressors, circular saws, hammers, etc.), which typically generate less noise, as well as traffic noise generated by workers commuting to and from the jobsite. In addition, the City Noise Element of the General Plan includes noise reduction measures to be incorporated into contract specifications including the use of sound-control devices on equipment, restricting idling equipment, and public notification of proposed construction activities. The proposed project would be consistent with the measures included in the City Noise Element of the General Plan. Additionally, limiting construction activities to daytime hours would minimize the potential effect on nearby residents. Therefore, implementation of mitigation measures would reduce impacts to be less than significant.

STATIONARY NOISE

Stationary noise would be generated during the continued operation of the wastewater treatment plant by machinery associated with operation of the plant. Other noise impacts associated with operation of the wastewater treatment plant and disposal area include employee vehicle travel inside the plant and potentially the use of back-up emergency generators in case of power outage. The nearest sensitive noise receptors (residential neighborhood) to the proposed wastewater treatment plant is located approximately 800 feet from the project site, at a minimum of 100 feet upslope from the facility. Proposed project components would not result in a significant increase above current ambient conditions.

- NS-1: Prior to initiation of construction activities, the project Contractor shall prepare a Noise Control Plan which will include Noise Reduction Best Management Practices for all phases of construction. The plan shall be submitted to the City of Paso Robles for approval and shall include the following Noise Reduction Best Management Practices:
 - a. Limit the operation of heavy equipment and loud activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.;
 - b. Shield especially loud pieces of stationary construction equipment;
 - c. Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors;
 - d. Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible;
 - e. Place heavily trafficked areas such as the maintenance yard, equipment, tool, and other construction oriented operations in locations that would be the least

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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disruptive to surrounding sensitive noise receptors;

- f. Ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators intact and operational. Internal combustion engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and,
- g. Conduct worker-training meetings to educate and encourage noise awareness and sensitivity. This training should focus on worker conduct while in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (i.e., minimizing and locating the use of circular saws in areas adjacent to sensitive receptors and being mindful of shouting and the loud use of attention drawing language).

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Refer to impact assessment discussion XII(a), above. With implementation of mitigation measures provided under Impact XII(a) above, impacts would be less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Refer to impact assessment discussion XII(a), above. Long-term operation of the project would not result in a permanent, significant increase in ambient noise levels. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Refer to impact assessment discussion XII(a), above. With implementation of mitigation measure NS-1 provided under Impact XII(a) above, impacts would be less than significant.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? (Sources: 1, 4) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

The project is not located within an airport land use plan area. No impacts would occur.

Finding. Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified above, potential impacts related to noise would be mitigated to a less than significant level.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? (Source: 1) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project is located within the city of Paso Robles, within the existing WWTP. No housing is present onsite. The project does not propose any new housing. The proposed project would not increase the capacity of the WWTP. It is designed only to improve the quality of the effluent. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial population growth. Workers employed during the construction phase would most likely come from surrounding communities and would not require any new long-term housing. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project would not remove any existing housing. No impacts would occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project would not displace people or require the construction of replacement housing. No impacts would occur.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts associated with population and housing would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

- a. Fire protection? (Sources: 1,10)

Discussion:

The project site is served by the Paso Robles Fire Department. The Paso Robles fire station is located approximately seven minutes from the project site at 900 Park Street in Paso Robles. Access to the project site would be from Sulphur Springs Road. The proposed project would not impose a significant demand for fire protection services. No new public service facilities or personnel would be required. Anticipated impacts are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

- b. Police protection? (Sources: 1,10)

Discussion:

The project site is served by the City of Paso Robles Police Department. The City of Paso Robles Police Department is located approximately 7 minutes from the project site at 900 Park Street in Paso Robles, California. Access to the project site would be from Sulphur Springs Road. Wastewater treatment facility operations do not have a high demand for police protection. The proposed upgrades would be located at the existing wastewater treatment plant facilities. No new public service facilities or personnel would be required. Anticipated impacts are considered less than significant and no mitigation is required.

- c. Schools?

Discussion:

The project site is located within the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District. Since the project would not be growth inducing, it would not result in an increase in school-aged children in the area. The proposed wastewater treatment facility would not have a direct effect on local schools. No impact would occur.

- d. Parks?

Discussion:

Since the project would not be growth inducing, it would not affect use of area parks. No impact would occur.

- e. Other public facilities? (Sources: 1,10)

Discussion:

No other public facilities would be impacted as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur as a result of the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts to public services would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

XV. RECREATION

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The project site is within the Salinas River Trail Corridor. The proposed project would not affect use of the regional parks, or implementation of a future trail project within the Salinas River trail corridor because all project-related development would be located within the existing facility footprint. The proposed project would not increase the demand for existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities beyond the facilities existing in the city. No impacts would occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project does not include recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities in the project area. No impact would occur.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, no impact would occur as a result of the proposed project; therefore, no mitigation is required.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

Discussion:

The WWTP is accessed by Sulphur Springs Road, which is accessed from the on-ramp for northbound US 101. Sulphur Springs Road dead-ends at the existing WWTP and no other facilities or residences are located off this road. A security gate is located at the end of Sulphur Springs Road prior to the entrance of the WWTP. The proposed project would not change existing access to the site or alter existing transportation modes (vehicular, multi-modal) used to access the site. Therefore, implementation of the project would not conflict with any applicable transportation or congestion management plans, ordinances, or policies.

The proposed project includes new tertiary treatment facilities at the existing WWTP, all of which would be constructed within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP. Construction of the proposed project is expected to begin in year 2017 and extend 12 months to be complete by year 2018. Project construction is not expected to produce significant vehicle volumes during construction activities. Construction equipment would use the US 101/State Route 46 East interchange to access Sulfur Springs Road. The construction phase would include the export of approximately 50 cubic yards of demolished piping material, requiring two round trips to an approved landfill, and import of approximately 750 cubic yards of material, resulting in approximately 50 round trips. Therefore, the proposed project is expected to require a total of 52 round trips hauling construction materials. Although there would be some vehicle traffic associated with hauling heavy equipment and construction materials to the site, this would not occur throughout the duration of the project.

Workers commuting to and from the jobsite would be associated with the largest increase in traffic volumes during construction, but this would be limited mainly to morning arrival and evening departures, which would occur only during established daylight working hours, and would not produce a large enough traffic volume to significantly alter existing levels of service (LOS) designations.

Operation of the new facilities would require an estimated two-to-three additional employees and associated vehicles trips per day. Operation of the tertiary treatment facilities will decrease truck trips by reducing use of sodium hypochlorite, which is currently trucked to the site. Due to the minimal increase in operational trips, the proposed project is not expected to conflict with applicable plans, ordinances, or policies associated with transportation; therefore, significant traffic impacts would not occur.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to a level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Refer to Impact discussion XVI(a) above. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

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Significant
Impact | Less Than
Significant
with
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Incorporated | Less Than
Significant
Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

The project would not affect air traffic due to its location approximately 2.8 miles southwest from the Paso Robles Municipal Airport, limited height of structures, and lack of any features that would result in interference. The project site is not located within the Airport Safety Zones established in the Airport Land Use Plan for the Paso Robles Municipal Airport (City of Paso Robles 2007). No impacts would occur.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project does not propose any design features which would substantially increase traffic hazards. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| e. Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project site is located at the end of a dead-end road, which only serves as access to the WWTP. The proposed project would not conflict with emergency access routes during construction or operation of the proposed project. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The project would not affect or conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts related to transportation and traffic would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Wastewater from the proposed operations building would be connected to the existing WWTP located on-site. The project components would be designed to meet the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project involves the construction of new tertiary treatment facilities at the existing WWTP. The proposed project includes the addition of a flow diversion box, flow equalization tanks, cloth media filtration, UV disinfection, a recycled water pump station, and a recycled water storage pond, which would produce up to 4.9 mgd of tertiary 2.2 quality recycled water for unrestricted reuse. This Initial Study includes an analysis of the potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the project and mitigation measures have been included to reduce the level of impacts to less than significant.

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

All proposed project facilities would be constructed within the existing developed footprint of the WWTP and would use existing stormwater drainage facilities. The existing facility is regulated by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, and low impact site design is incorporated into the proposed project. Implementation of the project would not require the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities. Therefore, no impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

The project proposes to use existing on-site water lines as its water source for domestic purposes. Based on available information, the proposed water source is not known to have any significant availability or quality problems. The proposed project would not significantly increase water demands beyond current uses. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

- | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e. | Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project involves the construction of new tertiary treatment facilities at the existing WWTP. This impact is not applicable; therefore, no impact would occur.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| f. | Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

Solid waste collection service would continue to be provided by Paso Robles Waste Disposal Company and waste would be disposed at the Paso Robles Landfill, located east of the city limits. The landfill has an estimated lifespan through approximately 2034 and has the capacity to accept waste produced from the construction of the project. Operation of the proposed project facilities is not expected to generate new solid waste; therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

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|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| g. | Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

The proposed project may generate construction wastes including solid concrete, asphalt, scrap pipe, and other similar materials. Construction of the proposed project would involve minor demolition of existing infrastructure, resulting in approximately 50 cubic yards of solid waste in the form of demolished yard piping that would be hauled offsite, requiring two round trips from the WWTP for disposal at the Paso Robles Landfill. The majority of these wastes would be recycled, in accordance with existing City waste diversion requirements. Therefore, impacts are expected to be less than significant.

Finding. Based on the impact discussion above, potential impacts to utilities and service systems would be less than significant; therefore, no mitigation is required.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

As discussed in the preceding sections, the project has the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment, including effects on biological resources. During construction, ground disturbance and construction of the project may affect biological resources, including sensitive and special-status habitats and species. Mitigation measures are identified to reduce potential impacts a less than significant level, including but not limited to avoidance of sensitive habitats where feasible, pre-construction wildlife surveys, and construction monitoring by qualified specialists.

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

Discussion:

When project impacts are considered along with, or in combination with other impacts, the project-related impacts may be significant. Construction and operation of the project would contribute to cumulative levels of air pollutant emissions, erosion and down-gradient sedimentation, and pollutant concentrations in stormwater runoff. Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to reduce project-related impacts to a less than significant level. Based on implementation of identified project-specific mitigation measures, the cumulative effects of the proposed project would be less than significant.

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|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Discussion:

Implementation of the project would result in the generation of pollutants, which may affect air and water quality, and would result in a short-term increase in the ambient noise level during construction. Mitigation measures have been developed that would reduce these project-specific impacts to a less than significant level; therefore, the project would not result in substantial, adverse environmental effects to human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Finding. Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified in each of the sections above, all potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project would be mitigated to less than significant levels.

EARLIER ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND MATERIALS

Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063 (c)(3)(D).

EARLIER DOCUMENTS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN THIS ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND / EXPLANATORY MATERIALS

Reference #	Document Title	Available for Review at:
1	City of Paso Robles General Plan	City of Paso Robles Community Development Department 1000 Spring Street Paso Robles, CA 93446
2	City of Paso Robles Zoning Code	Same as above
3	City of Paso Robles Environmental Impact Report for General Plan Update	Same as above
4	2005 Airport Land Use Plan	Same as above
5	City of Paso Robles Municipal Code	Same as above
6	City of Paso Robles Water Master Plan	Same as above
7	City of Paso Robles Urban Water Management Plan 2005	Same as above
8	City of Paso Robles Sewer Master Plan	Same as above
9	City of Paso Robles Housing Element	Same as above
10	City of Paso Robles Standard Conditions of Approval for New Development	Same as above
11	San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Guidelines for Impact Thresholds	APCD 3433 Roberto Court San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
12	San Luis Obispo County – Land Use Element	San Luis Obispo County Department of Planning County Government Center San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
13	USDA, Soils Conservation Service, Soil Survey of San Luis Obispo County, Paso Robles Area, 1983	Soil Conservation Offices Paso Robles, CA 93446
14	Bike Master Plan, 2009	City of Paso Robles Community Development Department 1000 Spring Street Paso Robles, CA 93446

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- California Department of Conservation. 2012. San Luis Obispo County Important Farmland Map. Available online at: <ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/2012/slo12.pdf>. Accessed July 1, 2015.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2015. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) RareFind Species List: Paso Robles U.S. Geologic Survey 7.5 Minute Quadrangle and eight surrounding quadrangles. Available at: <https://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/rarefind.asp>. Accessed on July 1, 2015.
- California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). 2015. EnviroStor Database. Available at: http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm. Accessed July 1, 2015.
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MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
<i>Aesthetic Resources</i>				
AES-1	Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall develop an exterior lighting plan, which shall include the height, location, and intensity of all proposed exterior lighting. All light poles, fixtures, and hoods shall be dark (non-reflective) colored. Lighting shall be designed to eliminate any off-site glare. All exterior site lights shall utilize full cut-off, "hooded" lighting fixtures to prevent off-site light spillage and glare.	Preparation of exterior lighting plan	Prior to construction	City
<i>Air Quality</i>				
AQ-1	Prior to issuance of construction permits, the following measures shall be incorporated into the construction phase of the project and shown on all applicable plans. All of the following measures shall be implemented during construction of the proposed project.	Incorporation of specifications on construction plans	Prior to issuance of construction permits	Contractor
	<u>Construction Equipment</u>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications; b. Fuel all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, including but not limited to bulldozers, graders, cranes, loaders, scrapers, backhoes, generator sets, compressors, and auxiliary power units with California Air Resources Board-certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road); c. Maximize, to the extent feasible, the use of diesel construction equipment meeting the California Air Resources Board's Tier 2 certified engines or cleaner off-road, heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State Off-Road Regulation; d. Use on-road, heavy-duty trucks that meet the California Air Resources Board's 2007 or cleaner certification standard for on-road, heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State On-Road Regulation; e. Construction or trucking companies with fleets that do not have engines in their fleet that meet the engine standards identified in the above two measures (i.e., captive or nitrogen 			

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Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	<p>oxide [NOx]-exempt area fleets) may be eligible by proving alternative compliance;</p> <p>f. All on- and off-road diesel equipment shall not idle for more than 5 minutes. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and or job sites to remind drivers and operators of the 5-minute idling limit;</p> <p>g. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors shall be avoided to the maximum extent feasible;</p> <p>h. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors to the maximum extent feasible;</p> <p>i. Electrify equipment when feasible;</p> <p>j. Substitute gasoline-powered in place of diesel-powered equipment, where feasible; and,</p> <p>k. Use alternatively fueled construction equipment on-site where feasible, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane or biodiesel.</p>			
	<p><u>Diesel Idling Restrictions for Construction Phases</u></p> <p>The following idle-restricting measures shall be required for the construction phase of the proposed project near sensitive receptors for both on- and off-road equipment:</p> <p>a. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors, to the maximum extent feasible;</p> <p>b. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors shall be prohibited to the maximum extent feasible;</p> <p>c. Use of alternative fueled equipment is recommended whenever possible; and,</p> <p>d. Signs that specify the no idling requirements must be posted and enforced at the construction site.</p> <p>The following idle-restricting measures shall be required for the construction phase of the proposed project for on-road vehicles.</p> <p>Section 2485 of Title 13, the California Code of Regulations limits diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles that operate in the State of California with gross vehicular weight ratings of greater than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:</p> <p>a. Shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater</p>			

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	<p>than 5 minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,</p> <p>b. Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 100 feet of a restricted area, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,</p> <p>c. Signs must be posted in the designated queuing areas and job site to remind driver of the 5 minute idling limit.</p> <p>The following idle restricting measures shall be required for the construction phases of the proposed project for off-road equipment.</p> <p>a. Off-road diesel equipment shall comply with the 5-minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(d)(3) of the California Air Resources Board's In-Use Off-Road Diesel regulation: www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/ordiesl07/frooal.pdf; and,</p> <p>b. Signs shall be posted in the designated queuing areas and job sites to remind off-road equipment operators of the 5-minute idling limit.</p>			
	<p><u>Naturally Occurring Asbestos and Asbestos Material in Demolition</u></p> <p>a. Prior to demolition or relocation of existing structures or pipes, the Construction Contractor shall comply with the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40CFR61, Subpart M – asbestos NESHAP). These requirements include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written notification, within at least 10 business days of activities commencing, to the APCD; 2. Asbestos survey conducted by a Certified Asbestos Consultant; and, 3. Applicable removal and disposal requirements of identified asbestos-containing material (ACM). <p>b. Prior to ground disturbance and construction, the Construction Contractor shall ensure a geologic evaluation is conducted to determine if the area disturbed is exempt from the Air Resources Board Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for Construction, Grading, Quarrying, and Surface Mining Operations (93105). If the site is not exempt from the ATCM</p>			

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	requirements, the Construction Contractor shall comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM, which may include development of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan and an Asbestos Health and Safety Program for approval by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District.			
AQ-2	<p>Prior to ground disturbance, construction plans shall include the following notes, and the contractor shall comply with the following standard mitigation measures for reducing fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District's 20% opacity limit (San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Rule 401) and do not impact off-site areas prompting nuisance violations (San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Rule 402) as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible; b. Use water trucks, or sprinkler systems, or a San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District-approved dust suppressant in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 miles per hour (mph). Recycled (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible; c. All dirt stockpile areas should be sprayed daily as needed; d. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible, following completion of any soil disturbing activities; e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive, grass seed and watered until vegetation is established; f. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District; g. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site; h. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load 	Incorporation of specifications on construction plans	Prior to ground disturbance	Contractor

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	<p>and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114;</p> <p>i. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible; and,</p> <p>j. The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust off-site. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition.</p>			
AQ-3	<p>Prior to ground disturbance and construction, the Construction Contractor shall obtain all required permits for the use of portable equipment, 50 horsepower or greater, from the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District. Upon application for construction permits, all required PM₁₀ measures shall be shown on all applicable grading or construction plans, and implemented during all applicable grading and construction activities.</p>	<p>Obtain all required permits</p>	<p>Prior to ground disturbance</p>	<p>Contractor</p>
Biological Resources				
BIO-1	<p>Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-authorized biologists will conduct activities involving San Joaquin kit fox, least Bell's vireo, and California red-legged frog. No site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities will commence until the EPA or its designated agent has received written authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of those specific biologists they wish to conduct those activities.</p>	<p>Written authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>City</p>
BIO-2	<p>Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the City will retain a biologist to prepare and deliver a worker orientation and training program for all construction staff. This program will include information on the protection oak trees, riparian and wetland habitat, California red-legged frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>), coast range newt (<i>Taricha torosa torosa</i>), silvery legless lizard (<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>), western pond turtle (<i>Emys marmorata</i>), coast horned lizard (<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>), Cooper's</p>	<p>Retain a qualified biologist</p>	<p>Prior to commencement of site preparation</p>	<p>City</p>

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Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>), bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>), purple martin (<i>Progne subis</i>), yellow warbler (<i>Setophaga petechia</i>), least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>), migratory birds, nesting raptors, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat (<i>Neotoma macrotis luciana</i>), San Joaquin kit fox (<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>), and roosting bats. The training shall also include any applicable regulatory policies and provisions regarding species protection and minimization measures to be implemented. The point of contact appointed by the City will be identified. Any employee or contractor who might detect the presence of or inadvertently injure or kill a special-status species or who finds a dead, injured, or entrapped animal will report their observation to this point of contact. The name and contact information for this person will also be provided to the EPA and applicable agencies.			
BIO-3	Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the City will demonstrate to the Environmental Protection Agency that it is in possession of all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from regulatory agencies.	Authorization from Environmental Protection Agency	Prior to commencement of site preparation	City
BIO-4	Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the perimeter of these activity areas will be delineated with construction fencing to avoid inadvertent egress into habitat intended to remain undisturbed. Verification that this fencing has been installed will be conveyed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the contractor. The contractor will be responsible for fence maintenance throughout the entire construction process.	Delineate work areas and obtain verification from USFWS	Prior to commencement of site preparation	Contractor
BIO-5	Prior to construction, the City shall prepare and submit to the Regional Water Quality Control Board or State Water Resources Control Board a Notice of Intent (NOI) and prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with the requirements of the State General Order related to construction projects. The SWPPP shall identify the selected stormwater management procedures, pollution control technologies; spill response procedures, and other means that will be used to minimize erosion and sediment production and the release of pollutants to surface water during construction. The City shall ensure that sedimentation and erosion control measures are installed prior to any ground disturbing activities.	Prepare and submit Notice of Intent and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan	Prior to construction	City
BIO-6	Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the City will identify its Best Management Practices on all construction plans. These practices will be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities as	Incorporation of best management practices on construction plans	Prior to commencement of site preparation	City

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Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	necessary to ensure their intended efficacy. Measures will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the placement of silt fencing along the down-slope side of the construction zone, onsite storage of a spill and clean-up kit at all times, and employment of both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control measures (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles).			
BIO-7	During all phases of project construction, any trash that may attract predators will be properly contained and removed from the work site regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.	Removal of trash from work areas	During construction	Contractor
BIO-8	<p>Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall ensure preparation and implementation of a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan that includes provisions for avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to sensitive habitat areas, including wetland and riparian areas and water bodies due to equipment-related spills during project implementation. The City of Paso Robles shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the City of Paso Robles shall ensure that the plan allows a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measure to take should a spill occur. The plan shall include the following provisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All equipment fueling shall be conducted within the designated staging areas of the project site (see Figure 6). Such areas shall consist of roadway or ruderal habitat. At no time shall any equipment fueling be conducted within 100 feet of any wetland and riparian habitat area, or water body; b. An overview of the containment measures to appropriately store and contain all fuels and associated petroleum products during the project shall be included in the plan. This shall include provisions for equipment staging areas, such as the need for drip pans underneath parked equipment and designated storage areas for fuel dispensing equipment with visqueen lining or similar and secondary containment; and, c. A description of the response equipment that would be on-site during construction and exact procedures for responding to any inadvertent spills including miscellaneous fuel and/or lubricant spills from construction equipment and vehicles during operations. Final specifications of the Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the 	Preparation of Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan	Prior to and during construction	City

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Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
City of Paso Robles prior to project implementation.				
BIO-9	During site preparation, ground-disturbing, and construction activities, a biologist will be onsite at that frequency necessary to ensure compliance with all avoidance and minimization measures for special-status and other migratory bird species. This biologist will have the authority to halt any activity that has the potential to result in adverse effects or take that exceed the levels anticipated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If work is stopped, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be notified immediately to determine the appropriate response.	Ensure qualified biological monitor is present	During construction	City
BIO-10	During all site disturbance and construction activities, work will cease each day at sunset, which is defined by the point at which the sun is no longer visible from the local horizon.	Cease work by sunset every day	During construction	Contractor
BIO-11	To the maximum extent possible, site preparation, ground-disturbing, and construction activities will be conducted outside of the breeding season (considered to be March 15 through September 15, annually). If such activities are required during this period, the City will ensure that surveys are conducted to identify any nesting birds included on the current list of avian species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Surveys will be conducted on a weekly basis throughout the breeding season by a biologist for the purpose of identifying potential bird nesting activity. If active nests or nesting activity are identified during the preconstruction survey process, the following measures will be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The project will be either modified or delayed such that take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young is avoided. b. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be contacted to determine an appropriate biological buffer distance around active nest sites. Construction activities within zone will be prohibited until a biologist determines that young have fledged the nest and achieved independence. c. All active nests will be documented by the biologist in a letter report submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and City in order to demonstrate compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. 	Implement protective measures for nesting birds	Prior to and during construction	City
BIO-12	If site preparation, ground-disturbing, construction, or polishing channel maintenance activities that necessitate trimming or disturbance of riparian habitat are to occur between March 15 and September 15 annually, the City will ensure that a biologist conducts	Implement protective measures for nesting birds	Prior to and during construction	City

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	<p>morning surveys at the beginning of each work week to determine if the least Bell's vireo or other special-status or migratory birds are present in any riparian habitat within the action area. If the least Bell's vireo or other special-status birds are detected during these surveys or at any other time, work in the area will stop until the biologist can assess its behavior. If breeding or nesting behavior is detected within the action area during pre-project surveys, the biologist will establish a buffer zone that is deemed sufficient to avoid the disruption of this behavior or abandonment of any nest by the adults. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service generally recommends a minimum 500-foot (152-m) buffer around nests where no work is to occur; however, a smaller buffer can be established if deemed sufficiently protective by the biologist and approved, in advance, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p>			
BIO-13	<p>Prior to and during construction, if nests are identified, the biologist must monitor the nests during all project activities that are being conducted immediately adjacent to the buffer zone to determine if there are effects on the nesting species. The biologist will have the authority to stop work if deemed necessary to protect the nests and nesting birds.</p>	<p>Implement protective measures for nesting birds</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>City</p>
BIO-14	<p>Prior to commencement of any ground-disturbing, site preparation, and/or construction activities, all riparian and wetland areas will be identified on the construction plans with special attention directed to those areas where vegetation will be altered or removed.</p>	<p>Incorporation of specifications on construction plans</p>	<p>Prior to commencement of site preparation</p>	<p>City</p>
BIO-15	<p>Prior to, and during, construction activities a biologist will permanently remove from the project area any exotic aquatic wildlife species (e.g., bullfrogs (<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>), crayfish (<i>Procambarus clarkii</i>), centrarchid fishes) to the maximum extent possible. This work must be in compliance with the relevant provisions of the California Fish and Game Code.</p>	<p>Permanently remove exotic aquatic wildlife species</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>City</p>
BIO-16	<p>Site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities within 100 feet (30.5 m) of the Salinas River will be conducted during the dry season to minimize adverse effects to California red-legged frogs and other special status species that may be using the Salinas River and its associated riparian/riverine habitat as a movement or dispersal corridor. The City will ensure that pre-activity surveys for California red-legged frogs (all life stages) are conducted in these areas by a biologist at the beginning of each work day during the time period during which these activities are being performed. If California red-</p>	<p>Implement pre-activity surveys and appropriate timing of construction activities</p>	<p>Prior to and during construction</p>	<p>City</p>

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	legged frogs are found, the biologist will capture and move them out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat. If a possible California red-legged frog is observed by work personnel, work in that area will cease until the frog moves out of harm's way or is identified to that level needed to determine if it represents the listed entity. If so, it will be captured and moved by a biologist out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat. Work in the area will not commence until the biologist has had sufficient time to conduct this activity if needed.			
BIO-17	The City will ensure that a pre-activity survey for California red-legged frogs is conducted by a biologist no more than 24 hours before start of work. If California red-legged frogs, of any life stage, are found the biologist will capture and move them out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat. If a possible California red-legged frog is observed by work personnel, work in that area will cease until the frog moves out of harm's way or is identified to that level needed to determine if it represents the listed entity. If so, it will be captured and moved by a biologist out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat. Work in the area will not commence until the biologist has had sufficient time to conduct this activity if needed.	Implement preactivity surveys and appropriate timing of construction activities	Prior to and during construction	City
BIO-18	During site preparation or construction activities, if the work area is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes will be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than 0.05 inch (5 millimeters) to prevent California red-legged frogs and other aquatic species from entering the pump system. Water will be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any barriers to flow will be removed in a manner that allows the reestablishment of natural flow with the least amount of disturbance to the substrate. If a California red-legged frog is identified at any time during this process, a biologist will capture and move the species out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat.	Implement appropriate protective measures for dewatering activities	During construction	Contractor
BIO-19	To ensure that disease or pathogens (e.g., chytrid fungus) are not transferred between riparian and aquatic habitat during the course of surveys or handling of the California red-legged frogs, the biologist conducting these activities will at all times follow the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force.	Implement appropriate protective measures developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force	Prior to and during construction	Contractor

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
BIO-20	Biologists will not use soaps, oils, creams, lotions, repellants, or solvents of any sort on their hands before and during periods when they are capturing and moving California red-legged frogs and other special status species. Nets or bare hands may be used to capture the species.	Implement appropriate protective measures for all aquatic species handling activities	Prior to and during construction	Contractor
BIO-21	During site preparation, ground disturbing, or construction activities, all excavations, steep-walled holes, and trenches in excess of 2 feet (0.6 m) in depth will be covered at the close of each working day using plywood or similar materials. Trenches will also be inspected for trapped California red-legged frogs each morning prior to onset of field activities and immediately prior to covering at the end of each working day. Before any excavations, holes, or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped individuals.	Implement inspections for California red-legged frogs	During construction	Contractor
BIO-22	Any and all construction equipment or building materials staged within 100 feet (30.5 m) from riparian habitat will be inspected by a biologist for California red-legged frogs at the beginning of each work day. If an individual is found, it will be captured by a biologist and moved out of harm's way into the nearest suitable habitat.	Implement inspections for California red-legged frogs	During construction	Contractor
BIO-23	To the extent practicable, construction activities adjacent to the Salinas River shall be conducted during the dry season (May 1 through November 1), or as specified by resource agency permits and authorizations. This would reduce potential impacts to aquatic and semi-aquatic species that might be using the Salinas River and associated riparian vegetation as a movement/dispersal corridor.	Implement appropriate construction timing	Prior to and during construction	City
BIO-24	Prior to construction, the City of Paso Robles shall submit the name(s) and credentials of biologists to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who would conduct activities in support of the proposed project, including but not limited to environmental monitoring, capture and re-location of special-status species.	Submit the name(s) and credentials of biologists to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Prior to construction	City
BIO-25	The City of Paso Robles shall obtain a letter of permission from California Department of Fish and Wildlife to relocate any special-status animals (i.e., southwestern pond turtles, coast horned lizards, etc.) that are present within the project impact area. In the event that special-status species are observed, qualified specialists shall perform a capture and relocation effort. If present, the qualified specialists shall capture and relocate any special-status species to safe locations outside of the area of impact, pursuant to California Department of Fish and Wildlife conditions. Observations of California Species of	Obtain a letter of permission from California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Prior to site preparation	City

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	Special Concern or other special-status species shall be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion.			
BIO-26	Unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits, at least 7 days prior to onset of activities, an approved specialist shall survey the work site for the presence of special-status species. If special-status species, including mature individuals, tadpoles, or eggs are found, the approved specialist shall contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine if moving any of these life-stages is appropriate. In making this determination, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall consider if an appropriate relocation site exists. If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife approves moving animals, the approved specialist shall be allowed sufficient time to move special-status species from the work site before work activities begin. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved specialists shall participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs, unless otherwise specified in resource agency permits.	Implement pre-activity surveys	Prior to site preparation	City
BIO-27	A qualified biologist shall monitor the work site pursuant to the approved Mitigation and Monitoring Program and resource agency permits. The qualified biologist shall be on-site to perform pre-construction surveys, instruct workers, monitor activities within sensitive habitat areas, and during relocation of special-status species. The qualified biologist shall have the authority to halt any action that might result in impacts that exceed the levels anticipated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife during review of the proposed action. If work is stopped, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be notified immediately by the qualified biologist. The qualified biologist shall also submit a report to the City documenting the implementation of mitigation measures.	Implement biological monitoring	Prior to and during construction	City
BIO-28	During construction, in order to reduce the potential for amphibious species and other wildlife species entering the construction area, standing water shall not be created as a result of construction activities.	Prevent the development of standing water	During construction	Contractor

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
BIO-29	<p>Prior to construction, the project site shall be surveyed by a qualified specialist for identification of woodrat middens. In the event woodrat middens are observed, and the middens cannot be avoided during project activities, then the middens shall be removed as follows, under supervision of the specialist. Due to the health risks surrounding this activity, removal by hand is not recommended.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Upon completion of clearing the vegetation surrounding the woodrat shelter, the operator shall gently nudge the intact middens with equipment or long handled tools. The operators shall place their equipment within the previously cleared area and not within the undisturbed woodrat shelter area. The objective is to alarm the woodrats so that they evacuate the midden and scatter away from the equipment and into the undisturbed habitat. b. Once the woodrats have evacuated the midden, the operator shall gently pick up portions of the structure with a front loader and move it to the undisturbed adjacent habitat. The objective of moving the structure is to provide the displaced woodrats with a stockpile of material to scavenge while they build a new midden. Jeopardizing the integrity of the structure is not an issue. 	Implement pre-activity survey	Prior to construction	City
BIO-30	<p>To prevent inadvertent harm to San Joaquin kit fox, prior to construction, a qualified specialist shall perform the following monitoring activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Within 14 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, the specialist shall conduct a pre-activity (i.e. pre-construction) survey for known or potential kit fox dens and sign. Subsequent pre-construction surveys shall be completed if construction is halted for 30 days or more. If a known or potential den or any other sign of the species is identified or detected within the project area, work in the immediate area will cease and the biologist will contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately. No work will commence or continue until such time the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife determine that it is appropriate to proceed. Under no circumstances will a known or potential den be disturbed or destroyed without prior authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Within 7 days 	Implement pre-activity survey	Prior to construction	City

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	<p>of survey completion, a report will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the City. The report will include, at a minimum, survey dates, field personnel, field conditions, survey methodology, and survey results.</p> <p>b. During site preparation, ground disturbing, or construction activities, all excavations, steep-walled holes, and trenches in excess of 2 feet (0.6 m) in depth will be covered at the close of each working day using plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks in order to prevent entrapment of the San Joaquin kit fox. Trenches will also be inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit fox each morning prior to onset of field activities and immediately prior to covering with plywood at the end of each working day. Before any excavations, holes, or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit fox. If a San Joaquin kit fox is observed, all work will stop and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife contacted to determine how to proceed.</p> <p>c. During ground-disturbing and/or construction activities, all pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches (10 centimeters; cm) or greater that have been stored overnight at the project site will be thoroughly inspected for trapped San Joaquin kit fox before these materials are buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a San Joaquin kit fox is found, work will stop immediately and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife contacted to determine how to proceed.</p> <p>d. If incidental take of kit fox during project activities is possible, before project activities commence, the City of Paso Robles must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The results of this consultation may require the City of Paso Robles to obtain a federal and/or state permit for incidental take during project activities. The City of Paso Robles should be aware that the presence of kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens at the project site could result in further delays of project activities.</p> <p>In addition, the qualified specialist shall implement the</p>			

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Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	<p>following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within 30 days prior to initiation of site disturbance and/or construction, fenced exclusion zones shall be established around all known and potential kit fox dens. Exclusion zone fencing shall consist of either large flagged stakes connected by rope or cord, or survey laths or wooden stakes prominently flagged with survey ribbon. Each exclusion zone shall be roughly circular in configuration with a radius of the following distance measured outward from the den or burrow entrances: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Potential kit fox den: 50 feet b) Known kit fox den: 100 feet c) Kit fox pupping den: 150 feet 2. All foot and vehicle traffic, as well as all construction activities, including storage of supplies and equipment, shall remain outside of exclusion zones. Exclusion zones shall be maintained until all project-related disturbances have been terminated, and then shall be removed. 3. If kit foxes or known or potential kit fox dens are found on site, daily monitoring during ground disturbing activities shall be required by a qualified specialist. <p>e. Prior to, during, and after the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, use of pesticides or herbicides shall be in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. This is necessary to minimize the probability of primary or secondary poisoning of endangered species utilizing adjacent habitats, and the depletion of prey upon which San Joaquin kit foxes depend.</p> <p>f. Prior to final inspection, should any long internal or perimeter fencing be proposed or installed around natural habitat areas, the City of Paso Robles shall do the following to provide for kit fox passage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a wire strand/pole design is used, the lowest strand shall be no closer to the ground than 12 inches. 2. If a more solid wire mesh fence is used, 8 x 12-inch openings near the ground shall be provided every 			

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Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	<p>100 yards.</p> <p>3. Upon fence installation, the contractor shall notify the City of Paso Robles to verify proper installation. Any fencing constructed after issuance of a final permit shall follow the above guidelines.</p>			
BIO-31	A qualified specialist shall conduct roosting bat surveys prior to any trimming or removal of trees. If roosting bats are present, work activities shall not occur within 100 feet of the active roost. If trees that provide bat roosting habitat are removed, the City of Paso Robles shall consult with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine the appropriate means of mitigation for loss of the roosting habitat. Removed trees shall be replaced by native trees that provide roosting habitat for bats.	Implement pre-activity survey	Prior to construction	City
BIO-32	Prior to commencement of grading and construction activities, the perimeter of the Project Impact Area shall be delineated (construction fencing, flagging, rope, etc.) to avoid inadvertent impacts to sensitive habitats and/or sensitive species. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction activities and shall be maintained by the contractor. The construction boundaries shall be shown on all applicable construction plans.	Incorporate specifications on construction plans	Prior to construction	City
BIO-33	Before grading and/or construction activities commence, a qualified specialist shall establish exclusion zones around known boundaries of confirmed sensitive habitat areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion adjacent habitats, including a 50-foot buffer zone around the delineated boundaries of the seasonal wetland feature located within the southern portion of the Project Impact Area. The seasonal wetland area shall be avoided during all construction and operation activities. Grading, structures, landscaping, and other project-related activities including equipment staging shall occur a minimum of 50 feet away from the seasonal wetland habitat. Exclusionary fencing shall remain in place throughout project activities. The areas to be protected shall be shown on all applicable construction plans.	Establish exclusion zones	Prior to construction	City
BIO-34	Prior to and during construction, the City shall implement erosion control best management practices. To reduce the potential for inadvertent release of sediment from construction areas to adjacent stream, drainage, wetland, or other sensitive resource areas, the contractor shall install appropriate erosion control devices (i.e., straw wattles, silt fence) around the perimeter of each work site, and other areas experiencing disturbance of the ground surface. Storm drains	Implement erosion control best management practices	Prior to and during construction	Contractor

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Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	and gutters leading to drainage and wetland areas shall be protected by installation of erosion control measures or shall be blocked to prevent water entry. Erosion control devices shall be checked on a daily basis to ensure proper function.			
<i>Hazards and Hazardous Materials</i>				
HM-1	<p>Prior to initiation of construction activities, the Contractor shall prepare and submit to the City of Paso Robles a contingency plan for handling hazardous materials, whether found or introduced on-site during construction. This plan shall include standard construction measures as specified in local, state and federal regulations for hazardous materials, removal of on-site debris, and confirmation of presence of pipelines on-site. At a minimum, the following measures shall be included in the contingency plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. If contaminated soils or other hazardous materials are encountered during any soil moving operation during construction (e.g., trenching, excavation, grading), construction shall be halted and the Hazardous Material Control Plan (HMCP) implemented. b. Instruct workers on recognition and reporting of materials that may be hazardous. c. Minimize delays by continuing performance of the work in areas not affected by hazardous materials operations. d. Identify and contact subcontractors and licensed personnel qualified to undertake storage, removal, transportation, disposal, and other remedial work required by, and in accordance with, laws and regulations. e. Forward to engineer, copies of reports, permits, receipts, and other documentation related to remedial work. f. Notify such agencies as are required to be notified by laws and regulations within the time stipulated by such laws and regulations. g. File requests for adjustments to contract time and contract price due to the finding of hazardous materials in the work site in accordance with conditions of contract. 	Prepare and submit contingency plan to City	Prior to commencement of site preparation	Contractor
HM-2	Prior to operation, the Contractor shall complete and submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan to City of Paso Robles staff or their designee, and the County of San Luis Obispo Department of	Prepare and submit Hazardous Materials Business Plan to City	Prior to commencement of operation	Contractor

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Requirements of Measure	Compliance Method	Verification Timing	Responsible Party
	Environmental Health. As a component of the Hazardous Materials Business Plan, detailed procedures for handling and storage of hazardous materials used on site, and response to emergency or accidental releases of hazardous materials used on site shall be included.			
Noise				
NS-1	<p>Prior to initiation of construction activities, the project Contractor shall prepare a Noise Control Plan which will include Noise Reduction Best Management Practices for all phases of construction. The plan shall be submitted to the City of Paso Robles for approval and shall include the following Noise Reduction Best Management Practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Limit the operation of heavy equipment and loud activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; b. Shield especially loud pieces of stationary construction equipment; c. Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors; d. Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible; e. Place heavily trafficked areas such as the maintenance yard, equipment, tool, and other construction oriented operations in locations that would be the least disruptive to surrounding sensitive noise receptors; f. Ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators intact and operational. Internal combustion engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and, g. Conduct worker-training meetings to educate and encourage noise awareness and sensitivity. This training should focus on worker conduct while in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (i.e., minimizing and locating the use of circular saws in areas adjacent to sensitive receptors and being mindful of shouting and the loud use of attention drawing language). 	Prepare and submit Noise Control Plan to City	Prior to construction	Contractor