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DATE: July 26, 2005

TO: Harold John Snyder III
Koch California Ltd
P.O. 1127
Nipomo, CA 93444

FROM: Nipomo Community Services District
P.O. Box 326
Nipomo, CA 93444

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT TITLE: City of Santa Maria/Nipomo Community Services District Waterline Intertie

PROJECT APPLICANT: Nipomo Community Services District

RESPONSES DUE BY: August 25, 2005

The Nipomo Community Services District will be the Lead Agency and will prepare and Environmental Impact Report for the project identified above. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

PLEASE provide us the following information at your earliest convenience, but not later than the 30 day comment period which began with your receipt of this Notice of Preparation.

1. NAME OF CONTACT PERSON. (Address and telephone number)
2. PERMIT(S) or APPROVAL(S) AUTHORITY. Please provide a summary description of these and send a copy of the relevant sections of legislation, regulatory guidance, etc.
3. ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION. What environmental information must be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report to enable you or your agency to use this documentation as a basis for your consideration or your agency's permit issuance or approval?

**CITY OF SANTA MARIA/NIPOMO
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
WATERLINE INTERTIE
INITIAL STUDY**

Prepared for:

NIPOMO COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
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(805) 929-1133

Prepared by:

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June, 2005

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I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This Initial Study assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed City of Santa Maria/Nipomo Community Services District (Santa Maria/NCSD) Waterline Intertie. The Nipomo Community Services District, as Lead Agency for this environmental document, has the responsibility for determining whether or not to approve the construction of a pipeline connection from the City of Santa Maria water distribution system across the Santa Maria River to the existing water distribution system within the Nipomo Community Services District.

As part of their decision-making process, the Nipomo Community Services District is required to review and consider the potential environmental effects that could result from this proposal. Together with any previously-prepared technical studies, pertinent correspondence or other environmental documents, this analysis will serve as the initial environmental review for the proposed project. This review is required by the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA) as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines as well as Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA adopted by the Nipomo Community Services District.

Section 15063(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that “if the Lead Agency can determine that an EIR [Environmental Impact Report] will be clearly required for a project, the agency may skip further initial review of the project and begin work directly on the EIR process.” For this project, the Nipomo Community Services District is choosing to complete this Initial Study to assist in the preparation of an EIR consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(A-D) for the following reasons: to focus the EIR on the effects determined to be potentially significant, identify any impacts determined to not be significant, describe the anticipated extent of analyses within the EIR and to assist the public and other responsible agencies in their evaluation of the proposed project and their formulation of initial environmental concerns in response to the Notice of Preparation.

This Initial Study has been prepared in a manner which provides complete and adequate California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) coverage for all actions and approvals associated with the proposed project. These actions include review and approval of detailed plans for pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities and other infrastructure as well as certification of the required environmental documentation and the required Mitigation Monitoring Program by the Nipomo Community Services District as well as permits from various regulatory agencies.

This Initial Study begins with Section I. Introduction and Purpose, which provides an introductory discussion of the purpose and scope of the document. Section II. Summary summarizes the proposed project, lists the potentially significant environmental impacts and provides the final determination as to the appropriate environmental document to

contained herein reflect the independent judgment of the Nipomo Community Services District to those issues at the time of publication.

II. SUMMARY

This Initial Study assesses the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed Santa Maria/NCSD Waterline Intertie.

A. Project Summary

The proposed project involves the construction of a pipeline connection from the City of Santa Maria water distribution system across the Santa Maria River to the existing distribution system within the Nipomo Community Services District. Two methods are proposed to traverse the Santa Maria River with the proposed waterline intertie, either through horizontal directional drilling or by attaching the pipeline to the Highway 101 Bridge. The proposed project also involves the provision of other infrastructure facilities including storage tanks, pump stations and valves as well as metering, electrical and communications equipment.

B. Impact Summary

Provided below is a listing of all impacts identified as either “potentially significant impacts” or “potentially significant unless mitigations incorporated” within this Initial Study (see Section V. Environmental Evaluation).

1. Land Use and Planning
2. Population and Housing
3. Water
4. Biological Resources
5. Aesthetics
6. Cultural Resources
7. Mandatory Findings of Significance

C. Determination

According to Section 15065 of the State CEQA Guidelines, a Lead Agency, in this case the Nipomo Community Services District, may find that a project may have a significant impact on the environment and thereby require an EIR to be prepared. It has been determined that the proposed Santa Maria/NCSD Waterline Intertie may have a significant effect on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Report is required. This Initial Study has been prepared to focus on the potentially significant impacts, to identify the appropriate environmental documentation as to assist the public and other responsible agencies in their evaluation of the proposed project and its associated environmental impacts.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Santa Maria/NCSO Waterline Intertie is located at the southern end of the County of San Luis Obispo and the Nipomo Community Services District extending south across the Santa Maria River to the City of Santa Maria.

The proposed project involves construction of a 12 to 16-inch pipeline connection from the City of Santa Maria water distribution system across the Santa Maria River to the existing water distribution system within the Nipomo Community Services District. Two methods are proposed to traverse the Santa Maria River with the proposed waterline intertie. One method involves horizontal directional drilling whereby a pipeline would be installed utilizing underground trenchless technology. Two alignments are proposed for this directional drilling method. A drilling rig will be assembled on the north side of the river and pipes will be laid out and assembled within layout areas on the Santa Maria side of the river. Both horizontal drilling alternatives will require installation of a connecting lateral pipeline on the Santa Maria side of the river. Both options also require a pipeline extension from the river to connect with an existing or future water supply line, either in Orchard Avenue, Moss Lane or Joshua Avenue. One option requires a pipeline extension to traverse Nipomo Creek.

A second method to traverse the Santa Maria River involves attaching the pipeline to the existing 2,200-foot Highway 101 bridge spanning the Santa Maria River. The pipeline would be attached underneath the bridge with drilling of the abutments to allow extension of the pipeline between the bridge girders. This alternative also requires a pipeline extension which traverses Nipomo Creek to connect to an existing or future water supply line. Equipment will be required to deliver the pipe, lift the pipe into place, make the connections, core the concrete between the girders and hydrotest the pipe. Machinery will be located within the river bed within 50 to 100 feet of the existing bridge structure.

The proposed waterline intertie will connect into one of the City water mains located in the northwest section of the City's potable water distribution system. In addition to the pipeline facilities described above, the proposed waterline intertie will require the provision of other infrastructure facilities including storage tanks, pump stations and valves as well as metering, electrical and communications equipment.

The proposed project involves a series of approvals and discretionary actions by the Nipomo Community Services District including certification of a Final Environmental Impact Report, approval of a Mitigation Monitoring Program and review and approval of detailed plans for pipelines, pump stations, storage facilities and other infrastructure. In addition, the proposed project may require permits from other involved regulatory agencies including: the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Section 404 Permits under the Clean Water Act); California Department of Fish and Game (Public Resources Code Sections 1601-1603 Streambed Alteration Permits); State Water Quality Control Board

III. Project Description
*Santa Maria/NCSO Waterline Intertie
Initial Study*

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The area encompassing the proposed City of Santa Maria/Nipomo Community Services District Waterline Intertie extends from the southern bank of the Santa Maria River across the river to include the southern portion of the area known as the Nipomo Mesa within south San Luis Obispo County.

- ***Topography***

The Santa Maria River channel consists of a sandy streambed which transports occasional river flows and a series of flat beaches leading to levees which define both the northern and southern boundaries of the river. To the north is nearly level to gently sloping terrain adjacent to Highway 101 with the southern extent of the Nipomo Mesa rising approximately 100 feet in elevation to a relatively level bluff or mesa.

- ***Geology and Soils***

The Santa Maria River and adjacent areas are underlain by sand and silty alluvial soils deposited from flows of the river. The Nipomo Mesa is underlain by massive sand dune deposits whose thickness ranges up to 80 feet in depth at certain locations.

The project area is located within the seismically-active Central Coast region. Should a major earthquake occur in the area, significant groundshaking is expected to occur. The San Andreas fault is considered the most likely to generate a major earthquake in the region in the near future. Such an earthquake is expected to produce moderate to strong ground shaking in the area.

- ***Drainage***

The project area is located within the Nipomo Creek watershed area leading to the Santa Maria River. The project area west of Highway 101 is characterized by open flat areas, linear drainages and hillsides defining the southern boundary of the Nipomo Mesa. Nipomo Creek and one of its tributaries flow into the Santa Maria River at this location. The Santa Maria River, approximately 2,000 to 3,000 feet wide at this location, ultimately flows west to the Pacific Ocean.

- ***Biological Resources***

The Santa Maria River channel contains a variety of Upland Sage Scrub species including arroyo and sandbar willows, cottonwood, coyotebrush, mulefat, xanthium, hemlock, erodium and a variety of native grasses. The elevated benches above the sandy streambed contain a majority of this riverine vegetation with the north side of the river more heavily vegetated. The Santa Maria River is defined as being part of the "waters of the United States" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Nipomo Creek and its tributary as it drains to the Santa Maria River contains heavy growth of willows and other riparian vegetation which may provide habitat for several sensitive species. This portion of Nipomo Creek is considered to be jurisdictional wetlands by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

project area. This station is equipped with two wildland fire engines (used during the dry season), one Schedule A (on-road) fire engine and a CDF bulldozer.

Law enforcement and fire protection services on the Santa Maria side of the river are provided by the City of Santa Maria Police and Fire Departments, respectively. Police services emanate from headquarters located at 222 E. Cook Street. The closest fire station is Station #3 located at 1527 N. College Street approximately two miles to the south of the Santa Maria River. The station is equipped with one engine and a wildland fire engine.

The Nipomo area is situated within the service boundaries of the Southern California Gas Company for natural gas service and Pacific Gas and Electric Company for electrical service. Existing underground natural gas and electrical mains are located throughout the project area which provide utility services to developed land uses.

- ***Cultural Resources***

The Nipomo area contains more square meters of light density cultural deposits than any other area in southern San Luis Obispo County. Surveys conducted along the south, west and north sides of Nipomo Mesa have recorded many archaeological sites along the edge of the mesa but very few in the interior. Cultural deposits may be expected on both sides of the Santa Maria River.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

The following pages contain a checklist based on the format presented in the State CEQA Guidelines. The checklist was used to identify physical changes in the environment which may result from implementation of the proposed project. Impact assessments result in the determination of either “No Impact,” “Less-Than-Significant Impact,” “Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated” or “Potentially Significant Impact.” Substantiation for these determinations follows each checklist topic area.

The determination of “No Impact” applies where the impact is not applicable to the project under consideration. For example, if the project site is not located proximate to areas of volcanic activity then the item asking whether the project would result in or expose people to potential impacts involving volcanic hazards should be marked as “no impact.”

The determination of “Less-Than-Significant Impact” applies where the impact would occur, but the magnitude of the impact is considered insignificant or negligible. For example, a development which would only slightly increase the amount of surface water runoff generated at a project site would be considered to have a less-than-significant impact on surface water runoff.

“Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures may potentially reduce an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less-Than-Significant Impact.” Possible mitigation measures are noted where appropriate within the summary discussion immediately following the checklist item.

The determination of “Potentially Significant Impact” applies where the project impact has the potential to cause a significant environmental impact and there are not sufficient mitigations available to reduce these impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more items remaining as “Potentially Significant Impact,” on the checklist, an EIR is required.

South County Area Plan and other Elements of the County General Plan, the Clean Air Plan (Air Pollution Control District), the Water Quality Control Plan – Basin Plan (Regional Water Quality Control Board) and the Regional Transportation Plan (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments). Since the proposed project would represent a reduction or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies, it may indirectly conflict with these environmental plans and policies.

c. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* The areas through which the proposed pipeline extension and construction of various infrastructure facilities occur are devoted to a variety of land uses including residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and recreation facilities. The proposed project may represent a short-term conflict with these existing uses during project construction activities. Impacts to adjacent land uses due to these temporary construction activities are considered to be short-term and subject to mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

d. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* The proposed pipeline extension and the construction of various infrastructure facilities will occur in areas adjacent to agricultural farmlands, primarily within areas adjacent to Orchard Avenue, Moss Lane and Joshua Avenue. The proposed project may represent a short-term disruption to agricultural-related traffic ingress/egress during project construction. Impacts to ongoing agricultural operations due to temporary construction activities are considered to be short-term and subject to mitigation measures to reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

Any reduction or elimination of a constraint to development (such as the importation of additional water supplies) can potentially hasten the conversion of vacant or existing agricultural lands, agricultural preserves or areas containing prime agricultural soils to developed uses. Any development in areas served by these additional water supplies beyond the uses currently allowed by the South County Area Plan will require approvals from the County of San Luis Obispo.

e. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not divide any established community.

		Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
II.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal:				
	a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	b) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

V. Environmental Evaluation
*Santa Maria/NCSD Waterline Intertie
 Initial Study*

Substantiation:

- a. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The project area lies outside any fault rupture zones established by the Alquist-Priolo Act of 1972. Should a major earthquake occur in the area, significant groundshaking is expected to occur. Since the project area is not located within the boundaries of a special studies zone and no active faults are known to pass through the area, surface fault rupture in the areas devoted to the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities is considered unlikely. As such, impacts due to fault rupture on the project area are considered less than significant.
- b. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The San Andreas fault is considered the most likely source of a major earthquake in the region in the near future. Such an earthquake is expected to produce moderate to strong ground shaking within the project area. The application of standard construction techniques contained in the Uniform Building Code to the proposed project facilities will reduce potential seismic hazards to less than significant levels.
- c. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Due to the seismic and geologic conditions as currently known, the potential for secondary seismic hazards in the project area is considered to be low. The Nipomo Mesa and adjacent coastal areas are underlain by massive sand dune deposits whose thickness ranges from approximately 70 to 80 feet in the project area. Given these conditions, liquefaction potential upon proposed project facilities is considered to be unlikely due to the grain size and density of natural soils and the anticipated compaction of the surficial soils. Potential liquefaction hazards are, therefore, considered less than significant.
- d. *No Impact.* Tsunamis and seiches do not pose hazards due to the inland location and lack of bodies of standing water in the project area. The Santa Maria River represents an intermittent water body with a shallow depth that does not pose a hazard to proposed project facilities. No areas of known volcanic activity are in proximity to the project area. No impacts regarding seiches, tsunamis or volcanic hazards have been identified.
- e. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Landslides within undeveloped portions of the project area are not considered to be likely due to the level to gently sloping topographic conditions. The proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities generally occur in areas of nearly level terrain thereby reducing the potential for landslides or mudflows to a less than significant level.
- f. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The Natural Resource Conservation Service Soil Survey identifies the potential erodibility of soil types in the project area to be high. However, the relatively gentle slopes of the project area reduce the occurrence of potentially significant erosion and sedimentation impacts due to the construction of proposed project facilities to a less than significant level.

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| f) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Impacts to groundwater quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Substantiation:

a. *Less-Than-Significant-Impact.* The proposed project will not result in the addition of significant impervious surfaces nor do these proposed facilities result in a significant alteration of existing drainage patterns. Potential impacts related to changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff are considered to be less than significant.

b. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* The proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities will result in short-term landform alteration during project construction which could potentially alter the composition of surface runoff. Project construction activities may temporarily alter the composition of surface runoff through the grading of ground surfaces. This runoff could, without proper mitigation, contribute to the incremental degradation of downstream water quality. Erosion of graded areas and discharge of sediment to downstream areas will occur if project grading operations occur during the wet season or if adequate detention or erosion control facilities are not constructed. Under the authority of the Clean Water Act, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency created the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to control the amount and concentration of pollutants in urban stormwater runoff which ultimately drain into the ocean, coastal wetlands or other surface waters. These regulations require that discharges of stormwater from construction activity of five acres or more be regulated as an industrial activity thereby requiring a NPDES permit. These potential impacts can be mitigated through the provision of adequate erosion control measures at points of drainage discharge as well as through planting of disturbed areas and avoidance of existing storm drain channels.

c. *No Impact.* Given the relatively small amount of area disturbed by the proposed project, changes in the amount of surface water in any water body downstream of the proposed project facilities are considered negligible.

d. *No Impact.* Given the relatively small area disturbed by the proposed project, changes in the currents or the course or direction of water movement are considered negligible.

e. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not involve the withdrawal of ground water or grading that would intercept any groundwater aquifers, thereby not affecting existing groundwater supplies. The proposed project involves the introduction of water into the groundwater basin in order to reduce the current imbalance of groundwater levels

Substantiation:

- a. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Temporary air quality impacts will result from project construction activities. Air pollutants will be emitted by construction equipment and fugitive dust will be generated during the minor amount of grading required for the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities. Given the relatively small amount of area disturbed by project development, the air pollutant emissions generated during grading will be below the SCAQMD significance thresholds. Because all other phases of construction will generate lower emissions than grading, construction of the proposed project will result in less than significant air quality impacts. Since traffic in the project area will not be significantly impacted, the potential for local air quality impacts (i.e. air pollutant concentrations near intersections) will also be less than significant.
 - b. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Given the lack of significant short- or long-term air pollutant generation associated with the proposed project, the potential for exposure of sensitive receptors to air pollutants is considered to be less than significant.
 - c. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not alter air movement, moisture, temperature or cause a change in climate.
 - d. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The proposed project will not create objectionable odors that would significantly impact adjacent properties. Localized odors associated with project construction activities will be confined to construction areas.
- a.-d. Although the proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities do not directly impact air quality, the proposed project could represent a reduction in or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Future development of these areas could adversely impact air quality in these areas. Future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation to address the potential air quality impacts of these future approvals.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION. Would the proposal result in:				
a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Inadequate emergency access or access to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

g. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not impact any existing rail, waterborne or air traffic operations.

a.-g. Although the proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities do not directly impact any transportation/circulation facilities, the proposed project could represent a reduction in or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Future development of these areas could adversely impact transportation/circulation facilities in these areas. Future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation to address the potential transportation/circulation impacts of these future approvals.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in:				
a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Locally designated species (e.g., heritage trees)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g., oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian and vernal pool)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Adopted conservation plans and policies (e.g., Resource Management Plan)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Substantiation:

a. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* The Santa Maria River channel contains a variety of Upland Sage Scrub species including arroyo and sandbar willows, cottonwood, coyotebrush, mulefat, xanthium, hemlock, erodium and a variety of native grasses. The elevated benches above the sandy streambed contain a majority of this riverine vegetation with the north side of the river more heavily vegetated. The Santa Maria River is defined as being part of the “waters of the United States” by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Nipomo Creek and its tributary as it drains to the Santa Maria River contains a heavy growth of willows and other riparian vegetation which may provide habitat for several sensitive species. This portion of Nipomo Creek is considered to be Jurisdictional Wetlands by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Areas west of Highway 101 are

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:				
a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Substantiation:

- a. *No Impact.* The proposed project will conform with all applicable State and local energy conservation requirements enforced by the County of San Luis Obispo and the Nipomo Community Services District. No impacts regarding any conflict with adopted energy conservation programs have been identified.
- b. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Project construction activities will require the use of nonrenewable fuels including diesel fuel and gasoline to operate construction equipment. Operation of project facilities (i.e. energy for pipeline and well pumps and monitoring equipment) will consume relatively small amounts of electricity. The proposed project is not anticipated to result in the use of non-renewable resources in a wasteful or inefficient manner. Impacts upon non-renewable resources are considered less than significant.
- c. *No Impact.* There are no known mineral resources within the project area. The proposed project should have no impact regarding availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State.
- a.-c. Although the proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities do not directly impact any energy and mineral resources, the proposed project could represent a reduction in or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Future development of these areas could adversely impact energy and mineral resources in these areas. Future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation to address the potential energy and mineral resources impacts of these future approvals.

a.-e. Although the proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities do not directly create any hazards, the proposed project could represent a reduction in or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Future development of these areas could create hazards in these areas. Future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation to address the potential hazards impacts of these future approvals.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in:				
a) Increases in existing noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Substantiation:

a. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The primary noise source associated with the proposed project which may impact adjacent land uses will be construction noise. Noise resulting from the long-term operation of project facilities is expected to be negligible. Construction noise represents a short-term impact upon ambient noise levels. Noise generating construction equipment includes trucks, graders, back-hoes and bulldozers. Grading and trucking activities typically represent the highest potential sources of construction noise. Local control of construction hours to daylight hours represent the most effective method of controlling construction noise. The Counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara restrict construction activities to the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. Construction is not allowed on Sundays or holidays. Compliance with this policy reduces these potential short-term construction noise impacts to a less than significant level.

b. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The County of San Luis Obispo has adopted noise standards of 60 CNEL for exterior land uses and an interior noise standard of 45 CNEL. Construction of the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities is not anticipated to create noise levels that exceed these standards.

a.-b. Although the proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities do not directly create any noise impacts, the proposed project could represent a reduction in or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Future development of these areas could create adverse noise impacts in these areas. Future discretionary approvals will require the

elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Future development of these areas could adversely impact public services in these areas. Future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation to address the potential public services impacts of these future approvals.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.				
Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies or substantial alterations to the following utilities:				
a) Power or natural gas?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Communications systems?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Sewer or septic tanks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Storm water drainage?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Solid waste disposal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Local or regional water supplies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Substantiation:

- a. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Construction and operation of the proposed pipeline extension and various infrastructure facilities will require the use of electrical power. This energy demand is not anticipated to be significant and falls within the anticipated service parameters of the involved service providers.
- b. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not involve the use of communications systems.
- c. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not directly generate demand for water service.
- d. *No Impact.* The proposed project will not directly generate demand for wastewater treatment services.
- e. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* The proposed pipeline extension and construction of various infrastructure facilities will not result in the addition of significant impervious surfaces which would significantly increase storm water drainage flows.
- f. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Construction and operation of the proposed project will not generate significant amounts of solid waste.

c. *No Impact.* The proposed sewer main extension and pump station(s) installation will not involve any additional lighting or any potential light and glare impacts.

a.-c. Although the proposed pipeline extension and infrastructure facilities do not directly impact any visual resources, the proposed project could represent a reduction in or elimination of a potential constraint upon future development within areas to be served by the additional water supplies. Future development of these areas could adversely impact visual resources in these areas. Future discretionary approvals will require the preparation and certification of additional environmental documentation to address the potential aesthetics impacts of these future approvals.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:				
a) Disturb paleontological resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Disturb archaeological resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Affect historical resources?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Substantiation:

a. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* Although surveys of the project area have yet to be completed, the possibility exists that paleontological resources may be unearthed during project grading. These potential impacts to paleontological resources can be mitigated through requiring a qualified paleontologist to examine any unearthed resources.

b. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* Although surveys and records and literature checks have yet to be completed, the possibility exists that archaeological resources may be unearthed during project grading. These potential impacts to archaeological resources can be mitigated through requiring a qualified archaeologist to examine any unearthed resources.

c. *Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.* Although no recorded or observed historical resources exist in the area to be devoted to project facilities, potential impacts to historical resources due to the proposed project may occur. These

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Substantiation:

a. *Less-Than-Significant Impact.* Provided that all recommended mitigation measures are implemented, the proposed project would not have a substantial impact on biological or cultural resources.

b. *Potentially Significant Impact.* The proposed project involves the provision of additional water supplies thereby reducing or eliminating a potential constraint to future development within areas to be served by this additional water.

The proposed project involves the importation of water in order to reduce the current imbalance of groundwater levels, to serve new development (pursuant to the South County Area Plan) within the current boundaries of the Nipomo Community Services District and to provide additional water supplies to other purveyors who overlie the Nipomo Mesa Hydrological Sub-Area of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in this document have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	<input type="checkbox"/>
I find that the project MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I find that the project MAY have a significant effect(s) 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 an earlier analysis. If the effect is a potentially significant impact or potentially significant unless mitigated, an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that need to be addressed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including project revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Nipomo Community Services District:

Signature Michael LeBrun

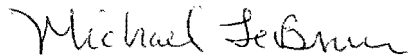
Date 7/15/05

Printed Name Michael LeBrun

VI. Environmental Determination
*Santa Maria/NCSD Waterline Intertie
 Initial Study*

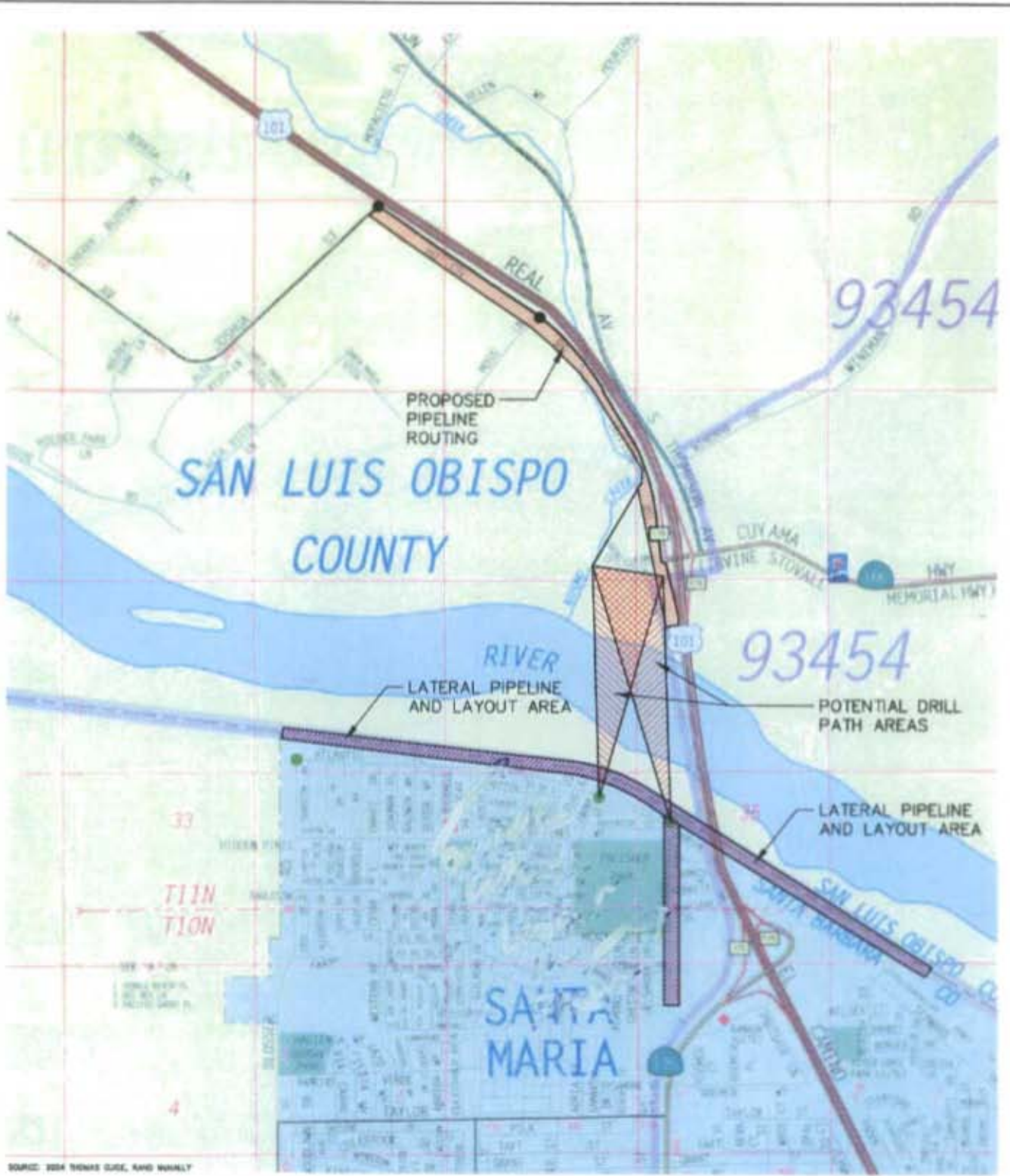
VII. CERTIFICATION

I hereby affirm to the best of my knowledge, based on available information provided to me through specialist's technical reports, public documents and original research, analysis and assessments, the statements and information contained within this environmental document are true and correct to the degree of accuracy necessary for public disclosure purposes in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21003, 21061 and 21100.



Michael LeBrun
General Manager
Nipomo Community Services District

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DIRECTIONAL DRILLING (CROSSING OPTION B)		
NCSO Waterline Feasibility Study		
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MTC	03/02/2005	041107
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SOURCE: 2004 THOMAS REAR, SAMS MAPS

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ENGINEERS
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**EXISTING HIGHWAY 101
BRIDGE ATTACHMENT**

NCSO Waterline Feasibility Study

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