

Notice of Preparation

To: State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814 (Address)

From: Coastside County Water District
766 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019 (Address)

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Coastside County Water District will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study (X is is not ) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to David R. Dickson, General Manager at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Denniston/San Vicente Water Supply Project

Project Applicant, if any: Coastside County Water District

Date: 10/19/11
Signature: [Handwritten Signature]
Title: GENERAL MANAGER
Telephone: 650-726-4405

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

**COASTSIDE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT  
766 MAIN STREET  
HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019**

**INITIAL STUDY**

**I. BACKGROUND**

PROJECT TITLE: Denniston/San Vicente Water Supply Project  
Petition for Extension of Time for Permit 15882

PERMIT: 15882

APPLICANT: Coastside County Water District  
766 Main Street  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

APPLICANT'S  
CONTACT PERSON: David R. Dickson  
General Manager  
766 Main Street  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
(650) 726-4405

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: Rural Development

ZONING: Rural Development (Agriculture and Private Recreation) District

**INTRODUCTION**

The Coastside County Water District (CCWD) provides service to an area covering over 14 square miles in San Mateo County along the California coast. The CCWD service area includes the City of Half Moon Bay and unincorporated areas of San Mateo County including Miramar, Princeton by the Sea and El Granada. The CCWD is seeking approval of a petition for extension of time from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWCRB) for water right Permit 15882 (Application 22860). The approval of this extension of time would allow CCWD to complete construction of a pipeline and infrastructure improvements to facilitate full beneficial use of currently approved diversions under Permit 15882. This would increase the availability and reliance on a local water source and lessen dependence on imported water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

The project site is shown in **Figures 1 and 2**. The project site is located within the "Montara, California" U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle at Township 5N, Range 6W, Section 2, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. The elements of the proposed project described below are located in the northern portion of the CCWD service area.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

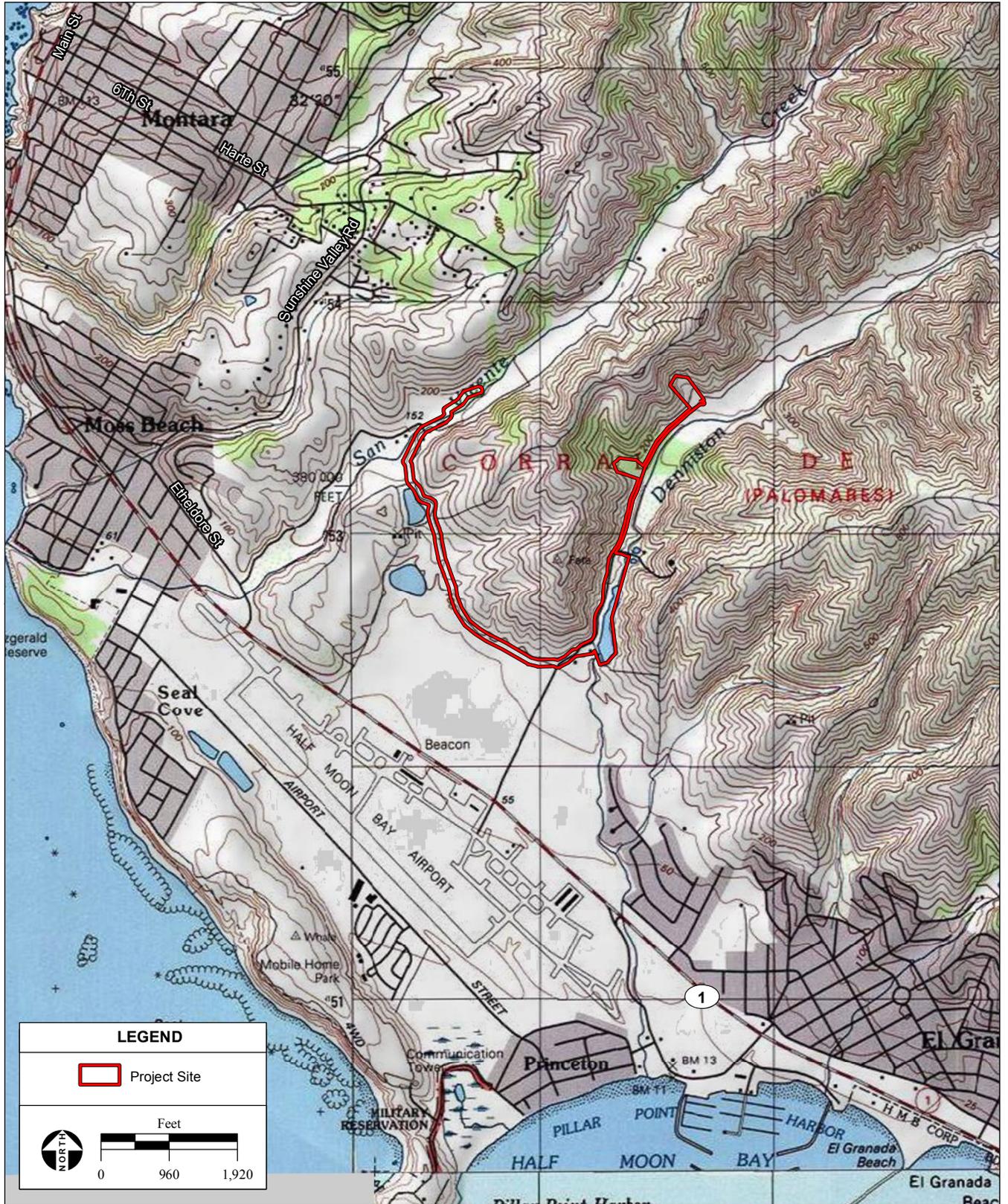
Specific elements of the proposed project are located in the northern portion of the CCWD service area in San Mateo County, California. Denniston Creek and the existing Denniston Reservoir are located northeast of the Half Moon Bay Airport on the inland side of Highway 1.



SOURCE: StreetMap North America, 2009; AES, 2011

CCWD Denniston/San Vicente Water Supply Initial Study / 211525 ■

**Figure 1**  
Regional Location



SOURCE: "Montara Mountain, CA" USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle, T4S & 5S R5W & 6W, Unsectioned Area of Corral de Tierra, Mt. Diablo Baseline & Meridian; AES, 2011

CCWD Demiston/San Vicente Water Supply Initial Study / 211525 ■

**Figure 2**  
Site and Vicinity

The Denniston Creek watershed covers approximately 2,600 acres and discharges into Pillar Point Harbor which is located approximately 1.2 miles south of the existing Denniston Reservoir.

The existing Point of Diversion (POD) on San Vicente Creek is located approximately 4,300 feet due north of Denniston Reservoir. The San Vicente Creek watershed covers approximately 1,200 acres and discharges into the Pacific Ocean within the boundaries of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

This area is located in the California Coast Range geomorphic province, which is considered a seismically active region. Elevations at the project site range from 110 feet above mean sea level (amsl) along the proposed pipeline to 275 feet amsl at the northernmost dredge material disposal site (**Figure 3**).

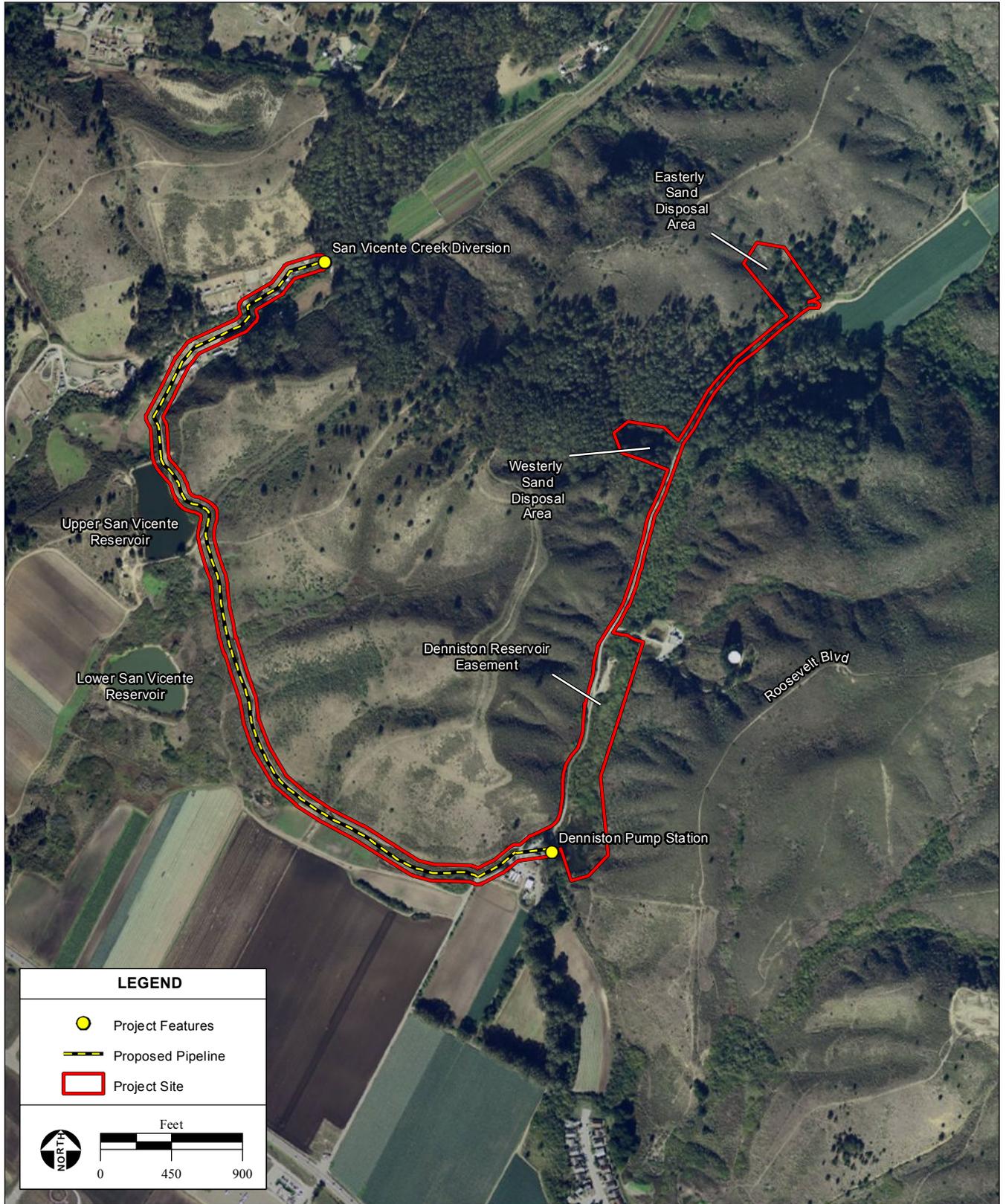
The topography of the surrounding area consists of rolling hills transitioning to a coastal plain. Surrounding land uses include agricultural, residential and commercial areas. The Half Moon Bay Airport is located approximately one half mile to the south and west of the elements of the proposed project. The current land uses within the two watersheds are dominated by open space, recreational (equestrian and hiking), and agriculture.

The climate in the region is relatively mild, a result of being moderated by the Pacific Ocean. Temperatures range from an average of 47 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter to 62 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer. The rainy season starts in November and runs through March, with an average precipitation of 26.33 inches per year<sup>1</sup>.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

To expand its local water supply, CCWD filed water-right application 22680 with the State Water Rights Board (SWRB) in 1966. In 1969, the SWRCB, the successor to the SWRB, issued water-right Permit 15882. The permit authorizes CCWD to divert up to 2 cubic feet per second (cfs) from both Denniston and San Vicente Creeks on a year-round basis. The proposed facilities listed in the 1966 application include: a permanent diversion facility on San Vicente Creek consisting of a sump and pump station (a limited seasonal diversion is in place; improvements to diversion and the pump station are part of proposed project); a 6,100-foot-long 8-inch diameter pipeline from the San Vicente diversion to Denniston Reservoir pump station (part of proposed project); a pump station at the westerly end of Denniston Reservoir (in place); a water treatment plant (WTP) located northerly of this reservoir (in place and with enhanced treatment capacity approved/in place); and a treated water pipeline from the treatment plant to the existing water distribution system via the CCWD's other WTP (in place).

Project components to be analyzed in this document include: 1) a permanent diversion structure to replace the semi-permanent structure currently in use on San Vicente Creek; 2) a pump station located at the new permanent diversion; 3) a 6,100 foot long pipeline to convey San Vicente Creek water to the existing Denniston Reservoir pump station; 4) full beneficial use of the total amount of water that would be diverted from Denniston and San Vicente Creeks under Permit 15882; and 5) expanded sediment removal and maintenance activities within the existing Denniston Reservoir to ensure that the existing diversion can be fully utilized as authorized under Permit 15882. Completion of the first three components of the proposed project would ensure infrastructure originally authorized under the Permit would be in place to ensure the full beneficial use of the water under existing Permit 15882. Project components, including the construction area and the existing easements which would be used for the expanded sediment removal and disposal, are shown on **Figure 3** and discussed further below.



SOURCE: Kennedy Jenks, 2010; USGS Aerial Photograph, 6/30/2008; AES, 2011

CCWD Denniston/San Vicente Water Supply Initial Study / 211525 ■

**Figure 3**  
Project Components

### **Construction**

The project would include the construction of a permanent diversion structure at the location of the San Vicente Creek POD authorized under Permit 15882. Water diverted from the San Vicente Creek would be conveyed via upgraded piping to Upper San Vicente Reservoir and then via a new 4,300 foot pipeline that would connect to the existing Denniston Creek Pump Station located adjacent to Denniston Reservoir. Water would then be pumped from this existing pump station to the Denniston Creek WTP. The proposed new pipeline would be installed within existing CCWD easements generally following an existing farm road to the Denniston Creek pump station. The proposed new pipeline route is oriented along the toe of the slope that separates the San Vicente Creek and Denniston Creek watersheds at the coastal plain transition. This proposed alignment from Upper San Vicente Reservoir is similar to the alignment of the temporary above ground pipeline that CCWD has used in the past to convey water from San Vicente Creek to the Denniston Creek pump station and WTP.

Construction activities would be limited to the installation of the new diversion structure and associated pump station at the San Vicente Creek POD and the installation of the conveyance pipeline from this POD to the Denniston Pump Station. This construction would complete the infrastructure needed to allow full beneficial use of water under existing Permit 15882. The pipeline would be installed using open cut trenching, which requires clearing of vegetation, excavation of the trench, pipeline installation, backfill and compaction, and re-grading where necessary. Where feasible, native material generated during trenching would be retained for backfill. Excavated materials that cannot be utilized for backfill would be hauled offsite to an appropriate disposal facility, and any additional backfill material needed would be imported. Bay Area Air Quality Management District's basic mitigation measures would be implemented as part of the project design. Depending on site conditions, trenches would be secured at the end of each workday by covering with steel plates, filling with backfill material, or installing barricades to restrict access.

### **Operation and Maintenance Activities**

The CCWD currently maintains Denniston Reservoir under a Long-term Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for sediment removal in the immediate vicinity of the existing Dam. This ongoing LSAA authorized a onetime removal of about 800 cubic yards (cy) of sediment during the first year, with disposal in the existing approved disposal area in a eucalyptus grove north of the reservoir. The LSAA also authorizes the removal of 400 cy of material annually as part of the CCWD's ongoing diversion point maintenance at Denniston Reservoir, and CCWD is in the third year of this program.

Currently, both the CCWD and the neighboring farm pump water from the existing diversion. The CCWD pumps the water to the Denniston WTP for treatment via a pump station located near the existing Denniston Reservoir Dam. Under the proposed project, the CCWD would expand the area and scope of the ongoing sediment removal program. CCWD's easement for Denniston Reservoir encompasses over three surface acres, which is approximately the size of the original reservoir built in the early 1900's. The current LSAA covers the annual sediment removal on about 0.5 acres immediately adjacent to the dam. While this enables the CCWD to meet their immediate needs, it is not an optimal program for the ongoing maintenance of the reservoir over time. The CCWD proposed a larger sediment removal maintenance plan, which would include the clearing of the entire sediment-filled, overgrown area of the original reservoir.

This expanded reservoir management plan would include the restoration of a creek channel within the exiting riparian area to the north of Denniston Reservoir. The expanded maintenance of the reservoir would result in habitat benefits for the local red legged frog population by

increasing the edge effect of the reservoir while providing assurance of a more sustainable water source for the CCWD and the farmer operating the croplands adjacent to the proposed project site. The restored capacity of the reservoir is approximately 30 acre feet, which is less than the maximum 30 day combined storage needs of the CCWD and the farmer that use this reservoir. This annual maintenance program would also help to ensure the continued capture of sediment at the reservoir and prevent its conveyance downstream to Princeton Harbor. CCWD already has easements both for the entire reservoir where the sediment removal would occur and for the two existing sediment disposal areas. This expanded sediment removal program would require either an amendment to the existing LSAA or a new LSAA between the CCWD and DFG.

Ongoing operational activities associated with the remainder of the proposed new facilities may include routine maintenance of the pipeline, maintenance and/or possible future dredging of the new diversion structure at San Vicente Creek, although the latter is not currently anticipated, and maintenance of the pump station at San Vicente Creek.

### **Project Objectives**

San Mateo County and the City of Half Moon Bay have both adopted growth control measures, which have reduced the overall rate of new development within CCWD's service area. These growth restrictions, in conjunction with Local Coastal Program (LCP) policies, require phasing of utility infrastructure, including water production, treatment, and transmission facilities, to correspond to planned development rate in the LCP. The slow but steady growth planned for in the LCP, in combination with the escalating costs and uncertainty associated with the long-term reliability of water imported from SFPUC, requires CCWD to fully utilize local supplies to ensure that current and already approved long-term water demands for authorized growth are met. This project does not modify the CCWD's level of service or the number of allowable hook ups; the use of local supplies would reduce the dependence on imported water but not modify the overall demand for water. In short, the proposed project would meet the following objectives:

- Improve the overall reliability of the local CCWD water supply system, particularly in the event of a disaster such as a major earthquake;
- Maximize usage of local water supply and improve the balance between imported and local sources;
- Complete the construction of infrastructure originally anticipated to enable full beneficial utilization of diverted water under the existing permit; and
- Put in place a full maintenance program at the existing Denniston Reservoir.

### **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

CCWD receives its water supply from four sources: 1) Denniston and San Vicente Creeks, 2) wells adjacent to Palarcitos Creek, 3) wells near Denniston Creek, and 4) SFPUC water from Pilarcitos Lake and Crystal Springs Reservoir. The local water sources utilized by CCWD include surface and groundwater, which CCWD operates in a conjunctive use manner. In 2010, approximately 88 percent (%) of the annual CCWD-wide demand was met by water purchased from SFPUC with the remaining 12% produced locally from ground and surface water (CCWD, 2010). The amount of water available from SFPUC has recently been capped and may be further reduced in the future, increasing the need for CCWD to fully utilize and integrate all local water sources.

The existing CCWD system consists of two water treatment plants, 17 miles of transmission pipeline, 83 miles of distribution pipeline, several water storage tanks and supporting equipment and facilities. CCWD has implemented, and is continuing to implement, capital projects to improve efficiency and reliability, and ensure treatment capacity to allow full development and

use of local ground water, surface water, and purchased water. CCWD approved and completed the upgrade of the El Granada Transmission Pipeline between the Denniston WTP and the Nunes Water Treatment Plant (Nunes WTP). This project helped to facilitate the exchange of local source water and purchased water for utilization in all parts of the CCWD service area. Water from the northern portion of CCWD's service area, which comes from the two creek diversions and the Denniston Creek well field, now can be shared with the southern portions of the CCWD service area.

CCWD completed modifications to the Denniston storage tank in 2009 to remove the chlorine contact time limitations that had restricted ability of the CCWD to treat flows, and CCWD recently began construction of improvements to the Denniston WTP. The upgrades at the Denniston WTP would allow the full use of generally lower quality raw water from the existing diversions, as well as the groundwater from the Denniston well field. These improvements, when combined with the other relatively recent improvements, such as the El Granada Pipeline, would improve the reliability and security of the CCWD's local water supply. With the construction of the components covered in the proposed project, the complete infrastructure would be in place to fully utilize the water available under Permit 15882.

The proposed permanent diversion structure on San Vicente Creek would replace a simple diversion ditch and temporary sandbag impoundment that supplies water to Upper San Vicente Reservoir via an existing pipeline. The existing diversion on San Vicente Creek is used jointly by CCWD and the local farmer who stores water in both Upper and Lower San Vicente Reservoirs for irrigation. The farmer generally installs and maintains the diversion annually. The new diversion structure would maintain water supplies for both CCWD and the farmer and should improve stream conditions at the POD.

Denniston Reservoir, which was built by local farmers in the early 1900s, functions today as the diversion point on Denniston Creek from which water is pumped to the Denniston WTP. This diversion also serves the local farmers who divert directly to on-farm use. The Denniston Reservoir is currently maintained by CCWD through annual dredging activities covered under LSAA #1600-2007-0480-3. All dredged material is placed at existing disposal sites approximately one half mile up canyon from Denniston Reservoir.

CCWD filed water-right Application 22680 with the State Water Rights Board (SWRB) in 1966. In 1969, the SWRCB, the successor to the SWRB, issued water-right Permit 15882. The permit authorizes CCWD to divert up to 2 cubic feet per second (cfs) each from Denniston and San Vicente Creeks. The proposed facilities listed in the original application include:

- A permanent diversion facility on San Vicente Creek consisting of a sump and pump station and a below-ground pipeline from the San Vicente diversion to Denniston Creek (components of the Proposed Project);
- A pump station at the westerly end of Denniston Reservoir (in place);
- A water treatment plant located southerly of this reservoir (in place, and with completion of the pretreatment improvements underway will address the water quality issues that have limited the ability to fully utilize the approved surface water right in the past); and
- A treated water pipeline from the Denniston WTP to the Nunes WTP and water distribution system further south (in place).

In 1973, CCWD completed construction of the Denniston Project, which included the Denniston pump station, the Denniston WTP, the Denniston water storage tank, and a limited capacity pipeline connecting the storage tank to the main distribution system. The Denniston Creek diversion has been utilized to date by CCWD with up to 1.9 cfs being diverted at various times

of the year. Historic usage of the diversion on San Vicente Creek by the CCWD has been limited to some domestic use in the 1980's, when a temporary, mostly above-ground pipeline from Upper San Vicente Reservoir to the Denniston Creek pumping station was installed and used. This practice has been limited due to water quality concerns and the treatment limitations at the Denniston WTP. These concerns would be addressed when this proposed project is complete and full beneficial utilization of the permitted water can begin.

Permit 15882 originally specified a 1971 deadline for completing proposed improvements and putting all water to beneficial use by 1972. Since these dates, CCWD has filed petitions for extension of time. Delays to complete the full infrastructure required to fully utilize the water under the existing permit were unavoidable, as the recent modifications to the Denniston WTP demonstrate. The upgrades to the Denniston WTP were required to address Department of Health Services restrictions. Likewise, the El Granada Pipeline upgrade construction was delayed due to appeals to the California Coastal Commission.

The current petition for extension of time was filed in June 2004. The SWRCB issued a public notice for this extension on November 19, 2009. In response to this notice, the National Park Service filed a letter to protest dated December 22, 2009 and the DFG filed a memorandum dated January 14, 2010. The SWRCB found both protests failed to meet acceptability requirements for protests. There are no protests to the current extension of time pending before the SWRCB.

In a letter dated October 13, 2010, the SWRCB informed CCWD that an environmental document would have to be prepared to evaluate the impacts of the potential increase use of the approved diversions that would occur if the extension of time is approved. CCWD has decided to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which would address the elements of the required project infrastructure and the extension of time to put the water to full beneficial use in the same document. The document would also serve as the required CEQA document for any permitting required for the project and the expanded maintenance program at Dennison Reservoir.

## **REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT**

The CCWD is the lead agency under CEQA with the primary authority for project approval. In addition, the following responsible, trustee, and federal agencies may have jurisdiction over some or the entire proposed project:

- California State Water Resources Control Board – responsible agency under CEQA for approval of the extension of time petition;
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board – Section 401 Water Quality Certification;
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance;
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) – Federal ESA Compliance;
- California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) – California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Compliance and Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement and CEQA trustee agency;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Section 404 Permit; and
- San Mateo County – conformance with the Local Coastal Program (LCP).

## II. DETERMINATION

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 NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

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

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

Prepared By:

  
Peter Bontadelli  
Analytical Environmental Services

10/19/11  
Date

Reviewed By:

  
David R. Dickson  
Coastside County Water District

10/19/11  
Date

(Form revised 2009)

Authority: Public Resources Code Sections 21083, 21084, 21084.1, and 21087.

Reference: Public Resources Code Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.1 through 21083.3, 21083.6 through 21083.9, 21084.1, 21093, 21094, 21151; *Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino*, 202 Cal. App. 3d 296 (1988); *Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors*, 222 Cal. App. 3d 1337 (1990).

### III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

The proposed project could potentially affect the environmental factors checked below. Refer to the checklists located in the following pages for more details.

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

1. Aesthetics.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### **Environmental Setting**

The project area is adjacent to scenic resources characteristic of San Mateo County coastal area, including mountainous landscapes, agricultural settings including cropland and several reservoirs, ocean views, and riparian areas. The project site itself contains agricultural settings, riparian areas, and hills covered in grasslands and coastal scrub. The existing land use of the project site is consistent with the rural aesthetic quality of the project area and nearby vicinity.

#### **Impact Discussion**

##### *Question A*

The proposed project would involve the installation of a pipeline. The pipeline would replace an existing underground pipeline for approximately one fourth its length in the northern edge of the project site, from the POD to Upper San Vicente Reservoir. The pipeline would branch at this point to allow both the farmer operating the adjacent croplands to continue to fill Upper San Vicente Reservoir, and the CCWD to pump water to its existing pump station at Denniston Reservoir. This pipeline would be placed along or within the existing farm road from Upper San Vicente Reservoir to the pump station at Denniston Reservoir.

The proposed project also involves construction of a permanent diversion on San Vicente Creek within private property. The diversion is surrounded by dense vegetation and cannot be seen from any adjoining property. Utilities necessary for the operation of the new POD would be installed underground and therefore not affect the visual quality of the area.

Another project component includes the dredging of Denniston Reservoir for long-term maintenance of sedimentation. The accumulation of sediment at the reservoir has resulted in a willow and cattail-dominated stream channel. Dredging activities would remove some of this accumulated sediment and associated vegetation, visually opening the stream channel and creating a larger open water area at Denniston Reservoir. This would improve the aesthetic nature of the reservoir and associated stream channel as it would recreate conditions at the time the reservoir was constructed. The dredged spoils would be deposited in two disposal sites north of Denniston Reservoir adjacent to a farm road (refer to **Figure 3**). When deposited, the dredged spoils would be spread out across the sites, effectively preventing the spoils from being seen even from the farm road. The two disposal sites are also surrounded by eucalyptus trees further shielding the dredged spoils from view. No impacts would occur to scenic vistas.

#### *Question B*

The proposed project would not damage any rock outcroppings or historic buildings. Some trees may be removed from the entrances of the disposal sites and would consist of eucalyptus trees. Additionally, willow trees and existing cattails might be removed from within the Denniston Reservoir as part of the dredging maintenance activities. As stated above, this would visually expand the view of Denniston Reservoir and would not detract from the aesthetic value of the area, as both the reservoir and the rechanneled stream course would be expanded and maintained. The few trees that would require removal would not result in impacts to visual resources since the trees removed will constitute a very small fraction of the total trees within the area. Additionally, these areas where tree removal would take place are not visible from any public roadways, including Highway 1. Highway 1 is located approximately 2,000 feet to the southwest of the project site, and this portion of Highway 1 is not designated as state scenic highway<sup>2</sup>. No impacts would occur to scenic resources.

#### *Question C and D*

The surrounding visual character and quality would not be altered since the project components would either be placed underground, situated low to the ground, or be concealed by dense vegetation. No new sources of light or glare would result from the project. No impacts would occur to the existing visual characteristics of the area.

#### *Findings*

No impacts would occur to aesthetics as a result of the project. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and will not be discussed further in the EIR.

<b>2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental impacts, 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:</p>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

The project site is located in San Mateo County and is designated as Rural Land Use under the San Mateo County General Plan Land Use Element.<sup>3</sup> Permitted land uses within the Rural Land Use category include agriculture and timber production.<sup>4</sup> Active agricultural fields bound the project site to the south, east, and west. The current diversion on San Vicente Creek is maintained by the neighboring farmer, and water is utilized for crop irrigation. The diversion on Denniston Creek is also shared by CCWD with local farmers. The farmers hold water rights on San Vicente Creek and Denniston Creek senior to those held by CCWD. Because of this, the farmers have priority for diversion and beneficial use of water on the two creeks. The use of water by CCWD would not affect the senior water rights of the farmers who share the PODs. The proposed project would not interfere with the maintenance of Upper or Lower San Vicente Reservoirs which appear to be significant contributors to recharging the groundwater levels in the shared aquifer. The pipeline replacement from the San Vicente diversion to the Upper San Vicente Reservoir as part of this proposed project would extend the life of the currently shared pipeline for this portion.

## ***Regulatory Framework***

### **Federal Regulations**

#### Farmland Protection Policy Act

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is intended to minimize the impact federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It assures that federal programs are administered in a matter that is compatible with state and local units of government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland (7 U.S.C. § 4201).

### **State Regulations**

#### California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP)

The FMMP, which monitors the conversion of the state's farmland to and from agricultural use, was established by the Department of Conservation, under the Division of Land Resource Protection. The program maintains an inventory of state agricultural land and updates its "Important Farmland Series Maps" every two years. The FMMP is an informational service only and does not constitute state regulation of local land use decisions.

#### Williamson Act

The Williamson Act is a State program that was implemented to preserve agricultural land. Under the provisions of the Williamson Act (California Land Conservation Act 1965, Section 51200), landowners contract with the county to maintain agricultural or open space use of their lands in return for reduced property tax assessments. No portion of the project site is under Williamson Act contract.

### ***Impact Discussion***

#### Question A

The project site is currently designated as Rural Land Use under the San Mateo County General Plan and zoned for agricultural and private recreational use. Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with existing land use designations. Construction activities would be limited to the installation of pipeline along an existing roadway, installation of a permanent diversion structure within San Vicente Creek, as well as the long-term maintenance and dredging of the Denniston Reservoir. CCWD's water rights are less senior than those of farmers who currently maintain the diversions, so water supply for agricultural uses would not be affected. The permanent POD on San Vicente Creek would benefit both CCWD and the local farmers who share the POD. Likewise, the improved maintenance of the shared diversion at Denniston Reservoir would also have benefits to both the local farmers and CCWD. Therefore the overall project as designed would not adversely affect current agricultural practices or water use. The project site does not contain areas designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance; therefore, there would be no impacts associated with such lands.

#### *Questions B and C*

The proposed project would not involve any construction or operational activities that conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, timber production, or a Williamson Act contract. The project site is currently designated as Rural Land Use and zoned for agricultural and private recreational use. The proposed project would not result in converting Farmland to non-agricultural uses. The project site is not located in an area zoned for timber production. No changes in land use or zoning would occur under the proposed project. The proposed project would not involve the conversion of forest land to non-forest use, nor would it conflict with existing zoning for forest land. Project approval would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation.

*Questions D and E*

The site is currently designated as Rural Land Use, which includes agricultural purposes. The project site would not convert Farmland to non-agricultural uses.

The project site is not zoned as timberland. The only trees that would be removed as a result of the proposed project include small willow and other riparian species adjacent to the POD and Denniston Reservoir as part of the routine dredging. Due to the limited impacts, no Timber Harvest Plan is required for this project. Any trees requiring removal would not exceed the threshold of trees outlined in the long term maintenance agreement (LSAA) entered into between the CCWD and the CDFG for the maintenance of Denniston Reservoir and would be fully mitigated in accordance with that LSAA. As such, the proposed project would not result in impacts to forest resources.

*Findings*

No impacts would occur to agricultural or forest resources as a result of the proposed project. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and will not be additionally discussed in the EIR.

<b>3. Air Quality.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in 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 that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

The project is located within the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB), which is under the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The climate of the region is generally Mediterranean in character, with mild, rainy winter weather from November through April, and warm to cool weather with persistent coastal stratus and fog from May through October. The SFBAAB is generally affected by regionally high pollution emissions.

Air quality in the area is a function of the criteria air pollutants emitted locally, the existing regional ambient air quality, and the meteorological and topographic factors that influence the intrusion of pollutants into the area from sources outside the immediate vicinity.

## **Regulatory Framework**

### **Federal Regulations**

#### 1977 Federal Clean Air Act (CAA)

The 1977 Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and welfare. NAAQS have been established for the six “criteria” air pollutants, ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, respirable particulate matter, and lead. The EPA publishes criteria documents to justify the choice of standards. Pursuant to the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA), the EPA has classified air basins (or portions thereof) as either “attainment” or “non-attainment” for each criteria air pollutant, based on whether or not the NAAQS have been achieved. The SFBAAB is designated as either attainment or unclassified for criteria air pollutants.

### **State Regulations**

#### California Clean Air Act (CCAA)

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulates mobile emissions sources and oversees the activities of Air Quality Management District’s (AQMDs). CARB regulates local air quality indirectly by California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) and vehicle emission standards by conducting research activities, and through its planning and coordinating activities. California has adopted standards that are more stringent than the federal standards for criteria air pollutants. Under the California Clean Air Act (CCAA), patterned after the federal CAA, areas have been designated as attainment or non-attainment with respect to CAAQS.

**Table 2** shows state standards for ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>. The SABAAB is designated under the NAAQS as nonattainment for 8-hour ozone and 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The SABAAB is designated under the CAAQS as nonattainment 1- and 8-hour ozone, annual and 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub>, and annual PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The SFBAAB is in attainment or is unclassified for all other criteria pollutants under the NAAQS and the CAAQS.

**TABLE 1 - CALIFORNIA AND NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Averaging Time</b>	<b>CAAQS</b>	<b>NAAQS</b>
Ozone	8-hour	0.070 ppm	0.075 ppm
	1 hour	0.09 ppm	-
Particulate Matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	24 hour	-	35 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Annual	12 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	15 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM <sub>10</sub> )	24 hour	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	150 µg/m <sup>3</sup>
	Annual	20 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	50 µg/m <sup>3</sup>

ppm = parts per million by volume  
 µg/m<sup>3</sup> = micrograms per cubic meter of air  
 Source: BAAQMD, 2010.

### **Ozone**

Ozone is a criteria air pollutant that is created in the presence of sunlight through a photochemical reaction involving reactive organic gas (ROG) and nitrogen oxide (NOX). ROG and NOX are emitted as result of incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. Because

photochemical reaction rates depend on the intensity of ultraviolet light and air temperature, ozone is primarily a summer air pollution problem. As a photochemical pollutant, ozone is formed only during daylight hours under appropriate conditions, but is destroyed throughout the day and night. Ozone is considered a regional pollutant, as the reactions forming it take place over time and are often most noticeable downwind from the sources of the emissions.

### **Particulate Matter**

Particle pollution is a mixture of microscopic solids and liquid droplets suspended in air. This pollution, also known as particulate matter, is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, soil or dust particles, and allergens (such as fragments of pollen or mold spores). The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems. Particles smaller than 10 micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>) but greater than 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  pose the greatest problems, because they can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Exposure to such particles can affect respiratory system function.

### **Impact Discussion**

#### *Questions A through C*

Construction activities for the proposed project would include trenching, backfilling, and a small amount of on-site soil hauling. Construction would also include the construction of a permanent diversion structure on San Vicente Creek at the site of the existing POD. Construction activities would be minimal with some use of heavy equipment. Construction would last approximately six months and would occur five days a week, eight hours a day.

In accordance with the 2010 BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines the project would be considered below screening levels set forth by the BAAQMD based on the following:

- The project is not listed on Table 3-1 of the 2010 BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines; therefore, it is considered below the applicable screening level size;
- The project design would include all Basic Construction Mitigation Measures provided in the 2010 BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines;
- Construction of the project would not include demolition, construction of two or more phase or land uses at the same time, extensive site preparation or material transport.

The only additional maintenance of the proposed project is the expanded dredging needs at Denniston Reservoir. This expanding dredging would result in an increase in the number of truck trips required to haul sediment to the spoils sites; however, the number of trips does not constitute a significant increase. No significant additional operational air pollutant emissions would occur with the implementation of the project.

Therefore, construction and operation of the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation or expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentration. This would be a less than significant impact.

#### *Questions D and E*

Past, present and future development projects contribute to a region's air quality conditions on a cumulative basis; therefore by its very nature, air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. No single project is sufficient in size to, by itself, result in nonattainment of the NAAQS or CAAQS. If a project's individual emissions contribute toward exceedance of the standards, then the project's cumulative impact on air quality would be significant. In developing attainment designations for criteria pollutants, the EPA considers the region's past, present and future

emission levels. As stated above the project would not cause an exceedance of the BAAQMD CEQA standards and therefore air quality in the region would not be cumulatively impacted.

Construction of the proposed project would temporarily and intermittently emit odors from heavy duty construction equipment operation. The nearest odor sensitive receptors are residences located more than 1,500 feet southeast of the project site. Construction odors generally dissipate quickly and are generally not noticeable beyond project boundaries. Given the distance to the nearest sensitive receptor and the temporary and intermittent nature of project construction, no odor impact would occur during construction of the proposed project. No odors are anticipated to be emitted during operation of the Proposed Project. The proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in NOx, ROG, PM<sub>10</sub>, or PM<sub>2.5</sub> for which the SFBAAB is in nonattainment or create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. No impact to air quality would occur as a result of the proposed project.

*Findings*

The proposed project would not result in a significant impact to air quality. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and will not be additionally discussed in the EIR.

<b>4. Biological Resources.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the DFG or USFWS?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the DFG or USFWS?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The proposed project site is located approximately one mile east of the Pacific Ocean. San Vicente and Denniston Creeks are adjacent to the proposed project site on the northwestern and eastern edges. Agricultural land is located to the south and west of the proposed project site in lowland areas while the proposed project is located on the lower foothills that rise above the lowland. The area immediately around the proposed project site is dominated by coastal scrub, eucalyptus woodland and areas of grassland. Denniston Reservoir is located on the eastern edge of the proposed project site. Routine dredging occurs at Denniston Reservoir as part of a long term maintenance agreement (LSAA) with the DFG. The dredging is monitored by a qualified biologist so that no impacts to sensitive species occur as a result of the ongoing reservoir maintenance. Dredge spoils are transported to the disposal sites to the north of Denniston Reservoir. This routine maintenance has resulted in increased habitat values at the Reservoir for special status species such as red-legged frog, which is discussed further below.

Past surveys of the project areas, or portions of the project area have been performed by Lampman and Associates (1975), Wildlife Research Associates (WRA; 2005), and recent stream assessments and biological surveys of San Vicente and Denniston Creeks were conducted by Steele Biological Consulting in 2010 and 2011. AES biologists conducted biological surveys on May 16, 17, and July 17, 2011.

Habitat types occurring on the project site have been characterized and evaluated for their potential to support regionally occurring special-status species<sup>5</sup>. Additionally, the site was assessed for the presence of potential jurisdictional water features (waters of the U.S.), isolated wetlands, and other biologically sensitive features.

**Vegetation Communities**

Seven general vegetation community types were identified within the proposed project site: ruderal/disturbed, California annual grassland, coastal prairie, willow riparian forest, coastal sage scrub, eucalyptus woodland, and agricultural.

**Waters of the U.S.**

The 2011 biological field surveys identified one seasonal wetland, two creeks, and three seasonal drainages in the study area, in addition to three existing reservoirs. The seasonal wetland is situated at the base of a hillside adjacent to Upper San Vicente Reservoir in the northern portion of the project site with no apparent channel to provide inflow. The seasonal wetland and drainages may be subject to regulation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The two creeks include Denniston Creek and San Vicente Creek, where the proposed POD is located. These creeks are likely to be subject to regulation by USACE under Section 404 of the CWA, as well as by the DFG under Sections 1600 – 1616 of the California Fish and Game Code. The shapes, sizes, and jurisdictional status of all features identified herein are approximate and have not been confirmed by jurisdictional agencies.

## **Special-status Species**

For the purposes of this assessment, “special status” is defined to be a species of management concern to State and Federal resource agencies.

Twenty five special-status plant species, eight animal species, and three sensitive habitats are identified to occur within five miles of the project site<sup>6</sup>. Red-legged frog has been documented onsite at Denniston Reservoir. The sensitive habitats identified include Northern Coastal Salt Marsh, Northern Maritime Chaparral, Serpentine Bunchgrass, and Valley Needlegrass Grassland.

Based on habitat requirements, geographic range, elevation range, and past occurrences, each special-status species was assessed and compared to the habitats occurring within the property and surrounding areas. Those that were determined to not have potential to occur on the project site are not discussed further in this report. Those that were determined to have potential to occur on the project site are discussed further below.

Based upon this review and comparing the habitat needs of species and the habitat found in the study area, 24 special-status plant species and 11 special-status animal species were identified as likely to occur on-site.

### ***Impact Discussion***

#### *Question A*

No special-status plant species were observed on the project site during the biological surveys. However, the surveys were performed outside the proper period of identification for several special status plants that have the potential to occur onsite. The coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland habitats onsite all provide potentially suitable habitat for a number of special status species. Evidence of special status species observed onsite included several woodrat nests located in the coastal scrub adjacent to the pipeline route, known red-legged frog occurrences in Denniston Reservoir and along San Vicente Creek. Denniston Creek below Denniston provides suitable habitat for resident trout and anadromous fish. DFG in the LSAA has identified a barrier to anadromous fish approximately one mile downstream from Denniston Reservoir. Denniston Reservoir itself provides suitable habitat for red-legged frog, western pond turtle, San Francisco Garter Snake, and several special status birds. The proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts to special-status species should they occur onsite.

#### *Question B*

Portions of the project would be located within riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities, such as Coastal Prairie. Construction of the proposed project could result in significant impacts to these sensitive natural communities.

#### *Question C*

As discussed above, the proposed project site contains one seasonal wetland, three intermittent drainages, two creeks, and several existing water storage reservoirs, all of which could be potentially subject to regulation. Development of the proposed project could have an adverse effect through direct removal, filling, or hydrological interruption on jurisdictional waters. This is a potentially significant impact.

#### *Question D*

The two creeks on the proposed project site provide valuable wildlife corridors connecting the hills to the ocean. The proposed project would result in temporary impacts to San Vicente

Creek as the POD is upgraded. Temporary impacts would also result at Denniston Reservoir as part of the ongoing dredging maintenance that would occur there. These are potentially significant impacts to wildlife movement corridors.

**Questions E and F**

Several local plans and policies, including the San Mateo County General Plan and Local Coastal Plan, apply to the proposed project site. No adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan apply to the project site. The proposed project would adhere to guidelines outlined in the local plans pertaining to vegetation, wildlife, and wetlands. This is a less than significant impact.

**Findings**

The proposed project could result in potentially significant impacts to biological resources. Biological Resources will be discussed further in the EIR.

<b>5. Cultural Resources.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

A records search for the project site was conducted at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System, housed at California State University, Sonoma, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, 2011 (NWIC #10-1079). The NWIC, an affiliate of the State of California Office of Historic Preservation, is the official state repository of archaeological and historic records and reports for a 16 county area that includes San Mateo.

The NWIC records search verified that two prehistoric cultural resources or historic properties have been reported within the project area. These resources are P-41-068 and P-41-069 or Nelson 415 and 416 as they were originally recorded. These two sites are prehistoric shell mounds recorded by N.C. Nelson during the first intensive survey of archaeological sites in the Bay Area between 1906 and 1908 initiated through the University of California, Berkeley. Their locations were reported in Nelsons 1909 publication “San Francisco Bay Shellmounds” and the NWIC listed their locations as approximate. Further, a 1982 survey located probable shell midden remnants (P-41-239) in a resource a few hundred meters south of the project area in

agricultural land, which is a likely candidate for the westernmost Nelson Shellmound numbered 415.

A total of 11 previously recorded cultural resources have been recorded within the one kilometer area studied surrounding the project area. Additionally, 27 previous studies have been conducted within the same area along with nine overview studies.

AES initiated consultation by notifying the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on May 2, 2011. The NAHC was asked to search their Sacred Lands Inventory File and to submit a list of local Native American contacts that may have information regarding the project area. The NAHC responded on June 10, 2011 with the results of the sacred lands file and Native American contacts. The record search failed to identify known sacred Native American sites within or adjacent to the project site. However, the NAHC provided a list of five Native American individuals and organizations that potentially have knowledge of the project site. The individuals and organizations identified by the NAHC were contacted by letter on July 26, 2011 to solicit their comments and concerns regarding the project. To date, none of the individuals contacted expressed any concern or provided specific information regarding Native American resources within the proposed project site.

A field examination of the property and proposed pipeline alignments was conducted on May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> as well as July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011, which resulted in the discovery of no new cultural resources. However, two previously recorded resources were identified through research. These resources could not be relocated and no surface manifestations of these resources were present within the proposed project site.

### ***Regulatory Framework***

Under CEQA, historical resources are considered part of the environment (Public Resources Code, §§ 21060.5, 21084.1). An *historical resource* “includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California (Public Resources Code, §§ 21084.1, 5020.1, subd. (j)).”

The California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR) was created in 1992 (Public Resources Code, § 5024.1.) and is administered by the State Historical Resources Commission according to regulations implemented January 1, 1998 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 4850 et seq.).

CEQA requires consideration of potential impacts to resources that are listed, or qualify for listing, on the California Register, as well as resources that are significant but may not qualify for listing. Under the CEQA Guidelines, an effect is considered significant if a project will result in a substantial adverse change to the resource (PRC Section 21084.1). Actions that would cause a substantial adverse change to a historical resource include demolition, replacement, substantial alteration, and relocation. When it is determined that a project may cause a substantial adverse change, alternative plans or measures to mitigate the effects to the resource(s) must be considered.

### ***Impact Discussion***

#### ***Questions A-D***

The field investigation failed to locate any cultural resources, which concurred with the negative findings of the Native American Heritage Commission. The resources revealed by the NWIC records search from the early 1900's could not be relocated. It is likely that the degree of error

in mapping during the 1909 study was large enough to have erroneously plotted the resources. Observations of the local land forms suggest that these sites lay just to the west of the project site. Additionally, impacts may occur to cultural resources should any be unearthed during construction of the proposed project. This is considered a potentially significant impact.

**Findings**

The proposed project could result in potentially significant impacts to cultural resources. Cultural Resources will be discussed further in the EIR.

<b>6. Geology and Soils.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated in 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 & Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soils, 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"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternate wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

**Topography**

The project site is located on sloping terrain along the foothills of Montara Mountain, which is situated in the northern section of the Santa Cruz Mountain Range. Elevations along the site range from approximately 100 feet amsl, rising from the southeast to the northwest to

approximately 180 feet amsl. Steep uphill slopes are located to northeast of the project site, while lesser downhill gradients are found to the southwest, which continues a gradual downhill trend towards the coast.

## Soils

### Soil Surveys

A summary of the soil characteristics for the major map units found on the project site is provided in **Table 3**.

**TABLE 3 – PROJECT SITE SOILS**

Map Unit Symbol(s)	Map Unit Name	Expansiveness	Erosion Susceptibility
EhE3	Elkhorn sandy loam	Moderate	Mild
FaA, FaB, FaC	Farallone loam	Low	Moderate
Gu	Gullied land (alluvial soil material)	Not Rated	Moderate
MmC2, MmE2, MmE3, MmF2	Miramar course sandy loam	Low/Moderate	Moderate
TeC2, TeD2, TeE2	Tierra loam	Moderate	Moderate
WnA	Watsonville loam	Moderate	Moderate

Source: NRCS, 2011.

## Seismicity

### Active Faults

According to the Alquist-Priolo Act, active faults are defined as those that have shown seismic activity within the past 11,000 years, which are classified as Holocene faults by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) (CGS, 2007). The USGS definition, adopted by the California Geological Survey (CGS), defines active faults as faults showing signs of activity up to the beginning of the Quaternary age (1.6 million years ago). The San Gregorio fault zone is a major fault which transects the vicinity of the project site. This late-Holocene active dextral slip fault is believed to be capable of producing a magnitude seven earthquake and is located directly underneath the project site. The Pilarcitos fault zone is part of the San Gregorio fault system and is located approximately 3.7 miles east of the project site. There is also the Serra fault zone, which is approximately 6.5 miles from the project site. The northwest-striking front thrust Serra fault zone is part of the San Andreas fault system, which spans approximately 810 miles along the coast of California (CGS, 1997).

### Landslides

Areas susceptible to landslides are comprised of weak soils on sloping terrain. Landslides can be induced by weather, such as heavy rains, or strong seismic shaking events. The project site area contains a variety of slopes (0 to 75 percent slopes) and is susceptible to landslides. The hillside along the east side of the project site is comprised of steeper slopes and has a higher susceptibility to landslides.

The two stream courses and watersheds are within a geologic formation dominated by granitic soils. Based on a paper prepared by Balance HydroLogics, Inc., there are three basic watershed types along the San Mateo Coast: Granitic; cauck; and normal coastal stream

watersheds. These are based on the geologic formation of the watersheds. The proposed project site is within a granitic-dominated geologic watershed area<sup>7</sup>.

**Impact Discussion**

*Question A*

Although the project site lies directly within an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone, the proposed project does not include the construction of human occupied structures and a majority of the proposed infrastructure developments would be located underground. Therefore, impacts from geologic hazards such as landslides or ground failures would be less than significant.

*Questions B-E*

The project site is located in an area which naturally contains areas of highly erodible granitic soils. Dredging would occur as part of the proposed project in order to remediate the natural effects of silt and sedimentation flows into Denniston Reservoir. The reservoir and pipelines are located in areas of minimal slopes. Construction of the new pipeline would require one time clearing of vegetation, trench excavation, pipeline installation, backfill and compaction, and re-grading where necessary. Excavated materials that cannot be utilized for backfill would be transported offsite to appropriate disposal facilities. Access to onsite trenches would be restricted at the end of each workday through the use of steel plate coverings, backfill, or barricades. Development of Project components is likely to result in some erosion; however, the Project is designed to mitigate naturally occurring erosion and is not expected to naturally increase ongoing erosion. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be filed with the RWQCB, as required, to mitigate any impacts from erosion during the construction phase of the project. Therefore impacts from erosion would be less than significant.

The majority of the pipeline would be constructed in or near the roadway of an existing unpaved road and the proposed augmented alignment is similar to that of the previously used CCWD pipeline. The portion of the pipeline from the San Vicente Creek POD to the Upper San Vicente Reservoir would replace an existing pipeline. The proposed project does not include features that would place people or structures at risk to expansive soils. The proposed project does not include septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems. With regards to soil erosion, lateral spreading, landslides, expansive soils, and wastewater disposal options, less than significant impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project.

*Findings*

Potential impacts to geology and soils as a result of the proposed project are less than significant. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and no additional discussion is proposed in the EIR.

<b>7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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***Environmental Setting***

**Climate Change**

Climate change is a global phenomenon attributable to the sum of all human activities and natural processes. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research recommends quantification of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, assessment of the significance of any impact on climate change, and identification of mitigation or alternatives that would reduce GHG emissions.

Climate change has the potential to reduce the snow packs in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, cause the sea level to rise, and increase the intensity of wildfires and storms.

***Regulatory Framework***

The following regulatory background gives context to the issues of climate change and importance to reducing GHG in California:

Assembly Bill 32

Signed by the California State Governor on September 27, 2006, Assemble Bill (AB) 32 codifies a key requirement of Executive Order (EO) S-3-05, specifically the requirement to reduce statewide GHG emissions to year 1990 levels by the year 2020. AB 32 tasks the California Air Resources Board (CARB) with monitoring state sources of GHGs and designing emission reduction measures to comply with the law’s emission reduction requirements.

CEQA Guidelines

January 2010 amendments to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines provide the following direction for consideration of climate change impacts in a CEQA document.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District CEQA Guidelines

The BAAQMD Board approved the current BAAQMD CEQA Guideline (Guideline) on June 2, 2010. The Guideline includes guidance on how to evaluate project-level CEQA GHG emissions from construction and operation.

***Impact Discussion***

*Questions A and B*

Construction

Currently the County of San Mateo or City of Half Moon Bay does not have a Climate Action Plan; therefore, significance will be determined in the EIR using the BAAQMD Guideline (Guideline). Construction of the Proposed Project would emit GHG from the operation of construction equipment.

Operation

The Guideline provides an operational GHG threshold of 1,100 tons of GHG emissions per year. Operational emissions will be evaluated in the EIR.

**Cumulative Impacts**

The proposed project would create new sources of GHG emissions. This issue will be evaluated in the EIR.

**Findings**

The proposed project may result in impacts to climate change. This resource will be addressed in the EIR.

<b>8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within ¼ mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 a 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"/>
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"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

A regulatory agency database search was conducted for the project area to identify sites that store, treat, and/or generate hazardous materials, sites with open environmental cases with ongoing monitoring and/or remedial activities, sites that have had a documented release of

hazardous materials, and sites that have existing contamination. The project site and adjacent parcels were not listed on any agency lists.

A site reconnaissance of the project site was conducted by AES staff on June 14, 2011 to determine if any Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) exist. RECs refer to the presence or likely presence of conditions on a property that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products on the property or into the ground, groundwater, or surface water of the property. No RECs were observed.

The nearest school is the Farallon View Elementary School in Montara located 1.1 miles northwest of the project site. The closest airport is the Half Moon Bay airport located 0.4 miles west of the project alignment.

### ***Impact Discussion***

#### *Questions A and B*

During grading and construction it is anticipated that limited quantities of miscellaneous hazardous substances, such as gasoline, diesel fuel, and hydraulic fluid, would be stored at a designated location along the construction alignment. With the implementation of standard precautions during construction, impacts associated with hazardous materials handling during construction would be less than significant.

#### *Question C*

The closest school facility is the Farallon View Elementary School, located in Montara approximately 1.1 miles northwest of the northern portion of the project pipeline. The proposed project would not result in hazardous emissions or the utilization of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within a one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. No impact would occur.

#### *Question D*

The project site is not listed on the Cortese list (compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5). No impact would occur.

#### *Questions E and F*

The nearest airport to the proposed project is the Half Moon Bay Airport located approximately 0.4 miles south of the project area. The project area is not located within the flight path of planes landing and taking off from the Half Moon Bay Airport or within the San Mateo Airport Overlay District. There are no private airstrips in the project vicinity. No impact would occur.

#### *Question G*

During construction of the proposed project, limited project-related construction traffic would occur along the gravel roadway in the immediate vicinity of the project alignment. The construction of the water conveyance system would create a minimal increase in construction traffic, as discussed in the traffic section below, however it would not prevent the implementation of an emergency response plan. Impacts would be less than significant.

#### *Question H*

Equipment used during grading and construction may create sparks, which could ignite dry grass on the project site. During construction, the use of power tools and acetylene torches

may also increase the risk of fire hazard. Standard construction safety precautions would be implemented to avoid significant impacts.

*Findings*

Impacts to hazardous materials as a result of the project are less than significant. This resource will not be addressed further in the EIR.

<b>9. Hydrology and Water Quality.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or volume of surface runoff in a manner that would:				
i) result in flooding on- or off-site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater discharge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Place housing or other structures, which would impede or re-direct flood flows within a 100-yr. flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding:				
i) as a result of the failure of a dam or levee?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) from inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Would the change in the water volume and/or the pattern of seasonal flows in the affected watercourse result in:				
i) a significant cumulative reduction in the water supply downstream of the diversion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ii)	a significant reduction in water supply, either on an annual or seasonal basis, to senior water right holders downstream of the diversion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii)	a significant reduction in the available aquatic habitat or riparian habitat for native species of plants and animals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv)	a significant change in seasonal water temperatures due to changes in the patterns of water flow in the stream?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v)	a substantial increase or threat from invasive, non-native plants and wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Environmental Setting**

The proposed project includes surface water diversions from two coastal sub-watershed basins located along the western slopes of the Montara Mountains, within western San Mateo County. The subject streams, San Vicente Creek and Denniston Creek, are located within USGS Hydrologic Unit Code #180500006; and within the San Francisco Bay hydrologic region (hr), San Mateo hydrologic unit (hu), San Mateo Coastal hydrologic area (ha), Pacifica super planning watershed (spws), and the Denniston Creek planning watershed (pws). These basins are located within a moderately stable coastal setting dominated by granitic geology. As such, the benthos of these two streams is composed predominantly of decomposing granitic parent material and finer sediments attributed to natural weathering processes. Hillslope landslides and stream bank sloughing are common within these geologically active watersheds. The mean annual precipitation in the upper watershed of these basins is approximately 39 inches at 1,600 feet amsl while the PODs receive 30 inches of mean annual precipitation at 400 feet amsl. Due to the granitic composition, and inherently porous nature (e.g. high rate of infiltration) of these watershed basins, stream stage and discharge is generally regulated by a high permeability which, consequently, maintains a high water table yielding a relatively stable hydrograph even during heavy precipitation events.

### **Impact Discussion**

#### **Questions A-G**

Permit 15882 allows for the direct diversion of up to four cubic feet per second (cfs) from January 1 to December 31 of each year from existing, permitted PODs in San Vicente Creek and Denniston Creek. The permit provides that the quantity diverted from either San Vicente Creek or Denniston Creek shall not exceed 2 cfs. If the SWRCB grants the petition for extension of time for water right Permit 15882 (Application 22860), CCWD would have until December 31, 2016 to complete construction of the proposed water distribution system improvements and allow for full beneficial use of currently approved diversions under Permit 15882. As part of the operations of the Denniston Creek diversion, expansion of the existing program for sediment removal from Denniston Reservoir would also be sought.

The proposed project would not discharge waste and would not impact waste discharge requirements. The proposed project could impact water quality standards during the development of the POD within San Vicente Creek. Groundwater supplies could be impacted with the diversion of water from San Vicente Creek and Dennison Creek which partially recharges the groundwater in the area. Construction on the project site may impact drainage patterns, stormwater discharge, and contribution of polluted runoff, erosion or siltation patterns, and water quality. Impacts to Denniston Creek could occur with the dredging maintenance program of Denniston Reservoir. While the project site is within the tsunami zone, all proposed

structures would be primarily within stream channels and underground and would not put people at risk due to tsunamis or mudflows.

**Findings**

The project would consist of a diversion of water from Denniston Creek and San Vicente Creek which could alter the water volume and pattern of seasonal flow in these surface water bodies. This represents a potentially significant impact. A detailed analysis and discussion of these potential impacts will be provided in the EIR.

<b>10. Land Use and Planning.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

The project site is located in San Mateo County and is designated as Rural Land Use under the San Mateo County General Plan Land Use Element<sup>8</sup>. Permitted land uses within the Rural Land Use category include:

1. Very-Low Density Residential;
2. Institutional;
3. General Open Space;
4. Public Recreational;
5. Private Recreational;
6. Agriculture;
7. Timber Production; and
8. Solid Waste Disposal Facilities.

The County Zoning Ordinance further designates the areas that comprise the project site as Agriculture and Private Recreation.

The proposed project is located within the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program (LCP). The San Mateo LCP is a planning tool used by local government in order to 1) protect and expand public access to the ocean and recreational activities; 2) protect, enhance, and restore environmentally sensitive habitat, 3) protect agricultural lands and commercial fisheries, and 4) limit new housing and development in order to avoid urban sprawl. San Mateo LCP currently limits the growth of housing and new developments to 125 units per year.

## ***Impact Discussion***

### *Question A*

The project site is currently zoned for agricultural and private recreational use. Implementation of the proposed project would not change the land use designations. The Proposed Project would not result in the development of a physical barrier that would divide an established community. No impact would occur.

### *Question B*

The LCP requires a Coastal Development Permit from any public utility, government agency or special district wishing to undertake any development in the Coastal Zone. The CCWD would be required to obtain a Coastal Development Permit from the County for construction of the proposed project and would therefore be in compliance with the LCP. Additionally, the proposed project would not conflict with the LCP because no new housing or developments requiring connection to municipal utility systems would be constructed. The proposed project develops local water sources and would not conflict with the current LCP restrictions on housing because the current growth restriction of 125 units per year would remain in place. The proposed project would not alter public access to the ocean or recreational activities, agricultural land and commercial fisheries, or the designated agricultural and private recreational land uses.

The proposed project would include construction of a permanent diversion within San Vicente Creek which is within environmentally sensitive habitat as classified by the San Mateo LCP. The LCP specifies that permitted uses within riparian corridors include necessary water supply projects; therefore, the construction of the diversion would be consistent with the LCP. Furthermore, there are potential wetlands located along the proposed pipeline route; wetlands are considered environmentally sensitive habitat under the San Mateo LCP.<sup>9</sup> The proposed project would minimize impacts to potential wetlands by designing the final pipeline route to avoid them, as well as by obtaining a Coastal Development Permit, and would therefore be consistent with the LCP.

The proposed project also includes an expanded dredging maintenance regime at Denniston Reservoir, which is an environmentally sensitive habitat and contains critical habitat for the California red-legged frog, a federally-threatened species. The augmented dredging, like the more limited dredging conducted by the CCWD today, would be conducted under the guidance of DFG consistent with the long term maintenance agreement, which would include a habitat enhancement component. The dredging would remove dense vegetation from Denniston Reservoir and the area just upstream along Denniston Creek, thereby increasing the amount of suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog. The LCP specifies that permitted development within sensitive habitats comply with USFWS and DFG regulations; therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the LCP.

### *Question C*

The project site and the area in the vicinity of the project site does not include lands under the protection of any habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans. The project would not have the potential to conflict with any existing habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans; therefore, no impact would occur.

### *Findings*

The proposed project would be consistent with the San Mateo County General Plan and LCP. There are no habitat conservation or natural community conservation plans covering this area. Impacts to land use and planning would be less than significant. This resource will not be addressed further in the EIR.

<b>11. Mineral Resources.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

The State of California classifies mineral resources throughout the State and has designated certain mineral bearing areas as being of regional significance. Local agencies must adopt mineral management policies that recognize mineral information provided by the State, assist in the management of land use that affects areas of Statewide and regional significance, and emphasize the conservation and development of identified mineral deposits<sup>10</sup>.

Various minerals are present in San Mateo County, including chromite, clay, expandable shale, mercury, and various sands and stones. Onshore oil and gas also exist in three main fields throughout the County. San Mateo’s Resource Management District (RMD) was created to meet the County’s need for open space and conservation, including the conservation of mineral resources. According to the San Mateo County General Plan Zoning Map, the project site is not located in an RMD and no mineral resources are located on or near the project site (San Mateo County, 1986).

**Impact Discussion**

*Questions A and B*

No mineral resources are located near the project site as mapped in the San Mateo County General Plan. No impact would occur.

*Findings*

No impacts would occur to mineral resources as a result of the proposed project. This resource will not be further addressed in the EIR.

<b>12. Noise.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to, or generation of, excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 in or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing in or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### ***Environmental Setting***

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to noise than others due to the amount of noise exposure (in terms of both exposure duration and insulation from noise) and the types of activities typically involved. Residences, motels and hotels, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, auditoriums, and parks and other outdoor recreation areas generally are more sensitive to noise than commercial and industrial land uses. A sensitive receptor is defined as any living entity or aggregate of entities whose comfort, health, or well being could be impaired or endangered by the existence of noise.

The land surrounding the project site is primarily agricultural with some residential uses. The nearest sensitive receptors are residences located approximately 1,700 feet southeast of the southern portion of the project site.

### ***Impact Discussion***

#### *Questions A-D*

#### Construction

Construction noise from the project site would result from the use of trenching equipment and haul trucks. Noise from construction activities has the potential to be approximately 85 decibels within 50 feet of the activity. Construction noise generally attenuates (lessens) at a rate of 4.5 to 6 db per doubling of distance (Caltrans, 2009). Given the topography and soft ground cover of the area a 5.5 dB attenuation value for construction noise is considered appropriate.

Construction of the proposed project would result in temporary noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive receptors of approximately 57.5 CNEL, which is equal to the San Mateo County threshold for noise. The construction equipment used to develop the proposed project are not impact devices (i.e. pile driver, vibration compactor, etc); therefore, no vibration impacts would occur. The proposed project would not expose persons to, or generate noise levels, which temporarily or permanently exceed standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance. The proposed project would result in a less than significant impact to the ambient noise environment during construction.

#### Operation

Because the operation activities associated with the proposed dredging of Denniston Reservoir would be of the same type and negligibly greater in quantity as the operation activities currently

underway at the same site, there would be no increase in the existing ambient noise level. In addition, the maintenance of the new, permanent diversion on San Vicente Creek would require less maintenance, reducing operational activities currently associated with the existing temporary diversion. There would be no impact to the noise environment during the operation of the proposed project.

*Questions E and F*

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip; however, the proposed project is located approximately 0.4 miles north of the Half Moon Bay Airport. The proposed project would not place sensitive receptors within the noise zone of the airport.

*Findings*

Impacts from noise as a result of the proposed project are less than significant. This resource will not be addressed further in the EIR.

<b>13. Population and Housing.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

**Environmental Setting**

CCWD provides service to an area covering over 14 square miles in San Mateo County along the California coast. The CCWD service area includes the City of Half Moon Bay and unincorporated areas of San Mateo County including Miramar, Princeton by the Sea and El Granada. CCWD currently serves a population of approximately 20,000.

The proposed project would enable CCWD to better utilize local water resources, therefore reducing future reliance on imported water from the SFPUC. This project does not change the total anticipated water demand from that which is already authorized and anticipated under the LCP of the County and City.

The proposed project site is within rural and agricultural land use zoning and there are several residences in the vicinity to the northwest and southeast. Housing density is low in this area and the general setting is rural. The proposed project would not result in the displacement of any of these residences.

## Impact Discussion

### Question A

The project would not involve the development of any homes or businesses and would maintain existing land uses at the project site. The proposed project involves development of new infrastructure in order to facilitate full beneficial use of the local water authorized under Permit 15882. The proposed project is not anticipated to induce population growth within the County due to the growth constraints already in place. The proposed project will increase reliance on local water supply sources which would otherwise be met through imported sources. The total anticipated demand for water does not change as a result of this project. The proposed project would allow CCWD to accommodate the water needs of existing residents as well as the anticipated future population growth already approved and anticipated within San Mateo County as discussed in the County's General Plan, and regulated by the LCP.<sup>11</sup> Development of the Proposed Project would be consistent with all applicable General Plan and LCP policies. The full beneficial use of this local water source would reduce the need for imported water. A less than significant impact would occur.

### Questions B-C

The proposed project would not involve the displacement of people or housing. No impacts would occur.

### Findings

Less than significant impacts to the local population and housing would occur as a result of the proposed project. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and it is not anticipated to be discussed further in the EIR.

14. Public Services	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service rations, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting

Public services provided to the project area include fire protection by the Coastside Fire Protection District (District). The District operates three fire stations to provide emergency services: Fire Station 40 is located within the downtown area of the City of Half Moon Bay, Fire Station 41 is located within the unincorporated area of El Granada and Fire Station 44 is located within the Moss Beach Area of the District. The District has eighteen volunteer firefighter positions along with twenty paid positions.<sup>12</sup> On June 12, 2011, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office began providing all inclusive law enforcement services under contract for the City of Half Moon Bay.<sup>13</sup> Public school services within the project area are provided by the Cabrillo Unified

School District (CUSD). The CUSD consists of four elementary schools, one intermediate school, one high school, and two continuation schools.<sup>14</sup>

**Impact Discussion**

*Questions A-E*

The proposed project would not result in changes to existing land uses at the project site nor would it modify the already existing restriction on growth imposed by the LCP which governs the area. The proposed project would not generate additional demand for government facilities or services in the areas of fire protection, police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities. The proposed project would result in benefits to area fire protection services as a result of the decreased reliance on SFPUC water. Utilization of localized water sources decreases the likelihood of emergency in the event SFPUC water sources are cut off for any reason. A less than significant impact to public services would occur.

*Findings*

Impacts to public services as a result of the project would be less than significant. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and it is not anticipated to be discussed further in the EIR.

15. Recreation.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

San Mateo County has various types of parklands, including State, County, Regional, and neighborhood parks. In addition, the National Parks Service (NPS) maintains lands in the region, such as the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Golden Gate NRA). The NPS is currently in the process of acquiring property adjacent to the proposed project site to be integrated into the Golden Gate NRA.

Regional recreational opportunities include fishing, camping, swimming, hiking, walking, horseback riding, and bicycling. The nearby ocean provides a major source of recreational opportunities in the vicinity of the proposed project.

**Impact Discussion**

*Questions A and B*

The proposed project would not result in changes to existing land uses at the project site. No new demand would be generated for the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such as the Golden Gate NRA. Public access to the ocean and/or

other bodies of water currently available for public recreation in the vicinity of the proposed project site would not be impacted. The proposed project does not include recreational facilities, nor require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

**Findings**

No recreational impacts would occur as a result of the project. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and it is not anticipated to be discussed further in the EIR.

<b>16. Transportation and Circulation.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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 freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to 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"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with adopted policies regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance of such facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

Several roadways are near the project site. United States Highway 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) is a major north/south oriented highway system running along the western United States. In the vicinity of the project alignment, US Highway 1 is a two-lane paved roadway. Etheldore Street is a north/south oriented rural two-lane paved collector that intersects US Highway 1 approximately 0.5 mile west of the project site. Access to the western area of the proposed project site is provided by an unpaved access road, originating at the southern terminus of Etheldore Street. The roadway currently provides access to Ember Ridge Equestrian Center

and the San Vicente Creek point of diversion. Access to the eastern area of the proposed project site is provided by an unpaved access road, originating at US-1 across from the entrance to the Half Moon Bay Airport. The unpaved road currently provides access to farming operations and Denniston Reservoir and WTP.

### ***Impact Discussion***

#### *Questions A and B*

##### Construction

Project implementation would cause a negligible increase in traffic volumes along US Highway 1, Etheldore Street, and the site access roads during construction. The increase in traffic would be minimal and over a short duration of time. Traffic would primarily increase from construction worker trips and the delivery of construction equipment and materials to and from the project site. The expected increase in traffic would take place between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. on week days for approximately six months. The estimated increase in trips along US Highway 1, Etheldore Street, and site access roads would be less than 26 one-way trips per day, based on 10 construction workers and three material delivery trips. This is not a substantial increase and would not cause a significant modification of any level of service standard or cause inadequate emergency access. Construction parking would be minimal and would be achieved through a construction staging area on the project site; therefore, construction of the proposed project would not result in inadequate parking. Construction traffic impacts would be less than significant and would be well below existing weekend peak traffic periods. To the degree the construction workers are from the local area these impacts would be reduced further.

##### Operation

Ongoing operational activities may include routine maintenance of the pipeline, maintenance and/or possible future dredging of the diversion structure, maintenance of the pump station at San Vicente Creek, and expanded dredging maintenance at Denniston Reservoir. Operational activities would create significantly less vehicle trips per day than during the construction of the project. No significant impacts on an applicable level of service standard or inadequate emergency access would occur. Adequate parking would be provided on-site. This impact is less than significant.

#### *Question C*

The nearest airport to the proposed project is the Half Moon Bay Airport located approximately 0.5 miles west of the project area. The project area is not located within the flight path of planes landing and taking off from the Half Moon Bay Airport or within the San Mateo Airport Overlay District. Construction traffic accessing the project alignment via the Southern Site Access roadway would not impact the Half Moon Bay Airport. No impact would occur.

#### *Question D*

The Proposed Project would not change the design of existing roadways and does not include any operational features that would impact traffic or increase hazards. No impact would occur.

#### *Question E*

The Proposed Project would not introduce any uses that would generate any new or unanticipated long-term changes in traffic. Construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase traffic along haul routes, including US Highway 1, Etheldore Street, and the site access roads. Primary impacts from construction-related trucks deliveries would include

short-term and intermittent lessening of roadway capacities due to slower movements and larger turning radii of the trucks compared to passenger vehicles; however, these impacts would be negligible.

*Question F*

Construction parking would be limited to nearby unpaved roadways or within a staging area designated for construction equipment and worker parking. The proposed project would not require the development of parking spaces as the minimal amount of operational activities and maintenance do not warrant the development. There would be sufficient parking for both construction and operation of the Proposed Project. No impact would occur.

*Findings*

No significant impacts to transportation and circulation would occur as a result of the proposed project. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and will not be addressed further in the EIR.

<b>17. Utilities and Service Systems.</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 impacts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Environmental Setting**

Residences in the project area rely primarily on CCWD for their domestic water supply. Some residences rely on wells for water and private septic systems for wastewater dispersal. The

Granada Sanitary District provides sewer service and solid waste disposal for residences in the project area and vicinity.

**Impact Discussion**

*Questions A-G*

The proposed project does not involve any wastewater treatment components and wastewater would not be generated as a result of the project. No new housing or business activity other than what is anticipated in the existing LCP are anticipated as a result of this shift in water supply from imported water to local supplies for the CCWD, which is the purpose of the proposed project. There would be no impact on wastewater treatment facilities or storm water drainage facilities under this proposed project. The proposed project would not be creating or expanding water entitlements, or modifying the number of already approved and limited water connections within the CCWD, although it would complete the anticipated water delivery infrastructure to facilitate a lessening of dependence on imported water. The project would not increase solid waste or conflict with government regulations concerning the generation, handling, or disposal of solid waste.

*Findings*

No significant impacts to utilities and service systems would result from the project. This resource has been adequately addressed within this document and will not be discussed further in the EIR.

<b>18. Mandatory Findings of Significance</b>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impacts Discussion**

*Questions A and B*

As discussed in the preceding sections, the proposed project has a potential to degrade the quality of the environment by adversely impacting biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, and water quality and hydrology. The proposed project has a potential to result in

adverse environmental impacts. These impacts in combination with the impacts of other past, present, and future projects, could contribute to cumulatively significant effects on the environment.

*Question C*

No potentially significant adverse affects to humans have been identified.

*Findings*

Due to the potential for the proposed project to adversely impact several resource areas within the project site and vicinity, an EIR will be prepared to further analyze impacts and recommend avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures to reduce impacts. The EIR is anticipated to concentrate on the areas identified in this Initial Study as having potentially significant impacts.

## IV. INFORMATION SOURCES

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