

COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

GERRY NEWCOMBE Director of Public Works

825 East Third Street • San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835 • (909) 387-8104 Fax (909) 387-8130

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

Date: June 30, 2014

To: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Project Title: San Bernardino County Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program

Applicant: San Bernardino County Flood Control District

The San Bernardino County Flood Control District (District), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program (MSWSMP), as required under CEQA (California Public Resources Code §21080.4) and CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15082). A previous Notice of Preparation (NOP) was circulated in October, 2010. Due to a reduction in project scope of work, additional public comment is being solicited. The project revisions and NOP comments letters are summarized in the attached Initial Study.

The District is requesting input from responsible, trustee, and other public agencies, as well as interested organizations and individuals, regarding the scope and content of environmental information to be included in the DEIR. Responsible agencies are asked to indicate their statutory responsibilities in connection with the MSWSMP. Public agencies may wish to consider this DEIR if they are responsible for issuing permits or other approvals for the MSWSMP. Comments received during the 2010 public circulation period will be considered in determining the scope of the DEIR; therefore, it is not necessary for agencies/individuals to resubmit their original comments.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your written comments must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than the end of the public review period, which begins June 30, 2014 and ends July 29, 2014. Written comments should include the name, mailing address, and telephone number of a contact person. E-mailed comments are acceptable. **Comments must be received by no later than the close of business on July 29, 2014.** Please direct comments to:

Michele Derry, Senior Planner County of San Bernardino Flood Control District Environmental Management Division 825 East Third Street, Room 123 San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835 E-mail: mderry@dpw.sbcounty.gov Phone: 909.387.8114 Fax: 909.387.7876

All parties that have submitted their names and mailing addresses will be placed on the mailing list to receive notifications during the course of this environmental review process.

	Board of Su	pervisors
GREGORY C. DEVEREAUX Chief Executive Officer	ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD First District JANICE RUTHERFORD Second District JOSIE GONZALES	JAMES RAMOS Third District GARY C. OVITT Fourth District Fifth District

Notice of Preparation

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

Copies of the NOP and Initial Study are available for public review at:

County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works Environmental Management Division, Room 123 825 East Third Street San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835

Please contact Michele Derry, Senior Planner, to arrange for viewing (see above for contact information).

The Initial Study is also available for public review on the District's website: <u>http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/public_notices/public_notices.asp</u>

Additionally, copies of the NOP are available for public review at the following locations:

Adelanto Library	A K Smiley Public Library	Barstow Branch Library
11497 Bartlett Street	125 W Vine Street	304 East Buena Vista
Adelanto, California 92301	Redlands, California 92373	Barstow, California 92311
Big Bear Lake Branch Library	Chino Branch Library	Crestline Branch Library
41930 Garstin Drive	13180 Central Avenue	23555 Knapps Cutoff
Big Bear Lake, California 92315	Chino, California 91710	Crestline, California 92335
Grand Terrace Branch Library	Hesperia Library	James S. Thalman Branch Library
22795 Barton Road	9650 Seventh Ave.	14020 City Center Drive
Grand Terrace, California 92313	Hesperia, California 92345	Chino Hills, California 91709
Kaiser Branch Library	Lake Arrowhead Branch Library	Loma Linda Branch Library
11155 Almond Ave	27235 Highway 189	25581 Barton Road
Fontana, California 92337	Blue Jay, California 92317	Loma Linda, California 92354
Montclair Civic Center Branch Library 9955 Fremont Avenue Montclair, California 91763	Needles Branch Library 1111 Bailey Ave. Needles, California 92363	Rialto Branch Library 251 West First Street Rialto, California 92376
Sam J. Racadio Library and Environmental Learning Center 7863 Central Avenue Highland, California 92346	San Bernardino Public Library 555 W. 6th Street San Bernardino, California 92410	Trona Branch Library 82805 Mountain View Trona, California 93562

Notice of Preparation

Twentynine Palms Branch Library 6078 Adobe Road Twentynine Palms, California 92277 Victorville City Library 15011 Circle Drive Victorville, California 92395 Wrightwood Branch Library 6011 Pine Street Wrightwood, California 92397

Yucaipa Branch Library	Yucca Valley Branch Library
12040 Fifth Street	57098 Twentynine Palms Highway
Yucaipa, California 92399	Yucca Valley, California 92284

There will be workshops to present the maintenance program and obtain public comment. They are as follows:

PUBLIC WORKSHOP DATES AND LOCATIONS

Monday July 7, 2014 6:00pm - 8:00pm DPW Hearing Room 825 E Third Street San Bernardino, California 92415 Tuesday July 8, 2014 10:00am - 12:00pm Town of Yucca Valley Cholla Room 57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy Yucca Valley, California 92284

- Wednesday July 9, 2014 6:00pm - 8:00pm Spring Valley Lake Association 12975 Rolling Ridge Drive Spring Valley Lake, California 92395
- Thursday July 10, 2014 1:00pm - 3:00pm Big Bear Lake Library 41930 Garstin Drive Big Bear Lake, California 92315

Prepared for:

San Bernardino County Flood Control District

825 East Third Street San Bernardino, California 92415-0835 *Contact: Ms. Michele Derry*

Prepared by:

DUDEK

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JUNE 2014

Printed on 30% post-consumer recycled material.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
ACOE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BMP	best management practice
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CBD	Center for Biological Diversity
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CGP	Construction General Permit
CWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
District	San Bernardino County Flood Control District
DSOD	Division of Safety of Dams
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	federal Endangered Species Act
FEMA	U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	greenhouse gas
GIS	geographic information system
НСР	habitat conservation plan
MDAQMD	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
MSWSMP	Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program
NFS	National Forest System
NOP	Notice of Preparation
O&M	operations and maintenance
DEIR	Draft Environmental Impact Report
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1 INTRODUCTION

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was originally prepared for the San Bernardino County Flood Control District (District) to inform the public of their intent to prepare a DEIR for the long-term maintenance of flood control facilities throughout the County of San Bernardino (the County) in 2010. The NOP was distributed for a 30-day public review period from October 6, 2010 to November 2, 2010. A number of comment letters were received and are summarized below in Table 1. Since that time, the District has modified the project description and incorporated a new approach to the biological analysis based on the comment letter from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) dated October 26, 2010. In sum, the project has been reduced from approximately 1,100 facilities to be maintained no longer includes roads or, bridges. Although not required, an NOP for the revised project is being reissued in an effort to keep the public informed of changes to the project and to encourage participation in the public process during preparation of a Draft EIR.

Comment letters received on the previously distributed NOP from responsible and trustee agencies, as well as members of the interested public, are summarized below. Agencies are invited to comment again if the previous letter no longer applies, although the previous NOP comments will be considered in the development of the scope of the DEIR. The District has made a careful effort to incorporate agency suggestions and acknowledge their concerns, particularly regarding biological resources. Table 1 identifies the comment letters that were received during the public comment period for the previously distributed NOP.

Commenting Agency or Property Owner	Date Received	Summary of Comment	EIR Chapter Where Comment will be Addressed
		NOP Letters	
		Federal Agencies	
United States Department of Agriculture – San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor's Office	October 20, 2010	The San Bernardino National Forest would like to be included as a Regulatory Agency. Permits or easements will be required for the anticipated work on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) would like to be a cooperating agency with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The USFS would like the PEIR to: (1) consider impacts to species on NFS land including USFS Sensitive species and San Bernardino National Forest Management Indicator Species, (2) consider the implementation of all applicable best management	Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Biological Resources

 Table 1

 Summary of Comments Received in Response to the Previously Distributed NOP

Table 1

Commenting Agency or Property Owner	Date Received	Summary of Comment	EIR Chapter Where Comment will be Addressed
		practices (BMPs) when implementing the anticipated actions.	
United States Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation	November 9, 2010	The Bureau of Reclamation had no comments or concerns at the time.	N/A
		State Agencies	
The Natural Resources Agency – Colorado River Board of California	October 21, 2010	The Colorado River Board of California had no comments or concerns at the time.	N/A
Governor's Office of Planning and Research – State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit	October 6, 2010	Requests agencies and interested parties to express their concerns early in the environmental review process.	N/A
California Department of Transportation, District 8	November 22, 2010	In the event that modifications to the project description should impact the State Highway System, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests notification and copies of revised plans for review.	Traffic and Circulation
California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region	November 8, 2010	The comment letter outlines the authority of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CWQCB) and their responsibility to protect waters of the state. CWQCB requests that the DEIR reference the Basin Plan in the hydrology and water quality analysis and requires compliance with applicable water quality standards and provisions. The comment letter lists the permits that may be required and requests that necessary jurisdictional determinations for surface waters in the project area be performed. The comment letter identifies potential impacts to surface waters and requests that the DEIR provide a detailed narrative description of each maintenance activity and evaluate potential impacts on water quality and hydrology. The DEIR needs to describe and quantify all impacts, and minimize impacts to the extent feasible.	Hydrology and Water Quality

Table 1 Summary of Comments Received in Response to the Previously Distributed NOP

Commenting Agency or Property Owner	Date Received	Summary of Comment	EIR Chapter Where Comment will be Addressed
Department of Toxic Substances Control	November 5, 2010	The comment letter states that the DEIR should evaluate whether conditions within the project area may pose a threat to human health or the environment; identify required investigations and/or remediation for any site that may be contaminated; and findings of investigations should be summarized in the DEIR.	Hazards and Hazardous Materials
		The comment letter also states that: (1) if structures are going to be demolished, they should be investigated for the presence of hazardous chemicals or hazardous materials; (2) if soil is contaminated it must be properly disposed of; (3) if necessary, a health risk assessment should be conducted by a qualified health risk assessor; (4) if hazardous wastes are or will be generated the facility should obtain a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Identification Number; and (5) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) can provide clean up oversight.	
Native American Heritage Commission	October 14, 2010	Requested a records search to determine known traditional cultural resources, and preparation of an archaeological inventory survey if required. A list of appropriate Native American contacts for consultation concerning the project site should be contacted. Mitigation plans should be included in the DEIR to identify and evaluate accidentally discovered archaeological resources pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15064.5(f). In addition, a mitigation plan for the discovery of Native American human remains should be included.	Cultural Resources
South Coast Air Quality Management District	October 19, 2010	Recommends that the CEQA Air Quality Handbook (1993) be used for all air quality analysis and California Emissions Estimator Model land use emissions software be used to estimate pollutant emissions from typical land use developments. Air quality impacts from project operations and construction should be calculated. The South Coast Air Quality Management District has developed regional and localized significance thresholds for criteria pollutants that should be compared to estimated proposed project emissions. A mobile source health risk assessment should be performed	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Table 1

Commenting Agency or			EIR Chapter Where Comment will be
Property Owner	Date Received	in the event that the proposed project generates or	Auuresseu
		in the event that the proposed project generates or attracts vehicular trips. The California Air Resources Board's Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective is recommended as guidance for siting incompatible land uses. Several resources are recommended to assist in the drafting of mitigation measures in the event that the project generates significant adverse air quality impacts. CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by the law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate these impacts. Any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must be discussed pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section	
Majava Dasart Air	Ostobor 12, 2010	15126.4(a)(1)(D).	Air Quality
Quality Management	October 13, 2010	Quality Element, which identifies Particulate Matter (PM) control measures pursuant to District Rule 403.2 – Fugitive Dust Control for the Mojave Desert Planning Area.	Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
California Natural Resources Agency – Department of Water Resources	November 12, 2010	The comment letter states that if any alterations or modifications to a jurisdictional dam are necessary, as part of the scope of work, an alteration application, together with plans and specifications, must be filed with the division for the construction of the project. All dam safety-related issues must be resolved prior to approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California.	Project Description
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (As of January 2013, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) changed its name to the California	October 26, 2010	The comment letter lists discretionary actions that may be required, such as a Lake or Streamed Alteration Agreement and/or a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit. The comment letter goes on to list all of the federally and/or state-listed threatened or endangered species, which the project may affect.	Project Description and Biological Resources
Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).)		and rankings of: (1) categories of streams (e.g., concrete channels, earthen bottom channels and intact streams); (2) types of habitat to be impacted in terms of their usefulness for native habitat species; (3) impact categories of maintenance (e.g., sediment removal, levee maintenance); and (4) biological	

Table 1	1
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Commenting Agency or			EIR Chapter Where Comment will be
Property Owner	Date Received	Summary of Comment	Addressed
		importance of the remaining natural systems, taking into account special-status species and their degree of impact.	
		CDFW suggests a mitigation plan be provided with complete mitigation ratios and identifying where mitigation locations would occur; a complete project description that lists all locations of proposed maintenance should be included; an estimate of the size of the areas of impact; biological surveys should be conducted in areas where native habitat is to be impacted; indicate areas of biological sensitivity; biological assessment should be conducted within 1 year of the commencement of construction; a jurisdictional delineation should be included; and sensitive plant surveys should be conducted in accordance with most current protocols.	
		It is recommended that a discussion of the purpose and need for the project; a description of the proposed project, including construction staging areas and access routes; and a range of feasible project alternatives be discussed in the DEIR. CDFW makes recommendations of information to include in the DEIR in order to provide a complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area.	
		CDFW also makes recommendations of information to include in the DEIR in order to provide a thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources.	
		The comment letter also mentions that under the CESA, take of an endangered, threatened, or candidate species is prohibited and if any proposed project activities result in the take of any of these species, the project proponent must seek appropriate take authorization prior to implementation.	

Table 1

Commenting			EIR Chapter Where
Property Owner	Date Received	Summary of Comment	Addressed
		Local Agencies	
Western Municipal Water District	October 7, 2010	The Western Municipal Water District does not provide retail water service in San Bernardino County.	N/A
Southern California Edison	November 22, 2010	The project has the potential to impact multiple Southern California Edison facilities, and Southern California Edison will require notification when any construction equipment associated with the described maintenance will be in proximity to SCE facilities. Proposed use of Southern California Edison's right-of- way would need to be coordinated with Southern California Edison and any proposed use would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.	Utilities and Service Systems
Orange County Public Works	November 15, 2010	This comment letter states that the DEIR should clarify whether it is intended to cover joint (or contractual) maintenance activities between the San Bernardino County Flood Control District and the Orange County Flood Control District, Orange County Water District, and others that own property and/or have easements over property in the Santa Ana River floodplain within San Bernardino County.	Project Description
City of Redlands	November 22, 2010	The City of Redlands suggests that rather than just "incorporating by reference" previously approved environmental documents, a more detailed list or table be included in the DEIR listing each creek, basin, or facility and any documents that already exist that list requirements or mitigation measures. The City of Redlands also suggests that the map showing the District's southwestern facilities and zones should be of larger scale and should map specific facilities.	Introduction and Project Description
City of Chino	November 9, 2010	The City of Chino requested that the District coordinate with the City of Chino when evaluating impacts within the city's boundaries or sphere of influence. Encroachment and detour/lane closure permits will be required for any work within the public right-of-way.	Introduction and Project Description
Organizations			
Center for Biological Diversity	November 8, 2010	The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) suggests that the DEIR provide meaningful information regarding the potential impacts of the project on endemic, rare, threatened, and endangered species. Discussion should include analysis of candidate, sensitive, and special-status species. The comment letter lists the species which could be potentially affected and suggests that the analysis in the DEIR	Biological Resources

Table	1

Summary of Comments Received in Response to the Previously Distributed NOP

Commenting Agency or Property Owner	Date Received	Summary of Comment	EIR Chapter Where Comment will be Addressed	
		include direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project. CBD suggests that mitigation measures be included to reduce impacts and that the DEIR must consider the extent to which the project will impact water resources and, subsequently, biological resources.		
		CBD requests that the DEIR pay particularly close attention to the impacts of invasive species in the project area and how management of streams, dams, and culverts could help reduce such adverse impacts. CBD also suggests that the DEIR discuss the impacts of maintenance activities on wildlife corridors and alternatives to alleviate habitat fragmentation.		
The Sierra Club	June 3, 2011	This comment letter lists the undesirable effects of digging in the channels in an attempt to control flooding. The letter suggests that alternative methods be identified for flood control methods.	Project Description	
Individuals				
Jenny Wilder	April 4, 2011	Ms. Wilder suggests that a complete list of species that benefit from the wetland areas along the upper reaches of the Mojave River from the Narrows to Deep Creek be identified. Ms. Wilder also suggests that the method of bulldozing and piling up the dirt in channels be studied.	Project Description and Biological Resources	

1.1 Overview of the Proposed Project

The District will be the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and is proposing to prepare and implement a Maintenance Plan that covers routine operations and maintenance (O&M) activities for flood control facilities within the County of San Bernardino (proposed project). The proposed project will be a comprehensive assessment of needed maintenance activities for the District's flood control system. Components of the Maintenance Plan and various maintenance activities are described below.

Maintenance Plan

In order to ensure continued stormwater infrastructure reliability, the District is proposing to implement a comprehensive program to prepare and implement a Maintenance Plan for maintenance of flood facilities throughout San Bernardino County. Maintenance occurs yearround, with some facilities requiring maintenance several times a year and others on an asneeded basis in preparation of or following large storm events. Many District-maintained facilities either traverse or contain a protected natural resource. Currently, the District has to obtain multiple permits for the same work in the same facilities for each season or year, which has become an inefficient method of facility maintenance. Therefore, a primary objective of the program is to integrate an environmental approach with the implementation of required O&M activities associated with watershed management, while still protecting life, property, and public infrastructure from the dangers and damages associated with stormwater. Under the Maintenance Plan, documentation would be prepared for O&M activities, and long-term programmatic regional permits would be obtained for work to streamline the CEQA and permitting process and execute projects on a regular and timely basis.

O&M Activities

O&M activities within San Bernardino County flood control facilities are currently ongoing; however, the Maintenance Plan would develop a formalized comprehensive plan that would provide a systematic and scheduled approach to these maintenance activities, providing increased efficiency and environmental sensitivity to the implementation of maintenance activities. The Maintenance Plan would describe routine maintenance activities and provide a schedule for routine inspection and maintenance of various flood control facilities. The Maintenance Plan would also identify facilities with sensitive resources and BMPs to avoid and minimize potential impacts to those resources from maintenance activities.

Routine O&M activities are preventive in nature and include, on a regular basis, standard practices that detect and correct minor issues that may eventually lead to damage or loss of infrastructure, property, or life. Routine O&M activities are described as activities performed to allow a facility or structure to function at its current/designed capacity, including minor alterations to update a facility or structure to meet current standards or to maintain structural integrity. O&M activities do not include alterations for expanding facility capacity. Types of routine O&M activities include, but are not limited to, the removal of excess sediment, debris, and vegetation; stockpiling excess material and debris following removal; maintaining sufficient flowpaths; grooming/repairing earthen and improved channel slopes and bottoms; and maintaining culverts and bridges to ensure proper drainage and structural integrity.

The proposed preparation and implementation of the Maintenance Plan and routine O&M activities are together referred to herein as the proposed project.

1.2 **Project Location**

The County of San Bernardino has an area of approximately 20,105 square miles and is divided into three distinct geographic regions: Valley, Mountain, and Desert (Figures 1 and 2). About 80% of the County is desert with the remaining areas divided between the valley and mountains.

Valley Region

The Valley Region of San Bernardino County is situated at the base of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains to the north, the City of Upland and the Los Angeles County line to the west, and the City of Yucaipa and the Riverside County line to the east (see Figure 1, Valley Region). The defining fluvial landforms in the Valley Region are the creeks, streams, and washes that have formed from mountain and foothill fluvial processes. Many of these features drain into the Santa Ana River. The more prominent drainage features in the Valley Region maintained in full or in part by the District include creeks, streams, washes, rivers, and channels, basins and dams. District-maintained drainages in this region drain into the Santa Ana River, which ultimately ends at the Pacific Ocean.

Mountain Region

The Mountain Region is located north of the Valley Region in the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains, separated by the Cajon Pass, a defining feature of the San Andreas Fault zone (see Figure 2, Mountain and Desert Regions). The mountain communities stretch from Mt. Baldy and Wrightwood to the west, to Big Bear City on the east, and Forest Falls to the southeast. Runoff from the mountains provides the main water source for both the Santa Ana and Mojave rivers. Fluvial landforms in the Mountain Region consist of a series of creeks, streams, and rivers that drain into mountain lakes, the Valley Region, or the Desert Region. The more prominent drainage features in the Mountain Region maintained in full or in part by the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works are creeks, streams, washes, and channels including Arrowbear Creek, Green Valley Creek, Seeley Creek, Knickerbocker Creek, Ski Creek Culvert, Grout Creek, Rathbone Creek, Canyon Creek, and Van Dusen Creek, Swarthout, Heath Creek, and a portion of Sheep Creek.

Desert Region

The Desert Region is located north of the San Bernardino and San Gabriel mountains and north of Riverside County line, to the Arizona state line to the east, Kern and Los Angeles counties to the west, and Inyo County and Nevada state line to the north (see Figure 2, Mountain and Desert Regions). The Desert Region is characterized by an assemblage of low mountain ranges and desert floors. The more prominent drainage features in the Desert Region maintained in full or in

part by the District are creeks, streams, washes, rivers, channels, and basins. The Mojave River, an approximately 65-mile-long river whose source is the watershed on the north side of the San Bernardino Mountains, terminates at Soda Dry Lake. The majority of the river is dry most of the year, as is the Desert Region as a whole. However, there are areas where surface flows are year-round, at the headwaters, and where groundwater is forced to the surface in areas with impermeable bedrock, in the upper and lower narrows near Victorville and in the Afton Canyon area northeast of Barstow. Morongo Valley Creek drains into Whitewater River, which ultimately drains into the Salton Sea. The creek is also dry most of the year. Several drainages in Needles drain to the Colorado River. Many other drainages and washes emanating from the various low mountain ranges in the region either terminate in dry lakes or on the desert floor. During storm events, particularly during the summer months, these desert drainages can become subject to flash flooding causing flooding and debris flows that can damage property, roads, and bridges.

1.3 **Project Background**

The District was established by the California Legislature, and in accordance with the County Flood Control District Act, on April 20, 1939, in response to the severe floods of March 1938, which caused loss of lives and millions of dollars of property damage within the County. Administration for the District falls under the Department of Public Works. The District routinely maintains approximately 530 flood control facilities within the 20,105 square miles of the County, which includes significant portions of the Santa Ana River, and the Mojave River, portions of the Lower Colorado River, and many smaller desert watersheds that drain into isolated endorheic basins.¹

The District's flood control system is organized into six discrete flood control zones. Each zone has specific interests, responsibilities, or geographical divisions distinctive of the particular zone. In matters of taxation or ventures, each zone functions independently although joint activities may be entered into by mutual arrangement.

¹ An endorheic basin is a closed drainage basin that holds onto water and does not allow outflow to other external bodies of water, such as oceans or rivers, but joins instead into lakes or swamps, seasonal or permanent, that equilibrate via evaporation (Red Orbit 2014).





Flood Control Zones 1, 2, and 3 include the Valley Region of San Bernardino County. Zone 5 includes the Mountain Region, and Zones 4 and 6 include primarily the Desert Region but some facilities located in the Mountain region. In the Desert Region, the average annual rainfall is approximately 5 inches, while in the Valley Region, that average is closer to 15 inches. The Mountain Region experiences both rainfall and snow. Although annual rainfall totals are relatively low compared to other parts of the state or country, maintenance of District facilities is ongoing due to erosion from infrequent and large storm events as well as from high water velocities reflecting elevation changes in watersheds and restricted drainage systems created over time as development occurred. It is common for the Desert Region to receive most of its rainfall in one or two large storms, which can cause flash flooding and debris flows. Likewise, fall wildfires, heavy winter storms, and the spring snowmelt from the mountains can cause flash flooding in channels and washes in the Valley, Mountain, and Desert regions.

Although 80% of the County is located within the Desert Region of Zones 4 and 6, Zones 1 and 2 in the Valley Region contain the most maintained facilities. The breakdown by percentage of maintained facilities by zone is as follows: Zone 1 (30%), Zone 2 (28%), Zone 3 (18%), Zone 4 (11%), Zone 5 (1%), and Zone 6 (12%) (see Table 2). District-maintained facilities are located in various watersheds/subwatersheds within San Bernardino County. Refer to Table 2 and Map Figures 3 and 4 for information.

Flood Control Zone	Area (square miles)	City/Community
Zone 1	275	The western portion of the San Bernardino Valley extending from Beech Avenue in the Fontana area to the Los Angeles County line, all south of the San Gabriel mountain range divide. This includes the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Fontana, Montclair, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Upland.
		Wastersheds: Santa Ana watershed (Reach 4), with subwatersheds that include San Antonio Creek, Cucamonga and West Cucamonga Creek, and portions of Day Creek/ Etiwanda Creek/ San Sevaine/Rialto.
Zone 2	318	The central area of the San Bernardino Valley, east of Zone 1 to approximately the Santa Ana River and City Creek demarcations. This includes the cities of Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Highland, Loma Linda, Redlands, Rialto, and San Bernardino with the communities of Bloomington, Devore, and Muscoy.
		Watersheds: Santa Ana watershed (Reaches 4 and 5), with subwatersheds that include Lytle/ Cajon Creek, Twin/Warm Creek, and portions of Day Creek/ Etiwanda Creek/ San Sevaine/Rialto, and City Creek/Plunge Creek.

Table 2 District Zones

Table 2

District Zones

Flood Control Zone	Area (square miles)	City/Community
Zone 3	366	The eastern end of the San Bernardino Valley, east of Zone 2 including the cities of Highland, Loma Linda, Redlands, San Bernardino, and Yucaipa with the community of Mentone. Watersheds: Santa Ana watershed (Reach 5), with subwatersheds that include San Timoteo,
		Mission/Zanja, Upper Santa Ana River, and Big Bear/ Santa Ana Headwaters. and City Creek/ Plunge Creek,
Zone 4	1,783	The Mojave River Valley from the San Bernardino Mountains to Silver Lakes. This includes the cities/towns of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Barstow, Hesperia, and Victorville, and all or portions of the communities of Baker, Baldy Mesa, Daggett, Desert Knolls, El Mirage, Helendale, Hinkley, Hodge, Lenwood, Oro Grande, Phelan, Pinon Hills, Silver Lakes, Spring Valley Lake, Wrightwood, and Yermo.
		Watersheds: Mojave River (Upper, Middle, Lower Reaches), Sheep Creek, and portions of Mojave/Baker.
Zone 5	163	The mountainous watershed of the Mojave River on the crest and north slopes of the San Bernardino Mountains including the communities of Arrowbear Lake, Blue Jay, Cedar Glen, Crestline, Green Valley Lake, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Gregory, Rimforest, Running Springs, Silverwood Lake, Skyforest, Snow Valley, and Twin Peaks.
		Watersheds: Upstream portion of the Mojave River(Upper Reach), and upstream portion of the Santa Ana River (Reach 5) that includes upstream sections of the subwatersheds of Lytle/Cajon, Twin/Warm, Upper Santa Ana, City/Plunge Creek, Big Bear/ Santa Ana Headwaters.
Zone 6	17,200	The remainder of the County not embraced by other zones including portions of the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains and the semi-desert portion of the County. This includes the cities/towns of Big Bear, Needles, Yucca Valley, and Twenty-nine Palms with the communities of Amboy, Joshua Tree, Lucerne Valley, Morongo Valley, Newberry Springs, and Trona.
		Watersheds: Little Morongo Creek, Yucca Creek, Lucerne Valley Storm Drain, Trona, Needles/Sacramento and a portion of Mojave/Baker and Upper Mojave River.



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Notice of Preparation



1.4 Purpose of this Initial Study

This Initial Study was prepared in compliance with CEQA of 1970 (as amended), codified in California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines, codified in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq. The purpose of an Initial Study is to provide a preliminary analysis of a proposed project to determine whether a negative declaration, a mitigated negative declaration, or an environmental impact report should be prepared. Since the District, as the CEQA lead agency, identified the need for a DEIR, this Initial Study is being prepared to refine the scope of the DEIR, identify resource areas that will be eliminated from further analysis, and to solicit public input on the scope of the DEIR.

The proposed project includes preparation and implementation of a Maintenance Plan and the execution of routine ongoing O&M activities. Routine O&M activities will be addressed in the Maintenance Plan, and may be performed within any flood control facility in the County of San Bernardino.

2 DISTRICT FACILITIES

The District has a flood control facility indexing system in which each facility has a unique system number which refers to a subunit of a drainage course with specific upstream and downstream limits. There are approximately 1,100 indexed facilities in the District system, of which approximately 535 are routinely maintained and are the subject of the Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program (MSWSMP). Table 3 describes the types of flood control feature types that exist throughout the system.

Table 3Flood Control Feature Types

Creeks – Drainage courses that generally follow historic streams and drainage; they may be channelized. See definition for channels, below.

Canyons – Deep, steep gullies, caused by extensive persistent erosion relating to that typical of a river, or often in the case of the desert, a wash. Canyons form the headwaters of creeks and rivers, with the canyon mouth being where the gullies widen out.

Washes – Constricting dry beds of intermittent streams. Typically found at the mouth of a canyon and dry, but subject to rapid flow during flash flooding.

Rivers – Major drainage courses that are fed by numerous streams, collecting water from a large combined drainage area.

Channels – Facilities which are constructed to collect and convey runoff flows, generally along historic stream paths. These facilities can be fully developed concrete channels, natural channels, or semi-improved channels, which consist of a combination of engineered and natural features, i.e., contain concrete, riprap, revetment, and/or earthen side slopes, bottoms, etc. Channels are subdivided into Reach segments for operational purposes.

Spreading Grounds – These facilities are typically large areas of native ground that contain above-ground-surface embankments, or basins (below ground surface) with earthen bottoms, used by private and public water purveyors to impound water to recharge groundwater aquifers. Generally, spreading grounds are constructed in conjunction with a channel. The channel will divert flows into a spreading ground in order to impound the water for groundwater recharge.

Dams – A dam is usually a large embankment that blocks an existing watercourse. This embankment is used to control the release of storm waters downstream via an outlet pipe that limits the amount of water that can exit the dam. Any flows in excess of the capacity of the dam outlet are stored behind the dam. Dams also contain an overflow emergency spillway to carry outflows in excess of the design capacity. Most dams are regulated by the Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). Some of the District's larger and more pronounced dams include Seven Oaks Dam and Mojave River Forks Dam. Smaller dams can be found functioning as basin outlets. Mojave River Forks Dam is maintained by the USACOE. Dams contain sediment as water impounds at the embankment. This sediment is removed annually or as necessary to maintain design capacity. The District currently has 16 facilities that are certified by DSOD.

Levees – A levee is generally an elevated berm that is used to protect adjacent low lying ground from storm waters. District facilities are generally solitary levees, groins, etc., which deflect widely dispersed flows into a narrower stream course; they do not refer to the levees that make up the side slopes of small channels. These types of levees are used to deflect flows away from a larger bank, thus preventing erosion or breeching into the developed floodplain. The levee is usually lined with a structural material, such as concrete or riprap, to ensure that it does not fail from erosion. This lining may extend many feet below ground to ensure that scour caused by high water velocities cannot undermine the levee. Many of these levees must undergo regular inspections to maintain their certification from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Table 3Flood Control Feature Types

Basins – The District maintains about 119 basins. District basins are generally either detention or debris basins. Both types of basins have different functions, and therefore, receive different maintenance treatments. Due to California's water shortage, improving water conservation efforts in the District's basins generally means disking, scarifying, or ripping, and/or removing clay/silt layers on the basin bottoms on more regular intervals during the long-term. An average basin is approximately 20 acres. The following are examples of the types of basins within the District:

<u>Detention Basins</u> – A detention basin functions similarly to a dam in that its primary purpose is to "cut-off" peak flows, thereby enabling the use of smaller channels downstream of the basin. Where a dam uses an embankment to impound water, a detention basin will have either no embankment or will have a small embankment. Most of the water pool is stored below grade. Like a dam, a basin will have an outlet pipe and overflow spillway. Any flows that exceed the pipe's outflow capacity are temporarily stored in the basin. Detention basins can be sized to store some sediment and debris deposition, but their primary function is to reduce peak flows.

<u>Debris Basins</u> – Debris basins are usually located at the mouth of a canyon where there is a potential for large sediment and debris yields. The purpose of the debris basin is to store sediment and debris, not water. Sediment and debris can reduce the capacity of downstream channels, if not contained, and also plug culverts and road crossings. In addition to spillways and outlet pipes, debris basins also have intake towers, which are designed to allow water to flow through the outlet pipes while retaining the sediment.

Storm Drains – These facilities are generally smaller channels, or reinforced concrete boxes and pipes that receive flows primarily from urban runoff. They are small in nature, and drain to a larger channel, stream, or watercourse.

Fire Trails and Breaks – The District owns or has interest in various properties throughout the zones. The District will clear property as required, pursuant to the County and City local/fire ordinances.

Table 4, District-Maintained Facilities, describes the types of facilities within the District's system and lists the facility names of each type.

Watershed		Channels, Storm Drains	
	Basins and Dams	and Levees	Communities
San Antonio Creek System – Zone 1, Valley Region	8th Street Basins Nos. 1, 2 and 3 College Heights Spreading Grounds Ely Basins Nos 1 and 2 San Antonio Heights Basin, West Frankish San Antonio Heights Basins Nos 1 thru 6.	Carbon Canyon Creek Channel Chino Creek Chino Storm Drain Cypress Channel English Canyon Channel Grove Avenue Basin Drain Lake Los Serranos Channel Lower Los Serranos Channel San Antonio Channel, COE* Soquel Canyon Channel Sultana-Cypress Storm Drain	Chino Chino Hills Montclair Ontario Upland
		West State Street Storm Drain	

Table 4District-Maintained Facilities

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Watershed		Channels, Storm Drains	
	Basins and Dams	and Levees	Communities
Cucamonga/West Cucamonga Creek System – Zone 1, Valley Region	Alta Loma Basins Nos 1 thru 3 Chris Basin Cucamonga Basins Nos 6, 7 and 8 Cucamonga Dam, COE* [DSOD**] Cucamonga Spreading Grounds Demens Basin No 1, COE* [DSOD**] Lower Cucamonga Spreading Grounds.	19th Street Storm Drain Almond Intercept Channel Alta Loma Storm Drains Nos 1 & 2 California Commerce Storm Drain County Line Channel Cucamonga Channel Deer Creek Channel, COE* Deer Creek Reception Levee Demens Creek Channel Hillside Channel, COE* Lower Deer Creek Channel San Antonio Heights Intercept, COE* West Cucamonga Channel	Chino Ontario Rancho Cucamonga
Day Creek/Etiwanda- San Sevaine/Rialto System – Zone 1, Valley Region	Banana Basin Baseline Basins Nos 1 thru 3 Cactus Basins Nos 1 thru 3 Day Creek Basins Nos 1 and 2 Day Creek Dam [DSOD**] Day Creek Spreading Basins Nos 1 thru 5 Day Creek Spreading Grounds Declez Basin[DSOD**] Deer Creek Debris Basin, COE* [DSOD**] Deer Creek Spreading Ground Etiwanda Debris Basin (Dam) Etiwanda Spreading Grounds Grove Avenue Basin Hickory Basin [DSOD**] Hillside Basin, COE* Jurupa Basin (DSOD**) Linden Basin Merrill Basin Pepper Basin Randall Basin Rich Basin Riverside Basin San Sevaine Basins Nos 1 thru 5 San Sevaine Spreading Grounds Turner Basins Nos 1 thru 5 Victoria Basin Wineville Basin.	24th Street Storm Drain Day Creek Channel Day Creek Spreading Grounds Levee Declez Channel East Fontana Storm Drain East Rialto Storm Drain No 1 Etiwanda Creek Channel Grand Terrace Storm Drain Hawker-Crawford Channel Henderson Channel Henderson Channel Henderson Channel Wardman Channel) Highland Channel Lower Etiwanda Creek Channel Mulberry Channel Randall Channel Turnout Rialto Channel San Sevaine Channel San Sevaine Spreading Grounds- West and East Levees West Fontana Channel West Fontana Channel	Bloomington Colton Fontana Grand Terrace Rancho Cucamonga Rialto

Table 4District-Maintained Facilities

Watershed		Channels, Storm Drains	
	Basins and Dams	and Levees	Communities
Lytle/Cajon Creeks System – Zone 2, Valley Region	Badger Spreading Grounds Devil Canyon Dam and Basins Nos 2-7 Devil Canyon Spreading Grounds East Badger Basin Little Mountain Dam (DSOD**) North Badger Basin South Badger Basin Sweetwater Basin Sycamore Basin Wiggins Basin No 1	Badger Channel Cable Creek Channel Devil Creek Diversion Channel, COE* Devil Creek Levee, COE* Island Levee, COE* Lytle Creek Channel, COE* Lytle Creek Channel, COE* Lytle Creek Levee, COE* Macy Storm Drain Muscoy Groins Nos 1 thru 5,COE* Muscoy Levee, COE* Rancho Avenue Storm Drain Riverside Groins Nos 1 thru 5, COE* Santa Ana River Upper and Lower Devore Levees, COE*	Devore Lytle Creek Rialto San Bernardino
Twin/Warm Creeks System – Zone 2, Valley Region	29th Street Basins Nos 1 thru 3 Brush Canyon Basin Daley Basin Harrison Basin Lemon Basin Little Sand Canyon Basin Lynwood Basins Nos 1 thru 4 MacQuiddy Basin Macy Basin Macy Basin Patton Basin Patton Basin Perris Hill Basin Sand Canyon Basin Sand Canyon Dam Twin Creek Spreading Grounds Warm Creek Conservation Basins Nos 2 thru 4 Waterman Basins Nos 1 thru 4 Waterman Spreading Grounds.	warm Creek Levee, COE* Brush Canyon Storm Drain David Way Drainage Del Rosa Channel (Daley Channel) Devil Creek Channel Elm Storm Drain Little Mountain Channel Little Sand Creek MacQuiddy-Severance Diversion Channel McGlothlen Storm Drain Sand Creek Sweetwater Channel Sycamore Diversion Channel Twin Creek Twin Creek Channel Improved, COE* Twin Creek Levees, COE* Upper Warm Creek Channel Warm Creek By-Pass, COE* Warm Creek Channel Warm Creek Channel Warm Creek Channel Warm Creek Channel Warm Creek Channel Warm Creek, COE* Waterman Levee, COE* Western Avenue Channel	Highland San Bernardino

Table 4District-Maintained Facilities
Watershed				
	Basins and Dams	and Levees	Communities	
Upper Santa Ana System – Zone 3, Valley Region	Seven Oaks Dam, COE*, [DSOD**].			
City Creek/Plunge Creek/Mill Creek System – Zones 2 and 3, Valley Region	City Creek Spreading Grounds Cook Canyon Basin Dynamite Basin Elder Creek Basin Oak Creek Basin Plunge Creek Spreading Grounds Plunge Creek Spreading Grounds Small Canyon Dam.	Baldridge Creek Bledsoe Creek Bledsoe Creek City Creek City Creek Channel City Creek Levee, COE* East Highland Storm Drain Elder Creek Mill Creek Mill Creek Levee, COE* Oak Creek Plunge Creek Plunge Creek Santa Ana River (Incl. COE*) Small Canyon Channel Small Canyon Diversion Channel	Forest Falls Highland Mountain Home Village Redlands	
Zanja/Mission Creek System – Zone 3, Valley Region		Mission Channel Morrey Arroyo Morrey Arroyo Redlands Storm Drain No 1 Zanja Creek	Loma Linda Mentone Redlands	
San Timoteo Creek System – Zone 3, Valley Region	Oak Glen Creek Basins Nos 1 thru 3 Potato Creek Spreading Grounds San Timoteo Sediment Basins Nos 1 thru 18 Wildwood Debris Basin and Basins Nos 1 and 2 Wilson Creek Basins Nos 1 thru 4 Wilson Creek Spreading Grounds.	Birch Creek Brown Ditch Gateway Wash Loma Linda Storm Drain Oak Glen Creek Potato Creek Reche Canyon Creek San Bernardino Avenue Storm Drain San Timoteo Creek Water Canyon Creek (Wildwood tributary) Wildwood Creek Wilson Creek Yucaipa Drainage	Colton Loma Linda Redlands Yucaipa	

Table 4District-Maintained Facilities

Watershed			
	Basins and Dams	and Levees	Communities
Big Bear/Headwaters		Grout Creek	Big Bear City
Santa Ana River		Knickerbocker Creek	Big Bear Lake
System – Zone 6,		Rathbone Creek	Fawnskin
Mountain Region		Sand Canyon Creek	
		Ski Creek Culvert	
		Van Dusen Creek(Low Flow)	
Sheep Creek System		Flume Creek	Phelan
– Zone 4, Desert and		Heath Creek	Pinion Hills
Mountain Regions		Sheep Creek	Wrightwood
		Swarthout Creek	5
Upper Mojave River		Antelope Creek Wash	Apple Valley
System – Zones 4		Desert Knolls Wash	Hesperia
and 5, Desert and		Mojave River - Forks Dam to I-15	Victorville
Mountain Regions		Oro Grande Wash	Cedarpines Park
		Green Valley Creek	Green Valley Lake
		Hunsicker Drain	Running Springs
		Seeley Creek	Valley of
		Seeley Creek (West Branch)	Enchantment
Middle Mojave River		Adelanto East Channel	Adelanto
System – Zone 4.		Buckthorn Wash	Barstow
Desert Region		D Street SD	Helendale
		El Evado Channel	Hesperia
		Eremont Wash	Hinklov
		Hesperia East Channel	
		Mojave Drive Channel	Mountain View
		Mojave Drive Charnel	SilverLakes
		Mt View Acros Storm Drain	Viotonillo
Laura Malaus Dissa	Weterman Deed Deele		VICIOI VIIIE
Lower Mojave River	waterman Road Basin	Arrownead Channel	Barstow
Desert Region		Daggett Channel	Daggett
Desert Region		Dean wash Channel	Lenwood
		Lenwood Channel	Nineola
		Miojave River - Lenwood Rd. to	Nebo Nevel anna Oraria an
		Narth Deretaux Channel	Newberry Springs
		Southwest Derstery Charged	rermo
		Southwest Darstow Channel	
		Valennan Road Channel	
Mojave-Baker		Baker Levee	Baker
System – Zone 6,		East Baker Channel	
Desert Region			1

Table 4District-Maintained Facilities

Watershed Ch		Channels, Storm Drains	
	Basins and Dams	and Levees	Communities
Lucerne Storm Drain System – Zone 6, Desert Region		Lucerne Valley Storm Drain	Lucerne Valley
Yucca Creek System - Zone 6, Desert Region	49 Palms Spreading Grounds Donnell Basin Long Canyon Basin Old Woman Springs Basin	29 Palms Flood Channel Burnt Mountain Wash Church Street Channel Covington Wash Channel High School Channel Hospital Channel Juanita Drainage Ditch Long Canyon Channel Old Woman Springs Creek Pinion Creek Drain Pinto Cove Creek Quail Wash Quail Wash Levee; COE* Yucca Creek	29 Palms Joshua Tree Pioneer Town Yucca Valley
Little Morongo Creek – Zone 6, Desert Region		Little Morongo Creek	Little Morongo Heights
Needles/Sacramento Wash System – Zone 6, Desert Region	Needles Basins Nos 1 thru 5 North Needles Basin	Eagle Pass Levee, COE* Needles Flood Channel Needles Riverview Levee Needles S Street Channel COE* S Street Channel Inlet Levee	Needles
		Argus Channel Borosolvay Channel Rockcrusher Channel South Trona Channel Trona Flood Channel	Argus South Trona Trona

Table 4District-Maintained Facilities

The District maintains its facilities throughout the County, including improved channels, basins, creeks, streams, dams, and washes. Exceptions are a) systems constructed within city streets as storm drains and where the local jurisdictions (towns and cities) have accepted the obligation to maintain, b) San Antonio Channel and Mojave River Forks Dam, which are maintained by the ACOE, and c) unimproved systems (natural drainage) that have not historically been maintained by the District. Most natural creeks and streams are not maintained by the District. Additionally, the District performs weed abatement for fire suppression purposes in land owned in fee or held in easement by the District.

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3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project includes the preparation and implementation of a Maintenance Plan and the execution of O&M activities within flood control facilities in San Bernardino County. The Maintenance Plan will describe all maintenance activities that would be performed on a regular basis and would provide the following:

- General description of work performed
- Description of vehicle and equipment needs
- Description of activity timing and/or frequency.

In addition, the Maintenance Plan will include a description of notification and reporting requirements for work within federal and/or state jurisdictional streambeds and wetlands, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-designated critical habitat, or within the vicinity of special-status wildlife species or nesting birds. It will also include a list of standard BMPs implemented to avoid sensitive resources, soil erosion, sedimentation, discharges of materials to stormwater or into water bodies, and the spread of invasive plant species. The draft Maintenance Plan will be circulated for public review with the DEIR.

The implementation of the Maintenance Plan would provide a comprehensive program for maintenance of various flood control channels and basins to ensure flood protection. Maintenance activities would allow District facilities to function at their current/designed capacity and would include minor alterations to update facilities to current standards or to increase stability. Proposed maintenance activities would not include the construction or alteration of facilities for the purpose of expanding facility capacity. Table 5, Typical Flood Control Maintenance Activities, provides the types of proposed maintenance activities to be implemented as described in the Maintenance Plan.

Activity	Description
Stockpiling	Maintenance of stockpile locations includes placement of material (i.e., debris and sediment from District facilities) at specific locations for use in repairs and temporary storage. Stockpiles are often treated to avoid the spread of invasive plants.
Mechanized Land Clearing/Excavation	Mechanized land clearing includes channel centerflow (the establishment and maintenance of a smaller center channel within a channel) to convey and guide low volume storm and dry weather (urban runoff) flows within the center of an earthen channel to keep flows away from the slopes and for guiding flows. A centerflow channel is established by clearing sediment and vegetation within the

Table 5Typical Flood Control Maintenance Activities

Table 5Typical Flood Control Maintenance Activities

Activity	Description
	center of the channel. The centerflow channel generally represents a width of up to 20%-50% of the channel, and approximately 2–3 feet deep.
	Mechanized land clearing includes grading the channel inverts or basin bottoms to properly convey flows downstream.
	Mechanized land clearing includes debris removal for flood control, water quality control, and groundwater recharge. Debris removal includes removal of sediment, dead vegetation such as fallen boughs and leaves, and illegally dumped trash. Material is removed to maintain conveyance capacity of each facility as necessary. High-priority facilities must be maintained at 100% capacity at all times. Sand and gravel operators often contract with the District to remove sediment. Basin bottom silt and clays are removed and soil is typically broken up and kept free of vegetation to enhance groundwater recharge. Illegally dumped trash, vehicles, and homeless camps are removed from District facilities, and material is taken to a landfill or appropriate recycling facility for disposal.
	Mechanical vegetation clearing includes the removal of vegetation with equipment such as dozers, graders, loaders, and excavators, to allow conveyance of storm flows downstream, to remove large areas of growth from regulated facilities that are certified/inspected by FEMA, ACOE, and DWR-DSOD. Mechanical vegetation clearing is also required for fuel modification purposes per state and local fire codes.
Vegetation Management, Including Mowing and Hand Clearing	Mechanical and manual vegetation management activities, including mowing, disking, and manual pruning, remove vegetation within facilities that prevent the proper conveyance of storm flows downstream. Dense vegetation can be uprooted in heavy storms and damage downstream facilities. Dense vegetation can trap sediment rather than transporting the material downstream, damage levees, reduce water quality and also inhibit wildlife feeding and movement. Mowing and vegetation management activities such as disking and manual removal, result in thinning and involve shallow soil disturbance, which encourages seed germination, soil aeration, and insect populations. Equipment used includes, but is not limited to, tractor mowers, tractor and disc trailer, and boom mowers. Manual removal includes using power trimmers, weed eaters and manual tools such as pruning loppers, saws, and clippers to trim and thin vegetation so it does not clog downstream facilities or reduce water quality.
Herbicide and Rodenticide	Herbicide application, sometimes referred to as chemical vegetation clearing, is accomplished by trained and licensed applicators to manage vegetation. Herbicides are used for fuel modification purposes, to allow for proper conveyance of flows, and to prevent the spread of invasive species and aquatic weeds, such as algae and grasses considered detrimental to flood control facilities. Typical aquatic herbicides applied include, but are not limited, glyphosate, copper, triclopyr, and diquat. Equipment used includes sprayers mounted on a service truck, or backpack sprayers.
	Rodenticide is applied by a licensed applicator to control burrowing rodents from destabilizing banks and levees. California ground squirrels (Spermophilus beecheyi) are generally the targeted species. Rodenticide used in areas containing rare rodents such as the threatened Mohave ground squirrel (Spermophilus mohavensis) or the endangered San Bernardino kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>) is applied using special traps, and in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and policies. Mitigation measures are to be employed when in proximity to burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia) burrows.

Table 5Typical Flood Control Maintenance Activities

Activity	Description
Ingress/Egress	Maintenance of access roads includes, but is not limited to, fencing and gate repairs, signage, road grading, and pavement repair.
Bank Repair	Bank repairs include, but are not limited to, removal of excess sediment and sand from the bottom (invert) of the channel or basin or on-site/off-site stockpile location and placing it onto the side slopes. Sometimes, additional and incidental riprap rock or gabion placement may be required for banks that experience frequent erosion resulting in high frequency of maintenance. Riprap repair includes repositioning, replacement, or placement of incidental riprap to stabilize the slopes. It also includes the repair of grouted and ungrouted sections of rock. Bank repair can also include the repair or replacement of steel revetment with more revetment or riprap rock.
Flood Control Structure Repair	Flood control structure repair or in-kind replacement include, but are not limited to, those appurtenant structures such as inlets, outlets, culverts, spillways, bottom controls, water quality structures, including settling basins and riprap, and channel invert improvements.
Fuel Modification Maintenance	Fuel modification can be in the form of manual, mechanical, or chemical vegetation control and have already been discussed in the mechanized land clearing, herbicide, and mowing categories.
Graffiti Removal	Graffiti is removed by spraying paint on the concrete facility. Graffiti removal also includes cleanup of discarded spray paint cans.
Vector Control	Vector control primarily involves mosquito control to reduce the spread of disease, including West Nile Virus. Vector control is conducted by the County Environmental Health Department-Mosquito/Vector Control office and includes biopesticides and introduction of mosquito-larvae-eating fish.
Stream Gage Maintenance	Maintenance of stream gages and stream gage sites, as well as other scientific measurement devices to measure and record scientific data, including but not limited to, water quality monitoring, wells, and sampling stations.

3.1 Maintenance Timing

Maintenance activities in each flood control facility occur on an annual basis or more or less often as needed. Some facilities may only require maintenance once every several years following large storm events, while others may require maintenance several times a year. In general, the timing of flood control maintenance is dictated by the following:

Weed Abatement Notices – June through September. Chemical and mechanical treatment may be needed twice per year—once before spring, and again before fall—to adequately control and remove dry brush and weeds in accordance with local fire code requirements.

Storm Season – October through April (work occurs only after the wetted portions of a channel or basin are dry enough to safely operate equipment). During monsoon season in the desert areas, storms can occur in July, August and September.

Nesting Season for Migratory $Birds^2$ – Depending on specific location and weather patterns, nesting season is generally March 1 through September 15. If nesting birds are present, the District generally reschedules the work for after the nestlings have fledged. If work cannot be rescheduled, the District applies a buffer.

3.2 **Proposed Project Objectives**

The proposed project objectives are as follows:

- Allow existing facilities or structures to function at the current/designed capacity, and update facilities or structures through minor alterations to meet current standards, maintain structural integrity, and reduce maintenance frequency.
- Develop a formalized plan that would provide a systematic and scheduled approach to maintenance activities.
- Provide a comprehensive guide for the maintenance of existing stormwater infrastructure.
- Provide the basis for acquisition of long-term maintenance permits from a number of state and federal agencies for regulated maintenance activities.
- Obtain long-term regulatory permits to streamline the CEQA and permitting process and execute projects on a regular and timely basis.

3.3 Proposed Project Study Area

The study area for the proposed project includes the facilities described in Table 4, District-Maintained Facilities, and all areas within the District's existing right-of-way and access roads where O&M activities would occur in San Bernardino County. To ensure an appropriate geographic scope of analysis, the following areas within San Bernardino County were included in a geographic information system (GIS) geodatabase that delineates the entire study area:

• All District fee properties and easements

² Resource protection agencies have determined that removal of a nest during routine vegetation and/or sediment and debris removal during District maintenance operations would be a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Therefore, the District generally does not perform work that involves disturbance of vegetation between March 1 and September 15 without first determining the presence of nesting birds.

- All District access roads with a 10-foot wide buffer applied to either side of the approximate centerline of the roads, for a total buffer of 20 feet
- Activity-specific polygons delineating the footprint of the locations of proposed O&M activities identified as part of the proposed project.

The study area was established to assist in the analysis of the proposed project's effects on environmental resources.

3.4 Permits and Approvals

Federal, state, and local agencies may rely on information in the DEIR to inform them in their decision-making regarding issuance of specific permits related to the proposed project. Table 6, Agency Coordination, lists the federal, state, and local permits and authorizations required for the proposed project prior to O&M activities, as well as the agencies that the District will likely need to coordinate with regarding this project.

Agency	Jurisdiction	Permit Regulatory Requirement			
Federal					
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	National Historic Preservation Act	 National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation (if required as part of the Section 404 Clean Water Act permit review) 			
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	 Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Endangered Species Act Section 10 Incidental Take Permit. 			
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District	Clean Water Act	Clean Water Act Section 404 permit			
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management	Manages the West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan	 Coordination on compliance with reserve agreements 			
U.S. Forest Service	Manages U.S. Forest Lands	Coordination			
	State				
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Inland Deserts Region (Region 6)	Manage fish, wildlife, plant resources, and habitats; California Endangered Species Act, California Native Plant Protection Act, California Fish and Game Code Section 1601	 Streambed Alteration Agreement CESA Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit and/or Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination. 			
California Department of Transportation	California Streets and Highways Code 660–711.21 CCR 1411.1–1411.6	 Encroachment Permits Traffic Control Plans. 			

Table 6Agency Coordination

Table 6
Agency Coordination

Agency	Jurisdiction	Permit Regulatory Requirement
California State Office of Historic	Potential to affect cultural or	National Historic Preservation Act,
Preservation	paleontological resources	Section 106 Consultation
State Water Resources Control Board	Clean Water Act, Sections 401 and 402;• Clean Water Act Section 4Porter–Cologne Water Quality ControlQuality Certification and/orAct; California Water CodeDischarge Requirement	
	Division 7. Water Quality	
	Local	
Local Jurisdictions	Local/city roads and rights-of-way	 Road Encroachment Permit
		 Coordination
South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD)	SCAQMD and MDAQMD Regulation II, Rules 201 and 20310	 Authority to Construct and Permit to Operate

4 INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following Initial Study, Environmental Checklist, and evaluation of potential environmental effects were completed in accordance with Section 15063(d)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines to determine if the proposed project modifications would have any potentially significant effect on the physical environment.

An explanation is provided for all determinations, including the citation of sources listed in Section 5.1, References Cited. A "potentially significant impact" does not mean that the impact in question is significant; rather, it means that the impact requires further analysis in the Draft EIR to determine the significance level of the impact. A "no impact," "less-than-significant impact," or "less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated" determination indicates that the proposed project modifications would not have a significant effect on the physical environment for that specific environmental category. Those environmental resource areas that would not be potentially significantly impacted by the proposed project modifications will not be discussed in the Draft DEIR, unless otherwise noted in the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study/Environmental Checklist.

1. **Project title:**

Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program

2. Lead agency name and address:

San Bernardino County Flood Control District

825 East Third Street San Bernardino, California 92415–0835

3. Contact person and phone number:

Michele Derry, Senior Planner

Environmental Planning Division County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Works 825 East Third Street San Bernardino, California 92415–0835 E-mail: mderry@dpw.sbcounty.gov Phone: 909.387.8114 Fax: 909.387.7876

4. **Project location:**

San Bernardino County, California

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5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**

San Bernardino County Flood Control District

825 East Third Street San Bernardino, California 92415–0835

6. General plan designation:

Various for the multiple locations

7. Zoning:

Various for the multiple locations

8. Description of project. (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary):

See Project Description (Section 3.0) in this Initial Study.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting (Briefly describe the project's surroundings):

Various for the multiple locations.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

See Table 6 in Section 3.3 in this Initial Study.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

\boxtimes	Aesthetics		Agriculture and Forestry Resources	\square	Air Quality
\boxtimes	Biological Resources	\square	Cultural Resources	\square	Geology and Soils
\square	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	\boxtimes	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	\square	Hydrology and Water Quality
\boxtimes	Land Use and Planning		Mineral Resources	\square	Noise
	Population and Housing	\square	Public Services	\square	Recreation
\square	Transportation and Traffic	\boxtimes	Utilities and Service Systems	\square	Mandatory Findings of Significance

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DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the lead agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

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Signature

6/25/14

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Michele Derry, Senior Planner County of San Bernardino, Department of Public Works <u>Michele Derry</u> Printed Name

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts:

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

- 6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

4.1 **AESTHETICS**

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
I. A	ESTHETICS				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			\square	
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				\boxtimes
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			\boxtimes	
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			\boxtimes	

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

Less-Than-Significant Impact. According to the County of San Bernardino General Plan Conservation Element, preservation of the unique environmental features of the Mountain and Desert regions of the county include native wildlife, vegetation, and scenic vistas (County of San Bernardino 2007a). The County of San Bernardino General Plan does not specifically designate scenic vistas points, but it does identify environmental features as an important contributor to natural and aesthetic resources (County of San Bernardino 2007a). The proposed maintenance activities would result in visual changes that are minor in magnitude and would be located within the context of existing facilities characteristic of the District's right-of-way, such as basins, channels, access roads, and structure appurtenances. Proposed maintenance activities, such as road grading or vegetation maintenance, would maintain the existing access roads and facilities, with very little to no visual change. The presence of construction equipment to perform maintenance work would be short-term and temporary. In addition, many of these maintenance activities would not occur in areas frequented by the general public. The impacts of the proposed project on scenic vistas are less than significant, and this topic will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

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

No Impact. There is only one designated scenic highway within the County of San Bernardino (Route 38) (Caltrans 2014), and there are no District facilities adjacent to it.

Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on resources (including rock outcroppings or historic buildings) within a state scenic highway, and this topic will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

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c) Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Potentially Significant Impact. Because the proposed project activities would involve the maintenance and repair of existing facilities, and would not involve the construction of new infrastructure or facilities, the degree of visual change is generally not expected to be substantial. The most likely types of changes to visual character would be changes in vegetation density as a result of vegetation removal and changes to waterways based on sediment removal. There may also be some stockpiling of dirt during sediment removal activities and the stockpiles may be visible to the public and recreational users. Structure repair would typically involve in-kind replacement of appurtenant structures such as inlets, outlets, culverts, spillways, bottom controls, water quality structures, including settling basins and riprap, and channel invert improvements. Because these would mostly be in-kind replacements or repairs to existing infrastructure, these structure repairs would not substantially change the visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings. However, while it is expected that maintenance activities would be characteristic of activities that already occur along the District's access roads and facilities, vegetation removal and dirt stockpiling could result in changes to the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. For these reasons, the impact of the proposed maintenance activities on the character or quality of the site and its surroundings would be considered potentially significant, and this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. No new permanent lighting would be installed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, potential effects with respect to lighting would be limited to circumstances where temporary, portable lighting would be needed to complete construction work at night. Construction, operation, and maintenance activities are typically conducted during daytime hours; however, use of temporary, portable light sources may sometimes be necessary if a structure repair is required to accommodate traffic flow or other local jurisdiction requirements. Additionally, such lighting would only be required in locations where street lighting is not present or adequate (e.g., rural/open space areas). Because these circumstances would be the exception rather than the rule, and would be temporary if needed, the impact would be minimal. As standard practice, the District uses hooded, down-directed lights to illuminate work areas and to minimize light trespass onto adjacent properties. Because the proposed project does not include permanent lighting, and because the need for nighttime light is episodic, limited in extent and duration, and would involve use of down-directed lights, the impact would be less than significant, and this topic will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

		Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less-Than- Significant	
	Would the project:	Impact	Incorporated	Impact	No Impact
11.	II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Roard				
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non- agricultural use?				
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				\boxtimes
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))?				
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				\boxtimes
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?				\boxtimes

a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program mapped Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance throughout San Bernardino County. Several facilities with proposed maintenance activities are within one of these designated farmland zones (CDOC 2010); however, proposed maintenance activities are not anticipated to convert farmland to non-agricultural uses. All work associated with maintenance activities would occur within the District's existing facilities, and would not result in potential disturbances to adjacent farmland from maintenance projects. Proposed maintenance activities are not likely to result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use; therefore, impacts are less than significant. This issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. Based upon a review of the Department of Conservation Williamson Act Enrollment Maps for the County of San Bernardino (CDOC 2010), there are parcels of land under a Williamson Act contract within the vicinity of the proposed maintenance sites. The projects are located on properties identified as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Statewide Importance, which may also be zoned for agricultural use. However, California Public Resources Code, Section 51238 (a)(1), states the construction, alteration, and maintenance of water facilities are compatible uses within an agricultural preserve, unless the governing body makes a finding to the contrary; therefore, impacts involving a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract would not occur, and this issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Portions of the project areas (the Mountain Region) are within designated forestland, timberland, or timberland production zones. The San Bernardino National Forest is located within the project area. However, none of the proposed maintenance activities would result in a conflict with existing zoning for forestland, timberland, or timberland production. The District will coordinate with the USFS when maintenance of flood control facilities located near forest lands is required in order to reduce any potential land use conflicts. The proposed project would not cause the rezoning of forest land or timberland, and this issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?

No Impact. None of the proposed maintenance activities would result in the loss of forestland or the conversion of forestland to non-forest use. The proposed project would not cause the loss or conversion of forestland to non-forest use, and this issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

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

No Impact. As discussed in Section 4.2(a), several proposed maintenance activities project sites are located within designated farmlands and forestland; however, the permanent conversion of these lands into non-agricultural or non-forest uses as a result of proposed maintenance activities is not anticipated. All work associated with proposed maintenance activities would occur around existing infrastructure. According to California Public Resources Code, Section 51238 (a)(1), the construction, alteration, and maintenance of water facilities are compatible uses within an agricultural preserve, unless the governing body makes a finding to the contrary; therefore, impacts involving a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract would not occur. Therefore, there would be no impacts to farmlands and forest lands, and this issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
III.	AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance cr pollution control district may be relied upon to make	iteria established I the following deter	by the applicable air minations.	quality manageme	ent or air
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	\boxtimes			
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	\boxtimes			
c)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
III.	AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance cr pollution control district may be relied upon to make	iteria established I the following deter	by the applicable air minations.	quality manageme	nt or air
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	\boxtimes			
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			\boxtimes	

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

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities are within the South Coast Air Basin and fall under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD). The Air Quality Management Plan, prepared by SCAQMD, incorporates planning projections to devise a plan to meet federal and state air quality requirements (SCAQMD 2013). The MDAQMD has developed multiple plans to meet federal and state air quality requirements in which the MDAQMD is currently designated as nonattainment. These plans include the Federal 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan (Western Mojave Desert Nonattainment Area) (MDAQMD 2008), the Final Mojave Desert Planning Area Federal Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) Attainment Plan (MDAQMD 1995a), and the Searless Valley PM₁₀ Plan (MDAQMD 1995b). Proposed maintenance activities would cause a temporary increase in air pollutants due to access road maintenance/grading, structure maintenance, and the patrol and inspection of District facilities. There would also be a temporary addition of pollutants to the local airshed caused by soil disturbance, dust emissions, and combustion pollutants from maintenance on the sites, as well as construction equipment and vehicles associated with proposed maintenance activities. Herbicides and pesticides, lubricants, solvents, enamels, and paint used during proposed maintenance activities would also temporarily emit pollutants, which could potentially violate the SCAQMD Air Quality Management Plan thresholds; therefore, consistency of the proposed project with the Air Quality Management Plan will be further evaluated in the DEIR.

b) Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an air quality violation that would result in

a temporary addition of pollutants to the local airshed. Emissions could be caused by soil disturbance, dust, combustion pollutants, construction equipment, and vehicles, as well as by herbicides and pesticides, lubricants, solvents, enamels, and paint associated with proposed maintenance activities. Oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions would primarily result from the use of maintenance, construction, and patrol vehicles. Fugitive dust emissions would primarily result from trenching, grading, vegetation maintenance, and clearing activities. Other pollutants would result from the use of chemicals for cleaning, graffiti removal, coating, and painting associated with maintenance activities. Emissions can vary substantially from day to day, depending on the level of activity, the specific type of operation, and, for dust, the prevailing weather conditions. Further analysis of this issue is required; therefore, this impact is considered potentially significant and this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of criteria pollutants that are in nonattainment under a federal or state standard. Criteria pollutants in nonattainment in the South Coast Air Basin include ozone (O₃) and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) (SCAQMD 2013). O₃ could be created through the chemical reactions of NO_x and volatile organic compounds emitted from maintenance vehicles, equipment, coatings, and paints used for maintenance activities, resulting in a cumulative net increase of the pollutant. In addition, maintenance and construction vehicles and other equipment used for patrol road repairs and paving as well as facility and appurtenance replacement could result in the emission of O₃. Particulate matter emitted from the grading of patrol roads, culvert cleanout, vegetation removal, trenching, and other road and facility maintenance activities could contribute to temporary impacts. Further analysis is required in order to determine the potential for proposed maintenance activities to result in a considerable net increase of these criteria pollutants; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Potentially Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are those facilities used by a population group that is more susceptible to the effects of air pollutants. These groups include the elderly, children, those with serious medical conditions, athletes, or any other group considered sensitive to the harmful effects of air pollutants. Sensitive receptors

include residences, schools, playgrounds, child-care centers, athletic facilities, long-term health care facilities, rehabilitation centers, convalescent centers, and retirement homes. Sensitive receptors could be located within the vicinity of proposed maintenance activities. Pollutants could be emitted from the proposed project sites due to soil disturbance, dust emissions, and combustion pollutants from maintenance equipment and vehicles for proposed maintenance activities. Herbicides and pesticides, lubricants, solvents, enamels, and paint used for proposed maintenance activities could also contribute to substantial pollutant concentrations. Many of the proposed maintenance activities are close to residences, schools, medical facilities, and parks. Further study is required regarding the predicted amount of emitted pollutants and whether this amount could be considered a substantial pollutant concentration proximate to sensitive receptors; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

e) Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. It is possible that odors could be released during proposed maintenance activities. Paints and enamels used for graffiti removal, coating, lubricants, and solvents used to clean District facilities during proposed maintenance activities could release objectionable odors. Chemicals used for maintenance and cleaning are used in small quantities that can be transported on a utility vehicle and would not be used in concentrations substantial enough to significantly impact areas surrounding the project sites. In addition, the majority of proposed maintenance projects are in remote areas located away from residences and other occupied facilities, so a limited number of people would be affected. The potential release of odors associated with construction equipment and maintenance and cleaning materials would be minor, temporary, and unlikely to impact a substantial number of people; therefore, impacts are considered less than significant. This issue will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.4 Biological Resources

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
IV.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
IV.	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	\boxtimes			
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	\boxtimes			
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?				

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game³ or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Potentially Significant Impact. Biologically sensitive areas, including USFWSdesignated critical habitat and areas occupied by federally and/or state-listed threatened and endangered species, exist within the County of San Bernardino. Proposed maintenance activities could occur in areas where special-status plants and special-status wildlife occur.

³ As of January 2013, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) changed its name to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Proposed maintenance activities would include vegetation maintenance, access road grading, and erosion control. Vegetation maintenance involves the permanent removal of vegetation that is directly obstructing access around basins and channels and along access roads, as well as activities such as mowing, trimming, and the permanent removal of trees or large shrubs, grasses, or other vegetation. Proposed activities would include work within creek beds, streambed stabilization (e.g., soil stabilization/sediment control or grade control), and erosion-control measures, which could directly impact special status species and/or their habitat. The DEIR would examine the potential for impacts to special-status species known to occur in or near proposed maintenance activity project locations. Further analysis of this topic is required; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would occur in and near riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities and could have potentially significant impacts. Proposed maintenance activities would include vegetation maintenance, sediment removal, grading, and erosion control. Vegetation maintenance involves the permanent removal of vegetation that is directly obstructing access around and in basins and channels and along access roads, as well as activities such as mowing, trimming, and the permanent removal of trees or large shrubs, grasses, or other vegetation.

Proposed maintenance activities could have potentially significant impacts on riparian habitat and other sensitive natural communities during current or future project activities. Further analysis of this topic is required; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would include vegetation maintenance, sediment removal in channels and basins, shoring of creek banks through minor earthwork and placement of riprap, concrete, gabions, and other aggregate materials to prevent erosion of access roads along streambeds. These types of proposed maintenance projects could have potentially significant impacts on federally

protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Further analysis of this topic is required; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could temporarily interfere with established wildlife corridors. These types of activities would occur in streams or creeks, along access roads, and on existing trails, all of which have the potential to be migratory wildlife corridors. For instance, the DEIR would evaluate sediment transport studies and would provide additional information on whether sediment transport is having an impact on native fish species. Further analysis of this topic is required; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could occur in areas where there are local policies to protect biological resources such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. The DEIR would examine the consistency with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources. Proposed maintenance activities could conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Further analysis of this topic is required; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. The County of San Bernardino has participated in or is participating in the following four local conservation plans within the Valley Region: the City of Rialto Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Delhi sands flower loving fly (*Rhaphiomidas terminatus abdominalis*), the Upper Santa Ana Wash Land Management and Conservation Plan, the Upper Santa Ana Habitat Conservation Plan, and the Glen Helen Specific Plan Natural Resource Management Plan. Although no formal HCPs exist within the Mountain Region, the County is party to the Carbonate

Habitat Management Strategy, which intends to provide for the conservation of the federally listed carbonate endemic plants. In addition, the County is a participant of the West Mojave HCP within the West Mojave planning area of the Desert Region (County of San Bernardino 2007b). Proposed maintenance activities that would occur within the described HCP planning boundaries should be reviewed for compliance with the provisions set forth in plans approved prior to the implementation of the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program. Further, additional coordination is required for ongoing conservation plan efforts that may affect District resources. Further investigation is required to determine whether the proposed project would conflict with any long-term conservation plans. Impacts may be potentially significant, and this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.5 Cultural Resources

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
V.	CULTURAL RESOURCES				
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?	\boxtimes			
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	\boxtimes			
c)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	\boxtimes			
d)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	\boxtimes			

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?

Potentially Significant Impact. Historical resources in the County of San Bernardino can be buildings, structures, objects, sites, roads, trails, bridges, and historic engineering features (County of San Bernardino 2007a) greater than 50 years old. The County of San Bernardino has 2,000 structures on various historic properties lists. There are 39 properties on the California Historic Landmarks List, 413 properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and 49 properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (County of San Bernardino 2007a). Most proposed maintenance activities would occur within already disturbed areas on or along existing

facilities and infrastructure; however, it is possible that some proposed maintenance activities would require a significant amount of ground disturbance, which could potentially disrupt or damage historical resources. While it is not anticipated that any proposed maintenance activities would create a substantial adverse impact to historical resources, in the event that historical resources are damaged during project implementation, impacts would be potentially significant. Potential impacts to historical resources associated with implementation of proposed project activities will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

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

Potentially Significant Impact. A number of prehistoric archaeologically sensitive areas exist within the County of San Bernardino, as identified by the County of San Bernardino General Plan (County of San Bernardino 2007a). The County has identified more than 11,000 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites within the County (County of San Bernardino 2007a). Some maintenance activities may be proposed within areas of archaeological sensitivity. Most proposed maintenance activities would occur within already disturbed areas on or along existing District facilities and ROW; however, it is possible that ground disturbance activities could potentially disrupt or damage archaeological resources. In the event that intact archaeological materials are unearthed during construction, impacts could be potentially significant. Potential impacts to archaeological resources from implementation of proposed project activities will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Potentially Significant Impact. A number of sensitive paleontological areas exist within the County of San Bernardino, as identified by the County of San Bernardino General Plan (County of San Bernardino 2007a). The County has identified more than 3,000 paleontological localities in the Regional Paleontologic Locality Inventory (County of San Bernardino 2007a). Maintenance activities may be proposed within areas of paleontological sensitivity. Most proposed maintenance activities would occur within already disturbed areas on or along existing District facilities and ROW. Most paleontological resources are not exposed at the surface, and fossils are usually found during earthmoving activities when geologic features are exposed. Since the exact location and depth of sensitive paleontological resources are unknown, disturbance of intact paleontological resources during any maintenance activities that would include

subsurface work or grading could result in a potentially significant impact to paleontological resources. While it is not anticipated that any proposed maintenance activities would directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, in the event that these resources or features are unearthed during construction, impacts would be potentially significant. Potential impacts to paleontological resources from implementation of proposed project activities will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Potentially Significant Impact. Most proposed maintenance activities would be within already disturbed areas on or along existing District facilities and ROW, and no formal cemeteries are known to have occupied any land where maintenance activities are proposed. Due to the vast extent of the project area and given that project locations may be within sensitive archaeological and paleontological areas, the potential to disturb human remains still exists. In the event that human remains are discovered during project implementation, human remains would require handling in accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98. If human remains are unearthed during implementation of proposed maintenance activities, impacts would be potentially significant. Potential impacts to human remains from implementation of proposed project activities will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.6 Geology and Soils

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS				
 Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: 				
 Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. 			\boxtimes	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			\boxtimes	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			\boxtimes	

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	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
VI.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS				
	iv) Landslides?			\boxtimes	
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			\boxtimes	
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?				
d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			\boxtimes	
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				\boxtimes

- a) Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.
 - *ii)* Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - *iii)* Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
 - *iv)* Landslides?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. The County of San Bernardino has a number of active, major faults that traverse the region, which include the San Andreas fault and the San Jacinto fault. In addition, the County is also susceptible to seismically induced hazards, including liquefaction (County of San Bernardino 2007a). Steep hillsides and creek and streambed areas could experience earthquake-induced landslides under specific conditions (County of San Bernardino 2007b).

Regardless of the extent and magnitude of seismic hazards present within the County of San Bernardino, the proposed maintenance activities would not increase public exposure

to such risks because they would not involve habitable structures and would not result in increased geologic risks to the public or property off the project site. The majority of maintenance activities would occur on or along existing system facilities and infrastructure, which are generally not accessible to the public. Infrastructure would be inspected and repaired, if necessary, in the event it experiences damage in an earthquake. The impacts of the proposed project with respect to public safety (i.e., loss, injury, or death) and/or property damage would be negligible. The impact would be less than significant, and this issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

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

Less-Than-Significant Impact. One of the existing problems the proposed project seeks to correct is the loss of sediment and sand along the banks of channels and basins maintained by the District, and stormwater runoff resulting in erosion sufficient in magnitude to threaten the integrity of District access roads. Among the maintenance activities proposed are routine inspections to detect and repair erosion as it appears, installation of erosion control features as needed, and grading and paving of access roads to address existing erosion problem areas. The proposed maintenance activities include actions to minimize the potential for erosion, such as the removal of excess sediment and sand from the invert of the channel or basin or on-site/off-site stockpile location and placing it onto the side slopes. Other bank repair activities include the additional and incidental riprap rock or gabion placement for banks that experience frequent erosion; the repositioning, replacement, or placement of incidental riprap to stabilize the slopes; the repair of grouted and ungrouted sections of rock; and the repair or replacement of steel revetment with more revetment or riprap rock. These activities are limited to the District's existing facilities, are generally confined to previously disturbed areas, and will decrease the potential for existing erosion problems to continue or worsen in the future. The long-term impacts with respect to substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil would be less than significant, and this issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Potentially Significant Impact. As previously discussed, proposed maintenance activities would be located within areas of the County of San Bernardino that are susceptible to landslides, lateral spreading, and liquefaction (County of San Bernardino 2007a). Subsidence can be induced by both natural and human phenomena and can result from withdrawal of subsurface water or sediment. The potential for failure from

subsidence is highest in areas where the groundwater table is high, where relatively soft and recent alluvial deposits exist, and where creek banks are relatively high. Proposed maintenance activities would not include withdrawal of subsurface water, and projects would be constructed in accordance with applicable federal, state, local, and District design and construction requirements. Bank repairs would involve the removal of excess sediment and sand from the invert of channel or basins, mechanized land clearing would include the removal of sediment from the center of channels, and excavation and access road improvements would include grading of existing roadways, which, if improperly performed in an unstable area, could increase local slope instabilities, if present. The severity of the impact ultimately depends on where and how these improvements are performed and requires more detailed information on the design and layout of proposed maintenance activities that are not yet available. Further analysis of this topic is required; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) defines the expansive potential of a soil by its "expansion index," which if greater than 20, typically requires special foundation design consideration under the Uniform Building Code (Table 18-1-B) (ICBO 1994). The expansive potential of soils is typically related to the type and amount of clay minerals in a soil, along with the moisture content of the soil and how often it changes (i.e., wet/dry cycles). Expansive soils can be widely dispersed, found in hillsides areas as well as low-lying areas in alluvial basins.

This criterion does not apply to routine maintenance activities because the District's existing infrastructure would simply be maintained and would not require or involve the construction of new or expanded facilities. The proposed maintenance activities would not involve the construction of habitable structures and would not expose the public to substantial risks to life or property if they were damaged by expansive soils. For these reasons, the impact of the project to life or property from expansive soils would not be significant, whether or not expansive soils are present on a specific project site, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would not involve any septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. There would be no impact, and this topic will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

4.7 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
VII.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS				
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	\boxtimes			
b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	\boxtimes			

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact. Global climate change is the result of cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (CAPCOA 2008). Impacts associated with GHG emissions should be analyzed in the context of a cumulative impact, rather than a project-level impact, as recommended by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA 2009a). Similarly, the *Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action for Amendments to the CEQA Guidelines* confirms that an EIR or other environmental document must analyze the incremental contribution of a project to GHG levels and determine whether those emissions are cumulatively considerable (CNRA 2009b).

Proposed maintenance activities would result in GHG emissions that are primarily associated with use of off-road construction equipment and on-road construction vehicles (e.g., haul trucks and vendor/delivery trucks), as well as worker vehicles. Further analysis is required to determine the magnitude of these emissions, and their cumulative impact to GHG levels. Impacts are considered potentially significant, and this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Potentially Significant Impact. There are several federal and state regulatory measures aimed at the identification and reduction of GHG emissions. Proposed maintenance activities would result in GHG emissions that are primarily associated with use of off-road construction equipment and on-road construction vehicles (e.g., haul trucks and vendor/delivery trucks), as well as worker vehicles. Further investigation is required to determine the magnitude of these emissions, and if the proposed project activities would conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Impacts are considered potentially significant, and this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII	. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				•
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			\boxtimes	
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?			\boxtimes	
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			\boxtimes	
d)	Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
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?			\boxtimes	

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII	. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	\boxtimes			
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?				

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

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Small quantities of hazardous materials (i.e., able to be transported on a utility truck), such as herbicides, rodenticides, biopesticides, lubricants, paint, fuel, would be used during facility maintenance, graffiti removal, vegetation maintenance, protection from burrowing rodents, and vector control. These would be used in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. All paints are approved by the District; biopesticide, rodenticide, and herbicide products would be applied according to their material safety data sheets and product labels; and all applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations would be adhered to. The District would not be transporting, using, or disposing of hazardous materials in large quantities during implementation of the proposed maintenance activities. No new facilities would be constructed that would require storage of hazardous materials on the project site. Biopesticide, rodenticide, and herbicide applications and other hazardous materials would be used only where needed and primarily in areas not frequented by the public (i.e., within existing facilities).

The use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials would, therefore, result in a lessthan-significant impact and will not be evaluated further in the DEIR. Note that the potential effects of hazardous materials on water quality (as opposed to public or environmental hazards) are discussed in Section 4.9 of this Initial Study and will be further evaluated in the DEIR.

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

Less-Than-Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 4.8(a), the proposed maintenance activities would involve the use and transport of small quantities of hazardous materials such as herbicides, rodenticides, biopesticides, lubricants, paint, and fuel, but would do so in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. Hazardous materials are used only where needed and primarily in areas not frequented by the public (i.e., within existing facilities). None of the proposed projects would involve permanent use or storage of hazardous materials. It is unlikely that these small quantities of hazardous materials associated with the proposed project could create a significant hazard to the public or environment through a release of hazardous materials. Impacts are considered less than significant for this topic and will be not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. No acutely hazardous materials are associated with the proposed project. As described in Section 4.8(a), the proposed project would involve use, transport, and disposal of very small quantities of hazardous materials, such as herbicides, rodenticides, biopesticides, lubricants, paint, and fuel. Use of hazardous materials would be limited to existing facilities, primarily in areas not frequented by the public. The proposed project would not cause hazardous emissions that would affect an existing or proposed school. Impacts are considered less than significant for this topic and will be not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact. The following hazardous materials site lists are compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code:

- Hazardous waste and substances sites from the DTSC EnviroStor database
- List of leaking underground storage tank sites from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database

- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by the SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Cleanup and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB
- List of hazardous waste facilities subject to corrective action pursuant to Section 25187.5 of the Health and Safety Code, as identified by the DTSC.

It is unlikely that proposed maintenance activities would be located on a hazardous material site; however, if proposed project activities are located within the vicinity of a hazardous material site, District employees or contractors could be exposed to hazardous materials. Further analysis of this topic is required to determine if the District's facilities and ROW are within an identified hazardous materials site; therefore, the impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

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

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Existing District facilities are located within 2 miles of the San Bernardino and LA/Ontario international airports, the Chino Airport, Cable Airport, Municipal Rialto Airport, Redlands Municipal Airport, Tri-City Airport, Big Bear Airport, Southern Logistics Airport, Depue Airport, Yucca Valley Airport, Hi Desert Airport, and the Barstow Daggett County Airport; therefore, proposed maintenance activities would occur within these areas. Maintenance activities, however, would be unlikely to result in a safety hazard for those working or residing in the project area. Proposed maintenance activities would not result in the construction of facilities or structures that would visually or physically obstruct flight paths or roads leading to any public airports. District employees would potentially be exposed to noise or dangers associated with nearby air traffic; however, work in these areas would be temporary and short-term, reducing the likelihood that employees would be significantly impacted by these dangers. Impacts are considered less than significant, and this issue will not be further discussed in the DEIR.

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?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Existing District facilities are located within 2 miles of the Andy Jackson Airpark, Baker Airport, Cones Field, and Bauer Airport; therefore, proposed maintenance activities would occur within these areas. Maintenance activities,

however, would be unlikely to result in a safety hazard for those working or residing in the project area. Proposed maintenance activities would not result in the construction of facilities or structures that would visually or physically obstruct flight paths or roads leading to the Andy Jackson Airpark, Baker Airport, Cones Field, and Bauer Airport. District employees would potentially be exposed to noise or dangers associated with nearby air traffic; however, work in these areas would be temporary and short-term, reducing the likelihood that employees would be significantly impacted by these dangers. Impacts are considered less than significant, and this issue will not be further discussed in the DEIR.

g) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could result in temporary road closures, which could physically interfere with an emergency evacuation or response plan. Further analysis of this topic is required to determine if the proposed project would impair implementation or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

h) Would the project 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?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activity locations occur in very high fire hazard severity zones, and the proposed activities could increase the potential for wildfires in the vicinity of these projects. Sparks from equipment and/or vehicles and other maintenance activities could increase the potential for fire ignition. Although maintenance activities such as vegetation removal would minimize the potential for wildfires within project areas, further analysis of this topic is required to determine if the proposed project would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or detail involving wildland fires. The impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
IX.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY		-	-	
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	\boxtimes			
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)?				
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	\boxtimes			
d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off- site?				
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			\boxtimes	
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	\square			
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			\boxtimes	
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			\square	

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed project activities that could potentially have adverse effects on water quality include grading, graffiti removal, vector control, rodent control, and vegetation maintenance activities that utilize paint, biopesticides, rodenticides, and herbicides (if improperly applied or spilled); and short-term, localized excavation and grading activities associated with road paving or bank repairs. Due to their proximity to watercourses and/or the magnitude of ground-disturbing activities, proposed maintenance activities could result in releases of excess sediment or other pollutants into waterways. In addition, spills or leaks of petroleum products used by equipment and/or vehicles could adversely affect the quality of stormwater. Over the long term, the proposed maintenance activities would have benefits with respect to excess sediment loads in receiving waters because proposed maintenance activities include implementation of erosion control measures. In addition, routine maintenance of access roads would prevent the propagation of rills, erosional channels, or gullies, thereby reducing the amount of sediment entering receiving waters.

The California SWRCB requires dischargers whose projects disturb 1 acre of soil or more to obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit [CGP]; Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ). Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, and ground disturbances such as trenching, stockpiling, or excavation. However, the CGP specifically exempts routine maintenance activities⁴ conducted by utility service providers as long as they maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of the facility (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ). The proposed project would thus be exempt from requiring coverage under the CGP, and preparation and implementation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan would not be required by law provided that such activities remain within the District's existing facilities and ROW.

The main water quality concern is excess sediment loads entering receiving water bodies; however, routine maintenance activities include erosion control measures (e.g., bank repairs, access road improvements) and are aimed generally at eliminating or preventing rills, gullies, and channels caused by accelerated erosion. Therefore, impacts to water

⁴ "Routine maintenance projects" as defined in the CGP are projects associated with O&M activities that are conducted on existing lines and facilities and within existing ROW, easements, franchise agreements, or other legally binding agreements of the discharger.

quality standards or waste discharge requirements from proposed maintenance activities are not anticipated to be significant. Due to their proximity to drainage and/or stream channels, and because coverage under the CGP (and therefore preparation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan) would not be required, the proposed maintenance activities would have the potential to temporarily increase sediment loads in receiving waters if the maintenance site is not properly managed. Since details on the extent and timing of ground-disturbing activities and of BMPs to be utilized have not yet been determined, further analysis of the impacts are required. The temporary impacts of maintenance activities on water quality are considered to be potentially significant, and this topic will be further evaluated in the DEIR.

b) Would the project 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 (i.e., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Proposed project activities are primarily related to the maintenance of various flood control channels, basins, and earthen streams and dams to ensure flood protection and would allow District facilities to function at their current/designed capacity. There are no proposed maintenance activities that would be invasive enough to potentially encounter groundwater during implementation. It should be noted that groundwater resources would not be relied upon for water supply, dust suppression, or any other need. Thus impact to groundwater from maintenance activities would be less than significant, and this issue will not be analyzed further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities are primarily related to the maintenance of various flood control channels, basins, and earthen streams and dams to ensure flood protection and would allow District facilities to function at their current/designed capacity. These activities would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern. Proposed maintenance activities such as bank repairs and access road repairs, however, would have the potential to alter the drainage pattern of the site or area. Overall, many of the proposed maintenance activities would improve erosion and siltation. While it is unlikely that maintenance activities would result in substantial

erosion or siltation on or off the project site, there is still potential for impacts to occur that would be potentially significant, and further analysis is required in the DEIR.

d) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Potentially Significant Impact. The impact mechanism for this criterion is the same as that in Section 4.9(c); that is, whether project activities would substantially alter drainage patterns of a site or area. However, this criterion asks whether such changes would result in substantial changes to flooding on or off the site, rather than effects on erosion rates. As discussed in Section 4.9(c), project details necessary to adequately assess whether changes would be substantial and adverse are not available at this time. While it is unlikely that proposed maintenance activities would substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of an area or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off the site, there is still potential for impacts to occur that would be potentially significant, and further analysis is required in the DEIR.

e) Would the project create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Compared to existing conditions, proposed maintenance activities would result in no appreciable change in the amount of runoff draining from District facilities and access roads. The maintenance activities do not involve the addition of impervious surfaces or construction of new drainage facilities. Maintenance activities include the stockpiling of debris and sediment, mechanized land clearing and excavation, vegetation management, the application of herbicides and rodenticides, access road maintenance, bank repair, flood control structure repair, fuel modification maintenance, graffiti removal, vector control, and stream gage maintenance, and would not have the potential to impact stormwater drainage systems. Because none of the proposed maintenance activities would increase impervious surfaces or sufficiently alter drainage patterns to measurably increase the volume of water entering storm drain systems, impacts would be less than significant, and this issue will not be analyzed further in the DEIR.

f) Would the project otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 4.9(a), proposed project activities that could potentially have adverse effects on water quality include grading, graffiti removal, vector control, rodent control, and vegetation maintenance activities that utilize paint, biopesticides, rodenticides, and herbicides (if improperly applied or spilled); and short-term, localized excavation and grading activities associated with road paving or bank repairs. Due to their proximity to watercourses and/or the magnitude of ground-disturbing activities, proposed maintenance activities could result in releases of excess sediment or other pollutants into waterways. In addition, spills or leaks of petroleum products used by equipment and/or vehicles could adversely affect the quality of stormwater. Over the long term, the proposed maintenance activities would have benefits with respect to excess sediment loads in receiving waters because proposed maintenance activities include implementation of erosion control measures. In addition, routine maintenance of access roads would prevent the propagation of rills, erosional channels, or gullies, thereby reducing the amount of sediment entering receiving waters.

Due to their proximity to drainage and/or stream channels, and because coverage under the CGP (and therefore preparation of a stormwater pollution prevention plan) would not be required, the proposed maintenance activities would have the potential to temporarily increase sediment loads in receiving waters if maintenance sites are not properly managed. Since details on the extent and timing of ground-disturbing activities and of BMPs to be utilized have not yet been determined, further analysis of the impacts are required. The temporary impacts of maintenance activities on water quality are considered to be potentially significant, and this topic will be further evaluated in the DEIR.

g) Would the project place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

No Impact. The proposed project does not include the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area. There are no impacts, and this issue will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

h) Would the project place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Some of the proposed maintenance activities may be located within a 100-year flood hazard area (FEMA 2014); however, proposed maintenance activities would include the stockpiling of debris and sediment, mechanized

land clearing and excavation, vegetation management, the application of herbicides and rodenticides, access road maintenance, bank repair, flood control structure repair, fuel modification maintenance, graffiti removal, vector control, and stream gage maintenance, and would not include the construction of structures that would impede or redirect flood flows. The impact is considered less than significant, and this issue will not be analyzed further in the DEIR.

i) Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Dams located in the County of San Bernardino and maintained by the District include Alta Loma Basin, Demens Basin, Declez Basin, Deer Creek Debris Basin, Day Creek Dam, San Sevaine Basin, Jurupa Basin, Hickory Basin, Cucamonga Dam, Devil Canyon Dam, Little Mountain Dam, Sand Canyon Dam, and Seven Oaks Dam. Proposed maintenance activities would occur within the vicinity of these dams; however, these proposed activities would occur along existing infrastructure and along the dams in order to maintain the dams' integrity. The types of activities proposed would not increase the risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of flooding from levee or dam failure and instead would help protect people and structures from risk of loss or injury. The proposed project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. This impact would be less than significant, and this issue will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

j) Would the project result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Due to the number of dams in the County of San Bernardino and the proximity of proposed maintenance activity locations to the dams, the potential for dam failure could create inundation by seiche; however, because the District's facilities are already exposed to these hazards under current conditions, the proposed project would have no effect on the exposure of structures to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. In addition, the types of projects proposed do not involve structures that people would work or reside within. Proposed maintenance activities include sediment removal from basins and channels which, if not removed, could increase the chances for mudflow. Thus, the proposed maintenance activities would reduce the risk that dams and basins would be overtopped and result in inundation by seiche or mudflow. This impact would be less than significant, and this issue will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.10 Land Use and Planning

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
Х.	LAND USE AND PLANNING				
a)	Physically divide an established community?				\square
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?				
c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	\boxtimes			

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would not divide an established community. Proposed project activities involve the stockpiling of debris and sediment, mechanized land clearing and excavation, vegetation management, the application of herbicides and rodenticides, access road maintenance, bank repair, flood control structure repair, fuel modification maintenance, graffiti removal, vector control, and stream gage maintenance. These projects would not be invasive or large enough to physically divide a community, and they would occur within existing District facilities and ROW. Rather, these projects would ensure flood protection and would allow District facilities to function at their current/designed capacity, which would support the surrounding communities. There are no impacts, and this topic will not be evaluated in the DEIR.

b) Would the project 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?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would occur throughout the County of San Bernardino and, therefore, could be subject to various land use plans, policies, and regulations of agencies with jurisdiction over these areas. However, as a public utility, the District is exempt from these plans, policies, and/or regulations. Furthermore, proposed maintenance activities would occur on or along existing system facilities and infrastructure. The types of activities proposed would not

result in a change in zoning or land use designation and therefore would not introduce any inconsistencies with an existing designation. Impacts are considered to be lessthan-significant, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

Potentially Significant Impact. The County of San Bernardino has participated in the following three local conservation plans within the Valley Region: the City of Rialto HCP for the Delhi sands flower-loving fly, the Upper Santa Ana Wash Land Management and Conservation Plan, and the Glen Helen Specific Plan Natural Resource Management Plan. Although no formal HCPs exist within the Mountain Region, the County is party to the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy, which intends to provide for the conservation of the federally listed carbonate endemic plants. In addition, the County is a participant of the West Mojave HCP within the West Mojave planning area of the Desert Region (County of San Bernardino 2007b). All proposed maintenance activities that would occur within the described HCP planning boundaries would be required to comply with the provisions set forth in the applicable plans. Further investigation is required to determine whether the proposed project would conflict with an applicable HCP. Impacts are considered to be potentially significant, and this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.11 Mineral Resources

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XI.	MINERAL RESOURCES				
a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			\boxtimes	
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?				

a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. The proposed maintenance activities could result in a loss of availability of mineral resources if they are located on or adjacent to a

resource site and preclude the existing or future extraction of that resource. Mineral resources may not be extracted if there is on-site paving or grading; however, proposed maintenance activities are located within previously disturbed areas on or along existing system facilities and infrastructure, and the types of activities proposed would not preclude the future extraction of mineral resources. Proposed maintenance activities would have a less-than-significant impact on the availability of known mineral resources, and this resource will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

No Impact. According to the County of San Bernardino General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, there are several mineral resources in the county including peat, bituminous rock, gold, sand, gravel, clay, crushed stone, limestone, diatomite, salt, borate, and potash. Aggregate mining is a major component of the mining industry within the County (County of San Bernardino 2007b). Aggregate resources (e.g., sand, gravel, and crushed stone) are components of composite materials such as concrete and asphalt and are mainly used for construction purposes. However, the proposed maintenance activities would not be located on active mining operation sites or on designated mineral resource sites.

Proposed maintenance activities would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site or impact aggregate resource areas. Proposed maintenance activities would occur within the District's existing facilities and ROW and the types of activities proposed would not be large enough to impact a mineral resource. None of the proposed maintenance activities would result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site. There would be no impacts to locally important mineral resources, and this will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.12 NOISE

	Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XII.	NOISE	•	•		
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?				
b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			\boxtimes	
c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				\boxtimes
d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	\boxtimes			
e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				
f)	For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			\boxtimes	

a) Would the project result in 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?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could generate noise at sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, hospitals, daycare centers, residential areas) that exceed established criteria or local regulations and codes. The construction-related noise levels would be from, but not necessarily limited to, the use of heavy equipment at the sites or vehicles transporting material to or from the maintenance sites.

Proposed maintenance activities could cause exposure to noise in excess of standards established within the applicable local general plans or noise ordinances. Actual noise levels resulting from maintenance activities would vary depending on the type of equipment used, the number of concurrent activities, and the distance to a particular receiver. Further analysis of this topic is required to determine if the proposed maintenance activities would result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of local plans or noise ordinances. The impact is considered potentially significant, and this issue will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

b) Would the project result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would not result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne noise levels. The construction-related noise levels would be from, but not necessarily limited to, the use of heavy equipment at the site or vehicles transporting material to or from the maintenance site. Activities that could generate excessive groundborne vibrations include pile-driving, blasting, and demolition, and these activities are not included as potential maintenance activities. Therefore, excessive groundborne vibrations are not anticipated. Impacts associated with the generation of excessive groundborne noise levels are considered less than significant, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. All proposed projects are related to maintenance and repair and/or protection of the existing facilities. The proposed projects do not involve structures that currently generate, or would generate in the future, substantial amounts of noise. The proposed maintenance activities would not introduce new noise sources and are not anticipated to generate a substantial increase in permanent noise levels. Noise associated with maintenance activities would be short-term and temporary, only for the duration of the activity, and would not introduce a new permanent source of noise. There are no impacts associated with a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Potentially Significant Impact. Implementation of proposed maintenance activities could result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. Proposed maintenance activities could require the use of heavy equipment and machinery that could generate noise levels over those established or those specified in local regulations. Temporary noise impacts as a result of the proposed

maintenance activities are considered potentially significant, and further evaluation is required in the DEIR.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Existing District facilities are located within 2 miles of the San Bernardino and LA/Ontario international airports, the Chino Airport, Cable Airport, Municipal Rialto Airport, Redlands Municipal Airport, Tri-City Airport, Big Bear Airport, Southern Logistics Airport, Depue Airport, Yucca Valley Airport, Hi Desert Airport, and the Barstow Daggett County Airport; therefore, proposed maintenance activities would occur within these areas. Maintenance activities, however, would be unlikely to result in excessive noise levels for those working or residing in the project area. Proposed maintenance activities would not result in construction of facilities or structures that would create permanent, long-term noise impacts. While the proposed implementation of maintenance activities would result in higher noise levels associated with heavy equipment, these types of activities are currently ongoing in this area, and they would be short term and temporary, thus reducing the likelihood that people residing or working in the area would be exposed to excessive noise levels. Impacts are considered less than significant for this topic, and this issue will not be further discussed in the DEIR.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Less-Than-Significant-Impact. Existing District facilities are located within 2 miles of the Andy Jackson Airpark, Baker Airport, Cones Field and Bauer Airport; therefore, proposed maintenance activities would occur within these areas. As previously discussed, while the proposed implementation of maintenance activities would result in higher noise levels associated with heavy equipment, these types of activities are currently ongoing in this area, and they would be short term and temporary, thus reducing the likelihood that people residing or working in the area would be exposed to excessive noise levels. Impacts are considered less than significant for this topic, and this issue will not be further discussed in the DEIR.

4.13 Population and Housing

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII.	POPULATION AND HOUSING				
a)	Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				
b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				
c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				

a) Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities are primarily related to addressing infrastructure repair and protection needs of existing facilities. Maintenance activities would not involve the expansion of existing or construction of new facilities. Since the capacity of existing facilities and drainage features would stay the same with the implementation of the proposed maintenance activities, no indirect stimulus to growth would occur. No homes or employment opportunities are proposed that would directly facilitate population growth. The workforce hired to implement/perform proposed maintenance activities would be small and would most likely already be employed by the District or would come from the region, so there would be no growth as a result of implementation of long-term maintenance activities. Proposed maintenance activities would not directly induce substantial population growth. There are no impacts associated with population growth resulting from infrastructure maintenance activities, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities involve the stockpiling of debris and sediment, mechanized land clearing and excavation, vegetation management, the application of herbicides and rodenticides, access road maintenance, bank repair, flood control structure

repair, fuel modification maintenance, graffiti removal, vector control, and stream gage maintenance. Proposed maintenance activities would not require the displacement of existing housing or the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. There is no impact to existing housing, and this issue will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

c) Would the project displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. As previously discussed, proposed maintenance activities would occur within existing facilities and would not displace any people. These proposed maintenance activities would not disrupt or displace substantial numbers of people requiring the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. There is no impact, and this issue will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.14 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES				
Fire protection?	\boxtimes			
Police protection?				\boxtimes
Schools?				\boxtimes
Parks?			\square	
Other public facilities?				\boxtimes

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

Fire protection?

Potentially Significant Impact. Maintenance activities would occur within high to very high fire hazard severity zones. A majority of wildland fires occur in the

Mountain Region and affect both mountain and foothill communities. The use of maintenance equipment around flammable vegetation presents an increased fire risk that could result in the need for fire suppression services. All proposed maintenance projects in high fire hazard severity zones would be required to have a fire safety plan or fire safety measures, such as fire suppression equipment, in place or on site prior to the start of any maintenance. In addition, fire extinguishers would be required on all heavy equipment. Compliance with recommended fire safety measures would further reduce potential impacts due to fire hazards. In addition, proposed vegetation mowing and trimming along access roads and around aboveground structures would provide adequate setbacks and reduce the risk of fire-related accidents. Although proposed maintenance activities are not anticipated to create a substantial fire hazard or require new or expanded facilities, because proposed maintenance activities would occur within high to very high fire hazard severity zones, this topic requires further analysis. Impacts are considered to be potentially significant, and further evaluation will be included in the DEIR.

Police protection?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would not modify facilities in such a way as to present an attractive nuisance to the public, requiring the need for additional police services. Proposed maintenance activities would not require additional police protection nor would they require the expansion of any police facilities. There would be no impact to police protection, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

Schools?

No Impact. Some proposed maintenance activities may occur near or in close proximity to a school; however, the proposed activities would not involve a housing component or expansion of existing facilities, which could result in population growth and increased demands on schools within the area. There would be no impact to schools, and this topic will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

Parks?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would occur in the immediate vicinity of a number of parks, as shown in Table 7 and Table 8 below. Proposed activities would be temporary and recurring throughout the County of San Bernardino. Temporary limitations to access on trails within parks or recreational areas may occur as a result of proposed maintenance activities; however, the trails and parks

would not be permanently closed to the public, leading to the increased use of surrounding parks. In the event that there is a temporary closure of a trail, the public would be directed around the construction site or onto an alternate trail or sidewalk. None of the proposed activities would have substantial adverse physical impacts on the use of parks, and no new parks would need to be constructed or expanded as a result of the proposed projects. Therefore, impacts associated with park services would be less than significant, and this topic will not be further evaluated in the DEIR.

Other public facilities?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities may occur near or in proximity to other public facilities such as libraries, government buildings, or medical centers; however, none of the maintenance activities would result in adverse physical impacts to public facilities. Proposed maintenance activities would not involve a housing component or other components that would result in population growth or increased demands on public facilities within the area. Proposed maintenance activities would not expand existing or construct new infrastructure that would result in population growth and increased demands on public facilities. There would be no impact to other public facilities, and this issue will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.15 Recreation

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XV.	RECREATION				
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				\boxtimes

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would occur in, and in the immediate vicinity of, a number of parks and recreational areas. Recreational areas where projects would occur include National Forest lands and state parks, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, county parks, and city parks (ESRI Online 2013). Some of the largest recreational areas where projects would occur include the San Bernardino National Forest, North Etiwanda Habitat Preserve, and Prado Regional Park in the Chino Valley Basin. Table 6 identifies District-maintained drainage channels, included as part of the proposed project that traverse national, state, county, or city recreational areas.

In addition to drainage channels, the District also maintains a number of water storage facilities within national, state, county, or city recreational areas as well. Table 7 identifies the water storage facilities that are within recreational areas and the agencies that manage those lands.

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	District Facility Number
James Galanis Park	City of Ontario	1-201-1G
North Etiwanda Habitat Preserve	County of San Bernardino	1-601-1A
Prado Regional Park	County of San Bernardino	1-901-1A, 1-301-1I
Coyote Canyon Park	City of Fontana	1-806-1A
Lytle-Cajon Channel/Warm Creek Confluence	San Bernardino County Flood Control District	2-203-1C, 2-204-1A, 2-411-1B
Chino Hills Community Park	City of Chino Hills	1-127-1A, 1-127-1A
McCoy Equestrian Center	City of Chino Hills	1-127-1A
San Bernardino National Forest	USFS	3-303-1A, 3-204-1B, 3-101-1A, 3-801-1A, 2-202-1A, 2,201-1A, 1-801-1A, 1-401-1A, 5-313-1B, 5-211-1A, 5-501-1A, 6-701-1A, 6-703-1A
Chapman Heights Open Space	County of San Bernardino	3-615-1A, 3-601-1B
Chino Hills Open Space	City of Chino Hills	1-114-1B
Crossroads Park	City of Chino Hills	1-114-1B
East Highlands Ranch Open Space	San Bernardino County Flood Control District	3-205-1C, 3-201-1C, 3-101-1B
Speicher Park	City of San Bernardino	2-501-1A
City of Highland Natural Park Land	City of Highland	3-201-1B
Elmer Digneo Park	City of Loma Linda	3-402-6A

 Table 7

 Drainage Channels that Traverse Recreational Facilities

Initial Study for the San Bernardino County Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	District Facility Number
Conservation Area	City of Redlands	3-401-1B, 3-404-6A
Bryant St Detention Basin	County of San Bernardino	3-601-1A
Sylvan Park	City of Redlands	3-501-1F
Yucaipa Regional Park	County of San Bernardino	3-615-1A
Cucamonga-Guasti Regional Park	County of San Bernardino	1-501-1F
Sterling Park	City of San Bernardino	2-509-1C
Open Space – Flood Plain	City of Redlands	3-801-1C
5 Winds Ranch Open Space Preserve	City of Yucaipa	3-601-1A
Mojave River	CDFW	4-101-1E
Angeles National Forest	USFS	4-353-1A
Doris Davies Park	City of Victorville	4-106-1A
Mojave River Forks Regional Park	County of San Bernardino	4-101-1C
California State Lands Commission Lands	California State Lands Commission	6-603-5A
Rockview Nature Park	City of Victorville	4-101-1G
BLM Lands	BLM	3-205-1C, 3-201-1C, 3-101-1B, 6-501-1A, 4-101-1N, 4-701-1B, 4-601-1B, 4-507-1A, 4-101-1M, 4-502-1A, 4-101-1L, 4-101-1K, 4-101-1J, 4-108-1B, 4-802-5A, 4-101-1C, 6-801-1A, 6-806-1A, 6-805-1A, 6-805-1B, 6-802-1A, 6-803-1B, 6-803-1A, 6-804-1A, 6-603-5A, 6-604-1A

Table 7 Drainage Channels that Traverse Recreational Facilities

Table 8

Water Storage Facilities that Traverse Recreational Facilities

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	Water Storage Facility (District Facility Number)
San Bernardino National Forest	USFS	Seven Oaks Dam (3-104-3A), Small Canyon Dam (3-302-3A)
Bureau of Land Management Lands	BLM	Seven Oaks Dam (3-104-9B)
East Highlands Ranch Open Space	San Bernardino County Flood Control District	Seven Oaks Dam (3-104-9B)
City of Highland Natural Park Land	City of Highland	Plunge Creek Spreading Grounds (3-202-2A)
Conservation Area	City of Redlands	Seven Oaks Dam (3-104-9B)

Initial Study for the San Bernardino County Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program

Recreational Facility	Managing Agency	Water Storage Facility (District Facility Number)
North Etiwanda Habitat Preserve	County of San Bernardino	Day Creek Dam (1-608-3A)
Bryant St Detention Basin	County of San Bernardino	Wilson Creek Basin Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 (3- 602-4A, 3-602-4B, 3-602-4C, and 3-602-4D), and Wilson Creek Spreading Grounds (Wilson Basins)(3-602-2E)
Lytle-Cajon Channel/Warm Creek Confluence	San Bernardino County Flood Control District	Warm Creek Conservation Basin #2, #3, and #4 (2-421-4B, 2-421-4C, and 2-421-4D)
Cucamonga–Guasti Regional Park	County of San Bernardino	Turner Basin #5 (1-504-4E)
Bureau of Land Management Lands	U.S. BLM	North Needles Basin (6-609-4A), Waterman Road Basin (4-507-4A), and Lenwood Spreading Grounds (4-602-2A)
Oak Glen Creek Detention Basin	San Bernardino County Flood Control District	Oak Glen Basin/Wilson II (WC-II) (3-603-4)

Table 8	
Water Storage Facilities that Traverse Recreational Fa	cilities

Source: ESRI 2013.

Maintenance activities involve the protection of existing infrastructure and do not include the construction of new housing or creation of employment opportunities, which could increase the use and result in substantial physical deterioration of parks or recreational facilities. However, maintenance activities could result in temporary limited access to trails and other recreational uses. The parks and recreational areas would not be closed to the public while maintenance is occurring, and work is not anticipated to conflict with recreational activities. Maintenance activities would involve a temporary influx of construction workers, vehicles, and equipment within the identified recreational areas, which could result in the temporary physical deterioration of public trail facilities, which would in turn reduce the availability of recreational opportunities to area residents and recreationists. The impact of the proposed activities on parks and recreational facilities could be potentially significant, thus, this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The proposed project involves the maintenance and protection of existing infrastructure and does not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Proposed activities would occur within or in proximity to recreational facilities; however, the proposed project would not result in additional use of any recreational facilities,

requiring the construction or expansion of new recreational facilities. Proposed activities would not involve any growth-inducing components through the construction of new or expansion of existing infrastructure, which would result in an increase in population and result in the need for new or expanded recreational facilities. There is no impact, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.16 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI	. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC:				
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?				
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?				
c)	Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	\boxtimes			
f)	Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				

a) Would the project 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?

Potentially Significant Impact. Maintenance activities are proposed throughout the County of San Bernardino and would traverse a number of different local jurisdictions; therefore, activities would be subject to a number of ordinances, plans, and policies related to the circulation system in these areas. Although it is not anticipated, increased traffic levels could result for surface streets and freeways due to the transport of equipment, supplies, and personnel to maintenance sites and temporary closure or detour around these areas. Further analysis is required to determine whether the overall performance of the circulation system could suffer because of the proposed projects. Should impacts be identified, the District would be responsible for the development of a traffic control plan to minimize and mitigate the impacts of project activities on traffic conditions. The impacts are considered potentially significant. This topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

b) Would the project 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?

Potentially Significant Impact. The County of San Bernardino establishes a level of service standard of "E" for highways, freeways, and arterials (SANBAG 2011). Although it is not anticipated, increased traffic levels could result for surface streets and freeways due to proposed maintenance activities, including the transport of equipment, supplies, and personnel to the sites. Further analysis is required to determine whether the proposed project would result in level of service scores lower than E for the affected roadways, which would be a potentially significant impact. This topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

c) Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No Impact. Existing facilities are located within 2 miles of the San Bernardino and LA/Ontario international airports, the Chino Airport, Cable Airport, Municipal Rialto Airport, Redlands Municipal Airport, Tri-City Airport, Big Bear Airport, Southern

Logistics Airport, Depue Airport, Yucca Valley Airport, Hi Desert Airport, and the Barstow Daggett County Airport; therefore, proposed maintenance activities would occur within these areas. These proposed activities would not construct facilities or structures that could visually, or physically, obstruct flight paths leading to and from these airports. Proposed activities would not result in a change in the air traffic levels or flight path locations. There would be no impact to air traffic; therefore, no further study is required regarding air traffic, and this issue will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed activities could occur near or around surface streets, sidewalks, and hiking/biking trails and, although unlikely, could expose pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers to heavy equipment and dangerous design features associated with maintenance activities. Although these hazards would be temporary in nature, measures such as trail closures, signage, and other means of temporarily blocking public access need to be evaluated for feasibility; therefore, impacts are potentially significant. Further analysis is required to determine if the project would substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses. This topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

e) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could occur near or around surface streets. Although unlikely, increased traffic levels could result for surface streets and freeways due to the transport of equipment, supplies, and personnel to construction sites. Further analysis is required to determine whether maintenance activities would require road closures and result in traffic delays. Inadequate emergency access could occur if road closures and traffic delays affect emergency access roads; therefore, impacts are potentially significant. This topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

f) Would the project conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed activities could occur near or around surface streets and, although unlikely, could expose pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers to the dangers of heavy equipment. Further analysis is required to determine whether pedestrian walkways and bike paths would close due to maintenance activities. If road closures were

to occur due to construction activities, the performance of public transit vehicles could decrease; therefore, impacts are potentially significant. This topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.17 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI	I. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS		•		
a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				\boxtimes
b)	Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				\boxtimes
c)	Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	\boxtimes			
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				\boxtimes
e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			\square	
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			\boxtimes	

a) Would the project exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would not generate additional wastewater treatment demands nor would they exceed the wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board. The proposed activities would have no impacts related to wastewater treatment requirements, and no further evaluation is required in the DEIR.

b) Would the project require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No Impact. The purpose of the proposed maintenance activities is to repair, rehabilitate, and maintain existing facilities. Proposed activities would not require or result in the construction of new facilities or the expansion of existing water or wastewater facilities. The proposed activities would have no impact on water or wastewater facilities, and no further evaluation will be included in the DEIR.

c) Would the project require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Potentially Significant Impact. The proposed project consists of a comprehensive program to maintain existing facilities. Proposed maintenance activities would not involve construction of new infrastructure or expansion of the capacity of drainage features or facilities, however due to cumulative impacts resulting from increased overall routine maintenance due to the streamlining of the permitting process, this topic will be evaluated further in the DEIR.

d) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

No Impact. Proposed activities would not require additional water supplies. Proposed maintenance activities would increase the reliability and longevity of existing infrastructure; there would be no expansion of existing infrastructure. Proposed project activities may require water for maintenance-related activities, including dust suppression and washing down streets or paved areas. Existing entitlements and resources would be adequate to support potential needs. Proposed project activities would have sufficient water supplies, and no new or expanded entitlements would be needed. There would be no impact from the proposed project on water supplies, and no further evaluation is required in the PEIR.

e) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact. Proposed maintenance activities would not involve the construction of facilities that would increase the generation of wastewater. There would be no activity

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that would result in impacts to wastewater treatment providers because the project does not involve new housing, commercial construction, or other wastewater generators. Proposed maintenance activities would have no impact on wastewater systems, and no further evaluation will be provided in the DEIR.

f) Would the project be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Less-Than-Significant Impact. Proposed activities could generate small amounts of solid waste, structural debris, and green waste. All waste produced during implementation of proposed activities would be removed following the activity and disposed of properly in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Maintenance activities are not anticipated to have a significant impact on solid waste disposal needs. The proposed activities would not involve major demolition that could generate a significant amount of solid waste. As shown below in Table 9 San Bernardino County has approximately 40% of remaining capacity, or 124,013,013 cubic yards.

Solid Waste Facility	Maximum Capacity (cubic yards)	Remaining Capacity (cubic yards)	Maximum Daily Load (tons)	Remaining Capacity Date	Closure Date
Landers Landfill	3,083,500	765,098	1,200	2009	2018
San Timoteo Landfill	20,400,000	13,605,488	2,000	2012	2043
Victorville Landfill	83,200,000	81,510,000	3,000	2009	2047
Barstow Landfill	80,354,500	924,401	1,500	2007	2071
Mid-Valley Landfill	101,300,000	67,520,000	7,500	2009	2033

 Table 9

 Solid Waste Facilities in San Bernardino County

Source: CalRecycle 2007, 2009a, 2009b, 2009c, 2012.

Note: The remaining capacity assessment year provides the year that the remaining capacity was last assessed for each landfill.

All of the county landfills have remaining capacity, which would adequately serve proposed project activities. The amount of solid waste generated by proposed maintenance activities would be much less than the available capacity of existing landfills. Thus, impacts are considered to be less than significant, and this topic will not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

g) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less than Significant Impact. As previously discussed, proposed activities would generate small amounts of solid waste, structural debris, and green waste during maintenance-related activities. All waste produced due to proposed project activities would be removed following the activity and disposed of properly in accordance with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Impacts are less than significant; therefore, this topic will be not be evaluated further in the DEIR.

4.18 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than- Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
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?				
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)?				
c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	\boxtimes			

Initial Study for the San Bernardino County Master Stormwater System Maintenance Program

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?

Potentially Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 4.4, Biological Resources, significant impacts to biological resources could occur. Proposed maintenance activities would have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment and impact fish or wildlife species and plant communities. As discussed in Section 4.5, Cultural Resources, although proposed project activities are not anticipated to have a substantial impact on cultural resources, there is a potential that such impacts would occur. Proposed maintenance activities could potentially damage important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory or disrupt archaeological or paleontological resources. Impacts to biological and cultural resources are potentially significant, and these issues will be analyzed further in the DEIR.

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)?

Potentially Significant Impact. Proposed maintenance activities could have cumulatively considerable impacts. Impacts that are not considered potentially significant and would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact include agriculture and forestry resources, mineral resources, and population and housing. Proposed project activities would result in potentially significant impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems. All of these potentially significant impacts would contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact when combined with projects occurring within the vicinity of the service area. These issues will be analyzed further in the DEIR.

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Potentially Significant Impact. Based on the analysis contained in this Initial Study, proposed maintenance activities could generate air pollution and noise, which could adversely affect workers and nearby residents. The analysis of the potential for environmental effects from proposed maintenance activities that could cause substantial adverse effects on human beings requires additional study and analysis. Therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant, and impacts will be fully analyzed in the DEIR.

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5 REFERENCES AND PREPARERS

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Spirit of the Sage Council 30 N Raymond Ave, Ste 303 Pasadena,CA 91103

Inland Empire Utilities Agency 6075 Kimball Avenue Chino,CA 91708

Inland Empire Utilities Agency PO Box 9020 Chino Hills,CA 91709

City of Rancho Cucamonga Community Development Department P. O. Box 807 Rancho Cucamonga,CA 91730

San Gabriel Valley Water Company 11142 Garvey Avenue El Monte,CA 91733

Ontario-Montclair USD 950 West D. St. Ontario,CA 91762

City of Montclair Public Works Department 5111 Benito Street Montclair,CA 91763 BLM: Lake Havasu 2610 Sweetwater Ave. Lake Havasu,AZ 86406

CA Native Plant Society 2733 Cordwell Place Los Angeles,CA 90046

LaDonna V. DiCamillo BNSF Railway One World Trade Center, Ste 1680 Long Beach,CA 90831

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City of Rancho Cucamonga Engineering/Public Works 8794 Lion Street Rancho Cucamonga,CA 91730

Etiwanda USD 6061 East Avenue Etiwanda,CA 91739

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Montclair Civic Center Branch Library 9955 Fremont Avenue Montclair,CA 91763 County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning 320 W Temple Street, 13th Floor Los Angeles,CA 90012

Dept. of Toxic Subst. Control 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress,CA 90630

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City of Ontario Community & Public Services 1425 South Bon View Avenue Ontario,CA 91761

City of Montclair Community Development Department 5111 Benito Street Montclair,CA 91763

Monte Vista Water District 10575 Central Avenue Montclair,CA 91763 Kimberly Nicol CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife 3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220 Ontario,CA 91764

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Joshua Tree Tortoise Rescue PO Box 1099 Joshua Tree,CA 92254

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Morongo USD 5715 Utah Trail 29 Palms,CA 92277

Hi-Desert Water District 55439 Twentynine Palms Highway Yucca Valley,CA 92284

Adelanto USD 11824 Air Expressway Adelanto,CA 92301

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Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District 1995 Market Street Riverside,CA 92501

California State Parks Department Chino Hills State Park 1879 Jackson Street Riverside,CA 92504

Western Municipal Water District 14205 Meridian Parkway Riverside,CA 92518

Orange County Watersheds Glassell Field Office 2301 N Glassell Street Orange,CA 92685

CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife 407 West Line Street, Rm. 1 Bishop,CA 93514 U.S.A.F. - Environmental Coordinator 12 Laboratory Rd., Bldg 4231, Edwards AFB,CA 93523

Desert Tortoise Council 4654 East Avenue S #257B Palmdale,CA 93552

CA PUC 505 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco,CA 94102

Pacific Gas & Electric 77 Beale Street #100 San Francisco,CA 94105

Bob Ellis Desert Survivors 1290 Hopkins St, #37 Berkeley,CA 94702

CA Dept. of Conservation Division of Land Resource Protection 801 K Street, MS 18-01 Sacramento,CA 95814

Alex State Clearinghouse 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento,CA 95814

NAWCWD Public Affairs Naval Air Weapons Station 1 Administration Circle, Stop 1003 China Lake,CA 93555

Cy Oggins, Division Chief CA State Lands Commission Environmental Planning 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South Sacramento,CA 95825 Environmental Directions PO Box 351419 Los Angeles,CA 90035 Inyo County Planning Department Post Office Drawer L 168 N Edwards Street Independence,CA 93526

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U.S EPA (Region 9) 75 Hawthorne St. San Francisco,CA 94105

Native American Heritage Commission 1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100 West Sacramento,CA 95691

California Coordinated Resource Management and Planning 801 K. Street, Suite 1318 Sacramento,CA 95814

CA Native Plant Society 2707 K. Street, Suite 1 Sacramento,CA 95816

CA Air Resources Board P. O. Box 2815 Sacramento,CA 95812

Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Region PO Box 61470 Boulder City,NV 89006

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power PO Box 51111 Los Angeles,CA 90051 Inyo County Water Department PO Box 337 135 South Jackson Street Independence,CA 93526

Stacy Cliff Trona Branch Library 82805 Mountain View Trona,CA 93562

The Wilderness Society 250 Montgomery Street, Suite 210 San Francisco,CA 94104

CA Dept. of Water Resources PO Box 942836 Sacramento,CA 94236

CA Dept. of Boating & Waterways One Capitol Mall - Suite 410 Sacramento, CA 95814

Federal Railroad Administration (Region 7) 801 I Street, Suite 466 Sacramento,CA 95814

U. S. Dept. of Interior - Pacific Regional Office Bureau of Indian Affairs 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento,CA 95825

Federal Highway Administration-California Division Project Development & Environment, District Operations South 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100 Sacramento,CA 95814

Sierra Club – Desert Committee 3435 Wilshire Boulevard #660 Los Angeles,CA 90010

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Floodplain Management P. O. Box 532711 Los Angeles,CA 90053 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations Branch P. O. Box 532711 Los Angeles,CA 90053

Dan Silver, Coordinator Endangered Species Habitats League 8424-A Santa Monica Blvd, #592 Los Angeles,CA 90069

Shauna Berenson James S. Thalman Branch Library 14020 City Center Dr. Chino Hills,CA 91708

Chaffey Joint USD 211 W. Fifth St. Ontario,CA 91762

Dana B. Fisher, Jr., Chairman Colorado River Board of California 180 W. 14th Avenue Blythe,CA 92225

Twentynine Palms Water District 72401 Hatch Road Twentynine Palms,CA 92277

Mojave Basin Area Watermaster 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley,CA 92037

John Baker, NEPA Planner Environmental Management Division Building 602 Ft. Irwin,CA 92310

Sheryl Thomas Big Bear Lake Branch Library 41930 Garstin Drive Big Bear Lake,CA 92315

Richard Eloe Lake Arrowhead Branch Library 27235 Highway 189 Blue Jay,CA 92317 U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch P. O. Box 532711 Los Angeles,CA 90053

City of Chino Community Development Department PO Box 667 Chino,CA 91708

Cucamonga County Water District 10440 Ashford St. Rancho Cucamonga,CA 91730

Steve Smith South Coast AQMD 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar,CA 91765

Center for Biological Diversity PO Box 549 Joshua Tree,CA 92278

Environmental Affairs MCCS, Natural Resource Office PO Box 788150, MCAGCC Bldg 1438, Door 4 Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

Mojave Water Agency 13846 Conference Center Drive Apple Valley,CA 92037

Mike Jimenez Barstow Branch Library 304 East Buena Vista St. Barstow,CA 92311

City of Big Bear Lake Development Services PO Box 10000 Big Bear Lake,CA 92315

City of Colton Public Works Department 650 North La Cadena Drive Colton,CA 92324 Metropolitan Water District PO Box 54153 Los Angeles,CA 90054

City of Chino Department of Public Works PO Box 667 Chino,CA 91708

Union Pacific Railroad Company 13181 Crossroads Pkwy N, Ste 500 City of Industry,CA 91746

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District 560 Magnolia Avenue Beaumont,CA 92223

Debbie Medina Twentynine Palms Branch Library 6078 Adobe Road Twentynine Palms,CA 92277

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Commanding General Ft. Irwin National Training Center PO Box 105001 Fort Irwin,CA 92310

Lisa Llewellyn Grand Terrace Branch Library 22795 Barton Road Grand Terrace,CA 92313

City of Big Bear Lake Public Works Department PO Box 10000 Big Bear Lake,CA 92315

Crestline Village Water District PO Box 3347 777 Cottonwood Drive Crestline,CA 92325 U. S. FOREST SERVICE Big Bear Ranger Station P. O. Box 290 41397 North Shore Drive Fawnskin,CA 92333 Stan Sewell Loma Linda Branch Library 25581 Barton Road Loma Linda,CA 92354

Arrowbear Park County Water District PO Box 4045 Aroowbear Lake,CA 92382

City of Victorville Planning Department PO Box 5001 Victorville,CA 92393

Robin Cornett Wrightwood Branch Library 6011 Pine St. Wrightwood,CA 92397

Dr. Tim Krantz, President Crafton Hills Open Space Conservancy PO Box 1475 Yucaipa,CA 92399

San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society PO Box 10973 San Bernardino,CA 92423

County of Riverside Planning Department PO Box 1409 Riverside,CA 92502

Orange County Water District P.O. Box 8300 Fountain Valley,CA 92728

U. S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE Ventura Office 2493 Portola Road, #B Ventura,CA 93003 Chelsea Lyons Hesperia Library 9650 Seventh Ave. Hesperia,CA 92345

Oro Grande USD PO Box 386 Oro Grande,CA 92368

Mojave Desert AQMD Attn: Eldon Heaston, Executive Director 14306 Park Avenue Victorville,CA 92392

City of Victorville Public Works Department PO Box 5001 Victorville,CA 92393

Yermo CSD P.O. Box 206 Yermo,CA 92398

CAL TRANS CEQA/IGR Coordinator Dept. of Trans. Planning 464 W. 4th St., 6th Floor San Bernardino,CA 92401 Sierra Club – San Gorgonio Chapter 4079 Mission Inn Avenue Riverside,CA 92501

Eastern Municipal Water District PO Box 8300 Perris,CA 92572

Desert Studies Consortium, c/o Department of Biological Science California State University, Fullerton PO Box 6850 Fullerton,CA 92834 County of Kern Planning and Community Development Public Services Building 2700 M Street, Suite 100 Bakersfield,CA 93301 Judy Sbardellati Sam J. Racadio Library & Environmental Learning Center 7863 Central Ave Highland,CA 92346

USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service 25864 Business Center Drive, Suite K Redlands,CA 92374

USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service Victorville Service Center 15415 W Sand St., 103 Victorville,CA 92392

Carol Wiley Mojave Group, Sierra Club 15457 Eto Camino Rd. Victorville,CA 92394

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SANBAG 1170 West 3rd Street, 2nd Floor San Bernardino,CA 92410

CA RWQCB/Santa Ana Region 3737 Main St., Suite 500 Riverside,CA 92501

County of Orange Community Development/Planning PO Box 4048 Santa Ana,CA 92702

East Orange County Water District 185 N McPherson Road Orange,CA 92869

Kern County Water Agency PO Box 58 Bakersfield,CA 93302 Great Basin Unified APCD Attn: Ted Schade, APCO 157 Short Street Bishop,CA 93514

Dept of Toxic Subst. Control Pln. & Env. Analysis Section CEQA Tracking Center PO Box 806 Sacramento,CA 95812 Office of Mine Reclamation CA Dept. of Conservation 801 K Street MS 09-06 Sacramento,CA 95814 Christine Lehnertz, Regional Director National Park Service One Jackson Center 333 Bush Street, Suite 500 San Francisco,CA 94104

CA Environmental Protection Agency PO Box 2815 Sacramento,CA 95812

CA Dept. of Public Health Division of Drinking Water 1500 Capitol Ave., Suite 524, MS 0511 P.O. Box 997377 Sacramento,CA 95899 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD - (Division of Water Quality) PO Box 100 Sacramento,CA 95812

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